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TUESDAY, March 6, 2007 PAGE 4

Important event on weekend calendar

C unday, March 11 at 2 a.m. the time change occurs, three weeks sooner than what we are accustomed to. Before bed-J ding down Saturday night, be sure you move your clock UP one hour so when you wake up Sunday morning you will be on Daylight Saving Time.

In the past we have been moving the clock up one hour on the first Sunday in April, but this year it's been set for March 11.

Additionally, Daylight Saving Time will last a week longer this year. We will move our clocks back one hour on Nov. 4, the first Sunday in November. We had been doing this the last Sunday in October.

Why the change we don't know.

Daylight Saving Time is practiced, so we are told, in order to gain an extra hour of daylight during the early evening, resulting in the conservation of energy by substituting natural sunlight for electrical lighting.

The Old Farmer's Almanac tells us that Daylight Saving Time first began in 1918 during World War I to allow for more evening light and save fuel for the war effort. Since then, Daylight Saving Time has been used on and off, with different start and end dates.

Benjamin Franklin, according to The Old Farmer's Almanac, first suggested the idea in 1784. It was later revived in 1907, when William Willett proposed a similar system in the pamphlet, "The Waste of Daylight." The Germans were the first to officially adopt the light-extending system in 1915, followed by the British, and in 1918 by the United States, when Congress passed the Standard Time Act, establishing our time zones.

Those in the know tell us there could be some problems with businesses that are computer-generated, as well as other high-tech firms, with the earlier starting time this year. We would assume those places have taken steps to ward off any problems.

Despite it all, only "humaputers" can make sure the change to Daylight Saving Time comes off with out a hitch. "Humaputers"? That all of us.



Well, back to the old-fashioned method

hat to do, what to do. We might have to actually get up and walk to the television to change channels. In the world view of global warming or war and peace, our inability to use the remote control might not seem like much, but it's a crisis at our house.

Don't ask me how it happened, but the TV's remote ended up in a half-full cup cleaning has affected it's operation. It's dead. It's not moving.

— Tom Dreiling out all the buttons on the remote, I can't check-up. use it. Jim tried to brief me on the manual in the headlights" look because he gave up and said, "Find a channel you like and leave it there."

-ob-

Jim and I are always in a rush. No matter where we go, we're always in a hurry to get there. Sometimes our personal grooming routines are so automatic we almost forget what we're doing.

Recently, we were getting ready to go somewhere and Jim had finished comb-People actually acted surprised when ing his hair. Next, he was ready to shave. But in his haste, he slathered mousse on his face instead of shaving creme. No harm done, except it really made his beard stand up.

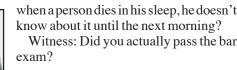


pital. Baby Ani had fallen off a bed and of coffee. So far, no amount of drying or was beginning to sprout a "knot on her noggin." She was a little fussy and it was close to her bed-time, but Jennifer didn't So now, just when I had about figured want her to go to sleep until she had a

The baby got a clean bill of health and controls, but I must have had that "deer everyone breathed a sigh of relief. Ani is almost eight months old and really starting to "motor-vate." Jim suggested to Jennifer that she duct-tape Ani down. But, of formed the autopsy, did you check for a Sounds good to me. All the HGTV I course, he would: Red Green is his hero. -ob-

> I want to buy a book titled, "Disorder in the American Courts." It contains the transcripts of actual court testimonies from real trials. Here are a few samples: Attorney: What is your date of birth?

Witness: July 18th. Attorney: What year? Witness: Every year.



Attorney: How was your first marriage terminated?

Witness: By death.

Attorney: And by whose death was it terminated?

Attorney: Is your appearance here this morning pursuant to a deposition notice which I sent to your attorney?

Witness: No, this is how I dress when I go to work.

And, my personal favorite:

Attorney: Doctor, before you perpulse?

Witness: No

Attorney: Did you check for blood pressure?

Witness: No

Attorney: Did you check for breathing? Witness: No

Attorney: So then it is possible that the patient was alive when you began the autopsy?

Witness: No.

In this case, balance is everything

ack, Michael and I have been blessed with the privilege of watching three of our grandchildren/niece and nephews (8, 6, and 4) while their parents are at work. I work full-time from home so my share of the duties is limited with much of the responsibility falling to Michael, but much of the time these children spend in imaginative play.

My mother always believed children needed to learn to play alone because they balance is everything. will spend more time with themselves

Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard





want.

than with anyone else and these children have self-entertainment mastered.

So many times we forget children's play is their work. It is how they learn to be adults. Too many times, our focus is to ensure a child's day will be filled with activities and other children. It is almost viewed as criminal if a child has to play alone, but I believe it is during 'alone' time a child learns to carve out problem solving skills and self-soothing techniques.

My husband has a favorite saying, 'How come when children are growing up we are told they need to be with other children and then when they become teens group influence?" As with anything else,

the study was released noting that children who have been in pre-school are more aggressive than their stay-at-home counterparts when they enter kindergarten. Have you ever been in the middle of 20three year olds? Of course they are more aggressive, it is survival, not necessarily of the fittest, but certainly of the most demanding.

