

Marriage seems to be the order of the day

I've noticed where a couple more states of recent have sanctioned same sex marriages. There must be at least a half dozen states by now. No, there isn't a move underway to do that in our state. Matter of fact I couldn't find anything in my research that showed Kansas even sanctioned marriage between a man and a woman.

Let's Chat
Tom Dreiling



Miss California, the young beauty who apparently misspoke at the recent Miss something pageant, is in a bit of hot water. In the pageant, you will recall, she was asked her view on same sex marriage. She said she believed in marriage between a man and a woman. Many people feel she lost the crown because of that comment. I only wish they had asked that same question to all of the finalists. Now, photos of Miss California are beginning to surface, posing — I don't quite know how to put this — in little more than a thought. Some are trying to strip her of the Miss California crown because of that, although the pictures were taken a few years back. What gives with these beauty pageants?!

I received a call from a reader after he received his copy of The Telegram the other day that contained the 4-page insert dealing with health care in Norton County. That small insert should have originally been a part of the 40-page Rural Health section of a week earlier. "Looks like you blew it," the caller said in reference to an explanation appearing on the front page of that small insert that indicated the editors forgot to put the Norton copy and photos in the main section. While that is true, the editor of this newspaper and his staff had nothing to do with the oversight; that occurred elsewhere in the company where the section was put together. When we goof here I take responsibility, and when it happens elsewhere but affects us here, I'll be quick to point that out, too. I hope this sets the record straight! Thanks for your call.

Oh, guess who is now talking to kids about practicing abstinence instead of instant sex. The Palin daughter! It wasn't too long ago she thought abstinence didn't belong in the conversation. And the father of her child felt the same way. I wonder what prompted Bristol (Palin) to change her mind? Good luck to her in her new crusade.

The young couple invited their elderly pastor for Sunday dinner. While they were in the kitchen preparing the meal, the minister asked their son what they were having. "Goat," the little boy replied.

"Goat?" replied the startled man of the cloth, "Are you sure about that?" "Yep," said the youngster. "I heard Dad say to Mom, 'Today is just as good as any to have the old goat for dinner.'"

Lord, keep Your arm around our shoulders and Your hand over our mouths.

I thought it was interesting last week to watch television coverage of the creation of the *New Republican Party for America* rally. And who were the two guys most sought out by the cable crazies? Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, I can see, some day down the road, those two butting heads. Of course if that were to happen, I would side in with Jeb; I've always liked him. Mitt, fine, but he went no where this past presidential cycle.

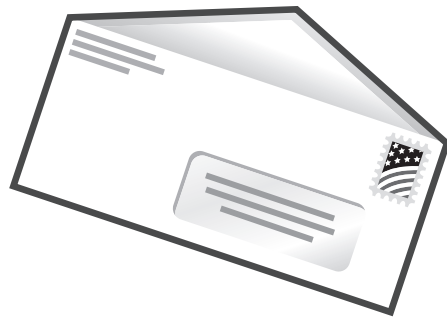
I'm like everybody else: what kind of pictures were being taken from AF One on its near heart-stopping flyover of New York City? Boy, that was a real goof! I wonder who is responsible for scheduling those kind of things? We're wasting enough taxpayer money now and we don't need to shove a few more bucks down the drain. And the White House says it won't make the pictures public. Want to bet??

I see where American conservative radio talk show personality Michael Savage is banned from entering the United Kingdom. I'm at a loss on that one. Michael says he going to sue. And he probably will. And that'll be most interesting to follow.

Reports indicate, according to an e-mail from a friend, that the death rate in our nation's capitol from guns is somewhere around 80 per 100,000. In Iraq, so they say, the firearm death rate is right around 60 per 100,000. In a nutshell, then, your chances of being gunned down on the streets in Washington are greater than in Iraq. Which begs the question: Should we maybe pull out of D.C.?

Happy Mother's Day!

Have a good evening! And this weekend as you and your family gather in the church of your choice, give prayerful thanks for all of the MOMs out there!



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Government just isn't doing its share

What is the government doing to ease the recession we're in:

To the working man (woman), you go into work one day and you begin to panic as layoffs are heard. I heard of one company that each employee decided to give back a percentage of their hourly pay in order to avoid a lay off. Some businesses are closing their doors declaring bankruptcy.

Then there's the gas prices that keep going higher. Due to the gas prices, the grocery stores have to raise their prices in order to make a profit. Clothes prices are soaring in order to make a profit. Electricity and natural gas prices are going higher. These are the areas we can't do without.

My question is — what is the government doing to cut back? Are the senators and representatives taking pay cuts to help the crisis? What about the presidents? We currently have five past presidents living — Carter, Ford, Clinton, Bush and Bush. Did these men take a cut in pay when they left office?

What about the secret service men

— isn't it the tax payers that pay their salaries? And, if I'm not mistaken, don't the widows have secret service men until they pass? Who pays for that?

The way I see it, everyone is living leaner and living in fear that tomorrow they may have a pink slip handed to them at work stating their services are no longer needed. Or, it's the elderly and disabled (both mentally and physically) that live in fear that their sources of income may be cut or stopped.

Who will take care of them? Oh, no, you'll say well it's my tax dollars that pay for them. I ask, "didn't the elderly contribute to the Social Security so that they could have income in their later years?" And, "who's fault is it that the handicapped are born handicapped?" Someone has to look out for the unfortunate in our society. Wait — wait — one day you'll be on the receiving end. Ask yourself, "Will someone or some funding be there for me?"

