

Tuesday's Snippets

Comments in today's column vary widely. I thought the same sex marriage topic would generate some attention...and it did. Also, interest was shown in Sen. Specter's switch from Republican to Democrat, as was the case for the In God We Trust license plates. And even this newspaper took a hit for the page ads against smoking.

**Stop
Look
Listen**
Tom Dreiling



Here goes:
• "Thanks for the Tuesday snippets. The sign on HWY 281 north of Russell has already been removed. Traveled there on Sunday, May 3, and wondered why it was missing. It did also contain Bob Dole. He is also missing. Thanks for the explanation and insight."

• "The beauty pageant contestants: They can't even read the language in their contracts, and we expect them to have the ability to address hot-button topics in an intelligent manner?!?! Of course I'm not pleased with her statements on marriage, but she loses all credibility the moment she talks about "opposite" marriage and people's freedom to choose which version they want not at all the case legally, of course, which is why it's such a heated issue to begin with. So I can't get too worked up about the opinion of someone who clearly doesn't know much about the issue, is parroting what she was told to think and can't put a coherent sentence together on the spot. And then has the (guts) to play the victim."

• "Thanks for putting in the blurb about same-sex marriage..I can't wait to see what kind of reaction you get from your constituents! But, the important thing is that the issue is coming to the fore, because it's a matter of civil rights. We can't have second class citizens in this country, regardless of one's view on them."

• "Adam and Eve. Case closed!"
• "Russell seems miffed! Just because Sen. Specter has seen the light and joined the Democratic Party is no reason to remove the Dole-Specter highway signs promoting Russell as their home."

• "Just to get even, the Republicans need to drag Sen. Leiberman from the Independent ranks into the GOP tent."

• "Ready made issue. I read in your paper where the new personalized vehicle license tags, In God We Trust, will be delayed. Man, I can just see our sidewalk cop putting tickets on windshields for promoting God on public streets!"

• "New Kansas tag, In God We Trust, is cool. But with economic times what they are probably fewer people will be willing to spend \$40 on a tag vs. \$40 for food on the table."

• "Sarah Durham might be surprised at the number of households in Norton County that are in the \$150,000 range."

• "But isn't your Jeb Bush from the same tree that budded George W.?"

• "It won't be Mitt, or Jeb, or Sarah in 2012. But it could be the governor of Louisiana, who, like Barack Obama, also has a funny name."

• "Pulling out of Washington, D.C., just might not be a such a bad idea!"

• "Newspapers banned cigarette advertising many years ago. But I see where your paper doesn't mind accepting advertising MONEY from the anti-smoking crowd without offering a retort from the smoking crowd. Page 12 Friday, May 8 issue. Doesn't smoking come under freedom of expression?"

• "You just won't let Bristol Palin alone, will you."
(If you read or hear of anything you feel is worthy of a snippet, send your comment to tom.d@nwkansas.com, mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave. 67654, fax to 877-3732, or drop it off at the office. No signature necessary. Thanks for joining the conversation. - td)

Today's chuckle

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NORDIC TRACK. \$100. Used very little. Interested? Call Chubby.

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Office hours:

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

Phone: (785) 877-3361

Fax: (785) 877-3732

E-mail:

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

STAFF

Tom Dreiling..... editor and publisher

Dana Paxton..... advertising director

Dick Boyd..... Blue Jays sports

Erica Bradley..... news editor

Sherry Hickman..... bookkeeping/circulation

Vicki Henderson..... computer production



Our bank was very accommodating

I had a three-day weekend — and, it wasn't even a holiday. Jim took Friday off. That was the first mistake. We had all these projects we were going to tackle. And, you know what happened. We didn't get any of them done.

Things began going haywire early in the day when I remembered I had fed the calves the last serving of their milk formula the night before.

That meant Jim had to make a flying trip to pick up milk replacer. And, that always takes longer than you think.

So, right off the bat, our schedule was more than an hour behind.

The main thing on our to-do list was get Jim's paycheck deposited. It was close to the noon hour as we were driving to the neighboring town where we do our banking.

I was feeling pressured because (in my mind) it was Saturday and the drive-up window would close at noon. A check of my watch indicated we would not have one minute to spare. So, I dialed the bank on my cell phone.

Yes, I know my bank's number. It's

Out Back Carolyn Plotts



from all those times calling to check balances.

