

Tuesday's Snippets

Your Comments (final column)

“A sad ‘syonara’ to snippets.”

- “The people who assailed allowing Obama to speak to classrooms weren’t really worried that he would advance socialist ideology in his pep talk per se. They want to demonize a president who is black and progressive, fearing that allowing kids to see him as a concerned, rational, friendly human being would incline the kids to (gasp!) actually listen to his input in future political discussions. As long as they can confine their kids’ political awareness to the distortions and lies they serve them daily (death panels?!), they hope to make right-wing bigotry the only stance the kids consider.”

- “What a waste of time listening to Barack Obama tell the kids what they were probably told at home by their parents. This guy is TV hungry. He pops up more than the kids’ breakfast pop-ups. And we have to put up with this for three more years before we boot him out of office? Go, Sarah, go!”

- “The only thing missing from the president’s address to a joint session of Congress last week was this declaration at the bottom of the screen, ‘This message paid for by the Democratic National Committee!’”

- “Hooray to the Hanes. Talking to a person about a problem, instead of ABOUT a problem with a person is called communication, NOT complaining.”

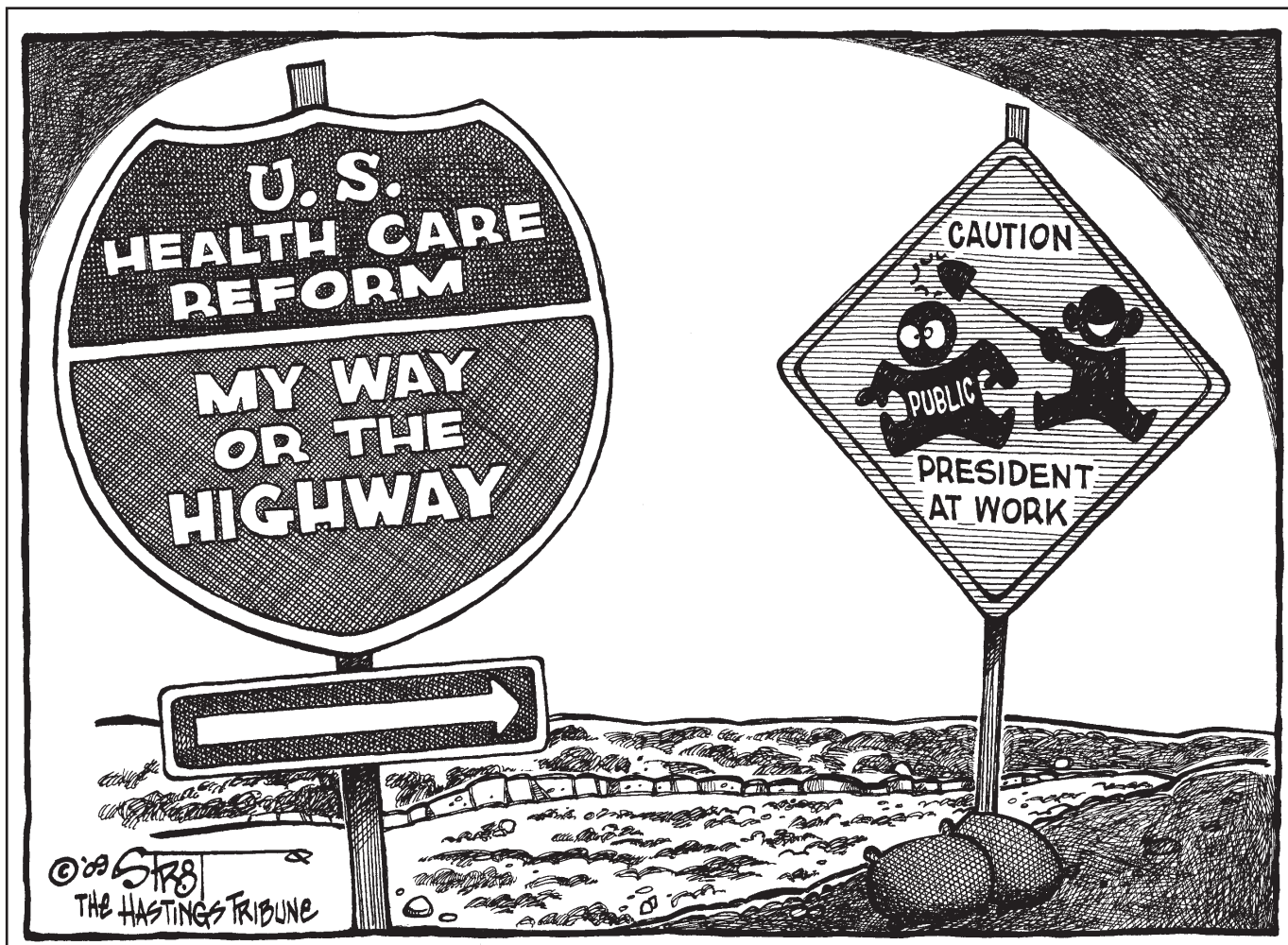
- “Three cheers for the Congressman who yelled at the president during his speech on TV that he was a liar. We need more people carrying this message when Hussein Obama gets up to give those phony talks.”

