

This probably won't make much difference

Katie Couric is jumping networks to become anchor of CBS-TV's "Evening News." This will be the first time a major network has picked a woman to solo in one of the most powerful news chairs in the industry.

Does it really make a difference?
Will Couric's presence draw every woman in America to her side to listen as she babbles about the day's news?

Will men flock to the small screen to watch the former NBC-TV "Today" show's personality occupy long time anchor Dan Rather's seat?

At the outset, maybe. For the long term, probably not.
Is CBS-TV gambling that Couric will attract the necessary viewers to restore it to its once #1 nightly news ranking?

Probably.
News, especially television news, has undergone a dramatic twist in the past several years with the advent of the 24/7 cable news outlets. They have drawn a significant number of viewers from NBC, CBS and ABC.

As a nation, we have become news junkies. We all have our favorites and in the cable world FOX is out front. CNN and MSNBC trail. The cable bunch has jumped out of the box to present its news. It's lively, in-depth and they bring analysts onto the set to explain what's going on.

And, too, electronically, you can pick up the news on the Internet, or from just about any other kind of electronic box floating around out there.

We don't know what CBS paid Couric to join its ranks. But it has to be in the many millions of dollars. Rumors are she was getting around \$15 million annually from NBC. That's a tidy little weekly check, huh?! Couric leaves NBC May 30. She settles into the CBS anchor's chair Sept. 1.

The Rather, Tom Brokaw and late Peter Jennings era is over.
New times.
New faces.
New challenges.
For Katie

— Tom Dreiling

Thumbs Up to . . .

✓ **Toby Kuhn**, for your presentations to the Big Brothers, Big Sisters after-school programs in Norton and Almena, and also bike safety at the Almena School Community Awareness Night. (e-mail)

✓ **The soccer board**, for a successful first Saturday of games. (e-mail)

✓ **Polly Bales**, for the generous monetary gift to the Logan Historical Museum.

✓ **The Norton BB Gun Team**, good luck at State on Saturday.

✓ **Rudy Perez**, on your selection as the new Norton Community High School principal. (called in)

✓ **Warren Harting**, belated happy birthday greetings!

✓ **Telegram carriers**, for the good job you do.

✓ **Aaron**, McDonald's employee, for the courtesy shown. (called in)

✓ **To the few** who exercised their right to vote Tuesday. (e-mail)

(Take advantage of the opportunity to salute someone you feel deserves that little extra pat-on-the-back. E-mail tom@nwkans.com, call 877-3361 or 877-6908, fax 877-3732 or drop by the office at 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton. Thanks!)

ABOUT THOSE LETTERS:

The Norton Telegram encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of public interest. Letters should be brief, clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and phone number of the author. We do not publish anonymous letters.

We do not publish form letters or letters about topics which do not pertain to our area.

Letters will not be censored. We will not, however, publish attacks on private individuals or businesses which do not pertain to a public issue.

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

STAFF

Tom Dreiling editor and publisher
Veronica Monier staff reporter
Dick Boyd Blue Jay sports
Carolyn Plotts society editor
Sherry Hickman circulation
Vicki Henderson computer production
Susie Marble computer production
Sonya Montgomery bookkeeping
Hypatia Day advertising

Nor'West Newspapers

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



Norton, the prairie's lighthouse

I have no reason to think that population figures showing Norton County to be somewhere in the 5,000+ range are incorrect, but as I drive about the city of Norton it just seems that it, in itself, could be 5,000. From the east, from the west, from the north and from the south, it smacks of a place that has a lot more folks than the 3,000+ population figures show.

Coming in from the south you get a panorama view of Norton and its expansiveness. And as you make your way up U.S. 283 through the heart of downtown to the intersection with U.S. 36, it takes on the appearance of a bubble just waiting to burst with growth.

I have confidence that the economic development machine is doing its part to lure potential Norton dwellers to take a close look at us. I have confidence that the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce is doing its part to get the word out. I have confidence that each of you continues to talk up Norton as you make your way on much deserved vacations or weekend breaks.

A tool, small as it might be but powerful with its punch, that is overlooked by too many communities is the bumper sticker. Has anyone ever thought of sticking those things on the rear bumper of every vehicle in town? It could simply say:

Ask Me About Norton
or
Norton, The Prairie's Lighthouse
or
Norton Proud
or
Follow Me To Norton
or
N-o-r-t-o-n, Just Another Way To Spell Welcome!

or
(for the tourist)
I Visited Norton
or
think up your own.

