

Maybe Sarah's dream will become reality

Elsewhere on this page today you will read a submission titled, "The Christmas Shoebox." Written by Norton resident Sarah Durham, it's one of those writings that will make you feel good and perhaps even cause the eyes to tear up. Mrs. Durham, in a note accompanying this guest column, dreams aloud. I won't reveal what her dream is, but I will say, without hesitation, that I fully endorse it. It's sad how we so often overlook what can be done right here at home. Now would be the time to respond to Sarah's dream. And because Norton County is a giving community, I would anticipate it will help this dream become a reality.

I have been wondering what the popular vote was from the Nov. 4 presidential election, so I Googled and came up with the following:
Barack Obama, 66,822,230
John McCain 58,343,671
President-elect Obama won by 8,538,559 votes, or 52.7 percent vs. 46.0 percent for Sen. McCain. That gave the 44th President of the United States of America (Jan. 20, 2009) a winning percent of 6.7.
On the Electoral College side of the column, then-Sen. Obama collected 365 votes and Sen. McCain 173.

Wow! Total number of voters was 125,165,901!
So there you are, just in case you, too, were wondering about some of the figures.

Zogby polling this week puts Gov. Sarah Palin of Alaska as the front runner for the 2012 Republican presidential nomination. I wouldn't be surprised to see several more ladies tossing their hats in the presidential ring. Zogby, a rather conservative pollster, will probably shuffle the GOP deck many times between now and 2012.

Despite the fact President-elect

Good Evening Norton Tom Dreiling



Barack Obama will take office in late January, there is still some trash talk about the 44th President of this great land. There are just some folks who will never accept the fact Barack Hussein Obama won the White House decisively (see figures in this column). He will be the president of all of us, just as George W. Bush is, William Jefferson Clinton was, George Herbert Walker Bush was, Ronald Reagan was, etc., etc., etc. A country will not heal unless it treats its wounds. And Sen. John McCain so graciously addressed this issue in his concession speech — probably one of the finest such speeches ever given. If you are a believer, you then believe God made the 44th President of the United States of America just as he made you and me. No favorites, we're all His children. And if we look far enough back, folks, each of us will learn where our DNA really originated: in a foreign land. Thus Pope Benedict XVI and I have something in common: it's called Germany.

I noticed where out in Nevada, or Utah — one of those states — a state legislator is beating the drums for legislation that would ask that the word *Christmas* replace the word *Holiday* in the business community. I much prefer Christmas myself but I think seeking legislation asking that this be done is a bit much.

Have a good evening! And when you bow your head in prayer in the worship center of your choice this weekend, be tolerant of those who might say *Happy Holidays* instead of *Merry Christmas*. It's OK.

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THE NORTON TELEGRAM

ISSN 1063-701X
215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, KS 67654

