

Tuesday's Snippets

(Ref. comments in recent column): "Adam blamed Eve, Eve blamed the snake, and the snake didn't have a leg to stand on."

• "Do you have listening access to NPR? I think there is a radio frequency that comes into Norton. Forget about Cable or Network Television.) The thing I like about NPR is that they don't stir up controversy just for the sake of...whatever it is that CNN, Fox, MSNBC feel they have to stir up in the fight for viewers. You know? NPR just reports the news. Then they delve into a variety of issues, in depth... with a calm, responsible and balanced approach."

• "We already have a 'national health care' element that serves as a test for the larger version. It's called Medicare. Why don't we just ask those that are on it if it makes sense to expand it. I bet 80 percent would say 'NO WAY'. Or, ask Pelosi and Reid if they would like to be included in the new program. That would be a good benchmark, huh?"

• "Why don't we just take health care away from all Senators and Congressmen and Congresswomen? Anyone making \$165,000 a year should be able to pay for their own health care!"

• "Maybe, as one person suggested, moving both the Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development into the Moffet Station would be a plus. With the Chamber of Commerce working part time, and Economic Development full time, the phone would be answered. Just a thought."

• "Solution to health care, leave it as it is. There is no plan that will cover all 400 million of us."

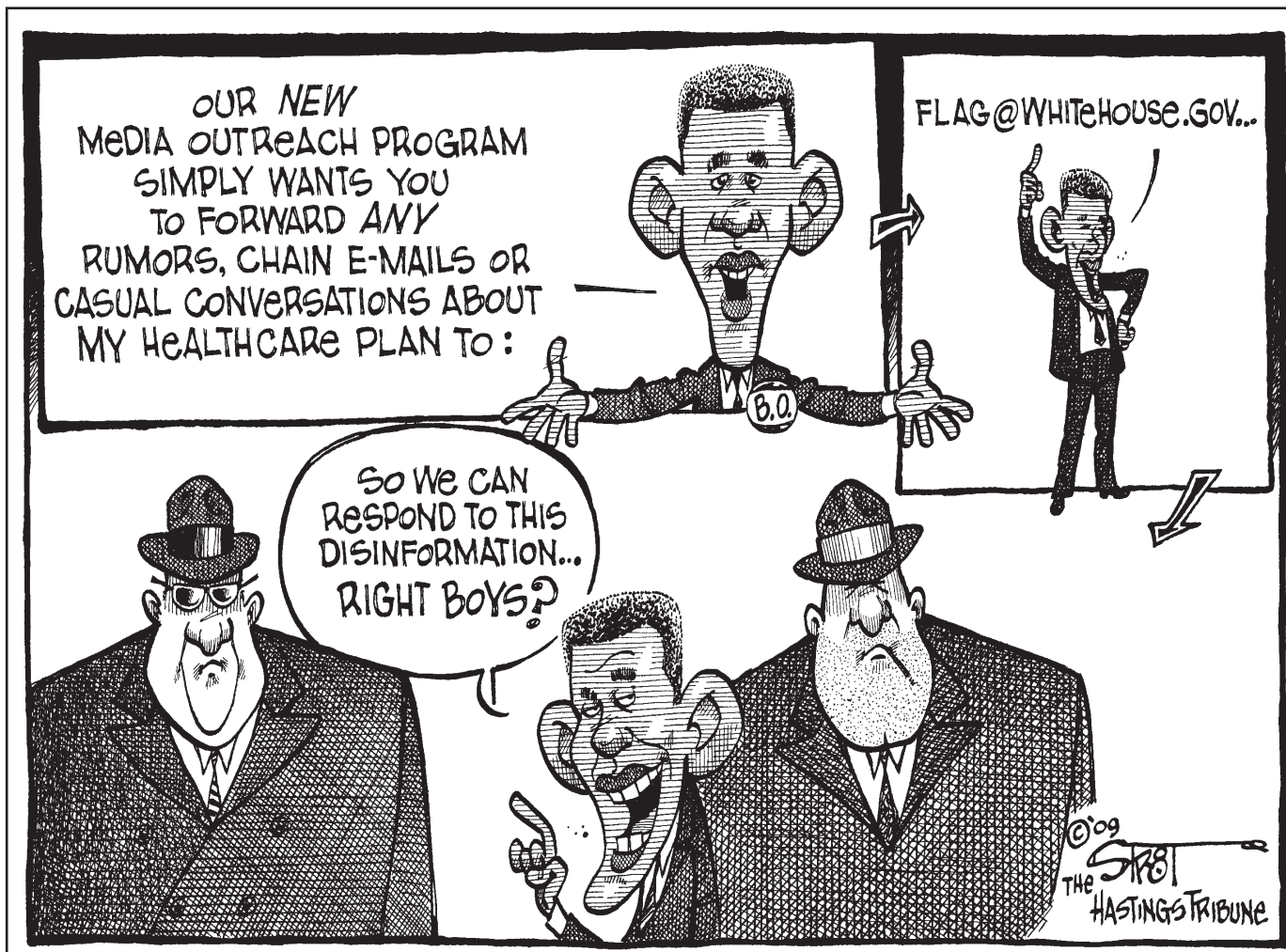
• "Treasurer McKinney for governor? Think you're wrong on that one."

