

Kids, lies, and family ties

Children can pull you up short occasionally, presenting you with a fresh, new, but often distressing point of view. With the Easter bunny hopping down the bunny trail all over Wal-Mart, one such incident floated to the top of my memory this morning.

"Why," demanded one of my kids, in a belligerent mood, "do you insist that the Tooth Fairy is real but not Santa Claus or the Easter Bunny?" Frankly, I had to take a few minutes to think that one over. At last I said, "Because Santa and bunnies have to do with pagan traditions that conflict with Christian teachings." I thought it was a reasonable answer until he looked me in the eye and said, "Mom, a lie is a lie."

Of course our kids received Christmas gifts and Easter baskets and had all the fun parts of those holidays. We even allowed them to go trick or treating in spite of the fact that we celebrate All Saints' Day instead of Halloween's traditional witches and goblins. We delivered May baskets, too, but never mentioned the fact that a Maypole was a phallic symbol that celebrated spring fertility, just as baby ducks, bunnies and chicks do today. Many of our holidays occur around the spring and autumnal equinoxes when pagan rituals were performed in medieval times. To me the Tooth Fairy, elves and pixies were just happy little imaginary creatures that enabled parents to provide

Table for five

Liza Deines



special surprise treats for the children they loved.

So are those old fairy tales, fables, or family traditions lying to our children? For years my sister and I remained convinced that eating our baked potato skins would make our hair curly. Mama said so. She also warned us that eating grape seeds caused appendicitis and chewing gum, if swallowed, stayed in our tummies forever. Brother Roger and Cousin Allan had me thoroughly persuaded that tapioca was boiled squirrel eyes. I won't even put on paper what they told me oysters were - you don't want to know, believe me! It never occurred to me to accuse them of lying. I was so gullible I just grew up thinking I liked boiled squirrel eyes.

A real lie is a different thing entirely. It was concern for one of my children that led me into the one real lie in a long, happy marriage. It dealt with a new winter coat that got lost one night. In an attempt to teach that careless actions reap consequences, my husband told the offending child last year's coat would have to do. But it was a cold winter and last year's coat was so shabby and too tight, so a shivering child went sullenly

about in sweaters and wind-breakers, too proud to wear it. A week passed; no coat turned up. It snowed. Although cash was tight, I scraped up enough to buy an identical coat, roughed it up a bit, stuffed it under a skirted chair and "discovered" it while vacuuming.

Of course I got caught. Little did I know the original coat would return months later when someone cleaned out the trunk of their car. Of course it was returned on an evening when LeRoy was home and answered the doorbell.

Years later I learned no one was ever deceived, neither child nor father, and this mother lost a lot of credibility with both. Not only did that lie humiliate me; worse, it undermined my husband's authority and discipline. Today's kids would say I "disrespected" him, even though that thought never crossed my mind, which was centered on a chilly child. The incident was forgiven and forgotten long ago . . . by everyone but this foolish mother who will never forget where deception leads.

MY MAMA SAID: Oh, what a tangled web we weave when first we practice to deceive.

And that one turned out to be all too true, as I learned the hard way.

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The biggest winner



The Norton Area Chamber of Commerce held their annual banquet last Tuesday evening at the Norton American Legion. The dinner featured a welcome speech from Chamber Board president David Davis, who recognized Don Kaus, Kathy Erbert and Carol Erlenbush, whose terms on the board ended last year. The featured speaker for the evening was Danny Cahill, the "Biggest Loser" contestant who holds the record for losing the most weight in the shortest time on the show. Pictured, Cahill stands in front of a picture of his former self at the banquet while emphasizing the importance of "losing your quit."

-Telegram photo by Carleen Bell

POLICE LOG

March 19
Report of someone ringing doorbell
Activated alarm, Armory
Questions concerning civil matter
Loud noise complaint
Keys locked in vehicle
March 20
Parking complaint
Report of lost cell phone
Parking complaint
Request by Norton Co. Hospital to talk to individual
Keys locked in vehicle
Request to speak to officer concerning civil matter
Two vehicle accident
Individual requested to park on US Highway 36 to unload truck
Vehicle stop
Call from Harlan Co. Neb., concerning abandoned vehicle
March 21
Check suspicious vehicle
Speak to officer concerning individual having keys to their house
Keys locked in vehicle
Report of individual leaving store without paying bill
Building search
March 22
Welfare check
EMS assist
Picked up statements
Parking citation
Vehicle stop
Court paper service
March 23
Report of intoxicated driver
Report of suspicious vehicle
Activated alarm, pawn shop
Report of individual at Valley Hope did not want to be there
Parking complaint
Report of distraught individu-

al leaving learning center
Request to unlock residence
Two theft reports from individuals at Valley Hope
Removed sale signs from city poles
One vehicle accident
Speak to officer concerning child custody issues
(3) Three vehicle stops
March 24
Motel checks
Contact with individual walking at 1:30 a.m.
Vehicle stop, one arrest DUI
Dog complaint
Noise complaint
Report of suspicious phone call
(5) Five vehicle stops
March 25
Report of suspicious vehicle
Report of fight at party
Activated alarm, Armory
Welfare check, taken into custody
Transport to Larned State Hospital
(2) Two keys locked in vehicle
Report of smoke, Norton Manor
March 26
Keys locked in vehicle
Report of lost license plate
Report of domestic situation, one arrest
(3) Three vehicle stops
March 27
Report of hit and run accident
Dog running at large citation
Report of kids throwing sticks and rocks
Theft report
Vehicle stop
March 28
Report of suspicious activity
Vehicle stop

