

Our snowfalls top 34 inches

Well, the last time we talked about the amount of snowfall we've had this season (Jan. 18 issue of *The Telegram*) it totaled 24 1/4 inches. Since then we've added several more inches, thanks, in large part, to the 9 inches that fell in the snowstorm of Feb. 5. Anyhow, to make a long story short before it melts, Norton County has received 34 3/4 inches of the white stuff dating back to November of 2007. Our weather records and precipitation amounts are recorded by Karolyn Kingham on her farm nine miles northwest of Norton.

I put in a call to the National Weather Service at Goodland on Tuesday to see how our snowfall translates into moisture content. They did caution that not all snowfalls are the same, some are heavier with more precipitation, others are light with less moisture. Well, generally speaking, our total snowfall so far this season didn't produce as much moisture as I thought. The good people over at Goodland said it takes 13 inches to equal one inch of moisture. Taking our figure of 34 3/4 inches (they actually figured it on 34 inches), they came up with 2.6 inches. Hey, that's better than nothing, which in some recent winters was the figure — nothing.

March is generally a good snowmaker and even early April has been known to make a delivery or two. So we will just sit back, enjoy the change to lighter evenings and see what kind of compromise Mother Nature and Old Man Winter can work out.

-td-
A friend sent me a bumper sticker that, in itself, hints at what kind of dirt will be tossed around if Sen. Clinton wins the Democratic presidential nomination, and further underscores why the Republicans want her nominated. The bumper sticker says, simply: "Monica Lewinsky's X-Boyfriend's Wife for President."

That's a stinger!

-td-
Third grader at Sunday school wrote:
Dear God,
Thanks for the baby sister. But I really wanted a puppy.
Devon

-td-
I got another one Monday night — a telemarketer! When I picked up the phone and said "Hello," the guy on the other end said, "Is this Mr. Dreeeeling?" That's how a lot of people pronounce my name. "No," I said, "he is out on the road." (I relish in leading telemarketers down the alley.)

"When do you expect him back," the voice said.
"Not for several days," I replied.
"Does he have a cell phone?" came the question. "No," I said.
"Well," the voice said, "we are doing a survey. Maybe you can answer a question or two."

I thought, what the heck, so I said, "I'll try."
"Could you tell me what kind of work takes him out on the road?" the caller asked.
"Sure," I said. "He is connected with the Sen. Barack Obama campaign. He's gone a lot."

"Oh, wow!" screamed the voice (and what follows is some of what I was able to jot down as he rambled on). "Sen Obama! That's my man. He's got to win! How I wish I could be doing that. How did he ever get a job like that? Has he ever seen Sen. Obama in person? Boy! Some people have all the luck. Has he met Mrs. Obama? She is really hot. Wow! Wait tell I tell my co-workers I got to talk with someone who knows someone who knows Obama!"

Before he got another word in, I told him I had to go, and hung up. I truly believe he would have consumed an entire evening talking about the senator.

Now I await my next call.

-td-
A telephone conversation with an old friend as it related to Sen. John McCain — who is much our age — seemed to indicate maybe the senator needs to respell his last name to McCane! Some of those Republicans (as my friend is) are tougher on Sen. McCain than the Democrats!

-td-
You can tell Sen. Hillary Clinton is bothered about the way her campaign is drifting. She's now praising FOX News and blasting MSNBC.

-td-
I bet someone got chewed! On FOX News a few days ago, they carried a picture of Sen. McCain on the campaign trail standing behind a podium to which his name was attached. It read, Sen. McCain (D-Az.) Ouch! See, even the television dudes make mistakes. I wondered, however, if maybe a little bit of devilry might have taken place. After all FOX has some very influential Republican characters who are very much opposed to McCain being the party's nominee. And I think maybe even the Democrats resented the implication the sign carried.

-td-
I watched some of the Grammy Awards the other night. Some of the music badly lacked music.

-td-
Have you said something good about Norton or Norton County this week? Remember, it's the positive that counts when potential newcomers check out a community. You still have time.

-td-
Have a good evening! And remember attendance at the church of your choice this weekend will provide a positive experience.

Good Evening Norton

Tom Dreiling



Game was super, coach poor sport

At last, a Super Bowl that was better than the commercials. Everyone knew the New England Patriots, undefeated in the regular season and playoffs, should win. Everyone knew the Patriots were the better team, maybe the best in football history. All the experts and oddsmakers agreed.

Everyone, apparently, except for the underdog New York Giants, who kept playing when New England took the lead and did what had to be done to win.

