

## Tony Snow's exit comes as surprise

Tony Snow was one of a kind. As President Bush's chief spokesman in his role as press secretary, he brought clarity to a position lacking that ingredient for many years.

Tony came to the White House from FOX News. He was experienced in journalism, and it showed with the interaction he had with the White House press corps.

Tony announced last week that he would be leaving to pursue other interests. Many of us thought his battle with cancer probably played a role in that decision. Not so, said Tony. He is leaving for financial reasons.

He explained that his salary of \$168,000 annually wasn't adequate, he needed more. He said he took a pay cut when he left FOX News. Apparently the cut proved too much and he saw a need to do something to get back on his feet financially. Many of us look at \$168,000 as only a dream come true salary.

Probably he will hit the speaking circuit, write a book or so, and cash in on that lifestyle. There are many speakers who command \$60,000 and up for an appearance. Three such engagements would find Tony Snow exceeding what he made annually as press secretary. And we know his speaking engagements won't be limited to three.

Then again, we don't know. As long as his illness can be managed, he should do very well on the tour. But it doesn't take a television viewer long to see that physically, Tony Snow has problems.

We can wish him only the best. He was a breath of fresh air and we would venture to say many others would agree with us.

Financial and health woes, both at the same time, take a special individual to cope. Tony Snow is one of those individuals.

— Tom Dreiling

## Thumbs Up . . .

To the **Class of 1947**, welcome back, enjoy the weekend, let the fond memories roll! (e-mail)

To the **schools, businesses, and The Telegram**, for having the new teachers pictured in the paper. It is nice to read about who is involved with our students. (e-mail)

To **Jon and Bonnie Boxler**, for pouring coffee and helping out at the Andbe Home. (from the Andbe Home residents; called in)

To the **morning crew** at McDonald's. for maintaining their composure with rude customers. (hand delivered)

To **Alex**, the best and most courteous cashier in town! (called in).

To the **Blue Jay cross country team**, you do us proud. (e-mail)

(To submit a name or names for this twice weekly salute, e-mail tom@nwkans.com, fax (785) 877-3732, call 877-3361 or 877-6908, mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton 67654 or drop by the office. Thanks for you input. -td)

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## Judge Jerry has handle on school zones

Last week I thought perhaps we should rip a page out of highway construction manuals that double the fine for speeding through construction zones — in our case it would double the fine for speeding through school zones. I was unaware then that this is being done right here in Norton by our own Judge Jerry (Hawks), who presides over municipal court.

In a note, he wrote:

Editor,

I agree wholeheartedly with your suggestion about fines in school zones. That is why, when I became the municipal court judge here in Norton, 1-10 mph over (the speed limit) is now \$100, instead of \$30. Each mph from 11 over and up is an additional \$6 with higher additional added on at 20 mph+ and 30 mph+. A copy of my fine schedule is attached.

Jerry Hawks

Municipal Court Judge

A study of his fine schedule leaves little doubt of the seriousness with which he tackles this problem. The fines are stiff and the court costs add to the sting. If you want to learn more about Judge Jerry's nonsense approach to school zone speeding, ignore the posted speeds and the electronic signals. The least it will cost you is \$170, \$100 for speeding and \$70 for court costs, and that's if you are driving 1 to 10 mph over the speed limit.

Let's say you are driving 3 mph over the 1-10 range, then add an additional \$18 (\$6 per mph over) and the fine becomes \$118 + \$70 court costs and that totals \$188.

And as the fines grow in concert with your speed, you could find yourself facing a \$250 fine, plus \$70 court costs for a total of \$320 — and not be speeding all that much, but speeding nonetheless in a school zone.

Like what's his name says, "Let's get'er done!", we say, "Let's slow'er down!"

-td-

Also in my column last week, while talking about Sen. Clinton's presidential

## Good Evening Norton Tom Dreiling



bid, and jabbing both the Republicans and Democrats, I said, "But despite it all, there's one thing you can say for Hillary...hmm, I forgot what it was!"

