

### Job well done, Eisenhower School!

Let's give them **three cheers!** Then add another three. Today we're saluting Eisenhower Elementary School for the state-wide academic recognition it brought to Norton, thanks to the quality of education being taught in the classrooms of that facility. If you read Tuesday's *Telegram*, you know what we're talking about. If not, we'll give you a peek at what all the cheering is about. Eisenhower was awarded five — count 'em, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 — certificates of merit for its excellent state-wide test scores.

Reeling it off, the Confidence in Kansas Public Education Task Force gave the school certificates for the following:

- Third grade reading
- Third grade math
- Fourth grade math
- Sixth grade reading
- Sixth grade math

Eisenhower averaged better test scores than any other school in the northwest Kansas area, in the five categories in which the honors came. These awards cite the school for its outstanding achievements and uncommon accomplishments based on last year's Kansas Assessment Test.

Getting students to respond to the challenges offered that resulted in the awards won, was the responsibility of the teachers manning the classrooms. We would suggest the teachers did their job — and we might add *outstandingly*.

Too, Norton has another reason to be proud. It was one of only a few schools to have a school board member present at the recognition dinner in Salina, where the awards were given. The board member was Scott Ellis. The Norton delegation also included Eisenhower Principal Corey Roy, and teachers Belinda Thalheim and Pam Menagh.

This is a big thing. While today they are elementary students, tomorrow they will be the people building on what we hand them. Good luck.

You might want to call the school Monday morning and simply say, "Congratulations!" (877-5113)

— Tom Dreiling

### Thumbs Up to . . .

✓ **Mary Ann Hager**, overall winner of the 37th annual *Norton Telegram* Pigskin Pick-Em Contest. (*Telegram* staff)

✓ **International Order** of Odd Fellows, for the kind deed in taking your weekly meeting to 96-year-old Joe Foland at the Andbe Home. (e-mail)

✓ **Blue Jay wrestlers**, good luck at state! (e-mail)

✓ **Norton, Northern Valley FFA Chapters**, on your special week this week. (e-mail)

✓ **Eisenhower School**, on your award-winning test scores. (e-mail)

✓ **Jade Braun, Melinda Becker, Zach Porter and Kayleigh Norwood**, first, second, third and fourth, respectively, in the Norton County Spelling Bee finals. (e-mail)

(To submit a name or names for this weekly salute, e-mail [tomd@nwkans.com](mailto:tomd@nwkans.com), fax 877-3732, phone 877-3361, 877-6908, or mail or drop by the office at 215 S. Kansas Ave. Thanks!)

### YOUR CONNECTION:

- ★ **U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran**, 2443 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715; fax (202) 225-5124
- ★ **Governor Kathleen Sebelius**, 300 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-3232
- ★ **U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts**, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774; fax (202) 224-3514
- ★ **State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer**, State Capitol Building, Room 262-E, Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-7399
- ★ **U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback**, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-6521
- ★ **State Rep. John Faber**, 181 W. Capitol Building, Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-7500

## THE NORTON TELEGRAM

Office hours:  
8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.  
Phone: (785) 877-3361  
Fax: (785) 877-3732  
E-mail: [telegram@nwkans.com](mailto:telegram@nwkans.com)

### STAFF

- Tom Dreiling ..... editor and publisher
- Lisa Marie Henderson ..... advertising
- Veronica Monier ..... staff reporter
- Dick Boyd ..... Blue Jay sports
- Carolyn Plotts ..... society editor
- Sherry Hickman ..... bookkeeping/circulation
- Vicki Henderson ..... computer production

### Nor'West Newspapers

Dick and Mary Beth Boyd  
Publishers, 1970-2002  
Incorporating the Norton County Champion  
Marion R. Krehbiel, editor



### My Lenten sacrifice of 1970 remains

Well, Lent is now upon us. It's a time for personal sacrifice, doing something meaningful as we prepare ourselves for Easter Sunday. I am not one to make new year resolutions. I wouldn't keep them, so why bother.

But I will always remember the commitment I made for Lent in 1970, a commitment that helped me improve my health. And my late wife, Jean, made sure I stuck with it. I gave up smoking. Yes, smoking! I was probably burning up two packs a day when I quit cold turkey. I had been smoking for 10 years or so.

It wasn't easy giving it up. I didn't go through the process of slowly withdrawing. I kicked the habit, period! Oh, there were times during the initial period in which my body was screaming for "just a little bit of tobacco. please?"

It was tough, one of the toughest things I had ever done.

For six months I fought the temptations. But that other voice in the background would say, "Don't you dare!" That voice was Jean's.

For a year it really bothered me. My system was used to the abuse I was dishing out in the form of smoking. That lingering tug from the pro-smoking faction within my body was difficult to ignore. But I resisted. I even tempted myself by carrying a pack of cigarettes with me throughout that first year. But never opened it. I knew if I did it just once, I would have fallen off the wagon — probably for good.

