

Keeping an eye out for your neighbors

Open Season
Cynthia Haynes



It was Sunday morning, and we were headed for church, but the neighbors children, who should also have been on their way to Sunday school, were lingering on the sidewalk outside our house.

As we pulled out of the driveway and into the alley, we stopped to say hi and see if there was a problem, or if they just weren't in any hurry to get to church.

They pointed to the street in front of our house, where two little dust-mop dogs were happily romping in the middle of the road.

"Aren't those the Browns' dogs," the children asked with concern.

Well, since those same cute little dust mops greet us from the fenced-in backyard most mornings as we leave for work, our guess was yes; they're the Browns' dogs and they were definitely not where they were supposed to be.

But before we could pull over and start to round up the errant pooches, the neighbors across the street were already swooping up the happy pair and walking them back home.

"It's all right, she said. "We've got them. We'll get them home."

It's nice to live in an area where people not only care about each other's children and safety, but their dogs, too. It's nice to know that a whole lot of people have your back.

This is most apparent at the county fair, where there are more grandparents per child than you can shake a stick at. Some nights, there are people out there acting as grandparents and watching over the little ones who have never had children. There they are, helping make sure the kids are safe and having a good time.

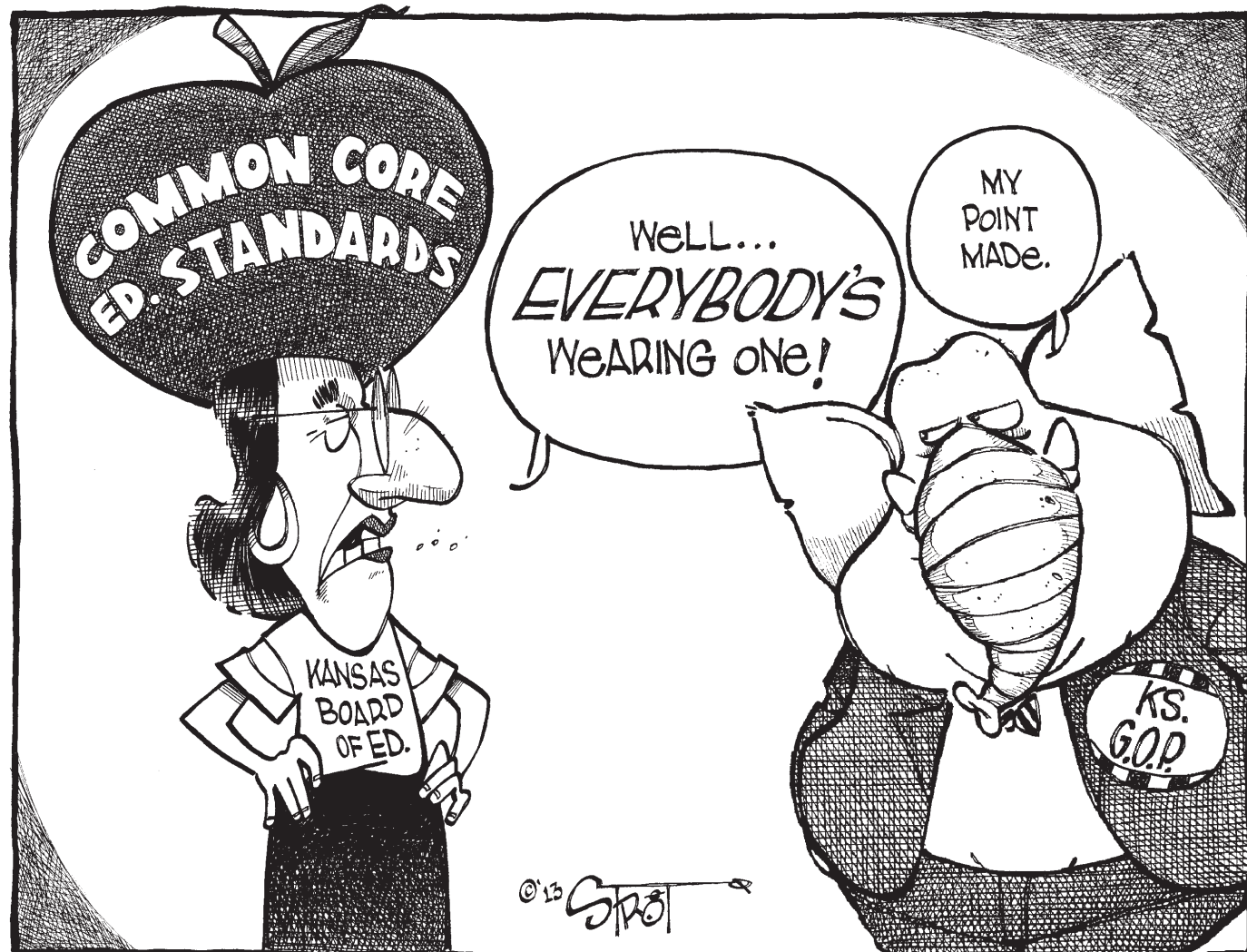
A second instance of neighborliness came our way this week when we got a call at the office that one of our employees, who had left for the weekend, had left their front door open.

