

## Drivers need to watch for the warning signs

With the death of Sen. Stan Clark earlier this month several people have wondered why the state Department of Transportation did not close down I-70 when the dust storm blew up.

While it is the state's responsibility to shut down roads that it knows are dangerous, there is no way anyone can predict blinding dust, smoke or fog with any accuracy.

Even snow storms are tough to predict. What looks like a major blizzard on radar can suddenly go north or south missing the targeted road and hitting where it wasn't expected.

Sometimes what appears to be a minor storm can become freezing drizzle that is more trecherous than six-inches of powder snow.

It isn't fair to the weather bureau or the Department of Transportation to accuse them of not doing their job. Their job is to do the best they can.

Our job is to drive smart and keep ourselves and our passengers safe.

Who hasn't driven into dust, fog or smoke?

How stupid was that?

These things come up quickly and as drivers we need to be prepared to act just as quickly as we would if we saw an accident ahead, a large piece of trash on the road or animals standing beside the highway.

We need to be prepared to get ourselves and our passengers out of the line of danger.

When you approach a veil that you cannot see through, no matter what is causing it — dust, smoke, fog or dry ice — don't drive into it.

Pull off the road, as far as you can.

Be prepared to drive, not just onto the side of the road but into the ditch and onto the right-of-way.

And, slow down, for goodness sake. Don't try to take the ditch at 70 mph.

Don't swerve quickly. Just put on your brakes and pull off the road and if the driving conditions don't improve keep slowing down and move farther from the road.

Then stay in your vehicle with seatbelts buckled.

You are safer there than out in the open. If a car or truck hits your vehicle, you and your passengers have a much better chance of survival than if it hits one of you.

Wait out the gray-out before returning to the road and finishing your trip.

Be careful. Be safe. Stay alive.

— Cynthia Haynes

## Cemeteries are for more than burial

In my youth I thought cemeteries were for burying the dead, but since returning to Norton I have discovered they are this and so much more.

Before my mother was born her parents had a daughter who lived only a few days. Mother never knew where the baby girl was buried and now everyone who would have known is gone.

"Every grave should have a marker," she said as we trudged through cemeteries big and small throughout the county. We didn't find the grave, but I found a great deal more.

Prior to our expedition I wanted to be cremated with my ashes spread to the wind. I still want to be cremated, but I want a gravestone that tells I was here, who I belonged to and who I left in the world.

As I read off the markers, my mother would say, "Oh, they had such a sad life," or "We had such good times with their family," or "Oh, I remember them. They owned the such-and-such"

I found out that Memorial Day wasn't about remembering your own family,

### Phase II

Mary Kay Woodyard



We didn't find the baby's grave, but in our search I shared memories with my mother, learned facts from the past and discovered the importance of each person's life in the big picture.

because you think of those people each day, but rather about the people who departed many years ago. People who were a part of our lives at a different time.

