

## One game a season does not make

Yes, we took it on the chin in Friday night's football game at Smith Center. The Redmen are billed as one of the best, if not the best football team in all classes in the state. We knew it was going to be the biggest test of the season.

While the final score, 60-0, might have been beyond what many had expected the end result to be, remember folks, this was just the first game of the new year, and one game a season does not make.

The Blue Jays are the kind of team to put the loss behind them, learn from their mistakes, adjust, practice even harder, and move on to claim the big prizes that await teams at season's end who believe in themselves.

Our Blue Jays are at home Friday night. Trego is the opponent. If you are perhaps just a casual attendee at Norton football games, why not make Friday's game a must. Let's turn out a larger than normal crowd to demonstrate to those young men on the field that we continue to be solidly behind them. That we, too, believe.

They'll appreciate the show of support. And they just might return the favor by climbing back up on the tracks to claim their rightful position out front as the race to the wire unfolds.

Go Blue Jays!

—Tom Dreiling



## Sammy the cat loves my jewelry

There's a jewel thief loose in my house. He has blue-green eyes, whiskers, two perky ears, four little paws and is known as "Sammy The Siamese." Well, jewel thief may be a little strong. That would imply I actually have jewels. Perhaps, I should have said a cheap, costume jewelry thief.

I have a bad habit of taking my pierced earrings off at night and laying them on my bathroom sink counter.

Several times, now, I have awakened to find only one earring on the sink. And, I've found Sammy prowling the countertops looking for more "booty."

That cat is more like a retriever dog instead of a feline. If he finds a piece of plas-

## Out Back Carolyn Plotts



tic or a paper bag he bats it around like he's playing with a mouse.

I know he's just acting naturally, but now I have a box of single earrings without a mate.

Anybody know a lady with one ear or a pirate with bad taste?

—ob—  
We're starting to see the first signs of fall. Sunflowers are beginning to curl up and die. Ensilage is being cut, corn is drying up in the fields. Temperatures have dropped a few degrees.

It's the season; the cycle of life.

—ob—  
It's going to be a long year. The presidential election is more than a year away and we've been hearing the campaign rhetoric for months.

Truthfully, most Americans have already made up their minds. Even if they're not 100 percent sure who they will vote for — they definitely know who they won't vote for.

## A good education, on and off the field

Drive across Kansas on any Friday night in the fall, and you will see stadium lights illuminating high school football fields and the hometown teams upon them. You will also see a wide cross section of people watching from the stands. Grandparents, alumni, young families, as well as the parents, friends and families of the players come together to cheer for a team victory. The support and encouragement of the community makes all the hard work preparing and practicing worthwhile for the teams and, for a moment, they can bask in the admiration and positive atmosphere of the night.

The same game plan can be used for creating a quality learning environment for students in the classroom. In order to be successful, a school needs students who want to learn, dedicated teachers who are committed to helping each student reach their full potential, administrators who are goal-oriented, and supportive parents and community members who will reinforce the concepts and expectations that are being taught at school. Strong schools are the foundation for strong communities, which ultimately make for a stronger Kansas.

As students begin opening up textbooks this fall for a new school year and do their part, Congress must also fulfill its role in Washington, D.C., to ensure our Kansas students and Kansas schools have every opportunity to succeed. I will continue to look for ways to improve current legislation and make common-sense reforms to our federal education policies. In September, legislation to reauthorize the No Child Left Behind Act will come before the U.S. House of Representatives. In order to return control to the schools, I have introduced legislation to improve this law and to make sure the concerns of Kansans are represented and expressed. I will also focus on the needs of our special education students and work to see that loans and grants are available to assist students seeking a higher education.

Teachers matter so much in the lives of our students, but we must not overlook the fact that we all have a part to play in educating our children. Children learn best when they have a teacher who wants to teach and parents at home who reinforce the value of education. Community members who volunteer and are interested in supporting our teachers and students also play an important role in creating a positive environment that is conducive to learning.

When all these important players are working together, the positive educational outcomes will be felt long after the crowds have gone home and the lights have been turned off.

—Congressman Jerry Moran

## Trip to Washington state memorable

My dad's brother, my mom's brother and some other folks from Graham County decided they had enough of the Dust Bowl in the 30's. They headed west to the Yakima Valley in Washington (state) and never returned. We headed west Aug. 12, and we came back. But I understand why they stayed.