Ironically, in 1975 — on the day before Ash Wednesday — Jean reminded me that this was the fifth anniversary of my commitment to quit smoking. While discussing that achievement, she reached in her apron pocket and handed me a little box. In it was a ring, with several tiny diamonds in the center, framed by the letter "D."

She simply said, "Here, let this serve as a reminder of a struggle you were able to conquer for your own and your family's good. Thank you, dear, you made us

### Good Evening Norton Tom Dreiling



proud."

I said *ironically* because two months later, Jean was diagnosed with leukemia and died on Dec. 15. After her burial, I retired the wedding ring she placed on my finger, and replaced it with what we called, "the ring of victory over smoking." It's now 37 years since my last cigarette. Thanks to a supportive wife, a stubborn guy who gave in, and a ring that keeps me on the right track.

-td-

I see where another idol pushed the envelope — off the table. Britney Spears did some spooky things a few days ago that puzzle, at best. She shaved her head and then dressed her body up with a couple of tattoos. People who deal in this kind of behavior are concerned that Spears may be close to a total collapse.

It's not surprising. Entertainers, such as Spears, live in a world that just doesn't exist. Their wealth and fame take over and usually steal the innocence that brought them to stardom. Sadly, many young people who rise to fast money, the glare of lights, the temptations that shadow their every move, end up less a person for that experience.

A recent example was the death of Anna Nicole Smith, 39. I hope Spears' call for help didn't come too late.

We'll see.

-td-

Here are a few for all you lovers of words ...

- ✓ A bicycle can't stand alone; it is two tired.
- ✓ A will is a dead giveaway.

✓ A backward poet writes inverse.

✓ A chicken crossing the road: poultry in motion.

✓ If you don't pay your exorcist, you can't get repossessed.

✓ With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.

✓ When a clock is hungry, it goes back four seconds.

✓ The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine was fully recovered.

✓ A grenade fell onto a kitchen floor in France resulted in Linoleum Blownapart.

✓ You are stuck with your debt if you can't budget it.

✓ A calendar's days are numbered.

✓ A lot of money is tainted: 'Taint yours, and 'taint mine.

✓ He had a photographic memory which was never developed.

✓ A plateau is a high form of flattery.

✓ The short fortune teller who escaped from prison: a small medium at large.

✓ If you jump off a Paris bridge, you are in Seine.

✓ When she saw her first strands of gray hair, she thought she'd dye.

✓ Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead to know basis.

✓ Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.

✓ Marathon runners with bad shoes suffer the agony of de feet.

-td-

A while back I was talking about the elder Bush giving the White House keys to Bill Clinton, who gave them to the younger Bush, and if things work out, he will give them to the Clinton lady.

If that were to happen, gang, that means the Senate seat in New York held by lady Clinton will be vacant. Do you suppose that husband Bill will be appointed to fill out her remaining term?

-td-

Have a good evening. And politics aside, let's meet in the church of our choice this weekend where answers to life's purpose reside.

### Trip is on, but for another purpose

We had been planning a trip to Arkansas to see my brother Don after he got a grim diagnosis following cancer treatment. Now we're on our way to Little Rock, but it's for Don's funeral. The whole family is gathering and we'll have a great reunion, but there will be a huge hole in our family circle.

Don was a communicator. He will forever hold the title of being the only person to out-talk Jim Plotts.

He was a junior or senior in high school when I was born, so our relationship came later. He and his wife Liz gave me my first real vacation. My invitation to join them was based on me helping babysit their 2-year-old daughter, Pam.

What a trip. We stayed in real motels with swimming pools and ate in restaurants.

Don was a career Air Force pilot. After 20 years, he retired to Little Rock, where he invested in a partnership in a plumbing, heating and air conditioning business.

### Out Back Carolyn Plotts



It became the family joke as to how long it would take Don to ask about your heating system when he came to visit. Ten minutes was the max before he would ask to see the furnace.

He is the second of our siblings to die. A little girl born between Bill and Dick died in infancy.

But I wouldn't wish him back to the pain. There are lots of things worse than dying — and one would be living like that.

-ob-

Don loved to tell a joke, and no one laughed harder at his jokes than he did. He would get so tickled, he would almost cry.

But he wouldn't quit, and soon everyone would be laughing because he was laughing.

He was tender-hearted. His wife used to say it was embarrassing to go to the movies with him because he shed more tears than she did.

-ob-

I'm lucky to be taking a trip anywhere. I took a little "trip" Friday night that landed me in the emergency room.

I slipped on an icy sidewalk and slammed my head onto the concrete so hard it threw my glasses over my head and "sprung" my jaws.

The physician's assistant on duty gave me a thorough exam and assured me I would be OK.

"But, you're going to be sore the next day," she said.

She was right.

-ob-

Friends, co-workers and my church family have been very gracious. Some day, I hope to repay the kindnesses.