

Rove's departure won't affect sun

Karl Rove is departing Washington, D.C., the end of August. Big deal! As far as we know, the sun hasn't stopped rising and setting since the announcement was made earlier this week.

And make no mistake about it, Mr. Rove, who has had exclusive rights to President Bush's ear, will continue to have those rights as he begins another phase of his life, which most certainly will find him on the speaking circuit, top-dollar kind of guy.

He's been a close friend of Mr. Bush for many, many years, and won the trust of the president early on and became his closest adviser. Some pundits claim Rove was closer to Mr. Bush than was Vice President Dick Cheney.

Rove's departure caught the Democrats off guard. They've been trying without success to get the man to one of their tailgate parties to grill, but presidential privilege trumped their efforts. Now that he'll be out from under the president, maybe the Democrats' tailgate plans can materialize. Maybe.

It's not unusual for the president's men (whoever the president is at the time), to begin peeling off, especially if a second term is involved. No question serving a president is stressful, family-depriving, 24/7. Really crazy! Mr. Rove will fall shy 17 months of being at the president's side during Mr. Bush's eight-year occupancy of the oval office.

Karl Rove was a pretty big fish in the political pond. Brilliant, skillful. Many times he nudged the president into taking positions not warmly accepted by members of his own party on Capitol Hill. And elsewhere, for that matter. But he was determined — determination being his strong point.

Reports have said for years there was no close tie between Cheney and Rove. But the dedication, and the like, both men had for President Bush kept them from eliminating each other.

Then again, perhaps the resignation of Mr. Rove was a quiet victory for the Casper, Wyoming cowboy and his boys in the big white palace on Pennsylvania Avenue.

Time will tell.
And the sun will set tonight and greet us in the morning.

—Tom Dreiling



Party's symbol winner of straw poll

Because there is a lot of questionable chatter about the results of the Iowa Republican Party Straw Poll last weekend, I have concluded the real winner was the party's symbol. What elephant wouldn't have been happy with all that straw?

-td-

Hmm, I wonder what makes a donkey happy?

-td-

Can you believe it's school time already? Wasn't it just yesterday the kids rolled out of the buildings to begin summer break? I don't call it *summer vacation* because with today's hectic pace taking place in most households, a vacation it is not. And for a lot of moms and dads summer creates additional stress with worry about the kids while mom and dad are on the job. But when the school bell rings, they know their youngsters are in good hands, somewhat easing the stress.

Here in Norton, the first day of the new school year is Monday, with dismissal at 1 p.m., according to the school calendar. Then it's off to the races!

-td-

A million dollars plus! Wow, what would you do with it? A northwest Kansas couple won \$1,582,922 in the Super Kansas Cash Jackpot last Saturday, matching all five numbers plus the Cashball. Their investment: A \$5 Quick Pick ticket. Larry and Marta Ketler of Goodland were the lucky winners. What do they plan to do with the money? Mrs. Ketler told *The Goodland Star-News*, "Purchase a bigger home...and Larry wants a new truck."

Good Evening Norton Tom Dreiling



I think they can handle that!

-td-

I see where the Norton County Arts Council is soliciting sponsorships for the 2007-08 season, with board members making personal visits in this regard. It costs to bring entertainment to the Norton area and the sponsorships are vital to continuing this most worthwhile cause.

I read where the initial cost for bringing entertainers to town can run as much as \$10,000, or more, for a season. This, incidentally, doesn't include associated costs.

The new season will see magician Eric Vaughn on our stage, as well as the Blue and Gray Brass Brigade, The African Acrobats, Dream Weavers (a belly dancing troupe), and the Jimmy Dee Band for a dinner/dance. The arts council continues to work on a couple of other programs.

Sponsorships include: Bronze, \$100 (2 single memberships); Silver, \$250 (4 single memberships); Gold, \$500 (6 single memberships); and Platinum, \$750 (10 single memberships).

If you've been a sponsor, please stay the course, if not please entertain that possibility. Questions to Carol Erlenbusch,

council president.

-td-

I am always asking for readers to send me stories of a light-hearted nature to pass along in this column. The one to follow, so I am told by the couple who submitted it, is true. They hinted they personally know the people involved.

So, here goes:

While on a road trip to eastern Kansas, this elderly couple stopped at a restaurant in Russell for lunch. After finishing their meal, they resumed their trip. However, the elderly woman unknowingly left her glasses on the restaurant table and she didn't miss them until they had been driving about fifteen minutes. And to add to their frustration, they had to travel quite a distance before they could find a place on I-70 to turn around, so they could go back to get her glasses.

All the way back to Russell, the elderly husband was the classic grouchy old geezer. He fussed and complained and scolded and moaned his wife relentlessly. The more he chided her, the more upset she became. He just wouldn't shut up.

To her relief, they finally arrived at the restaurant. She hurried in to grab her glasses. As she climbed back in the car, she said to her husband, "Oh, by the way, here's your hat and credit card you left on the table."

