

Tolerance can be taught in classroom

Sometimes the most important lessons learned at school don't come from a classroom.

They come from how a school reacts to ugly incidents of bias and prejudice. When a principal learns nasty slurs are being used in the school or students are being bullied because of their race or ethnicity, it can be tempting to deny it.

It can be tempting to resort to the old refrain, "That doesn't happen at our school."

But it does. And when it happens, it must be addressed.

Recently, a principal in the metro Atlanta area had to address bias on campus. Where other school leaders

might have denied or minimized the incidents, this one set a positive example by confronting the situation head-on.

And it wasn't a pretty situation: A teacher was accused of referring to Latino students as "beaners." At the same school, which will not be named here due to the nature of these allegations, a student was being bullied because she is Latina.

It's enough to upset any parent. Not surprisingly, a parent met with the principal about it. She was accompanied by Jerry Gonzalez, executive director of the Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials.

The principal and teacher profusely apologized. The teacher said she didn't realize the term she used was derogatory, saying she picked it up from the students. It was a remarkable example of how an intolerant atmosphere can grow within a school, even among adults when they don't recognize a term as hurtful and offensive.

The teacher pledged to stop using the term and the principal agreed to add it to the list of curse words students can't use at the school. These actions send a clear message to students such language is not acceptable. The principal pledged to investigate the behavior of some

students to get to the bottom of the bullying issue.

He even indicated he's willing to taking additional steps to curb future incidents. The Southern Poverty Law Center's Teaching Tolerance program has offered free diversity training to the staff as a result.

The school's quick, no-nonsense response is commendable. The principal recognized a key responsibility for educators -- ensuring all students feel safe and welcome at school.

This includes recognizing hurtful language that singles out students because of their race, ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation. If adults

don't stop intolerant behavior, students will assume it's acceptable and engage in it. All too often, bullying begins with name-calling and the casual use of slurs.

That's not to say addressing this issue isn't difficult. Race and ethnicity are sensitive subjects for people. No one wants to bring negative attention to their school. But children learn -- and learn to use wisely -- vocabulary through instruction. Without direction, these incidents can occur in any school. That's why it is so important for educators to be prepared to address them.

The greater offense is for a school to deny there's a problem and allow

an atmosphere of intolerance to take root. That shouldn't happen in any school.

By Maureen Costello, Teaching Tolerance Director for the Southern Poverty Law Center. Contact Costello at (334) 956-8459 (in Montgomery, Ala.)

The American Forum, a non-profit, nonpartisan, educational organization, provides the media with the views of experts on major public concerns in order to stimulate informed discussion. American Forum, 1071 National Press Building, Washington, DC 20045, forum@mediaforum.org.

Vision for American that makes, creates, innovates

By Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack

President Obama and I share a vision for building a stronger future for our nation and an economy that works for all Americans - one that makes, creates, and innovates.

In the past two years we have taken important steps to move past the Great Recession, and today we have seen private sector job growth each month for the past year.

But these are new and challenging times. We face tough competition from countries around the world.

We need to step up our efforts and get serious about winning the future.

To begin with, that means ensuring our children get the best education possible. It means completing the work the Obama administration has begun to update our nation's infrastructure for the 21st century. And it means Americans must preserve our place as the world's great innovators.

At United States Department of Agriculture, we are working to help drive innovation through research

in basic and applied science and investments in entrepreneurs. We are working to expand opportunities for agricultural producers and to encourage production of renewable energy.

Our research programs -- in-house science as well as grants we provide to top institutions -- are being updated to deliver improved results for the American people.

And we have a history of success. Over the years, USDA science has mapped the genome of soybeans, cacao, pigs and turkeys; improved

the shelf-life of sliced apples so they are sold in bags in stores and restaurants; and developed the enzyme to help people who are lactose intolerant eat dairy products.

And, hand-in-hand with America's finest innovators -- farmers and ranchers -- USDA science has helped make American agriculture the most productive in the world and maintain exports worth over \$100 billion to our nation's economy.

At the same time, we are working to drive innovation to increase the domestic production of renewable

energy -- especially biofuels. Today, America imports two-thirds of our oil supplies, more than ever before. But if we could meet our goals for production of biofuels, we will build a new industry and create hundreds of thousands of jobs in communities across rural America.

To get there, USDA is working with private business to drive the research, production, commercialization and distribution of these fuels.

That is the sort of innovation we need today. Because the scien-

tists, engineers and entrepreneurs who build this renewable energy economy won't just be the envy of their neighbors -- they'll be the envy of the world.

When the key innovations and breakthroughs of the 21st century begin here in America, we will create the jobs of the future here at home. And with innovators in rural America on board, I know we can get there.

Pianist to play in Oberlin

Ronnie Kole, one of America's most exciting pianists and entertainers, will perform at The Gateway in Oberlin at 5:30 p.m. (Mountain Time) on Saturday, Feb. 19, during the dinner theater and also at the program, which will follow at 6:30 p.m. (Mountain Time) in Morgan Theater.

"Around the World on 88 Keys" Dinner Theater is sponsored by the Oberlin Arts and Humanities Commission. Reservations are required for the dinner.

Kole is a class act and consummate performer who is popular both in his own country and overseas. The New Orleans-based musician spends much time abroad in Europe and Asia, where his

smooth and elegant persona lend themselves to refined venues and guest appearances with symphony orchestras. He is a piano man's piano man, admired by many top stars in the business, from Harry Connick Jr. to Allen Toussaint.

Born in Chicago, he was afflicted with heart trouble as a child, which landed him in Spaulding School for the handicapped and resulted in his involvement with charitable and civic organizations. He began his professional career on television, gaining exposure on the Johnny Carson Show. He is a protégé of Al Hirt and had his own club in New Orleans.