- “Every time I drive by Washington Street Park, I am in awe at how that empty downtown space was transformed. Genius!”

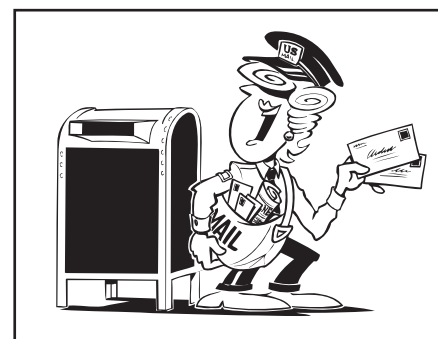
- “I still hear people call it the swine flu. That is wrong, very wrong. It is the H1N1 flu. I think that man, Schlageck, who writes for the newspaper hit the nail on the head in one of his columns two weeks ago. Remember, it’s H1N1, not swine! Thank you for letting me vent.”

- “Why can’t the snippets continue? That’s one of the best things this newspaper has ever done. It’s nice to be able to say what you want without everybody knowing. And I know you will cut this snippet drastically because it’s longer than a few sentences. (Editor’s note: The writer is correct. The length far exceeded the requirement.)”

- “So you are leaving, retiring. Hate to see that, but you know what you got to do. Thanks for nudging us to the positive side of things.”
(This is the final snippets column. Thanks to all of you who kept it up and running. It was a lot of work to establish, but I felt it was needed and I think it served its purpose. Some of the comments came from those who receive the column by email each week and the others were from Telegram readers within our town and county, and neighboring counties. Thanks! - td)



Here's An Idea



So, what was all the fuss about?

Don't you just love the controversy over Obama's decision to speak to school children? The best line I heard was when someone said, "The people don't want Obama to speak to the children. He is going to put forth his socialist agenda."

First, he was elected by a majority of the people; maybe this person's group doesn't want children to learn about democracy either. Second, this is a wonderful teaching opportunity for both the schoolchildren and subsequently their families. Some schools and/or teachers put forth a political agenda during the campaign, this would seem to me much more appropriate to me.

It should come as no surprise that Obama is not the first president to address school children. Both George W. Bush and Ronald Reagan had nationally aired speeches for the same audience.

And it may come as no surprise, Democrats complained about the action of George W. There is no indication

Phase II Mary Kay Woodyard



there were complaints about Reagan, however it is noted there is little of that archived on the Internet. Why should a presidential address such as this ever be a problem?

What a wonderful opportunity for parents and children to have a meaty conversation over dinner. Of course there are parents who don't want to have these discussions because the children might ask questions they don't want to answer.

The sad thing about wanting to have your offspring believe only what you teach is there is no opportunity to learn for parents and/or children. I don't

know about anyone else but I learn from my children and grandchildren daily and I hope that never stops.

