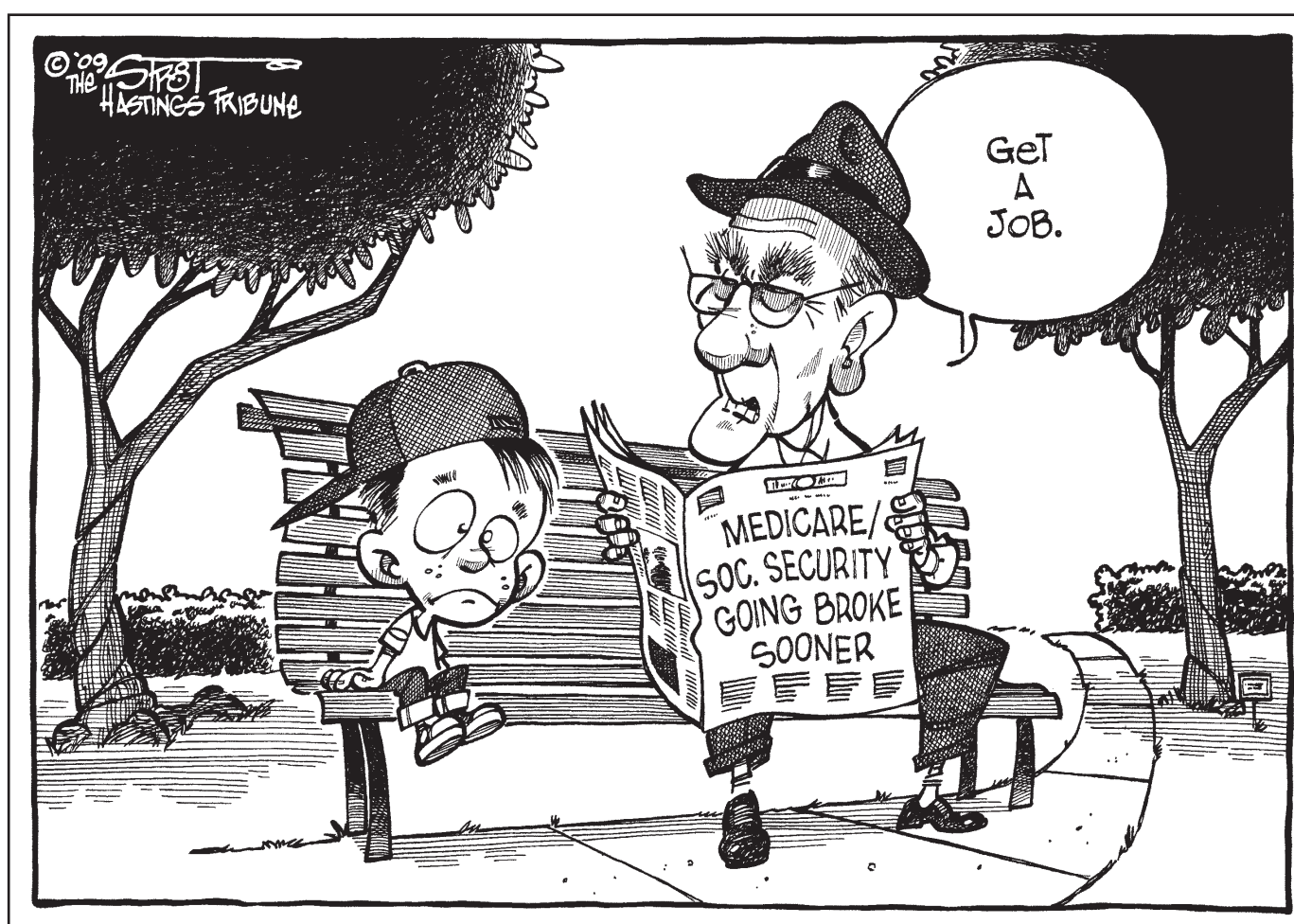


Tuesday's Snippets

Graduation preparations apparently figured in the fewer than expected snippets for today. But number doesn't tell the whole story, it's the comments that are the focus. Here's what today brings:

