

Tuesday's Snippets

“Hey Tom... I agree that President Obama should have shown a little more ‘backbone’ with the North Koreans. Everyone in the WORLD was looking at what his response would be... it was a little weak for my liking.”

• “Shooting down ballistic missiles on short notice remains problem-prone on a purely technological level, not to mention political. It’s one thing for a Korean missile to nosedive into the ocean, and another entirely for us to shoot — and miss! Destroying an unarmed missile in international air space amounts to an act of war; we’d regard it as such if they did it to one of ours. War with the North Koreans would devastate our ally in the south within hours, we lack troop and materiel strength to pull off a Gulf War I now, and China would weigh in. The only message we could send then would be ‘SOS!’”

• “Anything that goes up, a missile included, comes down — either by itself or by an accurate sky spy created and executed by the U.S. North Korea and its pint-sized leader need to get a bold and threatening message. Enough of this tea-time invitation stuff!”

• “tom.d: You created quite a scenario — dining on a casserole, under a star, hosted by David, then rounding out the gathering reciting the rosary. I’m Episcopalian, what can I bring?”

• “T.gram. Yes, the voter turnout was low. But we need to give a thumbs up to those who DID vote.”

• “Although this hasn’t got much to do with Snippets, it’s informative — if you are a golfer. Where did the term ‘Caddie’ come from? Answer, when Mary, later Queen of Scots, went to France as a young girl (for education and survival), Louis, King of France, learned that she loved the Scot game ‘golf.’ He had the first golf course outside of Scotland built for her enjoyment. To make sure she was properly chaperoned (and guarded) while she played, Louis hired cadets from a military school to accompany her. Mary returned to Scotland (not a very good idea in the long run) and took the practice with her. In French the word cadet is pronounced “ca-day” and the Scots changed it to “caddie.”

• “The execution of the pirates was appropriate. President Obama gave the order, his first military-linked challenge and it worked. Hooray for our side!”

• “No matter the television network, the reporter asks, ‘How do you feel about Capt. Phillips’ rescue?’ They ask that because they have nothing else to ask but need to fill

Stop Look Listen

Tom Dreiling



air time. What a shame. Where are journalism’s journalists?”

• “You forgot to put Happy Easter on the front page Friday. Oversight? Or playing into the hands of the politically correct crowd? Come on!”

Let’s chew on these Snippets for next Tuesday’s column:

√The 24/7 cable news outlets were grasping for anything to keep the rescue story of Capt. Phillips alive on Sunday. Did we learn anything as the day progressed? I don’t think so. His rescue was the story. And trying to add to what we all hoped would, and did, happen, resulted in a broken-record approach to reporting. The breaking news all day Sunday was the headline itself: *Breaking News*. Once a story is broken, it can’t continue to be placed in the category of *breaking news*, unless there was something else taking place, which there wasn’t. But it’s the bells and whistles that keep the 24/7 news channels on the air. After learning the captain was safely rescued, I went back to the Masters to watch a really thrilling and exciting conclusion.

√Karl Rove made some really ugly comments about Vice President Biden’s really ugly comments. Rove even called Biden a “liar.” These two guys fit the old saw, “It takes one to know one.”

√A Saudi judge upheld the marriage of an 8-year-old. What’s that all about?!

√Newt Gingrich continues to make the rounds of the television news channels. 2012 isn’t that far off.

√Jeb Bush in 2012?

√I think Mitt Romney got as close to the presidency as he’ll ever get during the campaign last year. Too moderate for the conservatives.

√Congressman Jerry Moran: sure bet to win U.S. Senate bid?

√Who will eventually have the inside track to pick up Moran’s House seat?

√Do the Kansas Democrats have anyone to put on the ballot for governor next time around?

(To join the conversation, simply e-mail tom.d@nwkans.com, fax 877-3732, mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave. 67654 or drop by the office. Thanks for making this one of the best read columns in all of northwest Kansas. -td)



(To render a salute, simply e-mail tom.d@nwkans.com, call 877-6908 or 877-3361, fax 877-3732, mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave. 67654 or drop by the office. Thanks for your input. -td)

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Sound Off!

Earlier suggestion just might be the way to go

I am in agreement with Steve Haynes’ article in the Tuesday (Apr. 7) Telegram. It seems that whenever the state wants to save money or close down facilities, they always look to the western part of Kansas to take the inconvenience of losing.

