

Opinion

Hey 'Cat fans, let's get the job done

When it comes to sports, we often hear about rituals coaches, players or fans have. Maybe the coach wears a certain tie or doesn't wash his socks until football season is over. (I swear I heard there was a coach who did that!) Whew — maybe his team won but I bet he wasn't too popular at home, work or anywhere else unless he was down wind!

I'm trying to figure out what to do to get K-State back to a bowl game. This is the third year we have had season tickets and it is looking like this may be the third year the 'Cats fail to go to a bowl game after eleven straight years. If I were superstitious, I might surmise these things were connected. And, since it is too late to do anything about it this year, we are doomed!

After the first game, with a Division II team, which we barely won, my sister visited with a former player, "They will be lucky to win four games," he said. We have won four games, is that the end of our luck?

I painted my fingernails purple for the second game. We couldn't go to the game but the 'Cats played much better! I painted them for the Marshall game — we won.

I painted them for the Louisville game. We lost but played pretty well. I didn't paint them for the Baylor game because it was away. We lost. Before the Oklahoma State game I made sure I got the purple polish on. WE WON! Just when I was thinking there might be something to the purple polish deal we lose the next two!

Last year we took the hubby's

Back Home Nancy Hagman



sister and her husband to the Missouri game. After several losses in a row, we won that game. Also, at that game Marcus Watts dislocated his hip. Susie had binoculars and was watching as they loaded Watts into the ambulance. "It looks like he is saying 'Ouch,'" she reported. I bet he was!

We took them to the Oklahoma State game this year. Watts got hurt. We won. Watts came back into the game and was the player of the game in my judgment. So what can we deduce from that? Are Dave and Susie good luck charms? Does Watts' health have something to do with it?

Watts, who did keep trying to play until half way through the Missouri game, is now facing surgery on the hand and his season is over. Not a good omen for the Wildcats!

We haven't won on the road and only have two more home games. One of them is Texas. I'm not saying Texas is unbeatable but they look pretty good to me. Still, stranger things have happened. My question: If a team can't win on the road do they really deserve a bowl game? If they only win six games and one of those wins is against a Division II school do they REALLY deserve a bowl game? I know the rules say they

are bowl eligible but really — ?

I like Ron Prince. I like what he says and the direction he would like to see the team take. However the problems with the offense and the offensive line just baffle me. In his last job he was offensive coordinator at Virginia. It seems to me that even if the offensive coaches (whom he hired) aren't up to the task, he ought to be able to step in and get something going!

We watched Virginia play last week. They showed pictures of the campus, pointing out that Thomas Jefferson designed it. The camera cut to the stadium and some crazed looking fans in orange satin togas.

"I'm sure this is what he had in mind," the announcer intoned. Silly what we fans will do. Silly how much we care.

I accept that it will take Prince time to get things going his way. Grudgingly I have to admit that Bill Callahan may have finally gotten the Huskers on track, sometimes it takes a while. I don't know what to think about the Jayhawks. Never has there been a team so talented at snatching defeat from the jaws of victory.

Yet they may still get to go bowling. They only have to win three of their last four games, one of which is with the "can't win on the road 'Cats."

So here is what we do Wildcat fans: get out your lucky hats, blankets and whatever. Don't wash your socks (I don't care as long as I don't have to live with you or sit near you in the stadium!) Let's do whatever it takes to go bowling again! Just keep in mind, "Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a rain dance!"

A word from the doc...



Wednesday Dr. John Patrick addressed an assembly of students at Norton Community High School. Dr. Patrick, an international speaker, talked about understanding the meaning of real joy.

— Telegram photo by Carlyn Plotts

Polls open Tuesday for general election

(Continued from Page 1) Ward Three, all at the American Legion Building.

Advanced Balloting
Advanced voting in Norton County began on Oct. 18. Registered voters may go to the courthouse during regular hours to vote, or they may pick up a ballot to take home with them and must have it returned to the county clerk's office by 7 p.m. on Nov. 7.

Residents with children registered to vote who are attending school elsewhere, will need to secure an application at the county clerk's office to send to their child. The deadline for that aspect of voting is nearing and those in these situations are urged to call the county clerk's office at 877-5710 for clarification and assistance.

