

Harvest precautions keep us all safe

Let's make safety the word everyone lives by as the wheat harvest rolls across our part of the state. Farming is a dangerous job, even with all the safety equipment on today's trucks, tractors and combines. Those who work in the fields need to be constantly on their guard and make sure that all safety equipment is in place and used. Shields and guards won't protect faces or fingers when they are stashed in the barn or shed. Hurrying is another problem. With storm clouds on the horizon, everyone wants to finish one last field, one last task, one last little thing. All too often, it turns into the last thing they do, or the last thing before the trip to the hospital. Slow-moving machinery is a problem on highways. Drivers need to slow down when they come up behind a piece of farm machinery. Look carefully before you pass. Remember folks, if that piece of machinery went any faster, the man or woman driving it would be going faster. They're doing the best they can, and it's a rare farmer who won't pull his or her piece of equipment as far off the road as possible to allow cars and trucks to go around.

But when you're on a hill, there's a double yellow line or you're approaching an intersection, stay cool, stay back and don't pass. You'll get your chance soon enough.

Farmers need to be sure and have a slow moving equipment triangle on the back of any implement that goes out on the road. Another major problem during harvest is trucks that have sat for months without being moved or maintained. Sometimes harvest is the only time these trucks are moved.

Before putting your wife, daughter, son or second cousin Fred into a truck to take the grain to the elevator, check it out. Make sure the tires are good and the brakes work.

If anything else goes wrong, it'll stop. You may not like having to figure out how to fix a truck full of grain sitting on the side of the road halfway to the elevator but, at least, your family and helpers will be OK — unless, of course, the temperature reaches 103 degrees and they have a heat stroke waiting for help.

So take some time for safety, for yourselves and for those you care about.

It only takes a little while to check the truck, put the guards on the combine, buckle a seat belt. It takes only a second more to stop at a main road and look both ways.

It also only takes a second for a machine to tip over, a truck to run off the road or a stuck part to start going again.

We don't have enough people out here in northwest Kansas, and we really can't afford to lose any. Stay safe. We need you.

— Cynthia Haynes



There are reunions all around us

Ah, reunions, I love them. Well, my English teacher said you don't love things, you love only people.

OK, I enjoy the people at reunions, is that OK now Miss Ballard?

I thought I would write about reunions and then I thought — what reunions, classmates, family, other friends, what?

Then I spent several hours in front of the television watching some of the proceedings of the farewell to Pres. Ronald Reagan and felt that was a kind of reunion too.

People turned out all over the country to show respect for the former president and for his ever loyal wife, Nancy.

Tears show my emotions quite often, sometimes happy, sometimes sad.

As I watched, there were tears from both happy and sad.

I cry when the flag passes by as well as when the beautiful hymns and patriotic songs are played or sung. I did not watch all the proceedings, but certainly enjoyed all that I did watch.

The one reunion I want to remind

Memories

Sonya Montgomery



people of is the Norton Community High School All Classes Reunion, which will be held at the Norton American Legion beginning at 6 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m. on Saturday, July 24.

There has been some effort to let people know about this gathering, however, it is very difficult to keep addresses for everyone.

If someone you know is a graduate of Norton Community High School, let them know about this reunion.

Mail \$20 for each person attending to Dr. Richard Wiltfong, 1105 Nixon, Norton, Kan. 67654.

I have enjoyed the few of these all-school reunions.

I enjoy visiting with others, who are different but have Norton Community High School in common with me. We remember the activities we participated in while spending our formative years there.

It's amazing that when you visit with people you have not seen for years, you can enjoy their company and conversation.

If you have not previously attended, you might want to consider it this year. Try it, I'm sure you will like it.

I hope to see you there.

I always have a great time when our class meets, and we plan to do that for a short time Saturday morning, but the gathering of the entire school is another kind of enjoyable experience.

When I say our class will meet for a short time, some of us have no concept of short, so we will hopefully be there hours before going to the all school dinner.

Our class members now keep in touch via e-mail. What a wonderful and speedy way to do that.

I was also going to mention family reunions, but will save that for another column.

House passes legislation to help with the cost of fuel

Congressman Jerry Moran said that the U.S. House of Representatives has passed legislation to help bring down the cost of fuel and to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign energy sources. The legislation would create thousands of jobs nationwide, enhance domestic energy production and increase the production of cleaner power.

"When Americans pay more than \$2 a gallon to fill their cars and trucks, this has negative effects on our ability to do business, and it is costing our families more out of pocket," Moran said. "Many businesses are raising their prices because delivery costs are increasing, and our families are second-guessing their summer vacation plans. We must implement better energy policies that will reduce the

costs that Kansans pay at the pump."

