

## Electronic gods are mortals, too

Charlie Gibson, Katie Couric, Dan Rather. the story of three gods. Two of them changed jobs and the other was kicked out. Gibson, host of ABC-TV's "Good Morning America," left that chair to become "World News Tonight" anchor, also ABC-TV. Couric, co-host of NBC-TV's "Today" show, left that chair to become "CBS Evening News" anchor later in the summer. And poor old Rather, who spent 44 years, or so, in a variety of news positions with CBS-TV — most of them as "CBS Evening News" anchor — was let go. No other way to put it. Gibson and Couric were sent of with all the bells and whistles their networks could muster. Rather was sent off — packing. In the case of Gibson and Couric, we'll see their faces for years to come, if years are in their favor. Why all the pageantry when they left their chairs escapes reason. If they were retiring, perhaps a less showy exit would have been in order. But in reality they are doing nothing more than following the money trail. Yes, they came into our living rooms each morning, and now it will be each evening, but they come into our homes by invitation. If we like them, they become a staple, if not, so what?

Brian Williams took over as news anchor at NBC-TV a couple of years ago and does a tremendous job. Couric has to yet to prove herself as a solo news anchor. She may succeed, she may turn out to be a flop. Time will tell. Remember the much heralded Connie Chung? Gibson is already barking out the news and is an old hand at that job.

Rather says he'll stay in news, that he's still got years to give. It'll be interesting to see what those giving years turn out to be.

Yes, it's a story of three gods, two still in reign, the other kicked out of the kingdom.

Though a mortal they merely are. Why make them anything more?

—Tom Dreiling

## Thumbs Up to . . .

✓ **Ward Foley**, and the assistant coaches, for all their time and effort for the K-18 baseball team. (e-mail)

✓ **Russ Erbert**, and all your helpers, for the fine job you all do each year with the fireworks show! (e-mail)

✓ **Linette**, for the fine job you do as an associate at Love's. (e-mail).

✓ **BB Gun Gang**, good luck at the International Championships.

✓ **Carl and Charolette Neff**, on your 50th wedding anniversary.

✓ **Lenora Church of God**, on your exceptional make-over. (e-mail)

✓ **Rev. Ray Gilstrap**, new United Methodist Church pastor at Almena, Norcatur and Clayton. (e-mail)

✓ **Patty**, your skills as a checker shouldn't go unnoticed. (e-mail)

(Submit the name or names you want to salute to [tomd@nwkansas.com](mailto:tomd@nwkansas.com), call 877-6908, fax 877-3732, or drop by the office or mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton 67654. Thanks!)

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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



NINA  
NATIONAL NEWSPAPER  
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## Cattle rustling not yet extinct in Kansas...



## Interstate-70 doesn't make towns grow

Maybe it wasn't such a big thing after all. I am making reference to the caravans that traveled the nation's interstates last week to celebrate 50 years of superslab speed. Photos of 'flag waving crowds' noticed in some newspapers along the I-70 corridor in Kansas reflected little or no interest. Some papers even put the photos on inside pages.

Of course up here on U.S. 36 the celebration along I-70 to the south held little, if any, interest. But in the end, speaking of Interstate 70, the towns along that superslab in greater northwest Kansas — Russell-Hays area to the Colorado line — had something in common with us folks that do not benefit from the interstate: they, too, lost population. So, what's the big deal?

-td-

John went to a psychiatrist. "Doc," he said, "I've got trouble. Every time I get into bed, I think there's somebody under it. I'm going crazy!"

"Just put yourself in my hands for one year," said the doc. "Come to me three times a week, and I'll cure your fears."

"How much do you charge?"

"A hundred dollars per visit."

"I'll sleep on it," said John. Six months later the doctor met John on the street.

"Why didn't you ever come to see me again?" asked the psychiatrist.

"For a hundred bucks a visit? I went on one of those 'Dude Ranch' vacations and an old cowboy cured me for the price of a bottle of whiskey."

"Is that so! How?"

"He cut the legs off the bed! Ain't nobody under there now!"

-td-

Jay Leno said the other evening that

## Good Evening Norton

Tom Dreiling



with all the flooding going on, Al Gore figures there must be a "global leak."

