MANDIN



Time to back off and leave well enough alone

I typically avoid sensational topics in my columns, but I've been thinking a lot about the highly-publicized Casey Anthony trial and eventual acquittal. I must say that the details of the case don't matter much to me because I don't want to indulge **The Bell** Curve Carlleen Bell

in someone else's sorrow and pain. I have enjoyed watching the media frenzy, however, and I'm not sure what to think.

I've been fascinated by the media frenzy surrounding the legal proceedings and, frankly, the continued coverage of the case makes me wonder how things might be different if a murder trial was treated like a speeding ticket hearing. I understand that a murder is (much) bigger than a speeding ticket, but what about Casey?

The national media attention means that everyone and their cat know what Casey looks like, where she lives, the names of her family members and probably more details about her life than any normal person should have revealed to a nation of spellbound onlookers.

Because of the outrage caused by Casey's acquittal, she and her family are concerned for their safety. They are considering hiring body guards and there has even been discussion of changing their names and identities to protect their own safety.

Regardless of whether or not you believe Casey killed her child and whether or not she should be set free, the justice system has determined that she is not guilty. I believe that anyone in her position would want to close the chapter containing three years of hardship and move on with their lives, but the continued national attention is preventing that from happening. If a jury says she's not guilty, doesn't she deserve a little privacy after all this time?

Let's move on to the next big story and let the Anthony family get back to their lives.



Thumbs up to all those that made the Norton Car Show a great success again this year. The drag races were a blast to watch. Called in.

Thumbs up to the Norton Library for the great show held Thursday morning with Randy Sauer. and his music. Fun was had by all. Called in.

Care for your pet and protect yourself

Vet tips

When was the last time you had your pet's stool sample examined for parasites by a professional?

Did you know that Dr. Sara White almost all parasites

death.

from those in pets.



Parents leave footprints for children to follow

I just finished reading a wonderful opinion piece by CNN contributor, LZ Granderson, regarding the behavior of children in public places. It occurred to me, as I read it, herein lies the problems with our country. As we have raised our children so goes the nation and if you have witnessed the behavior of some of these little darlings you know what I mean.

My mother had "the look" and believe me no words were ever needed. Even when she was 100 and nearly blind she could give the look and you knew she did not approve of your behavior. No words were needed. I used the "look" with my children and sign language of my own 'pot belly", pale making. They didn't need me to verbally gums, and sudden explain the problem.

First of all, what is cute at three isn't at Symptoms of 13. I have always said the only difference infection in hu- between a sixteen year old and a two year mans may differ old is you can understand them when

Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard

they talk back to you. As Mr. Granderson said, just because you think your child is adorable it may be a stretch for others to even think they are a little cute.

Being a child is groundwork for adulthood. Learning to behave properly in public places is a necessary skill not only for personal growth but for society's well being. Too often parents forget they are the pattern for their child's adult life.

Boundaries are a critical part of all of our lives and children not only need them, but they want them as well. I have spent most of my life with children, through daycare, non-profit work, etc. and what I can tell you is this, there have only been a small handful of children I did not like, however I have met many parents whom I found intolerable. The problem doesn't rest with the children, it rests with the parents. If parents haven't established boundaries for their children by the age of five, and in some cases younger, they never will. You can't suddenly wake up one morning with a sixteen year old and say, "listen to me" when you have never required it before. All roads begin with paths.

I hear parents, and I use that word loosely, say, "I want my children to like me". If you want that, get a dog. Parenting is a career and a career whose success can determine all of our futures. <mailto:mkwoodyard@ruraltel. net>mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net

are zoonotic? The definition of zoonotic

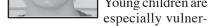
is a disease that can be transmitted from animals to people, or more specifically, a disease that normally exists in animals but that can infect humans.

There are multitudes of zoonotic diseases. Some examples are: rabies, ascariasis (round worms), brucellosis, lyme disease, and West Nile Virus. Many parasites can infect both humans and animals. The most common zoonotic parasites are roundworms and hookworms.