Their neighbor knew that they were gone and was worried about their property. We suggested a quick check to see that the place looked untouched and then for them to close the door. If there had been any obvious damage or missing property - gee, didn't they used to have a really big television over there? - the neighbors would have called the police.

When we leave town, the Browns on one side and Peggy on the other keep an eye on things. If a moving van suddenly pulled up and started loading, the police would definitely know about it right away.

In Colorado, Jay and Betty have been our neighbors for more than 30 years. When the fire came this spring, Jay got the water turned on at our place and started to wet down the yard in case any sparks blew in.

It's good to have neighbors you can talk with across the back fence, or the side fence or the street. Better to know they are keeping an eye out for you.



Important things lacking today

Phase II
Mary Kay Woodyard



Recently, I had the opportunity to witness, on a local level, precisely the type of thinking which is threatening to bring our nation's capital and our country to its financial knees. My first hand experience was not with an elected official, but it was with someone who holds a form of power. Whenever we become frustrated by Washington, we have only to look around our immediate vicinity to see why this stalemate is occurring.

The trend nationally, in politics and out of politics, seems to be "let's focus on me." The loser in this is the general public. In Congress, both sides of the aisle are equally guilty and, if you feel your party does not share the blame, then trust me, you are part of the problem.

Communities across the nation are made up of these individuals. Some business and political leaders use their positions to carry a grudge and block potential good. Others seek office as a means to avenge what they perceive as

a personal injustice. Often when they are elected we do not realize their personal agenda and therefore our vote supports their plan.

In a democratic form of government, we do have a solution, term limits. A practice I have never favored. I have always believed in the power of each vote. In essence, our voting power should give us those term limits. After listening to Washington, I realize term limits are probably the only way this country will ever get back on track. Politicians would no longer have to decide how to vote based on the impact to their reelection campaign. Hopefully, it

would free members of Congress to make thoughtful, as in thinking, decisions, rather than political ones. Right now the primary job of a politician is to get reelected.

The "me" thinking of Congress has its roots in local communities. Not just the political arena, but the business one as well. Unfortunately, even some religious institutions engage in similar tactics by encouraging their members to frequent only merchants who share the church's doctrine. Once again, compromise, understanding and civility seems to be lacking in too many areas of our lives.

Mahatma Gandhi once said, "http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/m/mahatmagan107039.html>An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind." There is no doubt, blindness seems to be a rampant characteristic of many in positions of authority. mkwoodyard@ruraltel.net

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Dear Editor,

October 6th through 12th is National PA Week. This is a week set aside to recognize the Physician Assistant profession. The PA profession has been a part of the Kansas landscape since the 1st class of PAs graduated in 1975. Since that time, PAs have played an ever increasing role in providing quality health care. There are currently approximately 900 licensed PA's in the state of Kansas. PAs practice medicine under the supervision of a physician. A PA must be a graduate of an accredited PA educational program. Currently there is only one such program in Kansas at Wichita State University. After graduation, PAs must pass a national certification exam and receive state licensure before they can practice medicine. At the time of graduation, PAs have more than 400 hours in basic sciences (with more than 75 hours in pharmacology), approximately 175 hours in behavioral sciences, nearly 580 hours of clinical medicine as well as over 2,000 hours of clinical experience at the time of graduation. To maintain certification they must complete 50 hours of continuing medical education each year. PAs have not only been an effective way to help meet medical needs in underserved rural areas in Kansas, they are also a part of many primary care and specialty care practices in urban settings. No matter where they happen to be practicing PAs have become irreplaceable members of the healthcare team as they work with Kansas' physicians to ensure the highest quality of care for the people of our great state. If you happen to run into a PA this week be sure to let them know how much you appreciate their contribution to keeping Kansas healthy.



