

Tuesday's Snippets

A variety of snippets, from the local scene to the international scene, can be found in today's column. Check the bottom of the column to learn how you can become involved in this community conversation.

Let's Chat
Tom Dreiling



• "Thanks for your take on Gitmo. There are so many possibilities — which one is right? I respectfully have to disagree with you on your take. Not wanting to have suspected terrorists at our max security prisons is a slap in the face to our security facilities. It's as if people are saying it's OK for a convicted child rapist to be kept in their community, but not a suspected terrorist. The bottom line is that Gitmo is fueling anti-American sentiment, not deterring it. Also, as the world's leader, we have to do what is right. We have to give these people fair trials, our foundation as a nation depends on it. If our most basic and sacred ideals cannot be upheld, then what? The true security of our nation would surely be in jeopardy at that point."

• "You are so right about GITMO."
• "Your idea to name Gitmo, FORT GITMO, is just too simple. We've got to make this thing so complicated that nobody can understand it. I vote for FORT GITMO!"

• "Simplicity, reference your renaming that joint in Cuba Fort Gitmo, just doesn't get it."

• "How about, *The Center for Budding Terrorists' Activity/Fort Leavenworth Annex?*"

• "I guess I underestimated Nancy Pelosi; she can spot a lie when she hears it. I offer this with tongue in cheek, of course. Ha!"

• "Michael Steele, the new Republican Party leader, ain't gonna last long in that post."

• "North Korea's pea-sized leader is revving up his nuclear arsenal. He acts like a kid with firecrackers, only his could put an end to civilization. Is there a solution, other than dropping a couple of the big bombs we were forced to use many years ago?"

• "South Korea has to be awfully uncomfortable now."

• "Kick that idiot's butt over there in North Korea. He's the other kind of abortionist we're dealing with. How many more thousands of his people starved to death last year?"

• "Has anyone noticed the curbs, sidewalks and streets falling apart in our town? Talk about infrastructure neglect. It's been going on for many years."

• "As we drove by the football stadium the other afternoon, I just couldn't imagine sitting at a game and not having cheerleaders there (except probably whoever we play will have theirs there). Is it too late to right a wrong?"
(Join the conversation. E-mail tom.d@nwkans.com, call 877-3361 or 877-6908, fax 877-3732, mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave. 67654 or drop by the office. Names will not be used. - td)

To... the American Legion, for an impressive Memorial Service at the Norton Cemetery. (e-mail)

To... the Prairie Dog State Park personnel; the park was beautiful and enjoyed by many this weekend. (e-mail)

To... the City of Norton maintenance crew, for a well maintained cemetery. (e-mail)

To... Tyler Kuhn, for accumulating 801.2 Accelerated Reading Points and breaking the Eisenhower Elementary School record. (brought to office)

To... Norton Ice, Scott Farr, City of Norton, Norton Fire Department and parents of 8th graders, who helped make the graduation party safe and fun. (brought to office)

To... whoever came up with the Thumbs Up idea. Nice service for the community. (e-mail)

To... the KQNK man, who stopped me and gave me a prize. That was nice. (called in)

(To render a salute, e-mail tom.d@nwkans.com, call either 877-3361 or 877-6908, fax 877-3732, mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave. 67654 or drop by the office. You need not give your name. Thanks for your continuing input. - td)