Investigate hay trailer at highway park
Suspicious vehicle, Pamida
Keys locked in vehicle
Funeral escort
One vehicle accident
Two vehicle accident
March 29
Parking citation
Funeral escort
Report of truck dropping limbs on highway
Report of individual scaring kids on Howard St.
(4) Four vehicle stops
March 30
Keys locked in vehicle
Questions concerning civil matter
Information concerning disabled vehicle
Assist Sheriff's Dept. with attempt to locate
Report of dog bite
(4) Four vehicle stops
March 31
Report of van pulling out in front of semi
Funeral escort
Keys locked in vehicle
Two vehicle accident
Report of erratic driver
Report of kids playing in street
Vehicle stop
April 1
Noise complaint
Report of domestic, one arrest
Activated alarm, Armory
(2) Two keys locked in vehicle
Animal control contacted to pick up stray dog
Activated alarm, Dollar General

Sudoku Puzzle #2495-M

	1	2	3	4	
5		6	4	7	
4		8		9	
3	4		2		6
	7			5	
8		9		2	7
	7		9		4
	4	5	6		3
	2	7	1	8	

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STUDENT NEWS

NCHS Honor Roll 3rd Nine Weeks
Highest 4.00
Seniors-Eric Becker, Brae Bigge, Rhees Carlson, RJ Ellis, Mariah Farger, Kynzie Stevens, Erin Terrell, Brooklyn Winkel.
Juniors-Jade Braun, Tawni Griffey, Kami Jones, Teal Stewart.
Sophomores-Bailey Ambrosier, Darcy Bainter, Kristen Burge, Leif Carlson, Katelyn Engelbert, Hannah Goss, Ashley Hildebrand, Cody O'Hare, Johnnye Ruder, Jared Shelton.
Freshmen-Neysa Carlson, Stephen Cummings, Morgan Farber, Chance Uehlin.
Honors I 3.50-3.99
Seniors-Alyssa Boser, Zach Hartwell, Alexis Henson, Carson Kaiser, Tyler Lewis, Dillon McConney, Taylor Meder, Kylie Nuzum, Shylo Paxton, Mitchell Shelton, Caren Thomson.
Juniors-Lane Bigge, Katherine Boteler, Eli Bozarth, Dustin Daniels, Andrew Ellis, Shelbi McKenna, Christina Nelson, Alex Riggins, Rachel Slipke, Wyatt Wentz.
Sophomores-Branson Addington, Chris Chambers, Austin Hager, Marisa Maddy, Hannah Pollock, Ethan Ross, Landon Slipke, Danielle Wagoner.
Freshmen-Tyler Kuhn, Kobie Unterseher, Stewart Whitney.
Honors II 3.00-3.49
Seniors-Robert Blecha, Cayleb Campbell, Tiffany Eagle-

burger, Christian Hadley, Joe LeClair, Andrew Nickell, Tye Nickell, Casey Temmel.
Juniors-Ryan Bainter, Rheanon Baker, Sierra Black, Jared Bohl, Jacob Brooks, Chalise Christensen, Cassius Dole, Cody Ellis, Lucas Engel, Chris Fisher, Samantha Gordon, Brianna Karnopp, Julia Kent, Katie Koch, Carson McKenna, Alec Melvin, Juliana Miller, Teslee Nickell, John Risewick, Dylan Sprigg.
Sophomores-Gabriel Bird, Zachary Bird, Kayla Campbell, Travis Cressler, Tanner Furbush, Shauna Gibson, Alec Hager, Kolton Harting, Kristen Leibhart, Cole Renner, Christopher Richard, Drew Schrum, Abbie Smith, Maggie Spradlin, Haley Wallingford.
Freshmen-Kaitlyn Bohl, Conor Cox, Sheridan Dillehay, Grant Gordon, Connor Griffey, Sierra Griffith, Wyatt Harting, Jordan Karnopp, Andrew McMullen, Derek Rowh, Molly Scott.

Partnering To Bring Medical Specialists To Norton

Norton Outreach Clinic Schedule

Norton County Hospital
102 E. Holme - Norton

Mobile Echocardiography
Weekly
(785) 877-3351

Ophthalmology - Dr. John Pokorny
Surgery & Clinic
Monthly
(785) 628-8218

Cardiology - Dr. Christine Fisher
Monthly

Oncology/Hematology
Dr. Anne O'Dea
Twice Monthly

Orthopedic - Dr. Alex DeCarvalho
Monthly

Urology - Dr. Darrell Werth
Monthly

NE CALL
1-855-HAYSMED

In partnership with Norton County Hospital haysmed.com

Norton teachers offer scholarship

The Norton Teacher's Association will be giving a \$250 Scholarship to a Norton Community High School graduate who is a college junior, senior or graduate student in the field of education. Applications are available from Teresa Schulze at 877-5113 Eisenhower Elementary or 877-2864. Applications must be returned by April 27 to Teresa Schulze, 7191 Road W6, Norton, KS 67654.

Call Mike with all your social news.
877-3361
mstephens@nwkansas.com