

We can learn from simply watching the old dog

So the story goes — it could have occurred in Norton, but I don't know that for a fact — an older, tired-looking dog wandered into a resident's yard. He could tell from the dog's collar and well-fed belly that he had a home and was well taken care of.

The dog calmly came over to the man, who gave him a few pats on his head. The dog then followed the man into his house, slowly walked down the hall, curled up in the corner and fell asleep. An hour later, he went to the door, and the man let him out.

The next day the dog was back, greeted the man out in the yard, walked inside and resumed his spot in the hall and again slept for about an hour.

This continued off and on for several weeks.

Curious, the man pinned a note to the dog's collar: "I would like to find out who the owner of this wonderful sweet dog is and ask if you are aware that almost every afternoon your dog comes to my house for a nap."

The next day the dog arrived for his nap, with a different note pinned to his collar. It read: "He lives in a home with 6 children, two under the age of 3. He's trying to catch up on his sleep. Can I come with him tomorrow?"

Good Evening Norton
Tom Dreiling



I think I have this presidential puzzle figured out. Sen. McCain is going to wait until after the Democrats meet in Denver in late August before picking his vice presidential running mate. Why? Well, if Sen. Obama picks a man to share the ticket, I am almost certain the Arizona senator will go with a woman. They (whoever they are), say there're bunches of disgruntled women out there because Sen. Clinton didn't get her party's nod and they'll vote for Sen. McCain if he puts a woman on his ticket. I would highly recommend he pick wife Cindy as his running mate. She's a doll!

A man told his coffee buddies that he used to eat a lot of natural foods, but quit after learning that most people die of natural causes.

Looking ahead... In a few more days we will be in the middle of July, which means a month later (give or take a few days) the new school year will get underway. I guess the only way to keep time from slipping away is to not look ahead. Or something like that.

More and more the name "Sebelius" is popping up when the television blabber mouths talk about the *Veepstakes*, as they call it. They are of the opinion that Democratic Gov. Kathleen Sebelius might be able to turn her red state into a blue state for Sen. Barack Obama, basing their opinions on the fact she was elected to two, four-year terms in a Republican stronghold. Which just goes to show how little they know about Kansas politics. The Democratic governor wasn't able to increase her party's numbers in either the Kansas House or Senate with her two triumphs. I'm thinking, but can't verify that my thought is correct, that the last time Kansas voted for a Democrat for president was Lyndon Baines Johnson in 1964.

A C-130 cargo plane was lumbering along when a cocky F-16 flashed by. The jet jockey decided to show off. The fighter jock told the C-130 pilot, "watch this!" and promptly went into a barrel roll followed by a steep climb. He then finished with a sonic boom as he broke the sound barrier. The F-16 pilot asked the C-130 pilot what he thought of that?

The C-130 pilot said, "That was impressive, but watch this!" The C-130 droned along for about 5 minutes and then the C-130 pilot came back on and said: "What did you think of that?"

Puzzled, the F-16 pilot asked, "What the heck did you do?"

The C-130 pilot chuckled, "I stood up, stretched my legs, walked to the back, went to the bathroom, then got a cup of coffee and a cinnamon roll."

Patience has its reward.

Have a good evening! And as you plan for your weekend church visit, pretend you're the C-130 pilot.

Thumbs Up

To... Logan Kats, for being such an inspirational coach for his freshmen basketball team and their second place showing in the tournament at Hill City. (called in)

To... Jake Durham, for your constant support of Norton businesses and great letter to the editor! (the ladies of Kowpoke Supply)

To... Mr. Durham, for such a supportive letter. (e-mail)

To... Jake Durham, even you could give Sen. McCain some lessons on 'straight talk.' (a Republican buddy via e-mail)

To... Donald Stapp, on your upcoming 90th birthday. (e-mail)

(To submit a name or names, please e-mail tom.d@nwkansas.com, call either 877-3361 or 877-6908, fax 877-3732, mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave. 67654 or drop by the office. No signature necessary. Thanks for your continuing input. -td)

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Guest editorial prompts this response

My husband has a saying, well actually more than one, but this is a favorite of mine, "those who love you and those who hate you, have the same reasons." The saying came to my mind when a recent guest editorial in The Telegram addressed the possibility of an Obama/Sebelius ticket. All have heard the rumblings, some more emphatic than others. Some respond with anger, others with enthusiasm.

Barack Obama spoke recently about the relationship of religion and politics. He addressed Biblical interpretations, especially the dietary limitations of Leviticus or the child rearing advice from Deuteronomy. James Dobson criticized Senator Obama for this "referencing antiquated dietary codes and passages from the Old Testament that are no longer relevant to the teachings of the New Testament." The Telegram's guest editorialist wrote, "True Christians, especially evangelical ones, use the Old Testament as the history of their faith, but really know it is the New Testament that drives them."

For those of us in the middle of the country, I think we sometimes forget the definition of religious freedom that the word religion is not synonymous with Christianity. Nothing tends to bring fear to people like statements regarding their religion or their sexuality (and I won't go there this time).

According to the editorial, Obama recently said, "rural Americans only care about their religion and their guns",

Phase II

Mary Kay Woodyard



you view some of the statements or words uttered by our current president. He's not alone in verbal blunders and neither is she.

