Opinion

Good way to keep track of time

¬oday's submission tackles a real life issue, handled in its own unique way. I think you will really enjoy this one. I thank the reader for sharing it. If you have something to pass along, email it to me tomd@nwkansas.com, fax to 877-3732, regular mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton 67654 or you can drop if off at the office.

Marbles and Saturdays

The older I get, the more I enjoy Saturday mornings. Perhaps it's the quiet solitude that comes with being the first to rise, or maybe it's the unbounded joy of not having to be at work. Either way, the first few hours of a Saturday morning are most enjoyable.

A few weeks ago, I was shuffling toward the garage with a steaming cup of coffee in one hand and the morning paper in the other. What began as a typical Saturday morning turned into one of those lessons that life seems to hand you from time to time. Let me tell you about it:

I turned the dial up into the phone portion of the band on my ham (radio) in order to listen to a Saturday morning swap net. Along the way, I came across an older sounding chap, with a tremendous signal and a golden voice. You know the kind; he sounded like he should be in the broadcasting business. He was telling whomever he was talking with something about "a thousand marbles." I was intrigued and stopped to listen to what he had to

He said:

"Well, it sure sounds like you're

At Week's End

busy with your job. I'm sure they pay you well but it's a shame you have to be away from home and your family so much. Hard to believe a young fellow should have thing before I sign-off with you to work sixty or seventy hours a and take my lovely wife out for week to make ends meet. It's too bad you missed your daughter's dance recital. Let me tell you something that has helped me keep my own priorities, thanks to a theory called 'a thousand marbles.'

"You see, I sat down one day and did a little arithmetic. The average person lives about seventyfive years. I know, some live more and some live less, but on average, folks live about seventy-five years. Now then, I multiplied 75 times 52 and I came up with 3,900, which is the number of Saturdays that the average person has in their entire lifetime.

"Now, stick with me, I'm getting to the important part. It took me until I was fifty-five years old to think about all this in any detail and by that time I had lived through over twenty-eight hundred Saturdays. I got to thinking that if I lived to be seventy-five, I only had about a thousand of them asked with a smile. left to enjoy. So I went to a toy store and bought every single marble been a long time since we spent a they had. I ended up having to visit three toy stores to round up 1000 marbles.

inside a large, clear plastic container right here in the shack next to my gear. Every Saturday since then, I have taken one marble out and thrown it away. I found that by watching the marbles diminish, I focused more on the really important things in life. There is nothing like watching your time here on this earth run out to help get your priorities straight.

"Now, let me tell you one last breakfast. This morning, I took the very last marble out of the container. I figure that if I make it until next Saturday then I have been given a little extra time. And the one thing we can all use is a little more time.

"It was nice to meet you, I hope you spend more time with your family, and I hope to meet you again here on the band. This is a 75 Year old Man, K9NZQ, clear and going QRT, good morning!"

You could have heard a pin drop on the band when this fellow signed off. I guess he gave us all a lot to think about. I had planned to work on the antenna that morning, and then I was going to meet up with a few hams to work on the next club newsletter.

Instead, I went upstairs and woke my wife up with a kiss. "C'mon honey, I'm taking you and the kids to breakfast."

"What brought this on?" she

"Oh, nothing special, it's just Saturday together with the kids. And hey, can we stop at a toy store while we're out? I need to buy "I took them home and put them some marbles."

(Continued from Page 1) Decatur Community High School, 130; Osage City, 183; Oskaloosa, 144; Phillipsburg, 168; Pomona, 148; Prairie Village-KCC, 156; Richmond-Central Heights, 150; Riley County, 169; Riverton, 192; Rossville, 163; Sabetha, 172; Salina-Sacred Heart, 142; *Salina-St. John's Military, 164; Scott City Community High, 201; Seneca-Nemaha Valley, 166; Silver Lake, 171; St. George-Rock Creek, 202; Wellsville, 174; Whitewater-Remington, 132; Wichita-Collegiate, 177; Wichita-Independent, 172; Wichita-Trinity Academy, 200; and Winchester-Jefferson County North, 134.