Does anyone remember when President Bush was in office and gave us the stimulus checks of \$300 or more per

household? If you'll also remember, he based the amount you received on your income or household members. But the most important thing I remember, he stated to some effect that middle class income was \$150,000 or below. Well, guess what — I live in poverty.

I've always considered myself middle class and able to pay my bills, put food on the table and a roof over my head) well. I also had a husband to provide a second income). But even so, I've never seen a household budget of \$150,000.

I want anyone in the Washington, DC., government to come to rural Norton, Kan., and explain to me how the \$150,000 figure was obtained as middle class.

This brings me back to my original question: What is the government doing to cut back? I feel the most powerful positions in our country should shoulder this crunch time as well as the everyday Joes that are struggling.

Submitted by a voting resident of Norton County.

Sarah Durham Norton

Your help is needed in this worthy cause

We learned this week that the House Appropriations Committee is proposing DEEP cuts into the developmental disabilities services system. A vote on a bill is scheduled for this week in the Kansas House of Representatives that if passed would have a devastating effect on Developmental Services and people with developmental disabilities throughout northwest Kansas. This budget bill would cut more than \$20 million from services for Kansans with developmental disabilities. This represents an almost 10 percent cut in funding for Kansas' most vulnerable citizens.

The proposed cuts include:

- A complete loss of all discretionary State dollars (\$5.2 million) that are used to support more than 2,000 Kansas children and adults with developmental disabilities. Roughly 22% of all Kansans with developmental disabilities rely on these dollars to live in communities across the state.

- An almost 50 percent cut in Family Support Grants (\$6.75 million) which are used to provide vitally needed help to families who care for a loved one with a developmental disability. Loss of these dollars will devastate Kansas families who already struggle with the extensive, round-the-clock needs of someone who has a significant disability.

- A cut of more than \$8 million in the HCBS DD Waiver, which was already critically underfunded. This cut will result in an even larger waiting list for help (waiting lists already number more than 3,900 children and adults with developmental disabilities), job eliminations in communities around the state, and wage cuts to direct-care staff who already make wages at, or near, the poverty line. One Kansas DD service provider has already calculated that a 15 percent wage cut will need to be enacted in order to keep the organization's doors open as a result of these cuts.

Total Proposed Cuts for DSNWK area: \$994,000

DSNWK is heavily reliant on funding from the State, via the Home and Community-Based Developmental Disabilities Waiver (HCBS DD Waiver). DSNWK has suffered from chronic underfunding from the State of Kansas for more than 15 years, regardless of whether the State's economy was doing well or not.

Since 1993, increases in reimbursement rates for the HCBS DD Waiver have increased only 29 percent. During that same time, inflation increased more than 52 percent.

Steve Keil
DSNWK Director
of Development

Editor's note: Mr. Keil also sent along contact venues for readers. In our case, it is House of Representatives John Faber, john.faber@house.ks.gov or (785) 296-7500.

New personalized tag hits bit of a snag

This is an update regarding the "In God We Trust" (Kansas) license plate.

We have been told by the Director of the Division of Vehicles that because of the budget crunches in the state, 1,000 people will have to pre-pay the \$40 fee for the plate. This cannot be done until July 1, 2009 as that is when the fiscal year will start.

What we are asking of you is to put this on your calendar and go to your tag office

on or soon after July 1 so that these plates can become a reality. It's been a long hard fight to get this special plate into Kansas, but with your help and God's will, it is getting closer.

We will try to keep everyone updated, but you could help us by passing this around to as many people as you can. We have over 2,000 plates spoken for, so that is a lot of e-mailing!

Your treasurer's office will notify you

when the plate is at the county office for you to pick up. If your current plate is due for renewal, just go in and renew it as usual and then when the "In God We Trust" plate is produced and you are notified, you will just go in and exchange your plate for the new plate.

Thank you so much for your patience and your prayers. God bless you.

Francis and Geri Landry
Colby

Salute goes out to these special nurses

National Nurses Week is underway and Hospice Services would like to pay tribute to the registered nurses who are part of the hospice interdisciplinary team. These nurses provide comfort, compassion and quality end-of-life care.

The purpose of National Nurses Week is to raise public awareness of the value of nursing and to help educate the public

about the vital roles registered nurses play in meeting the health care needs of the American people.

There are nearly 2.9 million registered nurses. Registered nurses provide highly skilled, safe and quality care in a variety of settings and encounter increased challenges to their professional and ethical commitment to deliver essential health

care. Please join us in showing our appreciation to the registered nurses who are an integral part of healthcare.

For Hospice Services Board of Directors, Staff and Volunteers,

Sandy Kuhlman,
Executive Director
Phillipsburg



that you don't have to be an elected official to get things done! (e-mail)

To... Scott: it only took two years to win at Bunco! (called in)

To... the flower committee, your efforts don't go unnoticed. So glad to have people like you keeping downtown looking fresh. (called in)

To... Jamboree Food Market, nice

facelift! (e-mail)

To... those junior high students involved in Service Day. Thanks! Thanks! Thanks! (regular mail)

(To render a salute, simply e-mail tom.d@nwkansas.com, call either 877-3361 or 877-6908, fax 877-3732, mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave. 67654, or drop by the office. Thanks for your ongoing input. - td)

To... the Tri-States Motor Sports Association for bringing back races at the Elmwood Park Speedway. This proves

Your comments on anything you read on this page are encouraged, and appreciated

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