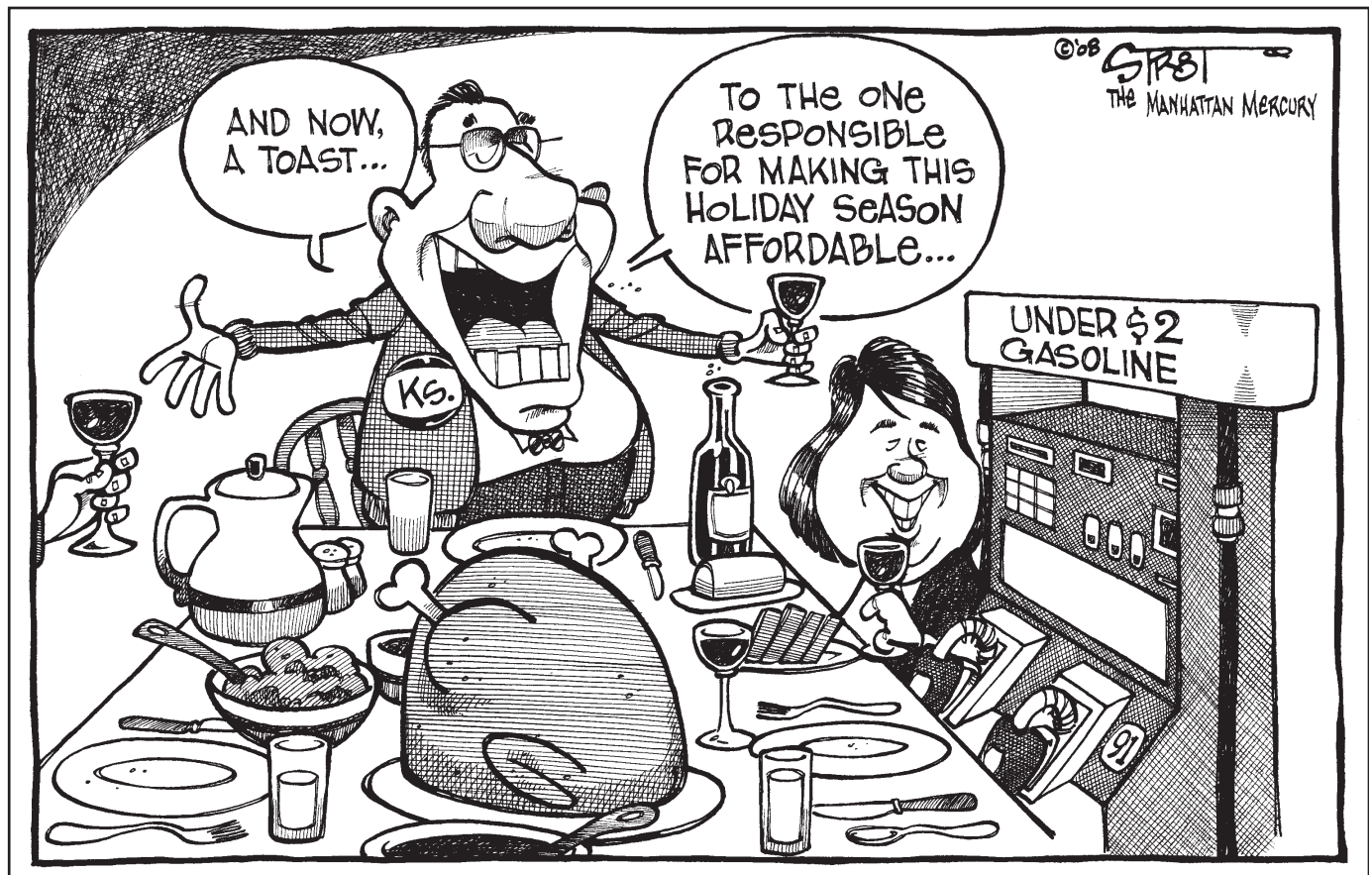
Published each Tuesday and Friday by Haynes Publishing Co., 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, Kan. 67654. Periodicals mail postage paid at Norton, Kan. 67654.
Postmaster: Send address changes to Norton Telegram, 215 S. Kansas, Norton, Kan. 67654
Official newspaper of Norton and Norton County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, and the Nebraska Press Association

Nor'West Newspapers
Dick and Mary Beth Boyd
Publishers, 1970-2002
Incorporating the Norton County Champion
Marion R. Krehbiel, editor

Office hours:
8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
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Old remedies not so old after all

It is that time of year again; flu, colds and the other ailments which seem to attack us more frequently in the winter months. We have flu shots available and a plethora of cold remedies to choose from and yet it seems like we always know of someone who is "sick".

Jack had a co-worker at the U.S. Bureau of Mines, a scientist, who prided himself on not having taken a sick day during his 15+ years of employment. Well, he may not have taken one, but he certainly caused many others to use some of their leave. He was very generous with his germs. You know the type, sneezing, blowing his nose, coughing, etc.

My mother believed as a parent and encouraged as a teacher, a rule which was also echoed by our children's physician, you have to be free of a fever, without the aid of aspirin or similar drugs, for 24 hours before returning to school.

Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



Many people say, "Well, if I did that I'd miss too much work or my child would miss too much school." Initially this might be true, but if we could slow the spread of these ailments we would all benefit.

Not only would it prevent further illness, but also one has to question how effective someone is at their job or a child at school when they are battling a bug. Even with the pain relievers so readily marketed on TV, most of us don't feel as astute during these times. We all know

the stories of the high school athlete with a 105 degree temperature who threw the winning pass and to be sure these things do happen, but at what price? I always wonder where the parent was during this time.

All of us believe we are indispensable in our positions. We feel we cannot take time from our job and some employers demand this so-called loyalty, but when one looks at the threat of drug resistant strains or the possibility of a worldwide pandemic it seems a small price to pay to encourage conscientious practices.

Each of us has a responsibility to be a good role model and to be supportive of others who practice these simple acts. Sometimes those 'old wives' knew what they were talking about. Couple this with an apple a day and who knows what might happen.