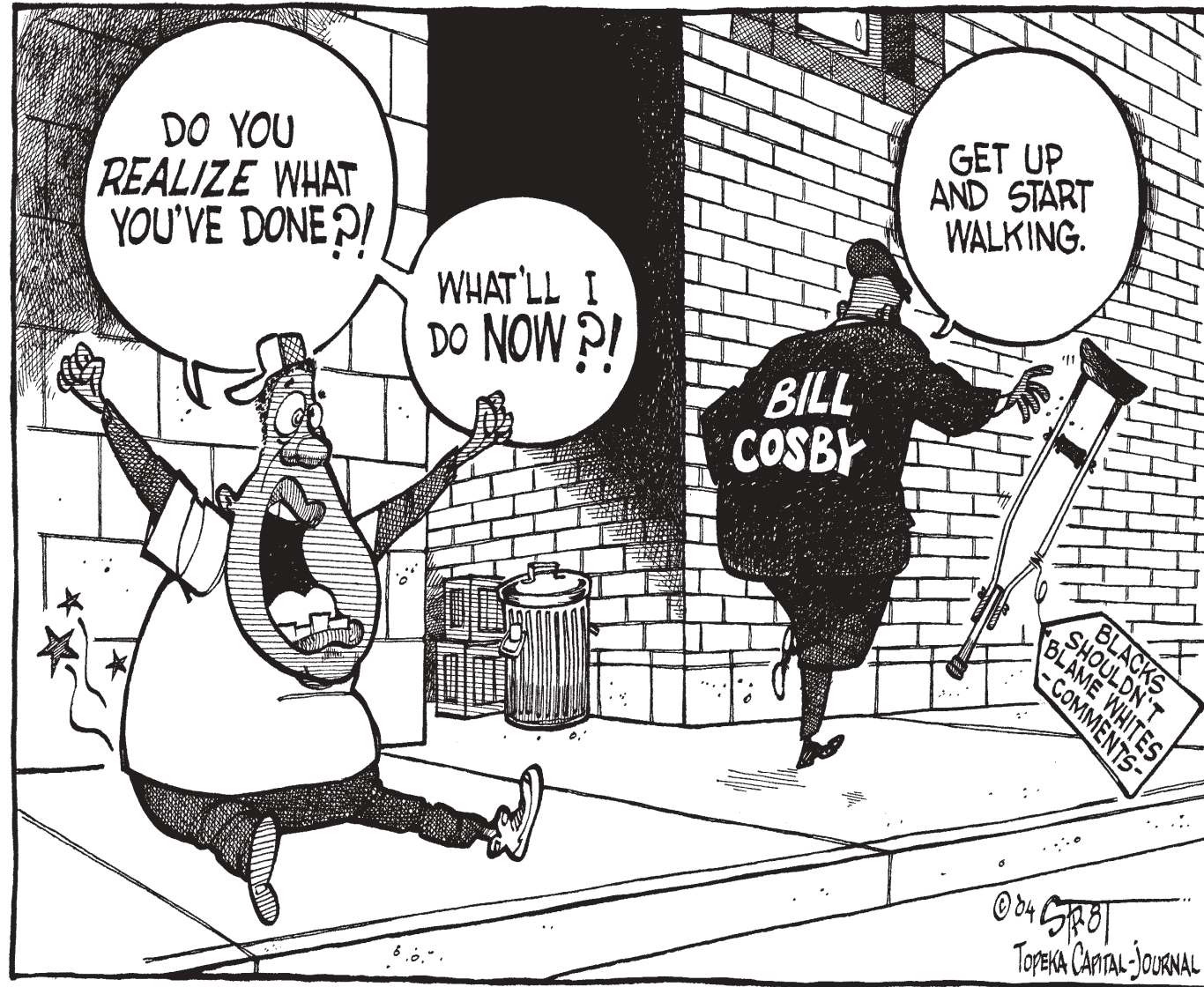
I realized how many babies and young mothers died "back then".

I discovered how the "flu" left its devastating hand on the young people of the time. I was made aware of how much longer we are living now.

History is spelled out in the names, dates and places found on the gravestones.

Veterans graves are identified, lodges and societies mark their members and all of this is accomplished on a small space, in a confined area and with public access.

Our cemeteries tell our history, who we were and who we have become.



## Marriage game competition is brutal

Because of her young age and consistent acceptance of marriage proposals, Jennifer Lopez is on pace to become Hollywood's all-time leader in the marriage category. Ms. Lopez entered the holy union of matrimony for the third time this week.

Currently, Ms. Lopez is teamed with Marc Anthony in the groom position. Hollywood marriage analysts say Anthony is a good fit for the position because it is likely he will leave the team quick enough to allow Ms. Lopez to stay on pace for the record.

Ms. Lopez agreed to nuptials with Mr. Anthony after her deal with free-agent groom Ben Affleck fell through.

In other transaction news, The Lopez marriage team is rumored to be nearing a lucrative deal with a to-be-named divorce

### College Bound

Brandon Gay



lawyer. There are no reports of who will fill the mistress position for Mr. Anthony.

The failed marriage attempt with Mr. Affleck cost Ms. Lopez over a year of valuable matrimony time, leaving some to wonder if Ms. Lopez was losing a step in the marriage game.

However, her quick rebound with Mr. Anthony has not only got her back on pace for the record, it has silenced critics who thought Britney Spears' recent two-day marriage to Jason Alexander was the new winning formula.

Ms. Spears quick marriage and divorce was matrimony game gold, but she has yet to repeat the performance. Hollywood matrimony rule makers are currently considering a marriage-while-intoxicated ban that would virtually eliminate the Spears overnight wedding/divorce strategy.

Meanwhile, Lopez maintains an aston-

ishing 4:3 engagement to marriage ratio, Mr. Affleck being the only failed engagement conversion of her career.