Parasites are transmitted to people through contact with a contaminated environment (i.e. animals, soil, fecal material, etc.) or by larvae penetrating the human skin (bare skin and contaminated soil, sandbox, fecal material, etc).

More than 90% of puppies are born with roundworms or acquire them shortly after birth from their mother. Roundworm and hookworm eggs are resilient and can survive in areas such as playgrounds, and yards.

Symptoms of infection in animals include diarrhea, malnutrition, respiratory distress, vomiting, and loss of appetite, weakness, weight loss, dull scruffy fur,



able. Human infection with these parasites may have serious consequences: stomach ache, skin rashes, pneumonia, and blindness. It is important to take steps to minimize the risk of parasitic infections.

Responsible pet-owners make sure their pets are adequately protected to protect their family!

Parasites in animals can be diagnosed by a simple, but thorough, fecal examination. The sample is examined under the microscope for parasites, bacteria, and any other abnormalities.

When diagnosed, the appropriate treatment is dispensed. Heartgard Plus treats and controls zoonotic roundworms and hookworms that may affect people. It treats and controls 2 species of roundworms and 3 species of hookworms in dogs as young as 6 weeks of age, from the very first dose – guaranteed!

Ask your veterinarian when your pet last had a fecal analysis. It is never too early or too late to protect your pet and your family!

Preparing for future disasters with the actions we take today

There's going to be an emergency preparedness drill in town next week. I thought to be effective those were a surprise but in this case it was announced in church: they were soliciting victims.

It sounds like fun. And there will be pizza after.

I haven't volunteered. It was presented in a clever, lighthearted way. However my subconscious nags, "Do you want to be a victim?"

Which brings us to an even larger dilemma, "Do we choose to be victims?" Is this why I go to church? To think?

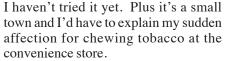
Even the readings were provocative. It began with the introit, Psalm 103. "As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone-----"

And people say the Bible isn't relevant. Just add a few grasshoppers and you have my flower garden in Kansas 2011. The wind passed over and it is gone!

If memory serves they also talk about grasshoppers in the Bible somewhere, too!

A friend says soak chewing tobacco in water, mix it with mouthwash and dishwashing detergent and spray it on your plants. You reapply it every time it rains. We have been getting some rain (I'm not complaining) but I don't want to be reapplying it every other day. So

This Too Shall Pass Nancy Haqman



The hubby is shocked at the number of grasshoppers. He says, "Wet weather is supposed to keep the numbers down." These hoppers did not get the memo. I'm thinking it is Sherry's fault. She was complaining about grasshoppers before I ever realized there was a problem. She got some chickens. My theory is the hoppers got tired of being chicken feed at her house and moved to mine!

Or maybe I tempted fate because I was smug about Sherry's problems! Of course I know God doesn't look down and say, "Nancy is getting an attitude, I'm going to send a hot wind and a hoard of grasshoppers." It doesn't work like that.

Preacher Dave explained it thus: we don't get what we deserve. (And we should probably be thankful for that!) However we are going to have to deal with the things we set in motion. If you drive too fast and don't use a seatbelt the least you can expect is a ticket. Chew tobacco? Risk cancer and so on.

No matter how prepared we think we are, when disaster strikes it is never enough, never quite the right thing. Even if we anticipate the consequences, frail creatures that we are, can we stop our actions?

I'm all for emergency preparedness, but the futility of it came home that very evening. Start the prayer chain; there was an accident, some children in our congregation were injured. The activity was supervised. The children were outfitted with the proper safety gear.

But bad things happen. We aren't prepared.

They wouldn't have mock disaster drills if they were not proven to be of value. We may never know how helpful they are. In fact I hope no one ever has to find out.

It is wonderful that we have so many volunteer to drive the ambulance, serve as firemen and EMT's. I'm proud this group has found a way to train for disaster, even make it something folks want to participate in. If they still need victims next week I think I'll volunteer. I hate playing the victim but I do like pizza!

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