• "If your pick of Democrat McKinney for governor comes true, I bet he'll name former Gov. Sebelius as his lieutenant governor. By then she'll be ready to return to Kansas and forget she ever went to Washington."

• "Washington Street Park doesn't seem to be used very much. Why would that be?"

(To join the conversation, email tom.d@nwkansas.com, call 877-6908, write 215 S. Kansas Ave. 67654 or drop by the office. Your name will not be used. We have received some snippets that are in reality letters to the editor, unsigned. Snippets are pretty much no longer than four sentences. Thanks!)

**Stop
Look
Listen**
Tom Dreiling



Something missing from my pie, but...

I am NOT one of those cooks who purposely leaves an ingredient out of a recipe so that no one can make the dish like I do. However, I AM the kind of cook who legitimately forgets some of the ingredients.

As per usual I entered my apple pie in the Open Class at the local county fair. One of the requirements was to submit the recipe along with the entry. I was standing at the sign-in table when I remembered that item. I requested a recipe card and hurriedly wrote the instructions down, as best I could remember. It wasn't until I was on the way home that a flash came to me: I had forgotten to write down cinnamon.

Perhaps the judge didn't notice because she said some very nice things about my pie. I consoled myself by thinking that anybody who ever made an apple pie would know you have to add cinnamon.

We're giving a whole new meaning to the term "corn fed". Sweet corn is in season and we are doing our best to consume as much of the delicacy as we can while flavor is at its peak.

We buy a few dozen from every vendor we see. That allows me to cut some off the cob for the freezer and still have plenty to boil for the table. I've tried to freeze corn on the cob but, have never

Out Back

Carolyn Plotts



been satisfied with the results. It always tasted "watery" to me. Cut off the cob and frozen, however, retains its "fresh from the field" flavor.

The kids in Texas have all put in their orders for several dozen ears of corn. It's a good thing we are planning to drive the pick-up when we go because I have visions of bushels and bushels of sweet corn piled high. My daughter, Kara, has even taken orders from friends.

Work at the jobsite where Jim has been employed the past several months is winding down. He has begun bringing home tools and equipment he no longer needs there.

Before the job started last fall, he had built a simple "crew shack" and hauled it to the building location. It was a small structure where the men could warm up, keep some tools, the house plans and take their lunch breaks.

A couple of weeks ago it was time to

bring the shack home but, its return had to be delayed for family reasons. Not our family, a bird family. Jim discovered a mother swallow had built a nest under the eaves of the shack. A quick peek revealed three chicks, not ready to leave their happy home. And, a very mad mother swallow who objected to Jim even being close to her babies.