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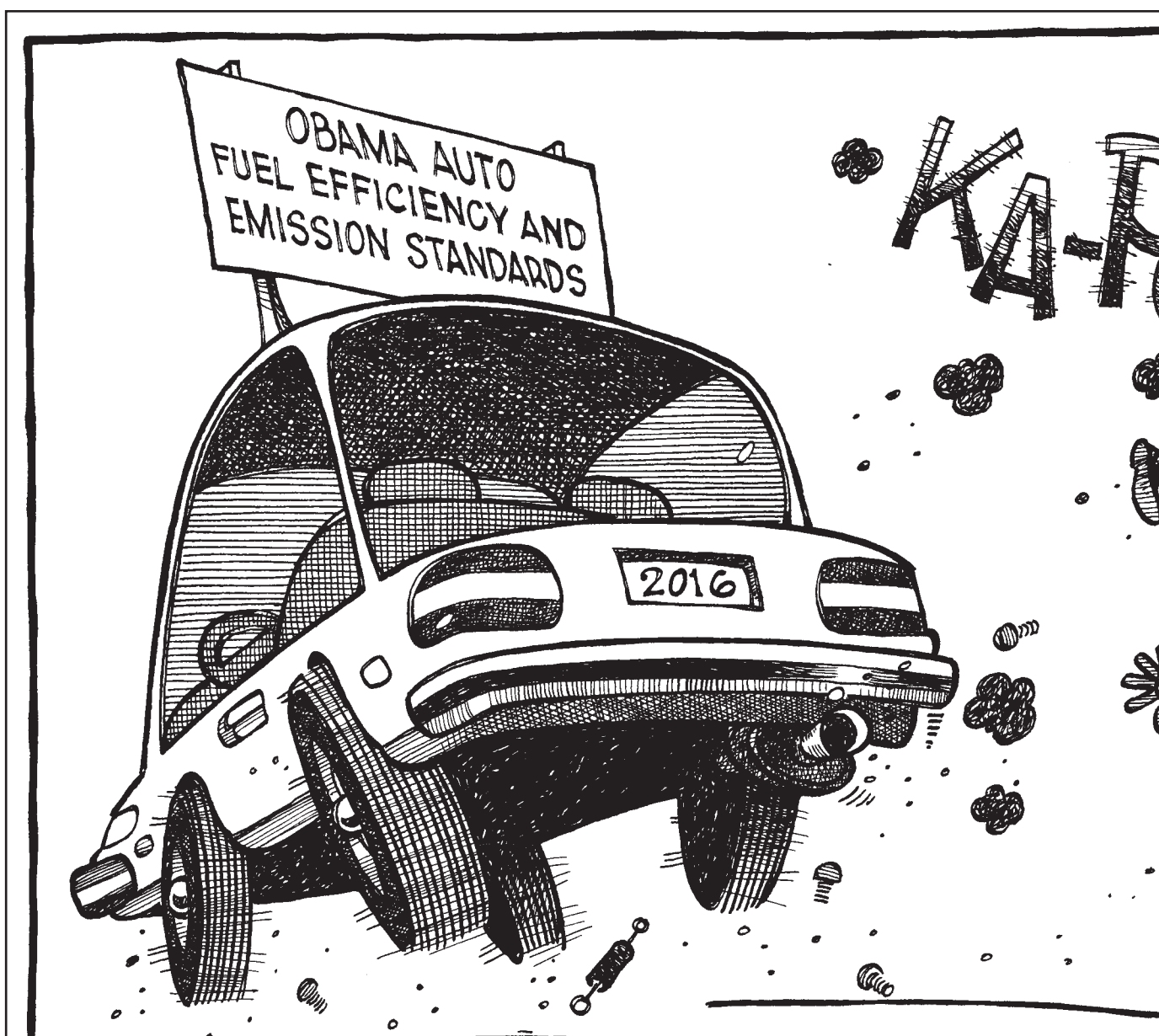
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It was a busy, but fun weekend for us

What a weekend! We crammed alumni events and two days of Memorial Day activities in and collapsed on Monday. This was Jim's dad's 70th high school reunion, and I don't think he has missed a single one. He graduated in 1939, two years behind the class he started high school with.

A foul-up with his required classes revealed he had not taken American History and he was not allowed to graduate with the Class of 1937. He laid out of school for a year, then went back to take that one class.

Following graduation, he, like a lot of graduates in those days, took Normal Training and became a teacher, himself.

Including Dad, there were seven from his class at their afternoon reunion. Jim and I stayed and visited along with him. I

Out Back Carolyn Plotts



think we had as much fun as he did.