Kole is the fifth person to be inducted into the New Orleans Musical Legends Park, located in the French Quarter of New Orleans. His life size statue was unveiled and is standing along side of Al Hirt, Pete Fountain, Fat's Domino and Chris Owens.

Cost is \$30 for dinner and theater. Tickets for the theater only will be \$10 for adults, and \$5 for students grades 1-12. Anyone attending the dinner must make reservations, including season ticket holders, by Tuesday, Feb. 15. For details, call Ella Betts (785) 475-3557 or Mary Henzel (785) 470-0218.

Being busy can mask work

"It is not enough to be busy. So are the ants. The question is: What are we busy about?" -- Henry David Thoreau

What are you busy about? Sometimes being busy keeps us from the real work -- the work that matters, the work that could make a difference.

Maybe you're afraid to fail. Maybe you're afraid to succeed.

You're from a small town in Kansas. What makes you think you could be great?

There's safety in staying the same. There's safety in staying busy



jamie morphew

• business tips

make a difference. Is that you?

This tip was brought to you by Western Kansas Business Consulting, sponsored in part by Sherman County. We offer free and confidential business consulting to Kearny, Scott, Sherman, and Wichita counties. For more information or to set up an appointment, contact Jamie Morphey at (620) 874-0771 or e-mail wkbc@wbsnet.org.

with busywork. Or is there?

Maybe the real risk is missing your opportunity. Maybe the world is waiting for you to make a difference.

Don't let the inconsequential things get in the way of your best work. The world needs people who

matters of record

District Traffic

The following fines have been paid in the Sherman County District Court.

December 15: Gary G. Rose, unlawful parking, \$168.50.

December 16: Amber Young, speeding, \$168.50.

December 17: Chance R. Cranston, speeding, \$243.50.

Jerred Lohman, speeding, \$180.50.

Jennifer N. Morris, speeding, \$168.50.

December 19: Santos Lopez, speeding, \$168.50.

December 22: Lemond L. Bland, no valid license, \$268.50.

December 23: Jessica C. Bahe, no seat belt, \$5.00.

Jose Gramillo, speeding, \$168.50.

December 26: Lindell W. Gay, Jr., speeding, \$174.50.

Nicole Frederick, unlawful registration, \$153.50.

Jodi L. Moore, unlawful parking, \$216.50.

December 27: Nathan K. Nguyen, speeding, \$168.50.

December 31: Albert A. Quintana, speeding, \$192.50.

Jason A. Yale, speeding, \$186.50.

Goodland Police

The following incidents have been reported to the Goodland Police Department:

Dec. 12 -- 11:22 a.m., 709 Grand Ave., arrested juvenile on warrant. Case referred to city attorney.

Dec. 13 -- 1:36 p.m., 1209 Harrison Ave., Apt. 5, Northwest Kansas Technical College reported criminal damage.

Dec. 17 -- 8:09 a.m., 2160 Commerce Rd., Walmart reported theft. 11:30 a.m., 1408 Kansas Ave., report of cruelty to animals. Case referred to county attorney.

Classifieds work! 899-2338

Sherman County Relay for Life Fundraiser
Thursday, Feb 17, 2011
11:00am to 9:00pm

4 EASY STEPS TO PLACE YOUR RELAY FOR LIFE ORDER

1. Call or dine in at Gambino's Pizza of Goodland.
2. Before ordering, please let the order taker know "Relay for Life Order".
3. Fill out the claim check below.
4. Detach the claim check & give to the delivery driver or to the cashier at the time of payment.

Note: Please be aware that we must have the claim check in order to credit your Relay for Life Team with the sale. Sales total is based on regular prices and excludes Coupons, in-store specials, lunch buffet, Awards Cards or Gift Certificate purchases. Sales total is good for dine-in, carryout and delivery orders. Claim check is valid from 11:00 to 9:00pm on Tuesday, February 17, 2011. Sales total does not include tax and tip, or delivery charges.

RELAY FOR LIFE SALES CLAIM CHECK
VALID ONLY on FEBRUARY 17, 2011

20% of each purchases supports SHERMAN COUNTY RELAY FOR LIFE

Purchaser's Name _____
Email address: _____

For Store Use: Check # _____ Subtotal or Adj Total \$ _____
Do not include sales tax, tip or delivery charges.

Reminder: Please attach the receipt to claim check

\$16.00

Two Medium 1-Topping Pizzas

Present coupon when ordering. Not valid with any other offer. Valid only on February 17, 2011. Good only at Gambino's in Goodland.

\$20.00

One Large Specialty Pizza, plus a small dessert pizza.

Present coupon when ordering. Not valid with any other offer. Valid only on February 17, 2011. Good only at Gambino's in Goodland.

Dine In - Carry Out-Delivery 402 East 17th - Goodland, KS 785-890-5988
Store Hours: Hours: 11:00am to 9:00pm

The Goodland Star-News
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Joyce Boehme

You receive two free passes to see

YOGI BEAR 3D (PG)

Clip and bring to the show. Non Transferable

Sherman
1203 MAIN - Phone 899-6103

CHOIR CONCERT

The Colorado Christian Women's Choir will be performing at Harvest Evangelical Free Church on **Sunday, Feb. 13 at 10:30 a.m.**

Ask Senator Ostmeyer to Protect Our Kids

Ask Senator Ostmeyer to vote against allowing liquor on every street corner.

Call 1-866-519-2200

To learn more, visit: www.protectkansasfamilies.com

Paid for by Kansas Families Against Liberal Liquor Laws, Pam Fair, Treas.