As I travel I pay close attention to bumper stickers. Some are humorous. Some very creative. Some a waste of

Good Evening Norton

Tom Dreiling



money. But regardless they are being read. All of them. Have you ever noticed how many politicians depend on vehicles to carry their name?

Yes, maybe some day we will be a town of 5,000, a county of 7,000. But inactiveness won't bring that result. You have to talk it up. All of us. All the time.

Just a thought.

-td-

Representative Tom DeLay's decision to resign his congressional seat shouldn't have come as a surprise. He is suffering from too many self-inflicted political wounds. He knew his re-election chances were next to nothing. I give him credit for recognizing that fact and getting out of the way. DeLay's decision leaves the Democrats without an issue as they try to win his congressional seat in the Houston area. It'll be interesting to see if the Republicans can hold on to it, or if they will surrender it to the Democrats.

All eyes will be on that race come election day in November.

-td-

I saw something a while back that really freaked me out. I was traveling north on U.S. 283, north of Hill City and getting close to the intersection with K-9. You well know that there is a cut off on highway 9 as you travel east that leads you onto U.S. 283 near that intersection. But you can't use it traveling north on U.S. 283. Signs clearly mark it as ONE WAY and DO NOT ENTER.

However, a van bearing a Missouri license plate, in front of me, turned onto the cut off from the wrong end and made his way to K-9. Thank God there wasn't any oncoming traffic using the cut off and none on K-9 that might have caused a

crash when the Missourian got onto that highway. It must have been a case of day dreaming because those signs practically scream at you. Experts tell us that it's not just the drunk driver you need fear on the nation's highways, but the tired driver and that there are more of them than drunks. Please, please be alert.

-td-

Did you remember to wake up at two minutes and three seconds after 1 o'clock in the morning Wednesday to see something happen that you'll never see happen again? I didn't. I really didn't care. But if you did you saw your digital clock display these numbers: 01-02-03-04-05-06 — the hour, minutes, seconds, month, date, year. Explaining that to your grandchildren would be worth the listen.

-td-

Someone passed a bunch of tips along to me the other day. I will share some, such as:

- Cool whip will condition your hair in 15 minutes.
- Mayonnaise will kill lice, it will also condition your hair.
- For stinky feet, use Jello.
- Use Kool Aid to clean your toilet.
- Peanut butter will get scratches out of CD's. Wipe off with a coffee filter paper.
- To preserve a newspaper clipping, use a large bottle of club soda and cup of milk of magnesia, soak for 20 minutes and let dry. Will last for many years.

After reading this you have to ask yourself, "And I put this stuff in my body?"

-td-

I was reading earlier in the week where the transit strike in Denver put parking at a premium, and private lots near Coors Field were getting \$50 per car for those taking in the Colorado Rockies-Arizona Diamondbacks opening day baseball game.

Wow!...that, in addition to the tickets, the hot dogs, the hamburgers, the pizza, the pop, the beer...

Expensive night out!

-td-

Have a good evening. And a good weekend. And don't forget we're going into Palm Sunday.

Visitors see what we've forgotten

Sometimes I need an outsider to come in and remind me of the joys of small town life. Recently, friends from Reno, Nevada, came to visit and they delighted in the idiosyncrasies of this place we call home. The things we sometimes take for granted were sources of amazement for this couple.

The antique dealer who would come to town to open her shop so they could look around; the motel owner who would call and tell us of the left behind phone charger. A hospital only minutes away, stores that actually close on Sundays, unlocked cars, homes without security systems and a manicured football field. These observations were a source of amazement for them and pride for us.

Jack told me Norton was a special place when we first started dating over 42 years

Phase II

Mary Kay Woodyard



ago. He based this on the quality of my high school education versus his bigger city, Colorado high school education, the well-kept facilities and friendly people all spoke to him of a community of pride and citizenship.

It was true then and it is true now. Certainly there are things we miss living in a small town, but to me the advantages far outweigh the disadvantages. When we

moved to new areas, I used the number of people I recognized in the grocery store as my barometer of comfort in a new place. In Norton there is no such thing as a five-minute grocery store trip, it becomes a social time to re-connect with people we haven't seen recently. It always reminds me of the joke, you know you're in a small town when you dial a wrong number and still talk for an hour.

Our friends marveled at the modern camping facilities at the State Park, the reasonable charges and fees and the variety of wildlife. Not only is this source of delight reasonable it is accessible in a way seldom found anywhere else.

Five minutes can take you across town; rush hour is two minutes, fishing and hunting within minutes as well, and peace of mind 24-7. What more could we ask?