Liz Taylor is the current all-time leader with seven career marriages. However, many say seven would make Lopez the all-time leader because Ms. Taylor has an asterisk next to her name in the record book because she married Richard Burton twice.

While President George W. Bush's proposed gay marriage ban threatens to forever limit Ms. Lopez's potential suitors to roughly three billion people worldwide, this appears to be the only obstacle in her path.

Her marriage and divorce future seems bright and with more experienced brides and grooms such as Liza Minelli growing old and nearing marriage retirement, Ms. Lopez is poised to be the all-time leader by her 25th marriage game season if she remains healthy.

Speculation that Ms. Lopez might use her enormous wealth to pursue the record in the future is perhaps not warranted. Marriage analysts say money would taint the record.

A true marriage record is something money just can't buy.

## House hopes to help unemployed

### Celebrating the Life and Service of President Reagan

During the weekend, our country lost a great American with the passing of our 40th president, Ronald Reagan, who died of pneumonia after a long battle with Alzheimer's disease. President Reagan rekindled the nation's pride in itself with a message of a bright new dawn in America and guided the United States through the Cold War, bringing about a peaceful resolution to a decades-long battle.

He was a world-class leader who was able to put partisan politics aside for the greater good of the country and the world. President Reagan will be missed, but his legacy will live on as Americans remember the life and service of one of our greatest presidents. Activities are planned throughout the week in Washington, D.C. as we lay "The Great Communicator" to rest.

### Helping Teachers, Helping Graduates

A highly educated workforce is critical to America's future competitiveness, and the quality of education in America's schools is directly related to the quality of the teachers entrusted with the vital task of educating the nation's students. This week, I supported House passages of legislation to help our teachers and graduates be better prepared to meet tomorrow's challenges.

To increase faculty in high-demand subject areas, I supported H.R. 4411, the Priorities for Graduate Studies Act, which will target federal aid for graduate studies in certain subject areas.

Across our country, there is a shortage of highly qualified math, science, and special education teachers that extends beyond the nation's K-12 classrooms. A

### Capitol Views

Rep. Jerry Moran



lack of faculty at the graduate level to train the teachers of tomorrow is also contributing to these shortages, and must be addressed to fortify the pipeline of highly qualified teachers.

I also supported H.R. 4409, the Teacher Training Enhancement Act. This will allow our state to strengthen teacher-training programs by improving the accountability and expanding innovative opportunities to train teachers.

By improving the training our teachers receive, we will have students who are better educated and have highly qualified teachers for Kansas schools.

### Getting Americans Back to Work

While there are signs indicating that our economy is recovering, there are still many Kansans who are struggling to find a job.

This week, the House passed legislation that would establish "personal re-employment accounts" for jobless workers. Under the proposal, workers who were at risk of exhausting their traditional state unemployment benefits would be given up to a \$3,000 stipend for such things as job retraining, child care or transportation in order to make finding a job easier.

If the workers found jobs within 13 weeks, then they would be able to take the balance of the stipend as a "re-employment bonus."

It is important that during these tough economic times that we give Americans

the resources necessary to find a job — rather than just a check. It is my hope that these accounts will allow people more flexibility and more incentive to find employment.

### Helping Rural Communities Attract Doctors

This week, the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration approved a one-year extension for a program that allows foreign doctors, trained in the United States, to practice medicine in areas that have a shortage of physicians and specialty doctors.

I introduced this legislation, H.R. 4453, Access to Rural Physicians Improvement Act, which would allow these doctors to stay in the United States for three years after their training.

For many rural Kansas hospitals and clinics, this program is the only way to get an experienced doctor to serve their patients. Since 1993, 115 foreign doctors have served in Kansas communities through this program, and 67 physicians, or 58 percent, have remained in practice in the state following the completion of their three-year service obligation. The bill will now go before the full committee for review.

### In the Office

This week, students, sponsors and teachers from several Kansas schools were in for a tour of the Capitol, including Kansans from Emporia, McPherson and Stafford. A group from the Kansas State University at Salina were in for a tour, as were Miles and Joan Kennedy of Ellsworth, and their daughter, Cheryl; Matt Jones of Salina; Dale and Pam Dodd of Esbon; Darren and Jamie Dodd of Colorado Springs; and Mike and JoAnn Dodd of Omaha.

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