

Important event on weekend calendar

Sunday, March 11 at 2 a.m. the time change occurs, three weeks sooner than what we are accustomed to. Before bed-

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.

— Tom Dreiling

In this case, balance is everything

Jack, 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 will spend more time with themselves 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 we are told the problems are from peer group influence?" As with anything else,

Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



balance is everything.

People actually acted surprised when 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 20-three 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 I) provide the emotional space; Harrison, Emily and Hunter generate the ideas.



Well, back to the old-fashioned method

What 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 of coffee. So far, no amount of drying or cleaning has affected it's operation. It's dead. It's not moving.

So now, just when I had about figured out all the buttons on the remote, I can't use it. Jim tried to brief me on the manual controls, but I must have had that "deer in the headlights" look because he gave up and said, "Find a channel you like and leave it there."

Sounds good to me. All the HGTV I want.

-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 combing 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.

-ob-

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

Out Back Carolyn Plotts



pital. Baby Ani had fallen off a bed and 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 want her to go to sleep until she had a check-up.

The baby got a clean bill of health and 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 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: 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

when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn't know about it until the next morning?

Witness: Did you actually pass the bar exam?

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 performed the autopsy, did you check for a pulse?

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.

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 have been alive and practicing law.

Only time will tell if they were right

Back Home Nancy Hagman



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 it.

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: tom@nwkansas.com, or call either 877-3361 or 877-6908.

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