Do I wish my children believed everything I said? Do I wish they were all liberals? Do I wish their beliefs mirrored mine? Not really and it's a good thing because they all five have exercised their right to form their own opinions which, I might add, are frequently at odds with mine. If they believe only what I've taught, they haven't listened to me and I haven't been a very good teacher. I want them to question God, government and their own belief system.

Why? Because it is through our questioning, it is through our delving and studying and learning that we become stronger in our faith, more convinced of our form of government and more dedicated to the future of our country.

(mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net)

Helpful tip: Make your own plans

Insight John Schlageck

The vocation of agriculture began thousands of years ago when the first farmer dug a hole in the soil and planted the first seed. Way back then others began working with and domesticating animals that have evolved into present-day hogs, cattle, sheep, chickens and other livestock.

The farm and ranch creed has always been to nurture the land and livestock while making improvements and coaxing a bountiful harvest. Farmers and ranchers hold enduring respect for the land that sustains them. Their reward has resulted in abundance.

With this evolution in agriculture, today's producer faces many new and sometimes unexpected challenges. Profit margins and production costs are in a constant state of flux.

Weather patterns change while farmers and ranchers continue looking for ways to make profits and stay in this business.

This week Insight takes a look at the opposite end of the spectrum. Here are 11 ways to cut your profit margins. Think long and hard before implementing any of these in your operation.

1) Blindly follow seasonal trends or patterns. If the market is going up, do not sell. It may go higher. If the market falls — do not sell. It may turn around and go up.

2) Never trust a U.S. Department of Agriculture crop or livestock report.

From all the information available these reports are "strictly legit." But never mind; discard these reports at all costs.

3) Blame the big grain companies. Everyone knows they manipulate the farmer and make all the profits.

4) Blame the big cattle packers. Everyone knows they manipulate stockmen and make all the profits.

5) Assume prices and costs are related. No place is it written that because you spend \$450 to \$500 an acre to produce irrigated corn you are guaranteed a profit on your grain.

6) Hold the short crop because less corn, wheat or beans must mean the price of these commodities will increase. In reality, by the time you hear a crop is in short supply, everyone else has heard the news too and the price has already gone up.

7) Follow the majority. If your neighbor sells his corn, it is probably the right time for you to sell yours. Ignore most conversation in the local coffee shop or co-op. Figure out your own marketing strategy.

8) Ignore the futures market and basis because everyone knows that a bunch of speculators are rigging the market.

Remember, speculators lose money too and provide liquidity for the market.

9) Never sell until you have a crop. Oftentimes, before you harvest a crop is the best time to lock in profits. Take a hard look at future contracting.

10) Shoot for the market high. Smart marketers have abandoned this philosophy for the goal of, "shooting for higher."

11) Blame the banker or your wife. Again, everyone knows a banker lends you money when he/she shouldn't. And if all else fails, who has any broader shoulders than your spouse.

You may just want to take a hard look at yourself. Operating a farm or ranch is as tough a profession as there is going these days. It takes all the wisdom, knowledge, technology, dedication and determination, luck and the blessing of Mother Nature to grow a profitable crop or market outstanding livestock.

And that's not even taking into consideration a continually evolving, marketing plan. Each farm and ranch and farmer and rancher is different. Look to yourself and those who are knowledgeable and can help you be successful.

(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... the Norton County Arts Council, and Carol Erlenbusch, for all the great upcoming performances for the new season, and the enjoyment the past arts council programs have brought. I encourage everyone to please attend these performances. (called in)

To... the nice lady at Nex-Tech, for solving a mystery phone call. (called in)

To... Walter Motors, for helping an old lady with her car. (called in)

To... Tom Dreiling, an A+ editor, who gave us news about and for the local citizens. (called in)

To... the Norton football Bluejays, 2-0, way to go! (email)

(To render a salute, please email - this is a different address - nortontelegram@nwkansas.com, call 877-3361, fax 877-3732, mail to 215 S. Kansas Ave. 67654.)

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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