Children benefit from creating their own environment. It doesn't take toys and educational games to be a learning area. It takes imagination. A child who "sees" the spider web created from thread or the robot from a Happy Meal container is truly a gifted child. We (Jack, Michael and we are told the problems are from peer I) provide the emotional space; Harrison, Emily and Hunter generate the ideas.

-ob-

A phone call to our daughter, Jennifer, Saturday night, found her family in the emergency room of a San Antonio hos-

Attorney: What was the first thing your husband said to you that morning?

Witness: He said, "Where am I, Cathy?"

Attorney: And, why did that upset you? Witness: My name is Susan.

Attorney: Now doctor, isn't it true that have been alive and practicing law.

Attorney: How can you be so sure, Doctor?

Witness: Because his brain was sitting on my desk in a jar.

Attorney: But, could the patient have still been alive, nevertheless?

Witness: Yes, it is possible he could

only time will tell if they were right

t may come as a surprise to you, my readers, but there are not a lot of things I am not sure of. What surprises me is how certain politicians are.

We get The Documentary Channel. They have been showing "Iraq, My Country" this month. This film was made by an Iraqi citizen who had been exiled to Australia since the end of the first Gulf War. After the fall of Saddam Hussein he returned. The film was completed in 2005 and perhaps does not reflect the current situation.

The filmmaker's town economy was built around a cement factory. Throughout the film many of the problems Iraq faces are discussed in all sorts of venues. Prisoners at police stations, workers trying to find jobs, the town crazy man, who will say what most are afraid to say, are all given a platform.

It is presented without leading us to a conclusion of what is right and wrong. At one point the question is asked, "Do you want the Coalition Forces to leave?" The answer is yes, BUT – they cannot leave, because we do not know how to help ourselves.

No matter what the discussion, the United States was never mentioned as a source of any of the problems Iraq faces. It may be a blow to our collective ego, but the United States is not mentioned at all. What these people talk about is Saddam.

"Iraq, My Country" is the national anthem of Iraq. Saddam outlawed the singing of the anthem. In the film, young boys try to sing the song. But they are uncertain of the words and the melody because in their lifetime it was never sung.

Back Home Nancy Hagman

place every day and every hour the narrator tells us. These funerals are for people many years dead. People Saddam killed, the mourning outlawed by Saddam.

This town was near the mass grave sites of people killed by Saddam. Since Saddam's fall, these graves have been exhumed, the bodies identified and given proper burial.

The situation in the area is hardly ideal. The people mostly live in, what we would consider squalor, there are few jobs, and tribes fight against each other.

The cement plant was destroyed by Saddam in the war because he did not want anyone else to get any benefit from it. It is being rebuilt. We are told complete restoration will take maybe ten years.

But the speaker says he is beginning to see that the cement plant is not all that Saddam has ruined. He has ruined the Iraqi people and it will take much longer to make them whole.

The filmmaker ends on a hopeful note. He decides to stay in Iraq and marries. He shows classes giving women computer training. Children sing the Iraqi anthem in voices sure and strong.

The clamor to leave Iraq is overwhelm-The traditional funerals and rituals of ing these days. Barack Obama says he was mourning are shown; these are taking always against the war. John Murtha and

Nancy Pelosi tell us if we withdraw the violence will end. Good for them. I am glad they are so certain of the positions. Since I am not running for political office I can have my doubts.

We may have started this war for the wrong reasons but has only wrong come of it? Saddam has been disposed. The people of Iraq have at least a chance of controlling their destiny.

Whenever someone suggests that it was not worth one American life I think how nice it is to be so sure that American lives are so much more precious than Iraqi lives. I am ashamed of my country if we truly believe it is a mistake when a ruthless dictator, who killed millions of people with no remorse, is taken down. No matter what the original intentions, it is what happened. We have to deal with

I am not going to describe those who oppose the war in terms of "Cut and Run". I believe them to be thoughtful people and I respect them for the courage of their convictions.

I also admire Hillary Clinton for not jumping on the "Oh, I made a mistake in authorizing the war" bandwagon. I don't know why she doesn't. It would seem to be the politically expedite thing to do. (Relax; I'm not putting a Hillary for President sign in my yard; not yet.) At the present time I am SURE we have had enough of both the Bushes and Clintons for a while!

As to Obama, Murtha, Pelosi, Chuck Hagel, et al; if you win this debate and bring all the troops home, I hope you are right. Because it is important to get it right. Not just for your success in American politics but for children in Iraq.

Don't forget Friday is 'Thumbs Up' day. Send your salute to: tomd@nwkansas.com, or call either 877-3361 or 877-6908.

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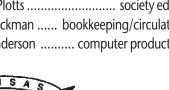
8 a.m.- 5:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

Phone: (785)877-3361

Fax: (785)877-3732

E-mail: telegram@nwkansas.com

Tom Dreiling	editor and publisher
Lisa Marie Henderson	advertising
Veronica Monier	staff reporter
Dick Boyd	Blue Jay sports
Carolyn Plotts	society editor
Sherry Hickman be	ookkeeping/circulation
Vicki Henderson	. computer production



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