The remainder of the trip was very quiet, but did allow for an occasional (hahaha) smile from the Mrs.

-td-

Have a good evening and a good weekend. And remember, if you left something behind at church, at least you were there.

Thumbs Up

Marlene Lewis, on your position at Prairie Land Electric, and welcome to Norton! (e-mail)

Norton School District custodial and maintenance department, for working all summer to get the buildings ready for the teachers and students. (called in)

Mick and Ida Cochran, on your 50th wedding anniversary. (called in)

Everyone involved in the picnic for the new teachers and returning staff held Tuesday. "We appreciate all of the wonderful gifts received from the Norton businesses and look forward to serving the students in the Norton School District." (e-mail: Lynette Archer, Christine Eveleigh, Kristen Fahrenbruch, Denise Meyer)

(This column is now appearing on Tuesdays and Fridays. Deadline is noon Monday for Tuesday and noon Thursday for Friday. E-mail tom@dwnkansas.com, fax 877-3732, call either 877-3361 or 877-6908, write *The Telegram*, 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton 67654 or drop by the office. Thanks for your input).

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Memory loss might be the answer

Back Home Nancy Hagman



There is a joke about an aged woman who has a baby. When friends come to visit she insists they have to wait until the baby wakes up before she will show it to them. Finally the visitors realize she has forgotten where the newborn is and can't show him off until he cries.

As the aged parent of "mature" children I'm thinking if only we could forget where they are! Or more to the point if only we did not have to help them move to where they are. August 1 in a college town is not a pretty sight. All those kids have to be out of one apartment and into another. Throw in a less than cooperative landlord and Mom's stress level is off the chart!

I saw the apartment and wrote the check for the deposit, we dealt with Joe. Patricia started calling them in early July because a friend who was renting from the Joe said they told her she could not get in until Aug. 4, even though the lease said Aug. 1.

Administrative Assistant Angie (Triple A) assured her she could get in Aug. 1, if the place was cleaned and painted and her deposit and rent were paid.

Patricia had a question about utilities or something so she called Triple A again. Triple A informed her one of the roommates called and said they weren't moving in until Aug. 4. "Which roommate?" Patricia asked. Triple A did not know. Then Triple A informed her they could not move in until ALL the girls had paid their deposit and rent and that E — — had not.

Patricia called E — —, she insisted she had paid. A couple of days before the girls are to move in the Triple A still claims not to have E — —'s money.

Patricia wanted to come home July 31. Triple A agrees to give her a key after 6:00 p.m. the 31st because she is not working

the first but only if she has all the money and the apartment is clean. Patricia wanted to head for home before 6:00.

I called Triple A. "Can't she get the key earlier?" She informed me the lease said Aug. 1 and she was doing us a big favor by giving us a key at all. I reminded her she was not working Aug. 1 so we could not get a key then. She decided she would be working after 12:00. She also agreed to give the key to someone else on Patricia's behalf after 6:00 if she had all the rent money. (Finally we figure out a practical use for a boyfriend!)

Patricia comes home, the boyfriend goes to pick up the key. Triple A tells him the girls aren't moving in until Aug. 4.

August 1: So do we pack or not? We can't talk to Triple A until noon. What if she still won't give us a key? We are supposed to pick up a chair that was being cleaned in Smith Center en route. It was threatening rain and we did not have a topper for the pickup. The hubby went off to Norton to the dentist. He said the gals in the office asked if I had come with him. He confessed that he was actually happy to be at the dentist the way things were going at home! I know he hoped we would be long gone when he got home, we weren't.

At noon we start trying to call Triple A,

she won't pick up. Finally I look up the check I wrote for the deposit, call information, get Joe's number. He is Chinese. "They have to tell us, three week before they move in so we clean," he says. "She did." I say.

"No key until rent and deposit paid," he says. "It's paid," I say. "All paid?" he asks. I explain, "The girls all have canceled checks but E — — is not in town to bring proof and Triple A insists she hasn't paid."

"No Key!" Joe pronounces. I said, "Okay, we have a contract that says we have an apartment Aug. 1. It is Aug. 1, you won't give us a key. I assume we can rent another apartment with no penalty because you have violated this contract."

"There misunderstanding," Joe says. "We give your daughter a key!"

Well, well, well.

Hurry up and pack, pick up the chair, try to cover it with a tarp as it sprinkles. We were just ahead of the rain. It rained 4 inches in Smith Center that afternoon! The tarp did not perform as well as hoped. We drove four miles, retarped. Drove to Harlan, checked tarp. Drove to the junction of Hwy 9 and 24, checked tarp. Stopped at Glen Elder; checked tarp.

You get the idea.

Patricia went ahead and got her key! Triple A still insisted E — — had not paid. Two days later E — — gets to town. They give her a key, seems they have her money, they wouldn't say for how long.

When it comes to kids, senility might be a good thing. I don't want to forget I have them, but next time someone decides to move I believe I'm going to suffer from memory loss. "Oh, you are moving? I guess I forgot to write that down, who is this? Where are you? You're going where?"