

Time to back off and leave well enough alone

I typically avoid sensational topics in my columns, but I've been thinking a lot about the highly-publicized Casey Anthony trial and eventual acquittal. I must say that the details of the case don't matter much to me because I don't want to indulge in someone else's sorrow and pain. I have enjoyed watching the media frenzy, however, and I'm not sure what to think.

The Bell Curve
Carleen Bell



I've been fascinated by the media frenzy surrounding the legal proceedings and, frankly, the continued coverage of the case makes me wonder how things might be different if a murder trial was treated like a speeding ticket hearing. I understand that a murder is (much) bigger than a speeding ticket, but what about Casey?

The national media attention means that everyone and their cat know what Casey looks like, where she lives, the names of her family members and probably more details about her life than any normal person should have revealed to a nation of spellbound onlookers.

Because of the outrage caused by Casey's acquittal, she and her family are concerned for their safety. They are considering hiring body guards and there has even been discussion of changing their names and identities to protect their own safety.

Regardless of whether or not you believe Casey killed her child and whether or not she should be set free, the justice system has determined that she is not guilty. I believe that anyone in her position would want to close the chapter containing three years of hardship and move on with their lives, but the continued national attention is preventing that from happening. If a jury says she's not guilty, doesn't she deserve a little privacy after all this time?

Let's move on to the next big story and let the Anthony family get back to their lives.



Parents leave footprints for children to follow

I just finished reading a wonderful opinion piece by CNN contributor, LZ Granderson, regarding the behavior of children in public places. It occurred to me, as I read it, herein lies the problems with our country. As we have raised our children so goes the nation and if you have witnessed the behavior of some of these little darlings you know what I mean.

My mother had "the look" and believe me no words were ever needed. Even when she was 100 and nearly blind she could give the look and you knew she did not approve of your behavior. No words were needed. I used the "look" with my children and sign language of my own making. They didn't need me to verbally explain the problem.

First of all, what is cute at three isn't at 13. I have always said the only difference between a sixteen year old and a two year old is you can understand them when

Phase II
Mary Kay Woodyard



they talk back to you. As Mr. Granderson said, just because you think your child is adorable it may be a stretch for others to even think they are a little cute.

Being a child is groundwork for adulthood. Learning to behave properly in public places is a necessary skill not only for personal growth but for society's well being. Too often parents forget they are the pattern for their child's adult life.

Boundaries are a critical part of all of our lives and children not only need them, but they want them as well. I have spent

most of my life with children, through daycare, non-profit work, etc. and what I can tell you is this, there have only been a small handful of children I did not like, however I have met many parents whom I found intolerable. The problem doesn't rest with the children, it rests with the parents. If parents haven't established boundaries for their children by the age of five, and in some cases younger, they never will. You can't suddenly wake up one morning with a sixteen year old and say, "listen to me" when you have never required it before. All roads begin with paths.

I hear parents, and I use that word loosely, say, "I want my children to like me". If you want that, get a dog. Parenting is a career and a career whose success can determine all of our futures. <mailto:mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net>mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net



Thumbs up to all those that made the Norton Car Show a great success again this year. The drag races were a blast to watch. Called in.

Thumbs up to the Norton Library for the great show held Thursday morning with Randy Sauer, and his music. Fun was had by all. Called in.

Care for your pet and protect yourself

When was the last time you had your pet's stool sample examined for parasites by a professional?

Vet tips

Dr. Sara White



"pot belly", pale gums, and sudden death.

Symptoms of infection in humans may differ from those in pets. Young children are especially vulner-

able. Human infection with these parasites may have serious consequences: stomach ache, skin rashes, pneumonia, and blindness. It is important to take steps to minimize the risk of parasitic infections.

Responsible pet-owners make sure their pets are adequately protected to protect their family! Parasites in animals can be diagnosed by a simple, but thorough, fecal examination. The sample is examined under the microscope for parasites, bacteria, and any other abnormalities.

When diagnosed, the appropriate treatment is dispensed. Heartgard Plus treats and controls zoonotic roundworms and hookworms that may affect people. It treats and controls 2 species of roundworms and 3 species of hookworms in dogs as young as 6 weeks of age, from the very first dose - guaranteed!

Ask your veterinarian when your pet last had a fecal analysis. It is never too early or too late to protect your pet and your family!

Symptoms of infection in animals include diarrhea, malnutrition, respiratory distress, vomiting, and loss of appetite, weakness, weight loss, dull scruffy fur,

Preparing for future disasters with the actions we take today

There's going to be an emergency preparedness drill in town next week. I thought to be effective those were a surprise but in this case it was announced in church: they were soliciting victims.