Well, a Colorado reader didn't forget something and e-mailed this comment:

"Here's something good about Hillary...if she IS elected President, we can get back all of the furniture and pictures she and Bill took from the White House when they left in 2001."

Wow, I'd forgotten all about that controversy!

-td-

Yes, I was wrong. Former Senator Fred Thompson officially declared his candidacy for the presidency on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno Wednesday night. Last Friday I said he wouldn't get into the race. His appearance with Jay was not long, but he said a lot of things people wanted to hear — typical politician — during his time in the spotlight.

While he was on Leno's show, the other Republican candidates for president were engaged in a debate in New Hampshire. Mr. Thompson said he's not a believer in debates, rather he favors the old-fashioned approach — meeting people one on one. Problem with that approach is you don't have enough time to get your message across. Maybe that's his tactic.

Being involved in debates in front of the television cameras gives the viewing public a chance to see how the candidates react to the questions and most importantly how they react to criticism from the other candidates. If Mr. Fred's not going to get

involved in the debates, then we won't know any more about him than we do now. There's just something about the man's energy level that is bothersome. But time will tell. He sort of bills himself as the conservative's conservative.

But so do the other candidates.

So, what difference does he make?

-td-

Stuff you need to know to understand why we say the things we do...

• In President George Washington's day, common entertainment included playing cards. However, there was a tax levied when purchasing playing cards but only applicable to the "Ace of Spades." To avoid paying the tax, people would purchase 51 cards instead. Yet, since most games require 52 cards, these people were thought to be stupid or dumb because they weren't "playing with a full deck."

• Early politicians required feedback from the public to determine what the people considered important. Since there were no telephones, TV's or radios, the politicians sent their assistants to local taverns, pubs, and bars. They were told to "go sip some ale" and listen to people's conversations and political concerns. Many assistants were dispatched at different times. "You go sip here" and "You go sip there." The two words "go sip" were eventually combined when referring to the local opinion and, thus we have the term "gossip."

• At local taverns, pubs, and bars, people drank from pint and quart-sized containers. A bar maid's job was to keep an eye on the customers and keep the drinks coming. She had to pay close attention and remember who was drinking in "pints" and who was drinking in "quarts," hence the term "minding your "P's and Q's."

-td-

Have a good evening and a good weekend. And why not join all the other visiting alumni here for the reunion at the church of your choice. What better place to meet?

## Let's give 'Grandma's Christmas' a try

I've decided to launch a promotion. I'm going to call it "Grandma's Christmas." I first had the idea when I realized how many children do not know the traditional Christmas carols. As a child here in Norton, our school Christmas pageant consisted of all of the well known Christmas songs, such as Silent Night, Away in a Manger and O Holy Night. My children spent many years in parochial schools and one of the greatest benefits of their private education were the carols they learned.

I'm not advocating we teach Christmas carols in public schools, however on the other hand, why not? Teach Christmas, Hannukah, Islamic, any songs with a history, that tell the story of a culture and a people.

Then the second part of my "Grandma's Christmas" is this. We are going to make our own decorations and our own toys. In

## Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



addition, for our dog's Christmas we will make homemade dog food. I want to tell Mattel/Fisher-Price we don't need their toys to have a great Christmas. Here we are with recalls from major toy manufacturers whom we believed we could trust. The aforementioned companies are major. They aren't back alley, little garage manufacturers.

According to an article on MSNBC, "About 65 percent of Mattel's toys are

made in China, where about 50 percent of Mattel's production is produced in company owned plants." Fisher-Price, a division of Mattel, is recalling 1.5 million pre-school toys, such as Big Bird, Elmo and Dora.

Why? Lead paint. Lead paint has been a no-no since the 1970's. Nearly 1 million of these toys were sold between May and August in the U.S.\*

I think this could be the start of a real turn around. Grandma's Christmas could bring families closer.

Children would not have to watch TV to find out what they needed and parents would not have to spend hours shopping. Both parties could indulge themselves in hot chocolate and popcorn served in mugs that say "Made in the USA."

(\*http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/20592481/)

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