

Let's build this thing together

Please don't look at the topic and say to yourself, "Ah, just the same old winter safety stuff." It might be, then again maybe not. Maybe it will be YOU who survives the unexpected because you paid attention to what you are reading here.

David Floyd, Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the Goodland National Weather Service, has provided our readers with an idea of how we can keep winter weather and travel preparedness on our minds.

What he suggests, is to present a series of short articles in which people would be encouraged to put together a "Winter Weather Car Survival Kit." The idea, of course, is to have readers gather standard items over a 3-4 week period, and at the end of that time they will have a low-cost kit they can use when traveling during the upcoming Christmas holiday period.

Mr. Floyd said this has been done in other parts of the country and it would be appropriate here on the High Plains as well.

He reasons that presenting this information gradually over a number of weeks, rather than all at once, would serve several purposes, the first being the information will be easy to digest and easy to undertake. Secondly, it will spark interest in reading to see what will be the next item.

But the big bonus is the idea will put safety information in front of people a number of times, not just once.

Good reasoning.

That all said, today, then on Dec. 4, Dec. 7 and Dec. 11, we will reveal what items will need to be placed in your kit. This will involve items from around your house or from local businesses. You can also include items not mentioned if you feel they would be of benefit. Additionally, you might also want to prepare a kit as a Christmas gift for a friend or relative.

So, here we go, today (Nov. 30):

• Gather up a couple of old blankets just in case you get stuck in a snowdrift out there somewhere. It might be hours before help arrives. Purpose of the blankets needs no explanation.

• Include stocking caps and extra gloves if by chance you might need to change a tire when the temperature is 15 degrees.

That's it for now. But read in this space on Tuesday, Dec. 4 what needs to go into your Winter Weather Car Survival Kit next.

Be safety conscious as we face the elements winter provides.

— Tom Dreiling

Laughter, good way to start weekend

If you need an answer, ask a kid. Here are some answers they provided to questions about dating and marriage:

How do you decide to get married?

You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff. Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming.

— Alan, age 10

What is the right age to get married?

Twenty-three is the best age because you know the person FOREVER by then.

— Camille, age 10

How can a stranger tell if two people are married?

You might have to guess, based on whether they seem to be yelling at the same kids.

— Derrick, age 8

What do you think your Mom and Dad have in common?

Both don't want any more kids.

— Lori, age 8

What do most people do on a date?

Dates are for having fun, and people should use them to get to know each other. Even boys have something to say if you listen long enough.

— Lynnette, age 8

What would you do on a first date that was turning sour?

I'd run home and play dead. The next day I would call all the newspapers and make sure they wrote about me in all the dead columns.

— Craig, age 9

When is it OK to kiss someone?

When they're rich.

— Pam, age 7

The rule goes like this: If you kiss someone, then you should marry them and have kids with them. It's the right thing to do.

— Howard, age 8

Is it better to be single or married?

It's better for girls to be single but not for boys. Boys need someone to clean up after them.

— Anita, age 8

How would the world be different if people didn't get married?

There sure would be a lot of kids to explain, wouldn't there?

— Kelvin, age 8

How would you make a marriage work?

Tell your wife that she looks pretty, even if she looks like a truck.

— Ricky, age 10

(Reader submitted. Enjoy your weekend! -td)



Silly question calls for silly answer

In a recent column, I asked readers to place Santa Claus in one of two categories — republican or democrat. I asked for an e-mail response, not having the slightest idea what would emerge from that invitation. Five said he is a democrat, three said he is republican. One had another opinion. Here is a sampling of the responses:

"Santa has to be a democrat, but he needs to stop wearing 'red-state' colors. Democrats are more generous with toys and presents, though they don't always know where the money to pay for them will come from. Who funds St. Nick anyway?"

"Santa's a democrat. Everything is free. Can get to all of us in one night. You better be good. Oh, what the heck, you can be rewarded anyway!"

"Santa has to belong to the Republican Party. Why you ask? Because he unites, not divides."

"Definitely republican! He doesn't use one drop of gas to cover all his territory!"

