

Tuesday's Snippets

Like the golden wheat waving in the breeze, today's snippets are also doing their kind of waving. Some surprises, and if variety is the spice of life, today's snippets are alive. Enjoy!

• "If the city wants to restore something historical, what about the old Rock Island Depot? Is it still there?"

• "Thanks to your new reporter for pulling the covers off the salary bed."

• "I like the snippets. Brings out how people really feel. All I got to say is with the Democrats now with a 60-vote margin in the Senate, hold onto your pants - they'll be taking those also!"

• "Do you people at the paper get the police department daily log? If not, you better. We have some hoodlums roaming this town all hours after midnight inflicting property damage. It happened again this weekend. Please alert the public as to what's going on, that way we can sort of protect ourselves."

• "Maybe we need more cops out from midnight to 7 a.m., than in the day time. Norton seems to be an easy target in the wee hours. Don't some parents notice their kids aren't home at 2, 3 or 4 a.m.? Or maybe they just don't give a d...!"

• "Thanks for the driver's ed story. It's not a given. Ask me...tough!"

• "Looks like no matter how the public feels, the Moffet Station project is going forward, according to the economic development people. What don't they understand about foolishness?"

• "It is amazing that a guy as strange as Michael Jackson (what has he really done in the last 20 years?) can garner over 50 percent of all of the media coverage... even the talk radio shows are addressing the amount of coverage he is getting... further adding to the percentage!!"

• "Pure and simple, Michael Jackson committed suicide. He knew taking all of those pills he reportedly was taking, would cause permanent damage. And it did -- the dead kind of permanent. He caused his own death, leave the doctors alone!"

• "Concerning your statement on the Michael Jackson media pig-out: 'I would like for someone with a little bit of common sense linked to the major television networks to explain to me why this guy got the 24/7 royal treatment in death?' Really, now. Surely you realize that there is no one linked to the major networks that has any common sense whatsoever!! Actually, I think they abandoned having any kind of sense, common or otherwise, years ago."

• "It seems to me that the GOP'ers are the one's beset most with this kind of activity. (cheating on their spouses). And they pretend to be God's party. Eh?!"

• "Maybe with a woman in the chairmanship position (is that word valid here?), the female contingent of the voting population may realize it's ok to be conservative and not just do what Oprah and Streisand tell them to do."

• "Your comment in your editorial about Gov. Palin on Friday speaks volumes, and others should take heed. You said, 'But she did what most of us would also do - put family first. After all the political spotlight eventually dims, but family is forever'."

(To join in the conversation, email tom.d@nwkansas.com, call either 877-3361 or 877-6908, fax 877-3732, mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave. 67654 or drop b the office.)

To... **Don Fought**, for your honor and many achievements. Norton Community High School has a reputation for turning out talented and much sought-after graduates. You are a good example. (email)

To... **Larry and LeeAnn**, for the wonderful music at the *Relay for Life*. (called in)

To... **the organizers** and all others involved, for another really fine car show. You made Norton proud. (called in)