Class 2A, enrollment range 87-129:

Alma-Wabaunsee, 123; Arma-Northeast, 126; Bennington, 112; Blue Rapids-Valley Heights, 105; Brookville-Ell-Saline, 97; Buffalo-Altoona-Midway, 88; Burden-Central, 88; Canton-Galva, 102; Cimarron, 126; Clifton-Clyde, 87; Cottonwood Falls-Chase County, 105; Deerfield, 96; Downs-Lakeside, 99; Elbing-Berean Academy, 95; Elkhart, 90; Ellis, 96; Frankfort, 97; Hartford, 89; Herington, 119; Highland-Doniphan West, 109; Hill City, 94; Holton-Jackson Heights, 98; Hoxie, 103; Humboldt, 124; Inman, 110; Jetmore, 90; Johnson-Stanton County, 90; Kinsley, 96; Leavenworth-Immac., 90; Leoti-WichitaCounty, 97; Lyndon, 123; Mankato-Rock Hills, 91; Meade, 103; Minneapolis, 120; Moran-Valley, 97: Marmaton Moundridge, 116; Oakley, 103; Osborne, 96; Oswego, 103; Ox-

Pittsburg-St. Mary's-Colgan, 113; Coffey County, 63; Lebo, 77; Lin-Plainville, 104; Pleasanton, 109; coln, 79; Linn, 57; Little River, 73; Pratt-Skyline, 89; Rosalia-Flinthills, 93; Sedan, 109; Sedgwick, 125; Shawnee-Maranatha Academy, 129; Smith Center, 104; Solomon, 108; St. Francis, 94; St. John-Hudson, 101; St. Mary's, 120; Sterling, 128; Stockton, 99; Sublette, 95; Syracuse, 108; Uniontown, 103; Valley Falls, 93; WaKeeney-Trego Community, 104; Washington County, 104; Wathena, 91; and Yates Center, 112.

14-86:

Agra-Eastern Heights, 32; Almena-Northern Valley, 52; Argonia, 50; Ashland, 64; Attica, 48; Atwood-Rawlins County, 86; Axtell, 46; Baileyville-B&B, 55; Beloit-St. John's, 48; Bern, 38; Bird City-Cheylin, 42; Brewster, 37; Bucklin, 62; Burlingame, 75; Burrton, 60; Bushton-Quivira Heights, 64; Caldwell, 60; Cedar Vale, 41; Centralia, 55; Chase, 44; Chetopa, 64; Claflin, 80; Coldwater-South Central, 59; Colony-Crest, 68; Cunningham, 48; Dexter, 44; Dighton, 58; Elwood, 55; Fowler, 49; Glasco, 28; Goessel, 79; Grainfield-Wheatland, 45; Greensburg, 70; Grinnell, 32; Hamilton, 34; Hanover, 64; Haviland, 50; Healy, 35; Hope, 63; Howard-West Elk, 85; Hutchinson-Central Christian, 38; Hutchinson-Pleasantview Academy, 39; Ingalls, 50; Jewell, 37; Junction City-St. Xavier, 14; Kensington-West Smith County, 69; Kiowa-South Barber, 55; LaCrosse, 79; Langdon-Fairfield, 81; Lawrence-Bishop Seabury ford, 105; Peabody-Burns, 113; Academy, 52; LeRoy-Southern and Garden City, 1,332.

Logan, 44; Longton-Elk Valley, 53: Lost Springs-Centre, 76; Lucas-Luray, 35; Macksville, 81; Madison, 65; McPherson-Elyria Christian, 45; Melvern-Marais des Cygnes Valley, 74; Miltonvale, 24; Minneola, 61; Montezuma-South Gray, 65; Moscow, 36; Natoma, 50: Ness City, 54: Norwich, 60; Olathe-Kansas School for the Deaf, 37; Olpe, 85; Onaga, 77; Otis-Bison, 67; Palco, 42; Pretty Prairie, 79; Quinter, 86; Class 1A, enrollment range Randolph-Blue Valley, 60; Ransom-Western Plains, 47; Rexford-Golden Plains, 53; Rolla, 45; Rozel-Pawnee Heights, 75; Satanta, 80; Scandia-Pike Valley, 76; Sharon Springs-Wallace County, 60; South Haven, 54; Spearville, 82; St. Paul, 70; Stafford, 64; Sylvan Grove-Sylvan Unified, 47; Tescott, 43; Tipton, 25; Tribune-Greelev County, 63; Troy, 80; Udall, 84; Victoria, 58; Wakefield, 69; Waverly, 60; Weskan, 41; Wetmore, 39; White City, 65; Williamsburg, 63; Wilson, 58; and Winona-Triplains, 19.