Candidates for office

Here is a list of the candidates on the Nov. 7 ballot:

National
U.S. Representative 1st District
John Doll, Democrat; Jerry Moran, Republican; Sylvester Cain, Reform.
State
Governor/Lieutenant Governor
Kathleen Sebelius/Mark Parkinson, Democrat; Jim Barnett/Susan Wagle, Republican; Richard Lee Ranzau/Ellen L. Verell, Reform; Carl Kramer/Kalor A. Hebron, Libertarian.
Secretary of State
Joseph L. Martin, Reform; Ron Thornburgh, Republican; David Haley, Democrat; Rob Hodgkinson, Libertarian.
Attorney General
Paul Morrison, Democrat; Phill Kline, Republican.

Treasurer
Larry Wilson, Democrat; Lynn Jenkins, Republican.
Commissioner of Insurance
Patrick Wilbur, Libertarian; Sandy Praeger, Republican; Bonnie Sharp, Democrat.
Representative 120th District
John M. Faber, Republican; Bob Streyve, Democrat.
State Board of Education 5th District
Tim Cruz, Democrat; Sally Cauble, Republican.
District Magistrate Judge 17th District Position 3
Debra S. Anderson, Republican.
County
Commissioner 1st District
Richard Thompson, Republican; Reva L. Benien, Democrat.
Township Offices
Solomon Township Clerk
Doyle Foss, Republican.

Make Halloween safe and fun time

Aside from the free candy, deciding on a costume is the most exciting part of Halloween for many kids. And, when it comes to keeping trick-or-treaters safe, don't overlook the fact that, if not taken seriously, costumes can cause injuries too.

Pick costumes that are flame retardant so the child will be safe from candlelit pumpkins on porches and make sure that they can walk freely and won't trip. A good rule of thumb is for the costume not to go past the ankles. Props like swords and knives should be made of flexible material so nobody gets hurt.

It's also important that children can see well out of masks so that they won't trip on things and can see cars coming when they're crossing the street. If the eye holes are too small, parents need to cut bigger ones. By applying reflective tape to the costumes and candy bags, parents will make it easy for motorists to see their children in the dark as well.

Before children go out, review safety rules with them, such as which neighborhoods they should or shouldn't go to. Remind them

Home ed Tranda Watts, Extension specialist



not to enter any homes or apartment complexes and to not approach homes that don't have their porch light on.

It is recommended that children under the age of 12 be accompanied by an adult and that older children be given a cell phone to take with them and a curfew.

Give your kids a meal before they go trick-or-treating to keep them from eating candy before they get home. Remind them that it's not safe to eat the candy before they get home and you have a chance to inspect it and wash the fruit.

Parents who don't want their children to eat all of their candy in one day can put some of it in a plastic bag in the freezer where it will stay fresh for a later date.

Don't forget that pumpkin carving can also pose dangers but with

the right tools, pumpkin carving can be kid-friendly

Pumpkin carving has always been a good way for parents to bond with their children, but in past generations, kids had to wait until they were older to help with the carving part.

Now there are pumpkin carving tool kits that are designed to make carving easier and safer. The kits come with tiny saws that are a lot safer than knives and are easier to handle. With some guidance, children as young as seven or eight could carve safely with these tools. But, that is ultimately the parents' decision.

Pumpkin carving kits are fairly inexpensive and typically cost from five dollars for basic kits to thirty dollars for kits with a battery-powered saw.

Tranda Watts is Kansas State University extension specialist in food, nutrition, health and safety for Norton, Decatur, Gove, Sheridan, and Trego counties. Call her at 785-443-3663 or e-mail twatts@oznet.ksu.edu. For more information, contact the county extension office, 877-5755.

Candidate wants people's voice to be heard

(Continued from Page 1) right now in the county, change is still okay.

What he wants, though, is to be there for the people of District 1.

"I just want to try to listen to the people of District 1, so they voice their concerns or problems," he said. "If something needs to be changed, I can take it back to the

board."

Mr. Thompson is a third generation farmer in Norton County. He now lives on a farm northeast of Alma, which is within a quarter of a mile from where he grew up.