Quarterback Eli Manning showed brilliance, especially on the final drive, when he escaped a collapsing pocket, broke away from two tacklers and passed for a first and 10 deep in enemy country.

It was Manning, not the Patriots, who looked invincible that Sunday.

Well, like they say, that's why they play the game.

It was a refreshing change from the last few years, when the hoopla over the television commercials far surpassed the action on the field.

This year, the commercials were the disappointment, mostly uninspired and less than interesting.

Maybe the advertising writers were on strike along with the Hollywood script writers.

Long-time favorites such as Pepsi and Budweiser failed to field anything memorable, though the dog helping the

On the Prairie Dog

Steve Haynes



Clydesdale who didn't make the cut with his training was cute.

No single spot compared to the wacky humor of the Sierra Mist or Bud Light ads of the last couple of years. The "superpowers" ads were kinda dull.

Well, it's supposed to be about the game, right? Not the two weeks of extended interview and media hype?

Then there was New England coach Bill Belichick, proving himself once again to be about as poor a sport as can be found on the field today.

There was Belichick, making his way off the field with an escort of state troopers and security men while his assistants had to mount a final play that league officials insisted has to be run.

With one second left, everyone knew it didn't matter, but should the coach have been there?

Asked about it by Dave Letterman last week, quarterback Manning said, with a smile, "Maybe he was trying to beat traffic."

It's hard to see why the National Football League puts up with a guy like this Belichick, who's been accused now of spying on opponents' practices at least three times — and fined at least once.

Do sportsmanship, fair play and integrity add up to anything in pro sports these days?

If not, why do we care?
Guess that's a question the NFL owners ought to be answering.

Sportswriters already are arguing that New England was the better team and New York just got lucky. That may be, but for a year at least, Eli Manning can strut around Manhattan like he owns the place.

Next fall, the Patriots will have a chance to redeem themselves.

Between now and then, we hope the league looks at Mr. Belichick's antics again. Mere fines won't have much impact, not considering what coaches make these days.

America has little tolerance for cheaters or poor sports.

And you have to hope the advertising agencies, copy writers and advertisers come up with something better than the insipid ideas they put out this year.

Americans need something to talk about the day after the big game other than what happens on the field. Most years, anyway.

It's time to again bring hope to cancer survivors

To the Editor,
What does hope mean to you?
To hundreds of cancer survivors in Norton County, hope comes every year in the form of a simple flower, the daffodil.

Daffodils, the first flowers of spring, symbolize an end to the dark days of winter and the beginning of brighter times ahead. To some cancer survivors, they represent the accomplishment of having beaten the disease for another year; for others, the daffodil is a sign that we're always moving closer to a cure.

Daffodil Days is your opportunity to bring hope into the lives of friends and neighbors facing cancer. I urge you to join me in supporting the the American Cancer Society Daffodil Days by ordering fresh-

cut blooms or by going one step further and taking pre-orders at your workplace, church, school or organization.

Proceeds from the sale go to support the American Cancer Society's life saving programs, so when you participate in Daffodil Days, you are doing more than just buying flowers — you are paving the way for revolutionary new cancer research; making sure someone can find a ride to his or her cancer treatment; and working to finally put an end to cancer and to improve the lives of people who have

Your Turn

already been diagnosed.
For more information or to volunteer, please call your American Cancer Society at 1-800-ACS-2345.

To place an order for daffodils, please call Sarah Durham (785) 202-0777. Your support can and will make a difference. Together, we will make hope bloom this spring.

Sincerely,
Sarah Durham
Daffodil Days Volunteer
Norton (785) 202-0777
Jennifer Van Eaton
Community Manager/Development
American Cancer Society
Colby (785) 462-2183

Thumbs up...

To... Teresa Schulze, on your recent *Teacher of the Year* award. She is fifth and sixth grade science teacher at Eisenhower Elementary School. (called in)

To... Floyd and Barbara McKie, on your 50th wedding anniversary. (called in)

To... Little Nataley Schumaker, for your donation to *Locks of Love*. (e-mail)

To... Dana Hillebrand and Lacey Roe, for attaining Honor Roll status at Pratt Community College. (e-mail)

(To submit a name of names, e-mail tom.d@nwkans.com, call 877-3361 or 877-6908, fax 877-3732, mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave. 67654 or drop by the office. There is no charge. And thanks for your continuing input. -td)

Share your thoughts with a Letter to the Editor. Who will the Democrats choose? Will GOP unite behind McCain?

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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
Christie Anderson..... advertising
Veronica Monier..... staff reporter
Dick Boyd..... Blue Jay sports
Carolyn Plotts..... society editor
Sherry Hickman..... bookkeeping/circulation
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