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The Christmas Shoebox

Guest Submission Sarah Durham

As a child growing up in Thornwell Orphanage in Clinton, S.C., life was different. I was living in Silliman Cottage with 10 other girls, ranging in age from 8 to 14 years. In the early '70's, near the Christmas season, our housemother, Mrs. Bertha O'Daniel, was diagnosed with pneumonia and had to remain at her personal home in Carlisle, S.C.

We had a substitute, Ms. Rose Nelson. She was a member of the Second Baptist Church in Laurens, S.C., where Reverend Joe Smith was presiding. The church members, who had never met us, invited us to a Christmas dinner complete with Santa in the church fellowship hall.

The night had a damp chill about it and I remember bundling up good in our coats and hats as the church bus drove up to take us to our destination. At the end of the meal, we were given a shoebox. Now, the shoeboxes were fancied up — wrapped in Christmas paper, to give an air of surprise as to what was inside the box.

Unlike the boxes prepared by us today, the contents were potted meat, crackers, oranges and apples, candy canes, various nuts, and raisins.

As a child, this sort of gift was opened with many giggles and asking, "would you swap me for that?" At the end of the outing, the church bus took us back to Silliman Cottage where more swapping and eating took place. It was a time of innocence where you didn't know what laid ahead in life. Little did I know that this would be a customary activity in my adult life.

The contents have changed but I know that with each child that is sure to receive a shoebox, the giggles and "would you swap me for that" still go on. God blesses

the giving souls that make each Christmas a pleasure and make lasting impressions on the children of today. Even if you never hear a thank you from the children who are fortunate enough to receive a shoebox, let me say thank you for being on the receiving end of a deed that will not go unnoticed from Our Heavenly Father.

Mrs. Durham also added this note: The reason for sharing this now is because this is the time of the year when churches are setting shoeboxes that will be sent overseas. This story is about a church in Laurens County, S.C., who gave shoeboxes to little girls in Laurens County. Is it possible to dream of shoeboxes going to Norton County children who might be missing gifts at Christmas?

(Mrs. Durham, of Norton, describes herself as "A child of a Mighty God who has given her blessings immeasurable.")

Many roles played in addict's family

Where There's Hope Carla Moore

In the last two articles, we began talking about family roles. So far we have talked about the addict/alcoholic, the martyr and the hero. Today we will finish looking at the roles as they present in the family.

The third role is the role of the scapegoat or the problem child. Their job is to provide distraction and focus away from what is happening in the family. They do this not by drawing attention to themselves within the family but going outside the family for feelings of self-worth. They have a strong sense of peer value, withdraw from family, often have unplanned pregnancy of early chemical use, are defiant, act out and have a sullen affect.

Those internal feelings are anger, rejection, fear, hurt and loneliness. Scapegoats are very good at dividing parents, siblings, and counselors. They are willing to have one-on-one relationships with individual members of the family but want nothing to do with the family as a whole. If you've ever been on a family vacation with a scapegoat it is usually described as the vacation from hell. They spend time in

their room as well but it is because they want nothing to do with the family. Give them a TV, refrigerator, microwave, telephone, stereo, bed and bathroom and you will only see them when they are passing through to leave.

The next role is referred to as the lost or forgotten child. Their job is to offer relief and they are often not noticed. They don't cause any trouble and may spend time alone in their room because they don't want to be involved in the chaos. In school they get picked in the middle of the kickball line — not first like the hero but not last. Behaviors noted are distance, quietness, super independence, rejection, aloofness, and withdrawn. Primary feelings are hurt, loneliness, inadequacy, and anger. They will sometimes develop eating difficulties such as being overweight,

bulimia and/or anorexia. If you can engage them in a conversation about the family, they are the ones who can tell you what every other member is like, involved in, and where you put the birthday candles last year that you can't find now.

Babies or younger children often take on the role of mascot. Their job is to provide comic relief. They are generally humorous, hyperactive, fragile, enjoy being super cute and clowning around and will do anything to attract attention. (Don't EVER give this child a dare in front of a crowd.) Those internal feelings are fear, insecurity, confusion, and loneliness. You've seen them in a group — as soon as someone shares something uncomfortable, they crack a joke to bring the intensity down. It is often hard for them to see the consequences of behaviors because someone is always there to protect them.

If you would like to see a great movie which demonstrates the roles, *Under the Influence* (1986) with Andy Griffith, does a wonderful job portraying each role and how they fit together in the family. (cmoore@valleyhope.com)