Some of the more familiar Class 4A schools maintained their same classification: Colby, 246 enrollment; Hays-TMP. 205; Goodland, 214; Hugoton, 206; Larned, 217; Russell, 230; Ulysses, 389; Clay Center, 276; and Concordia, 275. The 4A range is 205-526 enrollment.

In Class 5A (enrollment range 536-1,019), Hays, 629; Great Bend, 728; and Liberal, 839.

In Class 6A, (enrollment range 1,024-1,517), Dodge City, 1,228

October Senior Center menu is released

toes, Broccoli Rice Casserole, Mixed Fruit, Bread, Pudding; Upside Down Cake w/Topping; 4th, Turkey, Mashed Potatoes w/Gravy, Green Beans, Bread, 4 Seasons Fruit Cup; **5th**, BBQ Meat Balls, Parslied Buttered Carrots, Ambrosia Fruit Salad, Roll, Krisp Rice Bar; 6th, Liver and Onions in Gravy, Parslied Potatoes, Asparagus, Bread, Rosy Pears.

9th, Hamburger Patty,

2nd, Swiss Steak w/Toma- Bread, Cookie; 11th, Baked Chicken Quarters, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Mixed Vegs, Roll, **3rd**, Tuna Salad, Vegetable Cook's Choice Fruit; **12th**, Chef Soup, 1/2 Banana, Pineapple Salad, Mixed Fruit w/Cherries, Crackers, Bread Pudding w/ Sauce: 13th. Polish Sausage w/ Kraut, Mashed Potatoes, Seasoned Carrots, Bread, Applesauce.

16th, Salmon Patties w/Sauce, Green Beans, Beets, Garden Rice, Tropical Fruit Salad; 17th, Turkey, Sweet Potatoes, Italian Blend Vegs, Bread, Cranberry Apple Salad; 18th, Chili, 5 Cup Salad,

and Potatoes, Peas, Cottage Cheese Salad, Bread, Plums.

23rd, Cook's Choice Entree, Party Potatoes, Savory Carrots, Bread, Apricots; 24th, Salisbury Steak, Winter Mix Vegs, Peaches, Roll, Pudding; 25th, Poor Boy Stew, Strawberries and Bananas, Crackers, Brownies; 26th, BBQ Chicken Quarters, Potato Salad, Corn, Dinner Roll, Mandarin Oranges; 27th, Lasagna, Asparagus, Jell-O w/ Carrots and Pineapple; Garlic Bread, Cherry Crisp.

30th, Chicken and Noodles,

Take the cats, I'll give you a box

e watch a lot of home improvement type shows: DIY, HGTV, TLC. You can get a lot of great ideas. Some of my favorites are shows on how to get organized. On one of these shows they advised throwing away the boxes computers come in. The organizer pointed out that unless you move long distances every few months you will probably never use the boxes again. They are bulky and take up a lot of space.



kittens and the bird was gone.

with her family. After a day or so them. Well, maybe not that good

the door was hard. I had already decided I did not need or want it but it was such a nice box. Ethyl seemed to understand my sacrifice. She quit moving the kittens. They are growing up to be fine cats. Two gray, two yellow, and one almost all white. A couple of weeks ago she moved them again. Ah, well I thought. It is time to The next morning there were five wean them. I found them in an old out building not far from the Ethyl did not like me messing house. I was keeping an eye on

THE NORTON TELEGRAM Friday, September 29, 2006

Norton remains in Class 3A

Wait. I found myself protesting. What if you send the computer in for service. Then I got to thinking, I have never packed my computer up when I took it to be serviced. I moved and I didn't pack it up. Maybe that is good advice after all.

So when I was "organizing" the basement early this summer I decided the computer boxes were going, even though I have plenty of storage. The boxes only got to the basement door where they were stacked with a bunch of other valuables left behind by various family members. Over the years the basement has been treated like a storage locker (except no one is paying rent).

In August, when we got our yearly allotment of rain in two hours, Ethyl (the cat) started bringing kittens to the porch. They just had their eyes open. One, two three - they looked like drowned rats. I found a towel and dried them off. I found a box. Then she brought a dead bird. Was she confused or trying to feed them? Who knows?