- "I liked the Adam and Eve comment. Maybe Eve's name was really Everett. Adam and Everett! If that was the case, we would all be talking about legalizing 'opposite' marriage!"
 - "Well, well, well! Miss California gets to keep her title. And guess who handed down the verdict? Judge Donald Trump! Should we have expected anything different?"
 - "Adam and Eve were **not** married. Give that some thought. If they were the first people ever, who was around to marry them?"
 - "The real love story of all time — Adam and Eve. Yes, it's no more than a story, and that's about all."
 - "The Notre Dame controversy, more media made than anything else, turned out to be just what most people thought it would: nothing!"
 - "Where did the Catholic Church come up with that guy Raymond Arroyo? He was on CNN during the appearance Sunday of Pres. Obama at Notre Dame. Boy what a self serving character he is."
 - "Good talk, tremendous applause, president hit a grand slammer."
 - "Sounds like the Catholic Church is as disorganized as the Republican party."
 - "Time to kick Pelosi out, and she can take Reid with her."
 - "Closing Gitmo? Absolutely not!"
 - "President Obama received an honorary law degree from Notre Dame, he then addressed the graduates...and the sun came up Monday morning! The media just don't get it."
 - "If 74 of the nation's bishops opposed the appearance of the president at Notre Dame, and he was welcomed with open arms by the university community, then I would say the university's president Rev. John Jenkins has a lot more clout than those 74 bishops. All's not well with the Catholics in our country."
 - "Three cheers for our new governor for his help that resulted in the green light for the coal plant project down in Holcomb."
 - "Becha ya' Gov. Parkinson seeks election to a full term."
- (Join the conversation. Email tom.d@nwkans.com, fax 877-3732, call 877-3361 or 877-6908, write 215 S. Kansas Ave. 67654 or drop by the office. Thanks!)

Stop
Look
Listen
Tom Dreiling



'Angels' along the roadside

Now, don't tell my kids that I've done this, again, but, we stopped to help some travelers. You've heard the expression, haven't you, about when you help a stranger you might be "entertaining an angel"? Sunday, Jim and I spotted a group of five bicyclists stopped at a highway intersection. On our return trip, the group had traveled less than a mile and we stopped to see if they were having trouble of some kind. Yes, there had been a flat tire, but it was quickly fixed. We inquired as to their destination and the answer was, "Wherever the Lord leads us."

Out Back
Carolyn Plotts



They were curious about agriculture; intelligent; some spoke other languages besides English; energetic and enthusiastic. When we made the offer for the group to spend the night, it was accepted with great anticipation. Not only of hot showers, but of kitchen with an oven where fresh whole-wheat bread could be baked. We learned they are a Christian group that travels by bicycle to spread the Word and do service work. When we left them, the women were locating cleaning supplies and the men were preparing to paint the exterior of the house. Both, badly needed projects. Had we not stopped, we would have missed meeting these wonderful people. And, who knows, they really might be angels. (Out-Back@webtv.net)

Maybe we're missing the point

Recently I had lunch with a life time friend. She now lives in Texas but has also spent considerable time on the East Coast and has worked or volunteered in numerous public schools in these areas. Her time has been divided between the Midwest and the West. Between us we have seen a lot of the nation's public schools. We talked of the problems for LEP, limited English proficient students and the government's demands on the schools. Years ago she worked in a school in Delaware in which one school had almost 21 different languages/dialects represented. She asked the principal how they met the needs of these children and the principal said they taught in English and helped them understand what is being taught and soon they were proficient in both their native language and English. Now my friend is volunteering in a Spanish speaking only school in Dallas. We discussed the problems that ensue for LEP children when they go to find employment, particularly if they are non English speaking. It has always seemed to me that communication is the key to diminishing prejudice. I do believe that all our children should learn at least two languages, but I also believe it is imperative to have our schools taught in one language. It isn't a matter of arrogance or anti-immigrant beliefs, it is a belief in

Phase II
Mary Kay
Woodyard



providing all students with the opportunity to communicate and interact with one another. Years ago when immigrants landed in New York City and fanned out across the nation, they frequently settled in small communities of those from the "old" country, thus keeping their culture alive, but the children attended public school, English speaking public schools. Not only did the children learn the English language but they returned home and taught the parents as well, proud moments for both parent and child, or if you will student and teacher. In our effort to accommodate everyone I wonder if we haven't reached the point where we accommodate no one. The financial burden on school districts to offer specialized help for LEP students is monumental. But most concerning is the limits it places on the child, limited opportunities in school, with friends and finally with future job opportunities. (mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net, or blog at marykaywoodyard.com)