The Kansas we returned to is green. And it has rained again and again since we got back. Kansas is a beautiful state when it rains. Our average rainfall is in fact much greater than the Yakima Valley's 6 inches per year. It's like comparing apples to milo. I appreciate both but they are two very different things!

The valley appeared to the first settlers to be a desert, so they continued to the coast. It is the only area of the country to be settled from the west to the east. Someone sitting in a tent watching the continual drizzle of Seattle thought, "I bet if we went back to that desert and irrigated out of those rivers we might have something."

They were right!  
Cherries, mint, corn, vineyards, apples, hops. The latitude is the same as Germany and France, making the amount of sunshine perfect for hops and grapes. Once beer and wine are covered, what else do we really need to be happy?

Hops are fascinating. They were about two weeks from harvest. We had an excellent tour guide on the farm we visited and probably got more out of it than if they had been in harvest. They would have been too busy to explain things. Also because of the safety factor, I'm not sure if we would have seen as much.

## Back Home Nancy Hagman



And then there is the family! We had the best hosts imaginable. Junior and I stayed with my cousin, Joyce and her husband, Ben. She had a beautiful yard. We could sit there in the evenings and visit for hours.

They don't have any flies or mosquitoes (Though we did see stories about West Nile in the area). When we drove at night our windshield did not get splattered with bugs. Interesting!

We had a "family reunion" with both sides of the family in cousin Linda's yard. No bugs, no dust, no wind. I definitely appreciate Washington!

There is quite a bit of wheat production in Washington outside the Valley. Yields are perhaps double what we expect in Kansas. The hills are rolling and steep. Most of the tractors are crawlers.

We did not see any wheat being harvested but were told the combines are quite a sight. The platforms are angled to allow for the hilly terrain.

We were lucky enough to be in the area while cousin Bill was preparing for an antique tractor show. Junior and Ben were only too happy to "help" deliver Bill's tractors and check out the museum on the show grounds.

Another very interesting experience was viewing the murals depicting history of the area in Toppenish.

Daughter Elizabeth, my sisters Sue and Rachel and Roy flew out to Seattle so they saw some sights there. Rachel, Roy and Elizabeth climbed to the top of Mt. St. Helens. They had been training for this "hike" all summer.

They estimate it will be 200 years before it erupts again. The last eruption was in 1980, the dome is building and the climbers observed steam and rock slides.

We came home via Spokane to see former Lenora residents Myron and Metta Johnson. Their daughter and my classmate Johanna, lives there also. Our classmates Dan and Pam (Slipke) David live at Pullman.

We decided to have a mini class reunion. Johanna found a great restaurant on the river walk in Spokane. We ate outside. No bugs, except for one little bee that liked our huckleberry lemonade. Yummy stuff if you ever get the chance! We had a blast talking about everyone. If your ears were ringing there was a reason!

Some of the friends and relatives were very concerned that they might make the *Telegram* for the wrong reasons, but all I can say is thank you for showing us such a good time.

This was our first vacation in several years and I'd rate it as the best we have ever taken. We don't like to fly so we drove.

(Editor's note: The driving experience was related in a previous column dealing with traveling in Wyoming.)

## Thumbs Up • Letters to the Editor Two ways to take part in the process

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## Responsibility starts at young age

### Plain Sense Karen Schueler

There is a concern within society in recent years that a great many adolescents and young adults do not have the strong work ethic of their parents' and grandparents' generation. The next generation is often described as "overindulged" and lacking in responsibility. So how can parents raise a child to become a responsible adult?

One suggestion is to expect children to help with household chores such as cleaning up the kitchen after a meal, helping with laundry, and mowing the lawn. When parents put their children to work at home, they are teaching them responsibilities that will apply when they are adults in the workforce. In fact, it is vital that children learn good work skills and habits at a young age in order to be able to function as a competent adult. In addition, as children are taught to take care of the place where they live, they will also be

learning how their efforts contribute to the welfare of the entire family, just as their efforts as they become older will contribute to the larger community and society.

Assigned chores should be related to a child's age and abilities. A toddler can learn to help pick up their toys, and will need assistance and supervision. Older children can take on more responsibility and learn to complete a task on their own. Some children will require more patience on the part of the parents, along with additional help. Doing a good job gives

youngsters the opportunity to learn to take pride in work achievements.

If the chore isn't done exactly right, parents need to offer encouragement and also need to expect a better effort. Keep in mind that some day, as an adult, they will be working for a boss with similar, if not higher, expectations.

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