

## Tuesday's Snippets

Today's column, as usual, tackles issues from the national to the local level. Remember, some snippets might be lengthy in nature, but are pared down to just a few lines, which is the purpose of this column. Otherwise you will need to send a signed letter to the editor.

Stop  
Look  
Listen  
Tom Dreiling



Here's what you are saying as of Monday morning:

- "The good ole Reagan love affair! Mr. Yeager seems to forget Reagan was a big spender. In a few short years, Reagan actually outspent Carter's 1980 binge by like 40 percent... He tried to be tricky with a tax cut in '81, but that was followed by 2 tax increases that same year, plus one of the largest tax increases in American history in '82. I just don't understand the infatuation!"

- "Writer Yeager was right on target. President Reagan was as great, if not greater, than FDR. Oh, how we can use him now!"

- "Reagan? Enough said."

- "Mr. Yeager sounds just like the candidate the Republicans need to move their party forward. tsk, tsk."

- "There we go again! Looking at the past, ignoring the future!"

- "I heard on ch. 2, KSN-TV Saturday that our state has stopped mailing out tax refunds because of our shaky financial climate. Is this true?" (Editor's note: I e-mailed Bob Clelland, Office of the Secretary, Kansas Department of Revenue, and he says, "Refunds have stopped, they are expected to start again later this week.")

- "General Motors bankrupt? Pinch me, I'm having a nightmare."

- "The bigger they are, the harder they fall. Let's chalk it up as another giant going under because he (the giant) wouldn't listen to car owners who kept calling for more efficient vehicles."

- "Dr. Tiller's murder seems crazy when you think that whoever the killer was probably was pro life and did to Tiller what Tiller was doing to unborns. Anyway you look at it, it's murder."

- "Like him or hate him, Dr. Tiller was a dedicated church goer and to be gunned down in his church on a Sunday is outrageous!"

- "Come on, Telegram, there are a lot more junky yards than the Wiltfongs. Sounds like he was being singled out."

- "Junk yards? In Norton you don't have to take your trash to the city dump, just deposit it at one of the many junk yards within our city limits!"

- "Junk yards? Didn't we have a citywide clean up not too very long ago?"

- "I was reading your story about the speaker at the Memorial Day ceremony at our cemetery and was outraged to learn that I (a 13 year veteran of the U.S. Army) was unpatriotic because I was against the Iraq war. How political was that talk?!"

(To join the conversation, e-mail tom.d@nwkansas.com, call either 877-6908 or 877-3361, fax 877-3732, mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave., or drop by the office.)



## What was that terrible smell all about?

I'm not sure what first awakened me. It was either the smell or the explosions. If you guessed a skunk got loose in the house and blew up — you would be wrong. Close, but wrong. It was worse than that. I blew up a dozen eggs. Jim and I were coming home, rather late, from a Saturday night social event. When I told him I planned to take deviled eggs to a church pot luck the next day, he suggested I boil them yet that night so they would be ready to shell early Sunday morning.

Thinking that was a good idea, I put the eggs on the stove as soon as we walked in the door. I got ready for bed, checked the pan and saw it was starting to simmer. I was exhausted so decided to sit in my recliner while the eggs cooked. I even set my timer and clipped it to my pajama top so I would be sure to hear it.

That's the last I remember until an awful stench in the air and a popping noise roused me. Exploding eggs are like little grenades. You never know where the shrapnel will go. Days later I am still finding egg shells and cremated yolks hiding in remote crevices.

## Out Back Carolyn Plotts



I finally managed to get the last of it off the ceiling.

Jim is feeling vindicated and somewhat relieved. You see when we first started courting he did the same thing, not once, but twice in the same day. And, I admit, I got a lot of mileage out of it. Teasing him by saying he wasn't allowed to play with eggs anymore.

It's a good thing we have our own chickens and usually have extra eggs.

Speaking of chickens, we have combined the 17 young chicks with the three old hens. So far, so good. Although, the Alpha hen doesn't want to let the youngsters eat with her. But, I figure there are more of them than there is of her and she can't guard the mash pan forever.

The chicks are sure enjoying the freedom of the larger pen. They had outgrown their coop about two weeks ago.