Sincerely, Jon Borchard PAC

The trials of being a dedicated gardener

This Too Shall Pass
Nancy Hagman



How nice of Carolyn Plotts to pass along excess flower seeds. I too have an abundance of hollyhock seed. However, if you want some from me, you'll have to come over and pick it up yourself!

Something about hollyhocks (the sticky leaves or the seeds) triggers dermatitis. I try to keep covered up and always wear gloves in the garden, but chopping down the hollyhocks brings a painful, itchy rash. I avoid handling the residue any further!

Most years grasshoppers are fairly hard on the hollyhocks. They don't bloom as nicely and the leaves are a ragged affair. This year we have not even had mosquitos. For which I am thankful because they love me! No matter how much repellent I put on I end up with horrible welts!

Overall it has been a good year for flora. My iris bed did well. I had blooms for Memorial Day for the first time in years.

When we moved I planted the iris temporarily (for about five years). I planted them permanently in 2010. I was uncertain what colors I might have by that time. In 2011, they were not established enough to bloom. 2012 was too hot and dry.

But this year they were thick and almost 100% yellow! My sister tells me of a theory: hybrid iris revert back to the original colors (purple and yellow)

much better.

Soon he stopped, murmuring something about how the pampus grass "got in the way!"

He's a good man. And at some point the pampus grass (which also causes me a rash) needed to be cut back. But you see what I mean about my way? Why didn't he just fix the mower?

Another question: How did the pampus grass get in the way?

The mower (like the gas powered trimmer) is impossible to start. It never starts the first time. Sometimes it locks up as you pull the starter the third or fourth time. By that time I'm good and mad and pulling so hard the sudden stop about wrenches my arm out of the socket.

Though that is a better result than the time my hand slipped off. The momentum carried it right into my face. Before I had time to react I hit myself and knocked my glasses off, requiring a trip to the eye doctor to straighten the frames. I was certain I would have a black eye. A day later I realized my wrist, not my eye, was black and blue!

In between the allergies, the arthritis and the potential for a concussion you see why I'm not a dedicated gardener!

I'd be more than happy if a whole bunch of yellow iris found a new home. The problem: I can't put them in an SASE! So here's an idea, come dig your own!

over time.

I checked the internet. Scientifically, experts claim this is not possible. But because the original colors are more vigorous they may crowd out other varieties. I guess yellow was the only color that survived the "temporary" bed!

Anyway, the area is choked with rhizomes. I've dug up maybe a third of them. I shovel under a clump and bring up a two foot square piece of root bound sod. It's hard work. Oh, my aching back! The rest I'm leaving for next year. I just don't have the energy.

I'd ask for help but no one can help me because I'm a control freak and they won't do it my way! I was going to say the right way but I'm not so egotistical as to believe my way is necessarily right--but it is MY WAY!

I asked the hubby to fix the mower and he responded by getting out the gas powered weed whip and going to work on the area where I had been using the battery weed whip. The gas weed whip is hard to start and heavy, but it works

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OFFICE HOURS:
8 a.m.- 5:30 p.m. Mon.-Thur.
8 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Friday
Phone: (785) 877-3361
Fax: (785) 877-3732

STAFF

Dana Paxton..... General Manager
Advertising Director/Managing Editor
email: dpaxton@nwkansas.com
Dick Boyd..... Blue Jay Sports
nortontelegram@nwkansas.com
Michael Stephens..... Reporter
Society Editor/Area Sports
mstephens@nwkansas.com
Vicki Henderson..... Computer Production
Marcia Shelton..... Office Manager

Kansas Press Association



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