"A silly question calls for a silly answer. Santa is neither. Helloooo, he's not real."

See what I meant by not having the slightest idea what would emerge? Thanks to those who responded; in a way you made our day!

Don't forget Wednesday, Dec. 5 is Cookie Contest Day here at *The Telegram* office. You have seen the large advertisements in the paper promoting this first such attempt on our part. God's Pantry will benefit from any and all proceeds received that day. We will also be collecting canned and non-perishable food for God's Pantry. Proudly joining us in this endeavor are The Sewing Box and the

Good Evening Norton Tom Dreiling



dorsement, or something like that. Silly.

-td-

Politically speaking... Wednesday night's Republican debate got a little testy at times. And it's about time. Those guys are seeking the presidency and there is no room for the warm and fuzzy kind of relationship. I want to see leadership evolving from these debates and if that means taking off the gloves, take 'em off! I said more than a year ago that Mitt Romney would eventually be the GOP nominee and I stick to that prediction. Rudy Giuliani came unglued several times Wednesday night and his mean side finally came to the forefront. Mike Huckabee handled himself well, but there's something about Huckabee that I can't put my finger on. He's a charmer, smiles all the time, and has quick wit. But how does he do under fire? So far in the debates he hasn't really been tested. He's the nice candidate and we'll see how long 'nice' prevails. Sen. McCain got a few points in, but he's just not like the McCain of a few short years ago. This debate was handled by CNN's Anderson Cooper, with questions coming from the YouTube community.

-td-

A reader sent me some gas pumping tips. The one that really caught my attention is this: Do not top off your gas tank. When the pump shuts off, do not keep trying to add more gas. By doing this, you are giving the next customer a dollar's worth of gas. The gas you pump stays in the hose and never makes it to your tank. I'm a tank topper and never gave to your tank any thought. Hmmm. Any comments out there?

-td-

Have a good evening. And in the spirit of the season, why not top off your tank on the way to church this weekend as a gift to the next person using the pump.

We just never get enough football

I may have finally overdosed on football Thanksgiving weekend. There were a lot of college games, the requisite pro games and the Kansas State High School Championship games. We watched a lot. We flipped back and forth between games at commercials. (Annoying the eldest daughter to the point it may have strained our relationship!) We scheduled our work and meals around football. We didn't go shopping! (If the economy collapses you know whom to blame!)

We didn't decorate for Christmas! (Hey, there was a week of November left!) Football, football, football, oops, a basketball game or two slipped in, reminding us football will be over all too soon.

You might not care about any of this but I live in Smith County, my daughter teaches at Smith Center. It's a law; if you live here you have to care about football! Congratulations Redmen on your 4th straight state title.

Even in my most rabid moments of "fanhood," a scene from the movie "Blue Chips" nags at me. After being exposed for recruiting violations, the basketball coach has a meltdown at a press conference and utters these words: "300 million Chinamen couldn't care less."

What silly, silly games we play. And we care so passionately. The long football weekend raised some concerns about the

Back Home Nancy Hagman



"Big Ben!" I wonder about football players and their names. My favorite football player is Champ Bailey of the Denver Broncos, just because of his name. It is a nickname, his real name is Roland. His mom nicknamed him when he was very young. Maybe she was just trying to make up for Roland, but what a great name for a professional football player! Did she know somehow that if she gave him this coooool name he would live up to it?

What else do I like about football? I like the New England Patriots. They almost lost Sunday night, ouch. 300 million Chinamen may not care, but I do! I love Sunday night football because I love John Madden. Recently my nephew was complaining about John Madden. Wow, how can you not like John Madden.

Besides the alarming news Tuesday morning that the hubby is on the verge of becoming a catalog shopper we heard that Sean Taylor, a player for the Washington Redskins, died. An intruder had shot Taylor in his home about 24 hours earlier. Kind of puts things in prospective. Maybe the team I was cheering for didn't win every time over the weekend, but no one died. Get over it all. It's a game. Move on. 300 million Chinamen could care less. Yep, I think I've had enough football — until next weekend

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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@nwkansas.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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