There are some old time remedies that really work. Such as a bread and milk poultice to draw out stickers; soda paste for wasp stings; and vinegar for a sunburn. That's why I'm not discounting asparagus as a cure for cancer.

A dear friend heard I possibly have a little skin cancer and called to see if she could send me some information. It included testimonials from cancer patients who swore by it and a researcher who said it was good as a preventative, too.

So, Jim and I are making an asparagus "tonic" part of our daily routine.

It's simple. Run a can of cooked asparagus (or cooked fresh) through the blender and take four tablespoons of the "soup" twice a day. Luckily, we both love the stuff. But, if you don't, just consider it like medicine.

Now, I'm making no claims, but I asked a doctor friend about it and their answer was, "Can't hurt 'ya."

## Good treatment for state's agriculture

Tallying this year's legislative scorecard reveals a successful session for agricultural interests across the Sunflower State. Major victories included an energy deal; fending off attacks on estate and franchise tax phase outs; surface owner notices; and water rights protection. All are significant for farmers, ranchers, landowners and rural Kansas.

The energy bill passed by the legislature gives regulatory certainty to Kansas agriculture and other businesses by ensuring Kansas will not be subject to rules or regulations more stringent than federal law. This agreement also advances farmers and ranchers support of energy derived from biomass and wind power by requiring Sunflower Electric to use renewable energy as part of its portfolio and to build high-voltage electric lines that will allow increased transmission of wind-generated electricity to western Colorado.

"This legislation has been a priority for our members during the last two years and we thank Gov. Parkinson, Sen. Morris, Speaker O'Neal and all the lawmakers for working hard to ensure Kansas has a comprehensive energy bill free from additional regulation," said Kansas Farm Bureau President Steve Baccus.

Another bill passed by the legislature will require notification of surface owners prior to drilling of any oil and gas well, including estimates of the placement of roads, pipelines, and tank bat-

## Insight John Schlageck

teries. This bill also requires notice to surface owners when there is a change of operator or prior to the plugging and abandonment of any well. The focus of the effort is to improve communications between oil and gas producers and surface owners.

Lawmakers also passed a bill tightening the process by which county commissions are required to review annexations to determine whether services promised in the cities' service plan are actually being extended into recently annexed areas. This law prohibits counties from approving the annexation of a parcel consisting of more than 65 contiguous acres. In addition, it prohibits "shoestring annexation," a process by which a county or city could annex a narrow section of land, for example, the roadside leading to a casino or other desired property.

Legislation, which requires a sworn statement that legal access to private property has been granted before the state, is allowed to accept an application to appropriate water was also passed during the '09 session. This new law will provide important protection for farmers', ranchers' and landowners' property rights.

A conference committee report

containing several tax policy provisions, including clarification on value determination of ag land held in estates, is awaiting the governor's signature. Efforts to end the phase-out of the estate tax and the franchise tax were defeated. The estate tax will end in 2010 and the franchise tax in 2011.

While the legislature was able to close the \$328 million deficit in the state's FY 2010 budget that takes effect July 1, budget woes loom large next year.

The FY 2010 budget deal reached by the 2009 legislature is projected to leave the state with an ending balance of only \$17,000 to support a \$13 billion budget. While the budget agreement avoided pay cuts or furloughs for state workers and was accomplished without a tax increase, a large drop in state revenue in the next several months would force further cuts to state agency budgets and possible tax hikes next year.

Discussion of this issue will take place against the backdrop of an election year, so the possibility exists that, as in past years, one or two hot-button issues will consume the legislature while other policy issues may receive less attention.

(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.)



To... our local EMS, fire department and law enforcement, for their prompt response and professional actions last Thursday when the vehicle went through the building being renovated by the city, just south of Washington Street Park. They did a great job. (e-mail)

To... our participants in the state track meet at Wichita, "good job! (e-mail)

To... The Telegram's new reporter, we're gonna like you! (called in)

To... the "left behinds," for all you do to keep the wheels on the USD211 express over the summer break. (called in)

To... those who make lawn care one of their priorities. You give Norton an attractive look. (e-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 continuing input. -td)

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