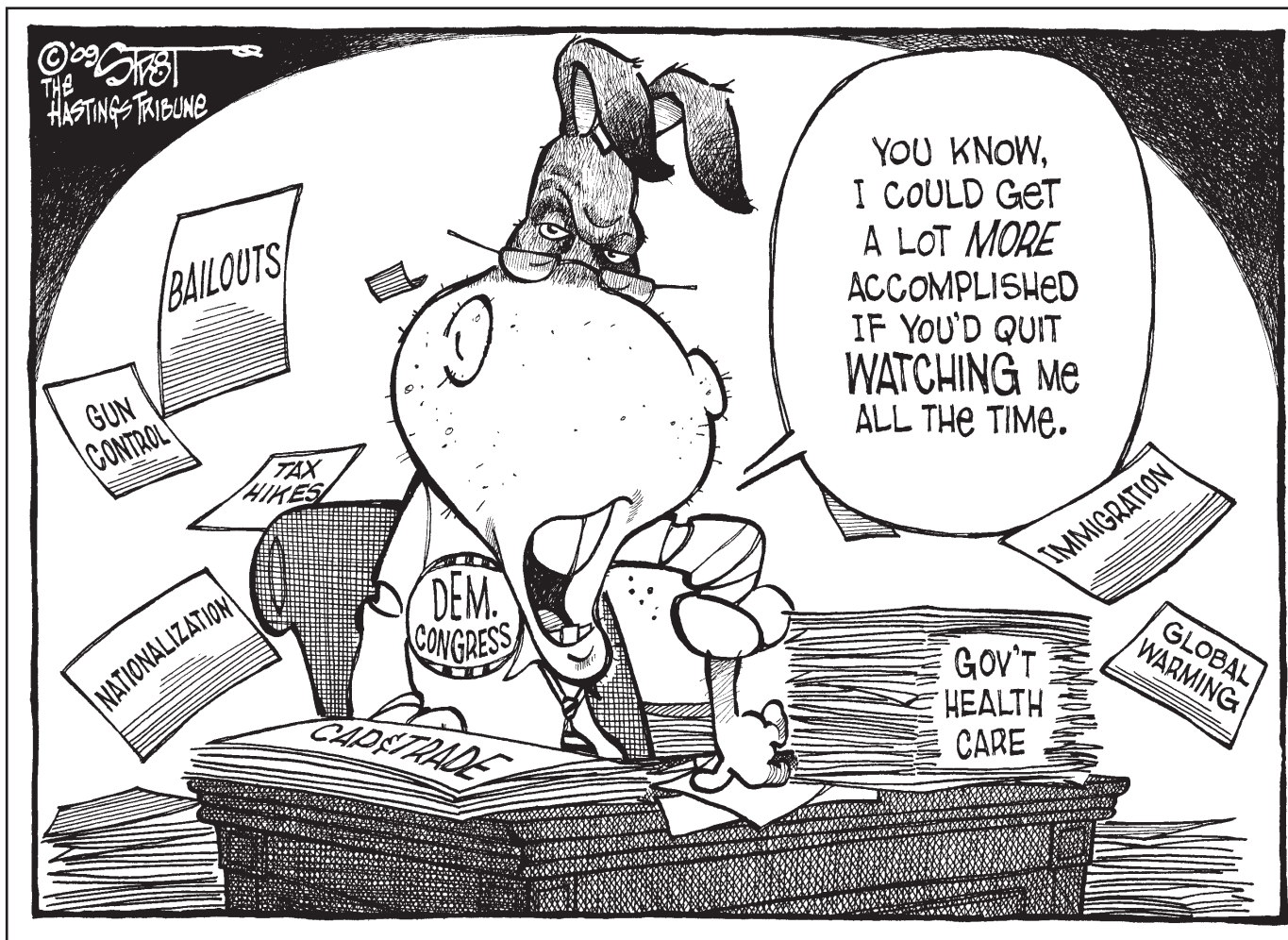
To... **our lifeguards**, for your care, concern and professional approach to your most important job. We appreciate you. (email)

To... **the county commissioners**, for their generous contribution of \$1,000 to the fireworks fund! (email)

To... **Editor Tom Dreiling**, for his excellent, to-the-point editorial concerning Sarah Palin's decision to devote her energies to her family!" (email)

(To render a salute, email 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)

Stop
Look
Listen
Tom Dreiling



Exit the house and treat yourself to Kansas

The big night together when "THE RELATIVE'S CAME" was spent in Manhattan. The Kansas crew has remained "loyal to thee, thy children will swell the cry, Hail, Hail Alma Mater". Eight of us hold degrees from Kansas State. There is ninth in school there now, following the tradition started in the 1930's by our mother and grandmother.

The Washington relatives live in the eastern part of the state. Their school of choice would be Washington State University or Wazoo. They are the Cougars, so they identified with the Power Cat logo. But the purple drove them to distraction. The cross state rivals are the Washington Huskies and that color would be purple. In fun they purchased purple 'Cat hats to confuse their friends back in Washington.

All school loyalties aside, The Little Apple is a beautiful place to visit. We had discovered a retreat house that would sleep us all. We could have cooked but we went to a local restaurant, Kites, and of course to Aggieville.

It was a Saturday night, but summer school had not started so things were relatively quiet. We almost lost Sue, Linda and Rachel at the Salty Rim. Some senior citizen was really working it outside the window for their benefit.

Linda is employed by a company that raises hops. Maybe she was able to deduct the trip as a business expense by doing a little market research. She also pours wine for the tasters at a winery in

Back
Home
Nancy
Hagman



eight wonders of Kansas with the Salt Mines and the Cosmosphere. It's worth the trip. Question: Why are there eight, wasn't it Seven Wonders of the World and Kansas gets eight?

All of us Kansans had seen the Cosmosphere but no one had been to the Salt Mine Museum, so that was our first stop.