Anyway, someone answered and after identifying myself, I asked if they could stay open a minute or two longer because we wouldn't get there until right at noon. In a very patient voice the teller said, "Why, Mrs. Plotts, we'll be here until 5:30. You have plenty of time."

"I thought you closed at noon on Saturday?" I halfway asked. "We do," she said. "But, this is Friday."

Egads! Why did I tell her my name? Now, instead of merely suspecting I might be loony — she knows.

-ob-

Monday was Jim's dad's 92nd birth-

day. It's been a tough year on Dad after losing a leg in a freaky farm accident. But, he is amazingly resilient and has maintained a positive attitude throughout it all. His strong faith compels him to believe there is a purpose to be found in his circumstances.

Dad lives at a long-term care facility. Last week he had someone bring him an old wig he kept out at his house. He modeled it for the staff and residents garnering the laughs he was aiming for.

Next, even the nurses were trying it on. It provided a lot of amusement for everyone.

Now, I know where my husband gets his "corny" sense of humor.

We helped Dad celebrate by bringing his favorite kind of birthday party to him — homemade ice cream and cake. I baked an angel food cake and a chocolate Texas sheet cake plus I made two freezers of vanilla ice cream. I got those number candles so he only had two candles to blow out.

It was quite a day. Happy Birthday, Dad! And, many more.

Serenity Prayer a very useful tool

Recovery provides us with many tools to use in our lives. I was sitting in the lecture hall a while back, watching the end of a lecture and waiting for the cup hanging ceremony and my eye was drawn to one of our greatest tools. The Serenity Prayer by theologian Reinhold Niebuhr. 12 Step Programs use the first paragraph:

"God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."

Imagine the power in just those few short words! I can remember my first sponsor would have me sit down when I was having difficulties to meditate on this prayer. I was to write the first sentence and then list the things I could not change: other people's opinions, their thoughts, the way my instructors taught, my daughter's attitude. The list was unending!

Then I was to write the second sentence and list what the things I could change were. The list was much shorter — myself, my behavior, my attitude, my thinking. I began to understand the wisdom of powerlessness over others but responsibility for myself. Many times I did not like it — acceptance has nothing to do with liking something was another lesson my sponsor taught

Where There's Hope Carla Moore

me. It's about allowing life and people to be what they are and looking for the treasure in the moment — usually finding out something about myself and how I can be of more service to others.

Finally, the last sentence, I would write it and realize there was nothing to list at the end. This was asking for clarity of mind when looking at my life. Many times it would take me talking with my sponsor and group, reading the literature and actually having an open mind about what I was hearing from others. That can be the most difficult — especially in the 12 Step Program. You see many of us are taught early in life to sugar-coat the truth and that it is important not to hurt other people's feelings.

What many alcoholic/addicts hear when this is said is, "Don't be yourself." So we spend a lifetime looking for the easier, softer way to live — trying to figure out how to be all things to all people.

Then we come to the Program and

begin to listen. I can remember my first meeting — I was stunned by the raw truth that others were sharing about themselves, their feelings and their experiences. It was refreshing!

I found that truth was something I craved and needed in my life. I wanted to be in touch with what I was feeling and what I believed in. I found that comes with the price of willing to sit through the pain of growth, facing our character defects and learning to trust others' enough to allow them entrance into our hearts.

All of this is possible through the Serenity Prayer. Although the 12 Step Program is a place I can go for truth, I have had the ability to learn that not everything someone feels they need to share with me is something I need to take on.

Sometimes, what they are sharing is more about who they are and where they are in the moment. Again, the Serenity Prayer helps me to sift through the input from others, my thoughts and feelings and find my Higher Power in it all. What a gift!

Enjoy your day.

(If you have any questions or comments, you can contact me at cmoore@valleyhope.com. Namaste - Carla.)



that more seniors did not chose to attend this ceremony, but it was a very positive experience for those in attendance. (e-mail)

To... Ward Foley, your message to the kids at the Baccalaureate Service was fabulous!

Thanks also to Lucas Melvin for continuing to lead these young people in a positive way. (e-mail)

To... the Norton Community High

School track team. We enjoy watching your exciting performances! (e-mail)

To... our Norton County Dispatchers, for their dedication, hard work and passion to do their jobs in an exemplary manner. Thank You! (e-mail)

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