Remember, consumers drive farming

Insight
John Schlageck

Industrialization is an issue that is impacting agricultural producers in Kansas and their counterparts across the country. Without a doubt there are benefits from industrialization — less-expensive food. There are also costs — a declining rural population, and the concern that fewer and larger buyers of farm and ranch commodities can, and possibly will use their market power to depress farm level prices. In case you're not familiar with the term, *industrialization* is the trend toward larger-sized units capturing economies of scale and managing risk in a growing global economy. Industrialization exists nearly everywhere in the food production industry. In 1900, there were 173,000 farms in Kansas with an average farm size of 241 acres. Today, the number of farms (64,000) is down 62 percent while farm size is up more than 300 percent (740-plus acres). In 1997, the largest hog producer controlled 4 percent of the nation's herd. By 2009, the largest hog producer controlled nearly half of the nation's hog herd. In 1976, there were 6,255 livestock processing plants operating in the U.S. and by 1999 that number dropped 45 percent (3,419). Today, that figure has dropped another 40 percent. The grain handling industry has also been impacted by industrialization. This can be seen with acquisitions by large grain companies, the seed and biotech industries and at the retail grocery and restaurant levels. The primary causes of industrialization in agriculture

are society's desire for cheap food and the technological advances that have allowed us to produce and market more food at lower costs. From an individual standpoint, no consumer wants to pay more than they absolutely have to for quality food. Stability results in well-fed nations and morally no one wants to see people go hungry. Society wants cheap food and in our country that's what we have. The desire by society for cheap food leads to incredible pressure on both food and commodity prices that tighten ag-sector profit margins because input costs continue to increase with inflation. The result is an agriculture where less efficient farms fall by the wayside and well managed, efficient farms survive and more often than not, grow. For agriculture to remain successful, this industry must increase efficiency, lower costs and/or add value. Without such progress, the average producer of today quickly becomes the low-end producer of tomorrow debating whether and when to quit farming. Today our society not only wants cheap food, but also better food. Consumers are changing. They're busier and less interested in food preparation. They want more choices. Food can no longer be merely cheap — it must be more convenient, consistent and wholesome. Agriculture has responded. Consum-

ers today have more choices than ever before. There are more and more branded products. But a branded name alone does not guarantee consistency or quality. To do this, we must assure uniformity throughout the food production system. For meats this implies uniformity in animal genetics, nutrition, handling and processing. In the case of crops, it might mean uniformity in plant genetics, fertility, pest control, handling and processing. Food supply chains have been developed. Supply chains attempt to more efficiently link food production, processing and retailing, with the end result being greater uniformity, consistency and quality. Supply chains can provide a quality product at a lower cost by reducing transaction costs and potentially offering farmers an opportunity to add value to their product. Fewer farmers mean a less populated, less prosperous rural America with a weaker voice when addressing farm level concerns. Farmers and farm organizations must set priorities and choose their battles and use political capital wisely. The question isn't necessarily what are farmers and ranchers for or what are they against it's how do they position themselves to prosper in this rapidly changing business environment? (John Schlageck is a leading commentator on agriculture and rural Kansas. Born and raised on a diversified farm in northwestern Kansas, his writing reflects a lifetime of experience, knowledge and passion.)

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

Office hours:
8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.
Phone: (785) 877-3361
Fax: (785) 877-3732
E-mail:
nortontelegram@nwkans.com

STAFF

- Tom Dreiling..... editor and publisher
- Dana Paxton..... advertising director
- Dick Boyd..... Blue Jay sports
- Erica Bradley..... news editor
- Sherry Hickman..... bookkeeping/circulation
- Vicki Henderson..... computer production

Nor'West Newspapers
Dick and Mary Beth Boyd
Publishers, 1970-2002
Incorporating the Norton County Champion
Marion R. Krehbiel, editor



- To... Andbe Home's National Nursing Home Week Celebration. The dinner/dance Wednesday night was so much fun for all of us who attended. Many thanks to those hard working employees and volunteers who made it possible. (e-mail)
- To... the Northern Valley 2009 graduating class. You are a class act. Keep that focus as you move into the broader and more complex world. (e-mail)
- To... Norton Community High Schools' graduates: Hooray!! (e-mail)

To... our teachers, who have prepared us so well for the challenges that lie ahead. Thank you so much! (called in)

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