We did not get an early start that morning. A slow noon meal did not leave time for the Cosmosphere. (Apparently they thought there was a lot of ambience at that little restaurant and they wanted to be sure we had time to take it all in!) I'm not saying where but it was the worst service we had. Worst food was in Nebraska, and I'm not saying where that was either.

What I am saying is what they say at the Salt Museum: SALT ROCKS.

We have been on mine tours, silver and gold, in Colorado. The descent at the mine in Ouray was terrifying, though the overall experience was fun. The Salt Museum is very open, you ride a tram for a tour and walk through exhibits and a gift shop. The entire tour is handicap accessible. You can spend as long as you like, it's affordable with interesting lots of neat science, history, and mining exhibits. And the temperature is a constant 68 degrees with perfect humidity!

What I'm saying is: GO! It's a definite wonder!
(gneph@yahoo.com)

the Yakima Valley on weekends. When we visited her we had to taste wine; Aggieville, on some level, is a similar experience.

Sunday morning we did a quick tour of campus. So tranquil, the beautiful limestone buildings "hold me with magic spell".

We went to the University Gardens, located at the old dairy barn. Junior milked at the dairy barn during his KSU days. He and Ben found their way into the building. The rest of us enjoyed the flowers, the fountain and the statuary. The insect zoo at the gardens is unfortunately closed on Sundays.

Our aim, with the relatives, was to explore places along HWY 36. By boring you with the details I'm hoping to provide you with ideas of easy and inexpensive Kansas trips.

Manhattan is not on HWY 36, but we stayed there because six of the younger generation live in Manhattan or Topeka and because of its proximity to Marysville.

A second trip off 36 was to Hutchinson as it is en route to Wichita and the plane home. Hutchinson has two of the

Remember, agriculture can do the job

Agriculture continues to lose producers. No one will argue that point, but larger, more efficient producers are replacing those lost in this highly competitive industry.

While this is not necessarily a desirable trend, it is one that has continued for decades — maybe since the beginning of this profession. That said, it is also a trend that is not confined to agriculture but has affected nearly every sector of the U.S. and world economies.

Regardless of this ongoing change, care for the land and this critical resource continues to improve. Today's farmers are increasing the amount of organic matter in their soil. With no-till and reduced tillage farming, farmers continue to build organic matter and improve the soil tilth. There is no reason to believe this practice will be discontinued.

Today's modern farmer is not exhausting the land. Just the opposite is true.

Without question scarce water is always a concern, especially in Midwestern states where rainfall is limited and people use plenty of it. Farmers constantly chart rainfall amounts and monitor weather conditions. In Kansas, agricultural producers are aware of changes in the Ogallala Aquifer.

Farmers are very much tuned into water and the conservation of this vital resource. Some are concerned about the potential of a long-term climate change.

If such a phenomenon does occur,

Insight
John Schlageck

there is the possibility that Kansas could become more arid — more like New Mexico, for example. But if this is a concern, no one has been predicting such an event to date.

Barring a major shift in our climate, crops will continue to be planted in western Kansas. Production could be less than now, but this land will be farmed and farmed wisely.

At the same time, the world's population is exploding. Some say the greatest growth in the history of our world is underway.

It's estimated 3 billion more people will be born during the next 40 years. This would increase the world's population to 9 billion people. Most of these people will be born in the hungry parts of the world.

As a result, pressure on the world's economic and natural resources for food will become intense. Such demand for food will mean opportunity for farming and ranching. It will also become critical for public/private enterprise to ramp up food production.

There is nothing to suggest yields will not keep up with population growth. Even countries with marginal soil and more severe climates than our own are growing crops today. We have

better yield potential and better food value today and with new genetics and technologies coming on line, there is no reason to believe the world won't be able to feed itself in the future.

American agriculture is up to the task. This country has the ability to continue producing for the world.

The United States farmer and rancher can compete with other nations, if they aren't shackled by government regulations that cause production costs to soar.

Even the most efficient farmers in America can't make it with regulatory restrictions. Any regulations must be science based and uniform across the board for producers around the world. An example that could really hurt agriculture is the current debate over climate change.

If there is a level playing field, where all producers have the same health and safety restrictions, U.S. agriculture will compete. Give farmers and ranchers the same opportunity, as others around the world and bountiful, wholesome food will continue.

Winston Churchill said many years ago, "Give us the tools and we will get the job done." The same can be said for agriculture in this country.

(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.)

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