Roberts to the Kansas Department

of Health and Environment to en-

hance emergency preparedness

and terrorism response programs

for Kansas hospitals and other

The Bioterrorism Hospital Pre-

paredness Program is designed to

help increase the ability of hospi-

tals and other health care institu-

tions to deal with a large number

of casualties as a result of a public

health emergency, Roberts said.

The program has been in existence

for four years and focuses on ex-

pansion of hospital beds, increas-

ing the available number of health

care personnel, establishing hos-

health care providers.

They didn't like that at all and they and said, "Mom, Ethyl is gone." cried and cried. So I would catch them and move them back to the But she had a skin disorder. I left porch. She would move them more money than I am willing to back. Evidently she did not like admit with Doctor Sara trying to one of the kittens at all because she figure out what was wrong with kept moving him off by himself.

One night the hubby rescued him from the waterway in the terestingly enough she was probcornfield across the road, a good ably as healthy as she had ever quarter of a mile away. A kitten been since having this last litter of can really be loud when it is distressed!

west side of the house and we declared a truce. I put the box there. him, he would not make it if he did Everyone was happy, until it rained again. We moved the kittens, soggy box and all back to the porch. Elizabeth was here and headed to the basement in search house and have no fear of cars, of a better box. Good luck, I said, there are no good boxes around here. In less than a minute she emerged with a fabulous box, it was huge, it was strong, it was my hey, how is this for a deal: I'll computer box!

Seeing that box actually go out

she moved them under the porch. an eye. Elizabeth was here again

Ethyl was a gorgeous calico cat. her. Ethyl would get better but her problems always came back. Inkittens. But she is gone.

So now I am the momma! I don't Finally she moved them to the catch birds for them, and one refused to eat what I do offer. I told not eat. But he did not listen. So now there are only four. They don't listen either. They are under foot the moment you step out of the trucks, or tractors.

KIDS!

They would make wonderful pets for some lucky person and throw in a great box!

Casserole, Bun, Apricots; 10th, Roast Beef, Mashed Potatoes w/ Bread, Cookie; 31st, Ham and Pasta, Beef and Tomato Casse- Gravy, Rosy Pears, Bread, Birth- Beans, Fruit Cup #1, Cornbread,

Mexicali Corn, Hash Brown Crackers, Cinnamon Roll; **19th**, Spinach, Rosy Applesauce, role, Broccoli Salad, Peaches, day Cake; 20th, Escalloped Ham Cook's Choice Complement.

Living Trust Seminar

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- · Many other advantages will be discussed at the seminar.

Featured Speaker: Dan Diederich is both an Attorney and a Certified Public Accountant. Mr. Diederich operates a law practice focused on family estate planning, and has prepared living trusts for residents throughout the state of Kansas. Mr. Diederich is a frequent public speaker on the subject of family estate planning and thousands of people have attended his seminars and learned how to protect their estates from probate costs, estate taxes, creditors claims, divorce claims and estate claims by spouses of their children.

Norton, KS Monday, October 9 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Norton Public Library Community Room Entrance: 408 N. Norton St. Phillipsburg, KS Tuesday, October 10 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Huck Boyd Center 860 Park St.

Beloit, KS Wednesday, October 11 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Municipal Building Trail Room 119 N. Hersey Ave.

Russell. KS Thursday, October 12 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Deines Cultural Center 820 N. Main

Refreshments served at all locations.

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Attorney at Law Daniel K. Diederich 2035 E. Iron, Suite 104 / Salina, KS 67401

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A grant of \$4.52 million was tions and procuring personal pro- Human Services. announced this week by Sen. Pat tective equipment.

State agency receives big grant

In additional to supporting ligence Committee, and a member health care facilities in Kansas, of the Senate HELP Subcommitfunds are also designed for the tee on Bioterrorism and Public Emergency Management Services Board in order to develop a erts said he has long been conmore comprehensive emergency response plan to react to unforeseen disasters, the K.U. poison nuclear attacks and the potential control center and the creation of an electronic disease surveillance system to detect biological threats, Roberts said.

Funds for the program are allocated through bioterrorism legislation generated by the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee (HELP), and are awarded by the Health Resources pital-based pharmaceutical and Services Administration uncaches, improving communicader the Department of Health and

As chairman of the Senate Intel-Health Preparedness, Sen. Robcerned about the threats from biological, chemical, radiological or damage a natural threat, such as pandemic flu, could cause.

> Thank you for reading The Norton Telegram