

Making memories and being thankful for what we have

I have not written in the "memories column" for some time, telling people I have remembered everything I can remember...however, I realize that we need to keep "making" memories.

Memories
Sonya Montgomery



A few weeks ago I was so impressed by the fantastic performance of the high school choir and the patriotic music they sang. I always get teary eyed when patriotic music is sung or our flag is recognized.

Then there was the always great Veterans Day parade. It was so very cold with the wind that I showed up early to park my car so I could be close to warm up when it got so very cold to stand outside, then I thought about the Veterans and what some of them had gone through, and I was complaining about the cold for an hour or so? Again, so impressed with the Star Spangled Banner played by Norton High School band, the color guard etc. I get tears of joy and pride when I see and hear those. All of the bands in the parade played well as they passed by. Then a big thank you to all the people who participated in the parade. We must not forget the service of our men and women who served.

A large group of people met at the Methodist Church on Sunday prior to Thanksgiving to celebrate and Thank God for our many blessings... Various churches from Norton County were represented by special music and a drama presentation that was very inspiring as well. What a joy to hear all of the music and then the Community Choir combined to sing. What a fantastic sound from that group as well. We realize we can come together and celebrate our God and the blessings he has given to each of us and to our country since we have more in common than in differences.

Our founding fathers were not perfect people, but they realized they were basing our laws on God's laws and were asking for his blessing for our country, for us, not just for their life time.

Christmas is next in this holiday season and we must remember the birth of Jesus Christ is the reason for the season. Soon after that is the New Year...may you and yours make more wonderful memories.



All the ingredients of Thanksgiving

I love the holidays. From the first of November to the first of January, I love it all. It helps that Fall is my favorite season, so naturally, any holiday that occurs during that time is special.

But Thanksgiving is my favorite. Probably because, since our daughter, Kara, and her husband, Adam, have been married, we have tried to spend the day with them in Dallas. Oldest daughter, Halley, has been there for most of them, as well as our daughter, Jennifer, and her two girls from San Antonio. Daughter, Becky, even made it a couple of times.

It was the second or third year of our Thanksgivings together that the kids were all together at the same time. One night Jim and I went to bed early, leaving them sitting around the kitchen table. As we lay there, we listened to all our children laugh, talk and tell "one-upsmen" stories about their childhoods. Which sisters fought more. Whose parents were the most strict.

It was then we felt like we had successfully "blended" our families.

-ob-

Food is a big part of our Thanksgiving. Jennifer has to have green bean

Out Back
Carolyn Plotts



That's the way Mom/Grandma did it. I like it the old way. I don't want to try something new.

-ob-

Some people have to go to a private place to meditate. Not me. I do some of my best thinking while sorting socks, folding towels and hanging up clothes. Judging by the amount of laundry that comes out of my utility room, I have the opportunity to do a whole lot of thinking.

You know what I think about? "How can two people generate that much laundry?"

-ob-

Saw this on the Internet. "It's Thanksgiving. Be sure to set your scales back ten pounds."

During this week, I'm just not going to worry about it. I'm going to cook and eat to my heart's content. God gave us food to enjoy and I plan to do just that.

We have so much to be thankful for in this country. Even with all the turmoil going on in politics, America is still great. It's not perfect, but it's the best there is.

Here's wishing you and yours a safe, healthy, and happy Thanksgiving.

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THE NORTON TELEGRAM

E-mail: nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

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

Kansas Press Association



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Different distribution system nowadays

The image of Mom with her nose buried in the front page, Dad reading the sports page and the kids chuckling their way through the comics, harkens back to long ago days when news exposure in the home was a family affair. Sections of the daily paper were shared just like the space around the glow of the round radio dial and later the television set.

Young Americans were huge consumers of news just a few decades ago. Millions of baby boomers consumed their news in mass quantities.

During this time period, two out of three young adults watched the nightly news on CBS, NBC or ABC. These three media giants ruled the airwaves pitching cars, cigarettes, soft drinks and other consumer goods between news segments. Today cable and satellite television news commercials still pander to the same boomers only now they're marketing prescription drugs.

Older Americans continue to schedule their late afternoons around a daily "appointment" with television news. Fewer and fewer young people behave that way and most don't set aside a specific time of the day to "get their news."

About one in six young adults and a like proportion of teens watch the news nightly. By contrast, more than two of every five older adults watch the national news religiously and a slightly larger number follow local TV news.

Some studies say today's young Americans are less interested in news than their counterparts of a generation or two ago. Other contemporary analysis claims the digital revolution

Insight
John Schlageck



is bringing young people back to the news.

One thing is for certain, the notion that young people do not care about the news is dead wrong. What's happening is they rely on a different distribution system.

Young people today are still interested in news. They want to keep abreast of the environment, health, food, nutrition, sports and many of the same issues that have always driven people to seek information. They still crave a daily diet of hate, death and war.

However, they'd much rather read about it on their smart phone, iPad and computer - anything but the daily newspaper. Media use today has become a solitary affair.

Today, two out of three young adults largely ignore this wood-based relic. Two out of every five pay almost no attention to national and local television news as well.

I'm not making this up. These figures come from a recent study on press, politics and public policy from one of the most revered institutions of higher learning located on the East Coast.

When it comes to newspapers today, only one in five older adults remains an avid newspaper reader. An avid reader

is defined as one who reads every day and pays close attention to news stories while doing so. Only one in 12 young adults and a scant one in 20 teens rely on newspapers as a source of information in their daily lives.

Age differences shrink for Internet-based news, but do not disappear. Older adults are less likely than young adults and teens to access the Web; however, they make greater use of it as a news source.

Still, none of these three age groups use Internet-based news heavily. About one in seven older adults, one in eight young adults and one in 12 teenagers are heavy users of the Internet for news.

Few Americans believe they must be plugged into each and every news source. Most are comfortable with the medium of their own choice. Older adults choose what's comfortable to them while younger news gatherers like to explore the latest avenues and sources of technology.

In 2013 younger Americans have opted for new ways of getting their news. They tap into entertainment programs, comedy, new media, acquaintances or an irregular mix of traditional media.

It is simply not true that the Internet and social media are responsible for the decline in news interests among young Americans. Many factors have contributed including a weakening of the home as a place where news habits are acquired.