So the shack had to stay put awhile longer until the chicks could fly away. Which, we assume they did because the nest is empty and the mother no longer dive bombs Jim when he gets close.

I've been re-reading my mother's book, "Out With the Kansas Hillbillies". An excerpt from a 1936 column said, "I've been wearing overalls the last few mornings, and I hadn't realized before how much I use a skirt for a pan holder." When I was a child, I never recall seeing my mother in a pair of pants, let alone overalls. She was of the generation of ladies who wore dresses everywhere, every day.

It was the sixties when pantsuits came into mode. I remember the first time my mother wore slacks to church. Heaven forbid! She debated long and hard before getting up the nerve to do it. Nowadays, you're hard pressed to find a woman wearing a dress — even in church.



In case you have forgotten, the addresses for this column are:

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• drop by the office, 215 S. Kansas Ave.

There is no charge to render a thumbs up; names of those providing the information are not used, only the method of transmission

• Most reasons for thumbs up include recognition to someone for an act of kindness, a group for something special they have undertaken, Grandma's or Grandpa's birthday, wedding anniversaries, happy birthdays in general. And you can probably think of some other reasons not listed here.

OpinionLine: (785) 877-6908

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Keep 'the water balance' in mind

As the Kansas population continues to shift to the eastern half or third of the state, the majority of us are dependent on the use of federal reservoirs for their drinking water.

Twenty of Kansas' 24 federal reservoirs provide some type of public water supply, according to Kent Askren, Kansas Farm Bureau water specialist. Two-thirds of the Kansas population is dependent upon stored public water including some rural water districts.

"Few people know or understand how tied we are to our federal reservoirs for our drinking water," Askren says.

In addition to drinking water, Kansas reservoirs also play a minor role in providing navigational support for the Missouri River downstream from Kansas City. During periods of drought millions of gallons of precious Kansas water may be released to support barge shipping on the Missouri and later Mississippi rivers.

Kansas has water storage space under contract in Milford, Tuttle Creek and Perry reservoirs which are under operational control of the Corps of Engineers. These three reservoirs are the only ones in Kansas currently authorized for supporting navigational releases to meet target flow on the Missouri River downstream of Kansas.

These reservoirs also provide water that is under Kansas control to meet the needs of public water supply and industrial customers in the Kansas River

Insight

John Schlageck

basin during times of low natural flow, Askren says.

"The Corps can utilize any uncommitted storage in these reservoirs by drawing down the lake levels as much as six feet each year to support downstream navigation," the Kansas Farm Bureau water specialist says.

When lake levels are drawn down for Missouri River navigation, the probability increases that water reservation rights held by Kansans will be impaired. This could lead to curtailment of upstream water rights.

Milford Reservoir is particularly vulnerable because Kansas holds a reservation right with a priority date of 1974, Askren explains.

"As long as Milford remains susceptible for such use, the chances of regulating Kansas farmers upstream of Milford is elevated," he continues.

And while many who live west of Highway 81 would argue this might have little impact on them, that's not the case. "When such weather events like drought occur, sending water out of our Kansas reservoirs can impact everyone who lives in the river corridors and also, those who live upstream from these reservoirs," Askren explains. "The water

that eventually winds up in our federal reservoirs falls on fertile farmland miles and miles upstream."

What may happen in the future is restriction of water rights above Milford, Tuttle Creek and Perry Reservoirs. Competition for this water is great and it must be managed to its fullest potential.

"Our dilemma in agriculture is to consider the present and future operations of our federal reservoirs in Kansas with regard to the in-state impacts, while at the same time examining our steadfast support for Missouri River navigation," the Kansas Farm Bureau water specialist says.

Most farmers support inland water transportation because it represents the most energy-efficient mode for moving agricultural commodities.

Another major consideration for this state is the necessity to prolong the life of Kansas' reservoirs or find other options like building new ones.

"Either option is going to be very, very expensive," Askren says. "This is especially true today with our continuing state budget cuts and plummeting revenues."

(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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