But probably the ultimate in reasons she shouldn't be a VP candidate was the statement about the Governor's son designing a "disturbing board game... set in a prison. The innuendoes in the game are more appropriate for a porn magazine, not a newspaper". I haven't seen the game so his accusations about the game may be correct, but the young man, 23, is a student at the Rhode Island School of Design and this was a class project. Any of us with children know we can't always predict what they will do. Do we always approve or agree with their choices? No, but as parents we stand behind them. How sad to use these kind of "issues" as criteria to determine one's eligibility.

Most of the public is far more interested in issues such as gas prices, elevated food costs, the war in Iraq and home foreclosures. There are many qualified individuals for vice president, but the draw of Kathleen Sebelius as a vice presidential consideration is the same as Obama for president. She has been elected Governor two times in a predominantly Republican state. What do they have in common? Their ability to bring people together, to work on issues and focus on similarities rather than delighting in differences. This innovative thinking could go a long way in replacing politicians with statesmen. (mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net)

however if one listens to the speech they would have heard the following:

"You go into some of these small towns in Pennsylvania, and like a lot of small towns in the Midwest, the jobs have been gone now for 25 years and nothing's replaced them. And it's not surprising then they get bitter, they cling to guns or religion or antipathy to people who aren't like them or anti-immigrant sentiment or anti-trade sentiment as a way to explain their frustrations."

Obama was addressing the fact jobs have been lost and these people slipped through the cracks of the Clinton and the Bush administrations and the quality of their lives has been declining for 25 years. If you've lived in small town mid-America, this doesn't even need explaining.

To be sure, Governor Sebelius' remarks about Kansas wines and the recommendation, "don't drink it," was in poor taste, no pun intended. The problem with 24-hour news and imbedded reporters in all types of war zones, is the slip of the tongue, but reason to not be vice president? I don't think so. Hard to get too excited when

It's all about doing the right thing

Your Turn

To the Editor:

A little over a year ago, my husband had an accident and broke his hip socket in three places. Because of the nature of this break, he is limited in the amount of walking he is able to do. This accident has affected his ability to be able to do many outdoor activities he was able to do before, such as hunting and fishing. Small inclines and uneven sidewalks and streets are extremely painful to maneuver. One of our favorite pastimes was walking. As his recuperation advanced, we began to search for something that he could use as an alternative mobility device to participate in outdoor activities. We found an affordable, portable electric scooter that has been a blessing to him. This scooter has allowed him to go for one- and two-mile walks, family walks to get ice cream and to the park with his grandchildren and bike riding with his granddaughter.

Without this scooter, he would be unable to participate in these activities. This scooter fits his needs perfectly. Because the base is not too wide, he is able to get his feet planted perfectly to get up off the seat. It is light weight enough that it is portable for either one of us to lift. He cannot pedal a bicycle. He cannot straddle the newly allowed ATV's. He cannot stand for any length of time and does not have the balance needed for a Segway. These items are street legal. He does not own a golf cart and has trouble getting off a riding lawn mower. A gas powered scooter or moped is rather heavy for lifting and is not portable. We have taken this scooter on vacation. Everywhere we went, we asked permission to use the scooter and were met with no objections from anyone. The only place that we have been where someone objected to recognize the use of this scooter is right here in Norton, Kansas.

About two months ago, Richard was stopped by our chief of police and told he could not use the scooter. It was illegal in the state of Kansas. When he explained that this was his mobility device, he was told that did not matter. Since this time, we have been in a battle with our city officials regarding this device as an alternative mobility device. The chief of police has threatened to confiscate the scooter, leaving him without any means of mobility.

After two meetings, the city council has been unable to provide a name or a picture of a device that would be acceptable to them. To the best of my understanding, the city ordinance states that an alternative mobility device must be similar to a wheel chair and must be Medicare approved. But they will not show us what this device looks like. Scooters that fit this description are for indoor use. They are generally three- and four-wheel devices. Using this type of scooter on our sidewalks and streets is a disaster waiting to happen. These scooters were not designed for outdoor use and one- to two-mile walks. In speaking with a representative that helps individuals receive assistance for payment of a scooter, acceptance is based on mobility needs inside a home. There is not a device that is Medicare approved for use outside the home.

We have come to realize that there is a segment of our population that our laws and leaders have failed to recognize. These individuals may not look disabled to you or I, but their daily challenges can be overwhelming. We have visited with people in St. Francis, Oberlin, Hoxie, Hill City, Phillipsburg, Elwood. These communities recognize the fact that a scoote-

does not seem to be a "street legal" device that they can use for mobility purposes in the state of Kansas. They all have someone who has a mobility problem and have worked to find a solution for that person. We have been told that scooters like ours, golf carts, lawn mowers, electric coolers and sleds with wheels that are pulled by dogs are being allowed. Yes, there should be restrictions on items that a person can use that fits his or her mobility issues, such as no riding on highways, using lawn mowers without disassembling the blades, and so forth. But these restrictions are workable. These communities have recognized that. These communities are taking care of their citizens.

I have been amazed at the different responses we have received from our city council members regarding this issue. Some of those responses were very visible in our meetings. Some we have heard about "through the grape vine." Every council member was invited to come for a walk with us to see how we use this scooter. We did not have a single taker. I have also been amazed at just how many people in our community have outdoor mobility issues.

We should be coming together as a community to help these people. Instead, these people have been shut down. The freedom to go for a walk, go to a car show, go to the fair has been taken away. How sad for our community. It took less than five seconds for our lives to take a drastic turn. It could happen to any one of you. It could happen to our chief of police. It could happen to our mayor. It could happen to our city administrator. It could happen to any one of our council members.

It did happen to us.

Sherry Rushton Norton