It sounds like fun. And there will be pizza after.

I haven't volunteered. It was presented in a clever, lighthearted way. However my subconscious nags, "Do you want to be a victim?"

Which brings us to an even larger dilemma, "Do we choose to be victims?"

Is this why I go to church? To think? Even the readings were provocative. It began with the introit, Psalm 103. "As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone-----"

And people say the Bible isn't relevant. Just add a few grasshoppers and you have my flower garden in Kansas 2011. The wind passed over and it is gone!

If memory serves they also talk about grasshoppers in the Bible somewhere, too!

A friend says soak chewing tobacco in water, mix it with mouthwash and dishwashing detergent and spray it on your plants. You reapply it every time it rains. We have been getting some rain (I'm not complaining) but I don't want to be reapplying it every other day. So

This Too Shall Pass
Nancy Hagman



I haven't tried it yet. Plus it's a small town and I'd have to explain my sudden affection for chewing tobacco at the convenience store.

The hubby is shocked at the number of grasshoppers. He says, "Wet weather is supposed to keep the numbers down." These hoppers did not get the memo. I'm thinking it is Sherry's fault. She was complaining about grasshoppers before I ever realized there was a problem. She got some chickens. My theory is the hoppers got tired of being chicken feed at her house and moved to mine!

Or maybe I tempted fate because I was smug about Sherry's problems! Of course I know God doesn't look down and say, "Nancy is getting an attitude, I'm going to send a hot wind and a hoard of grasshoppers." It doesn't work like that.

Preacher Dave explained it thus: we don't get what we deserve. (And we should probably be thankful for that!)

However we are going to have to deal with the things we set in motion. If you drive too fast and don't use a seatbelt the least you can expect is a ticket. Chew tobacco? Risk cancer and so on.

No matter how prepared we think we are, when disaster strikes it is never enough, never quite the right thing. Even if we anticipate the consequences, frail creatures that we are, can we stop our actions?

I'm all for emergency preparedness, but the futility of it came home that very evening. Start the prayer chain; there was an accident, some children in our congregation were injured. The activity was supervised. The children were outfitted with the proper safety gear.

But bad things happen. We aren't prepared.

They wouldn't have mock disaster drills if they were not proven to be of value. We may never know how helpful they are. In fact I hope no one ever has to find out.

It is wonderful that we have so many volunteer to drive the ambulance, serve as firemen and EMT's. I'm proud this group has found a way to train for disaster, even make it something folks want to participate in. If they still need victims next week I think I'll volunteer. I hate playing the victim but I do like pizza!

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

OFFICE HOURS:
8 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Mon.-Thur.
8 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Friday
Phone: (785) 877-3361
Fax: (785) 877-3732

STAFF

- Dana Paxton..... General Manager
Advertising Director/
email: dpaxton@nwkansas.com
- Carleen Bell..... Managing Editor
cbell@nwkansas.com
- Dick Boyd..... Blue Jay Sports
nortontelegram@nwkansas.com
- Brandi Diederich..... Intern/Society Editor
bdiederich@nwkansas.com
- Vicki Henderson..... Computer Production
- Marcia Shelton..... Office Manager

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



ELECTED OFFICIALS:

- ★ **Governor Sam Brownback**, 300 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-3232
- ★ **U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts**, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. roberts.senate.gov/public/ (202) 224-4774
- ★ **U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran**, Russell Senate Office Building Room C-4, Washington, D.C. 20002. moran.senate.gov/public/ (202) 224-6521
- ★ **State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer**, State Capitol Building, Room 300 SW 10th St., Room 225-E., Topeka, Kan. 66612. ralph.ostmeyer@senate.state.ks.us (785) 296-7399
- ★ **Congressman Tim Huelskamp**, 126 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. huelskamp.house.gov (202) 225-2715 or Fax (202) 225-5124
- ★ **State Rep. Rick Billinger**, Docking Building, Room 754, Topeka, Kan. 66612 rick.billinger@house.ks.gov (785) 296-7659
- ★ **State Rep. Ward Cassidy**, State Capitol Building, 300 SW 10th St., Topeka, Kan. 66612 ward.cassidy@house.ks.gov (785) 296-7696

Letters to the Editor and Thumbs Up: e-mail dpaxton@nwkansas.com or to write 215 S. Kansas Ave. 67654 or call 785-877-3361