The House-passed energy legislation includes several provisions to reduce the price of fuel and also to promote renewable fuels, such as ethanol, biodiesel and wind energy. Bio-based fuels represent a growing portion of the Kansas agriculture sector and provide a boost to the state's economy. Currently, six ethanol plants in Kansas produce 122 million gallons of ethanol, creating a market for 45 million bushels of corn and sorghum each year. The legislation passed today contains a renewable fuels requirement to add five billion gallons per year of ethanol and other renewable-based fuel to the nation's gasoline. Last year, nearly three billion gallons of ethanol was produced across the country.

Capitol Views

Rep. Jerry Moran



This legislation would also decrease the U.S. dependence on foreign energy sources. In 1973, America imported 30 percent of its oil from foreign sources. Today, the U.S. imports nearly 60 percent of its oil, sending more than \$100 billion a year to oil-producing nations. According to the U.S. Department of Commerce, America loses 12,389 jobs for every billion dollars it spends on imports. At today's oil prices, that means America is sending more than 1.7 million jobs overseas for oil every year.

"As a country, we can no longer depend on foreign sources to meet our energy needs - we must become more self-reliant," Moran said. "This energy legislation will help bring good things to Kansas: more jobs, cheaper fuel, lower energy costs and additional markets for Kansas products."

The legislation now goes to the Senate for consideration.

Meeting the New Iraqi President

Last Thursday, I had the opportunity to meet with the new interim Iraqi President, Sheikh Ghazi al-Yawar, during a meeting on Capitol Hill. The president and I discussed the future of Iraq and the role that the Iraqis and Americans will play in ensuring that stability and democratic principles will prevail in the country.

During the hour-long meeting, President al-Yawar and I discussed the June 30 transfer of power from the U.S. led Coalition Provisional Government to the new Iraqi interim government. Current plans are for elections for a transition govern-

ment by Jan. 31, 2005, with votes on a permanent constitution by Oct. 31, 2005, and for a permanent government by Dec. 15, 2005.

During the meeting, President al-Yawar told me, "If we have to count the number of times the United States has moved to bring freedom to the people of the world - it is uncountable. I speak for the majority of Iraqis. They are your friends. They are appreciative."

If the United States is to succeed in Iraq, we must make certain that the Iraqis take control of their country and its future. Our troops have sacrificed to give Iraqis the opportunity for a stable and free country. Now it is up to the Iraqis to see that the goals of freedom and sovereignty are fulfilled.

President al-Yawar was in Washington, D.C. to meet with Members of Congress and to attend the funeral of President Ronald Reagan.

Working to Fully Fund Medicaid Services

I met with Kansas and federal Medicaid officials last Thursday to discuss hospital reimbursements and mental health services for children in foster care. At issue is the concern that federal Medicaid reimbursements are not meeting the costs of services in Kansas. As I continue to try to alleviate this concern, I will work with my counterparts at the state and federal level to ensure that Kansas receives its share of funding to treat Medicaid patients.

Participating in the meeting were officials from the Kansas Governor's Office, including the secretary of the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, Janet Schalansky, and representatives from the state legislature and the University of Kansas Hospital. The director of the Center for Medicaid and State Operations, Dennis Smith, and other representatives from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services were also at

the meeting.

Speaking to the Kansas State Veterans of Foreign Wars Convention

I was honored to speak at this year's Kansas Veterans of Foreign Wars and Ladies Auxiliary Convention in Wichita. During the annual meeting, members elected and installed new officers and discussed ways to promote and improve their civic and patriotic programs. At the convention, I spoke about how our country is fortunate to have an abundance of men and women who are willing to answer the call of duty and accomplish great things for the benefit of our fellow man.

In the Office

This week, LouAnn Kibbee of Hays, Chris and Dan Owens of Hutchinson, Sidney Gray-Hayes and Susan Sincok of Salina were in on behalf of the Statewide Independent Living Council of Kansas to talk about the reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and funding for independent living centers and housing.

Members of the Kansas Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Program, including Gloria Wight and Tesa Rijkfogel of Garden City; Mickey Edwards and Carolyn Davidson of Emporia; Carol Miller, Judy Womack, Cathy Feriend and Shirley Stolzenburg of Concordia; and Colette Flaharty of Fowler were in to discuss funding for the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

The National Cattleman's Beef Association President, Jan Lyons of Manhattan, Kevin Schultz of Haviland, Mike Jacobson of Ulysses, Ronald Shortridge of Satanta, David Haresnape of Oberlin and John Bury of Applebee's Restaurants in Overland Park were in the office on behalf of the National Cattleman's Beef Association to discuss beef production in Kansas.

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