That evening it was back for the banquet and more visiting. By the time we got him back to his room, he was exhausted, and so were we.

I was thrilled the flowers were all bloomed in time for decorating graves. The peonies were beautiful this year, as were the iris, roses and some purple weed I let exist in my yard until Memorial Day.

Jim said my mother would have been proud of me, using what was at hand.

Now, it's raining. And, no sign of letting up for the next day or two. This kind of weather makes me want to stay inside and make fudge.

When we lived out on the farm, that's what my brothers would do on a stormy day. Of course, we always had plenty of fresh cream and a well-stocked pantry.

They would make fudge in my mother's cast iron skillet and when it reached soft ball stage, take it outside on the porch and beat it until it was ready to pour into a pan to harden.

I was convinced they were the best brothers in the world because they let me lick the spoon.

I still think they are.

We're not getting the whole story

My dad (Lester Prout) said several times that, "It's a mighty thin sheet of paper that doesn't have two sides." It seems to me that we are very frequently not getting both sides from the mainstream media on a number of areas. And much of the time we have no idea there even is another side, much less trying to find it.

I have always felt that the role of the press was to objectively present both sides of a problem without slant or bias from reporter or editor. Our big mainstream newspapers and other news media have gotten away from that long ago.

Recently, I ordered a set of books known as P.I.G.'s (Politically Incorrect Guides). These are published by Regnery Publishing, Inc., who puts out books by conservative authors.

I received the books a few days ago and have not had the time to get into them too far, but have read a few pages in three of them. Even that little bit of reading has been an eye opener.

On the front and back covers of The Politically Correct Guide to Global



Warming and Environmentalism, there are a few statements that make one start to ask questions.

Here they are for what it may be worth to you.

√The Earth has often been hotter than it is now

√Only a tiny portion of green-house gasses are man-made

√Most of Antarctica is getting colder

√The media only recently abandoned the "global cooling" scare

√There is no scientific consensus on global warming

√Climate is always changing — with or without Man

√Hurricanes are not getting worse — our tendency to build houses in their path is getting greater

√Many big businesses lobby for global warming policies that will increase their profits — and our costs

I have read only the four page preface and twelve pages of the first chapter and already have gotten much more information than I have seen anywhere else. It seems environmentalism has quite an agenda that we are not aware of and it doesn't sound too pure. I wonder what I'll find in the next 327 pages?

The author of the book, Christopher C. Horner, "is a senior fellow at the Competitive Institute, an acknowledged expert on global warming legislation and regulation, and has spoken before Senate committees and the European parliament."

Sounds like the guy might know what he is talking about.

June Prout
Norton

Social Security direct deposit encouraged

According to a new U.S. Department of the Treasury-sponsored survey, eight in 10 Americans say direct deposit is the most reliable way to receive a payment in the event of a natural disaster, while two-thirds claim they are prepared should disaster strike. Despite these findings, about 10.5 million Americans still receive their Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments by paper check each month — including nearly 73,000 paper checks to senior citizens, people with disabilities and others living in Kansas.

As hurricane season approaches and severe weather continues to impact various regions of the country, Treasury is advising Social Security check recipients

living along the Gulf Coast and Eastern seaboard states, and in other disaster-prone areas to switch to direct deposit for their federal benefits. Direct deposit helps people safeguard their money by ensuring seamless delivery of their federal benefit payments in the days following a hurricane or severe weather event such as tornadoes.

Paper checks can be delayed or even destroyed in natural disasters, causing additional and unnecessary hardship for senior citizens, people with disabilities and others who receive federal benefits. In the weeks following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, for example, tens of thousands of emergency payments had to be issued. By contrast, Social Security and Supple-

mental Security Income (SSI) recipients already using direct deposit were able to access their funds immediately through automated teller machines, debit cards and financial institution networks around the country. I invite you to visit the Media Page of www.GoDirect.org to listen to comments from David A. Lebyrk, Acting Commissioner of Treasury's Financial Management Service.

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