-td-

A new law goes into effect in Kansas on Saturday designed to protect roadside workers on four-lane highways. It's called the Move Over Law and it requires motorists to switch to the lane furthest from any stationary vehicle displaying flashing lights. Deb Miller, secretary of the state's department of transportation, said some drivers have crashed into cones, barrels, signs and even workers, causing injuries and deaths that could have been avoided. Although the new law applies to four-lane roadways, motorists traveling on two-lane highways must slow down and proceed with caution. The new law was modeled after legislation passed in 2000 to protect highway patrolmen and other law enforcement and emergency personnel working situations alongside four-lane highways. So, starting Saturday, if you come upon flashing lights designating work being done on the side of the road, you better switch to that other lane...or else!

-td-

Maybe Mother Nature will give us some favorable weather for the big fireworks show out at the lake on the evening of July 4th. Make plans again to make this

a family outing, which countless numbers of folks do every year. And if you haven't kicked in to help defray the cost of the fireworks show you can still get some \$\$\$ to Karla at the chamber office. It's never too late.

-td-

I think you'll like this one.

A man and his wife are awakened at 3 o'clock in the morning by a loud pounding on the door. The man gets up and goes to the door to find a stranger, obviously intoxicated, standing in the pouring rain, asking for a push.

"Not a chance," says the husband, "it is three o'clock in the morning...and it's raining!" He slams the door and returns to bed.

"Who was that?" asked his wife.

"Just some drunken guy asking for a push," he said.

"Did you help him?" she asked.

"No, I did not. It is three o'clock in the morning and it is pouring rain outside!"

His wife said, "Honey, do you remember about three months ago when we broke down and two guys helped us? I think you should help him."

The man gets out of bed, gets dressed and goes out into the pouring rain. He calls out into the dark, "Hello? Are you still there?"

"Yes" comes the answer.

"Do you still need a push?" the husband yells.

"Yes, please!" comes the reply in the night's darkness.

"Where are you?" asks the husband.

"Over here on the swing," came the reply.

-td-

Have a good evening and a good weekend. And fit church into your schedule.

## All of this from a little packet of seeds

## Back Home

Nancy Hagman



luck would have it they were purple! Since it appears I have a green thumb and she is going to be gone again in a couple of weeks I thought she would just leave them. No such luck! Just see if I am so nice next time she wants a sitter.

Early in April I got a big pot of pansies. A friend (formerly of western Kansas but now an Easterner) chastised me severely for that. "You can't raise pansies out there. Too hot. Too dry. What are you thinking?"

What I was thinking was they were blooming when I got them, they would be great until the first of June and they cost less than fifteen dollars. Besides they were yellow and PURPLE! The wind is hard on pansies, but I noticed they are starting to reseed! So if I can keep the new ones protected under the original ones that are drying up I will get a second crop. No amount of planning can ever beat dumb luck!

This spring my friend, Vesta, sent me some Four O'Clock seeds. I used to have Four O'Clocks. I don't know how because I have no memory of planting them, and I sure would not have planted them

where they were because it was the wrong place. They grew tall and flopped over on the patio. I spend my days trying to prop them up and washing the seeds off the patio. They spread into some shrubbery. (I didn't want them there either.) After a couple of years I started dumping the seed into another place. And I pulled all the plants up after they bloomed and threw them there also.

They did not like their new home and nary a one came up again! Not being all that much of a gardener maybe I should have saved the seed until spring and replanted but they had wintered and reseeded in the other location. No amount of planning can ever beat bad luck either.

My new Four O'Clocks will be late bloomers because I was late getting them planted and I doubt they are purple. But they attract hummingbird moths.

They will bloom and bloom; they will produce lots of seed for another year. It is a small thing but I am happy beyond belief.

When I was a child I remember visiting friends and relatives and spending time walking in gardens. If there was something in the garden my mom wanted, the hostess would dig some plants for us to take home.

I notice we don't "visit" much anymore. We don't take walks in gardens after dinner and the dishes are done. We are busy. Still, I hope every day we take time to be thankful for small things, for friends like Vesta, and for the gifts we receive.

What wondrous possibilities there are in a little packet of seeds!