He has a cow/calf operation and raises wheat, corn and milo. Farming, he said, is an important part of his life.

His wife, Julie, teaches second grade at Northern Valley Elementary. They have two sons, Michael, a kindergarten teacher at Northern Valley, and Brian, an accountant at Mapes and Miller. Both of the Thompsons' sons farm part time also.

Efficiency is key to woman's campaign

(Continued from Page 1) voting and being an interested and involved citizen was instilled in her by her parents Alfred and Genevieve (Kirk) Benien. Growing up on a farm northwest of Norton, she learned a strong work ethic. Reality, moderation and common sense were watchwords she grew up with.

"Residents in District 1 should know that I will be a strong voice on the commission. I'm not afraid to express my opinion," she said. "I trust the voters of Norton County will look beyond party affiliation and vote for whom they feel is the best qualified person for the job."

After graduating from Norton Community High School and Fort Hays State University with a nursing degree, she returned home to work at Norton County Hospital. During her 15 years at the hospital, she filled positions as a staff nurse, Director of Nursing, Discharge Planning Coordinator, Staff Nursing Supervisor, CPR instructor, recovery room nurse and Care Assessor.

After leaving Norton County Hospital in 1994, she went to work

for Hospice Services, Inc. as the hospice nurse for Norton and Phillips counties. In 1999, she was nominated for the Nursing Heart of Healthcare Award.

Outside of her professional career, she has been active in Girl Scouts of America, of which she

is a lifetime member. She was involved in operating a retail business in Norton and was a member of the Chamber of Commerce and the Norton Ambassadors. She is a member of Norton Trinity Episcopal Church where she has volunteered as a God's Pantry worker.

Cold weather makes for weird stuff

Cold weather is upon us and it brings out some weird things.

Steve spent part of Sunday bringing the humidifiers up from the basement, cleaning them, putting in new filters, plugging them in and filling them.

We inherited our first humidifier from my mother-in-law about 10 years ago. It made such a big difference in how my skin felt that I bought a second one last year so I would have one on the main floor and a second upstairs in our bedroom.

No longer feel like a lizard in the winter time. My skin is dry, but it doesn't scale right off.

The weird thing is we still have the dehumidifier going down in the basement.

So we're adding water to the air on two floors and trying to remove it on a third. Go figure.

☆☆☆☆☆

We walk every day but Mon-

Open Season Cynthia Haynes



days, miles and miles. We'd walk Monday, but after an 18-hour day I don't move any farther than I must.

We like to walk during the day, but that isn't always possible with work schedules.

So there we were last week walking up the street at 11 p.m. It was chilly, but not freezing. My feet were warm. I had on a hat and gloves. My legs were good and my torso was covered with a good, warm coat. Even my face wasn't complaining.

My neck, however, whined the entire walk.

"I'm cold. Why didn't you get a muffler? The head isn't cold. Why didn't you get a hat with something to cover me, too? You could have found a better coat. There are some in the closet with higher collars. If you had a higher collar, I wouldn't be cold."

I was surprised. Usually, it's my ears that do all the complaining.

City of Norton Snow Ordinances

The City of Norton wants to remind the public of our three snow ordinances. One requires the removal of snow and ice off public sidewalks within 24 hours after the fall of the snow or sleet. The second ordinance relates to removing parked vehicles from emergency snow routes. When the City of Norton publicly announces through the news media that an emergency snow condition exists, it is a violation to have any vehicle or snow trailer parked on a designated emergency snow route. The third ordinance makes it a violation for any person to pile or dump snow on any cleared street from a private driveway or sidewalk so as to constitute an impediment or hazard to normal traffic on the street. The city of Norton thanks everyone for their efforts in complying with these ordinances.

VOTE
★★★★★

RICHARD THOMPSON

Republican Candidate for...

COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT I

Pd. Pol. Adv. By
BRIAN THOMPSON, TREASURER

FALL SUPPER

Prairie View Reformed Church
Prairie View, Kansas

5:30 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

Saturday, Oct. 28

TURKEY DINNER

With all the Trimmings

Cost by Free Will Donation

Thanks for reading **The Telegram**