I worked for a state agency in another state, for 20 years. During that time they got the idea of saving the state money by consolidating five agencies into three. Jobs were eliminated by letting people go who were doing the actual work of the agency that was eliminated.

One would suppose that if an agency was eliminated, or consolidated with

another, then there would be no use for the former director of that agency. No, the directors who no longer had an agency to direct were put into some other position and did not even have to take a pay cut.

The work that was being done by the laid off people was given to other employees who already had more than enough to do.

Efficiency and ability to give people good service deteriorated and it actually cost more to get things done. So, in my opinion, consolidation is not the answer.

I wonder just how much of the state’s

revenues come from the thousands of acres of land here in the western end? Yet, the folks out here seem not to get much recognition for all the money they pour into the state’s coffers.

In a previous letter to The Telegram, I mentioned the time when Western Kansas threatened to secede from eastern Kansas and in that letter, I said I was not suggesting we do so.

Now, with yet another attack by the state on our way of life, I’m beginning to think maybe it’s not a bad idea.

June Prout
Norton

Easter rain didn’t dampen sunrise service

The little country church where Jim and I worship has always had a sunrise service on Easter morning. It used to be held in a pasture that featured a natural stone grotto that made a perfect amphitheater. The sun would come up, illuminating a lone cross on the hill. It was a very impressive sight.

One morning, a meadowlark perched on the crossbar. At precisely the right moment, it burst into its own song as the congregation sang “He Lives”. This year the rain forced us indoors. But, the service was no less meaningful.

Thirty brave souls traversed the muddy roads to form a sizable congregation. We sang “The Old Rugged Cross” and “Up From the Grave He Arose”. Afterwards, we shared breakfast and fellowship.

One thing is for sure, country people never complain about rain: even on Easter morning.

A job turned up last week for son James. And, even though I’m happy he found work, I’m a little sad. Work on

Out Back Carolyn Plotts



the house has taken on a much slower pace. I do what I can during the day. James and his dad still work some at night but, it’s nothing like it was.

They both come home so tired. I hate to see them force themselves back to work. They both say they don’t mind but, I know it’s hard.

It will all get done, as long as they don’t weaken. Perhaps now is not the right time to mention that once the house is done, we’ll start to landscape.

Last week Jim and his friend, Wayne, drove to the farthest western reaches of Kansas to the farm of one of Wayne’s relatives. Their mission: tow home a vehicle to “cannibalize” for parts for

Wayne’s pickup that is dead in the water.

Wayne brought back more than he bargained for. A puppy whose mother is a border collie/blue heeler mix and the father was “from a good neighborhood.” No matter her lineage, she is a cutie.

The first thing she did on arriving at her new home was stick her head through the center of a wheel. It went in okay, but wouldn’t come back out. Jim and Wayne had to soap her up with detergent to slip her back out the hole. She raised an objection but, it was the only thing that would work.

Now, Wayne is searching for the appropriate name. She had some prominent spots so I suggested “Dorothy”. He could call her “Dottie” for short. My friend, Barbara, put forth “Darlin” and “Purty”, a transliteration of “Pretty”.

So far, Wayne hasn’t put his stamp of approval on any of our suggestions. He’s holding out for a name that reflects her first experience at his house.

Something like, “Holy Moly”?

Focus today far cry from yesterday

I’m hooked and have been most of my life on magazines, particularly the ones focusing on home and family life. After retiring I decided to subscribe to some of my ‘old’ favorites, but unfortunately like so many things, they have changed. Jack often makes the comment he has outlived any understanding of life and when I reviewed the recent copies of some of these magazines I had a better understanding of his feeling. But it also opened my eyes to something which I think reveals a weakness in our society...the self in everything.

Perhaps I have just forgotten, but my magazines of two or three decades ago focused on the family, meals, budgeting, etc. To be sure some of the changes

Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



have occurred because the role of women in society has changed. When I was growing up my mother was part of a minority as a mother working outside the home. The mothers of my friends worked also frequently alongside their husbands in the family business or on the farm. But even with the change in society there is a change in focus. There is far more interest in how “I” feel and

look rather than how this will benefit my family or community.

With aging comes cynicism or is this the dilemma which has infiltrated so much of ‘modern day’ thinking.

Have we become so ensconced in the idea of our own importance we have forgotten the bigger picture? Perhaps if we thought less about how important something is to ‘me’ and focused on what the other person is feeling we could bridge the gap which surrounds us in so many areas.

Government is only a symptom of our problem and maybe the focus on self in politics, religion and family life is at the foundation of our problems.

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