



Opinion

U.S. takes out Osama, but war far from over

The U.S. finally tracks down Osama bin Laden after all these years.

Twenty years after he began targeting America. A decade after he brought down the twin towers of the World Trade Center in his second attempt.

What does it mean? Not the end of the war on terrorism. As Winston Churchill once said, "Now this is not the end. Not even the beginning of the end."

But it surely is a victory along the way. During the last decade, the U.S. has done much to cripple al Qaida and the other terrorist organizations operating against it. Commando raids, covert action, Predator strikes, rockets, guided bombs, all have taken their toll on these groups. They are weakened, but they have not gone away.

The road ahead will be long and arduous. Unless the United States wants to abdicate its role as the leader of the Free World, we will have to continue to press the fight as best we can.

We should make it clear, as President Obama did Sunday night, that we are not at war against Islam. We have millions of friends among the nations of Islam. We claim millions more as our own, as Americans in every sense of the word.

We are at war, and must be at war, against the radical Islamist movement. These groups seek to enslave not just Muslims worldwide, but the entire world. They would put us all under a theocracy where no freedom of thought would be allowed, the slightest dissent punishable by death,

the mention of any religion other than their own, twisted version of Islam forbidden.

The world cannot allow that. As we did 70 years ago, we need to stand together and fight for freedom.

The battle is more difficult today. Then, the enemy ruled nations that rose up to smite us. Our predecessors prevailed. Today we say, that truly was their finest hour.

Today, the enemy comprises a dozen shadowy groups, some living in caves, some hiding in cities, some no doubt within our own borders. It rules no great nation, has no great army. But its ambition is both boundless and evil.

It is hard to sustain a battle against this enemy you cannot see until it strikes.

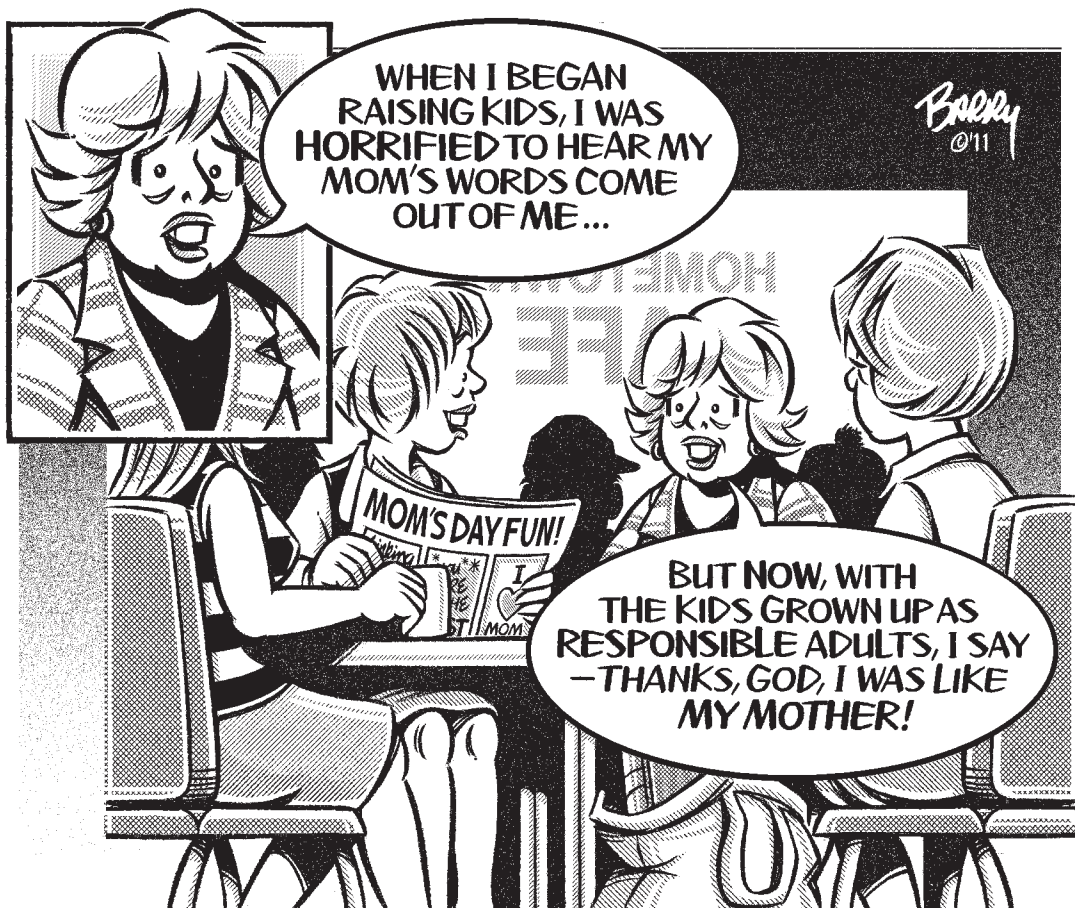
And we must find more effective, less costly ways to fight. How long can we afford to spend \$2 billion a week to keep troops in Afghanistan? How long can our allies sustain their costs?

Still, the war will continue. We must win. We will win, as we did 65 years ago. As we did 30 years ago.

The future of civilization is at stake. The very concept of freedom is challenged. And as past generations did, we must respond. Through the grace of God, we will respond.

Osama was but one visible symbol of this movement. He is gone, but the war will continue. Eventually, freedom will prevail.

— Steve Haynes



News From the Past

10 years ago - 2001

KM Clothier has the same name but has changed owners.

Ruth Milliken purchased the business from her daughter Kelley on Feb. 1. Mrs. Milliken reported that she will have much the same lines of clothing.

The Kansas Department of Transportation will be closing K-27 between Goodland and Wheeler on March 19. The project will consist of new grading, to increase site distance by reducing the amount of no passing zones,

a 3-foot shoulder widening, and elimination of the "pretzel" at the north edge of Goodland.

Last week Eloyse Pettijohn opened Tasteful Treasures, which will be a sideline of her already established wholesale business of six year, Lady In Red. Tasteful Treasures will feature cinnamon rolls, muffins, cookies and other sweets to eat with coffee, teas and cappuccino.

Ken Goff has relocated Goff Agency to the west end of Main

Street. The remodeled building was bought in 1953 by Bernard and Ethyle Roelfs. It had been the old Wano Post Office and has been moved to St. Francis where it was a creamery. When Mr. Roelfs remodeled the building, he found old letters which had fallen between the cracks at the post office. He added bricks and moved in and ran Roelf's Electric. It later became the dental office of Dr. Frank Haberboch and then later it was Connie's Home Health Care.

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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Here's a little heads up to all the men out there. Don't forget your dear Ma (and wife) this Sunday, May 8. Mother's Day is not one of those optional holidays like Ground Hog's or Columbus. Consider yourselves warned.

For the dads and kids who are not sure what to get her, I have a suggestion. Give her a night off by having a Movie Night at home. Get

one or two of her favorite films for the DVD or cassette player, some popcorn, sodas and candy then turn down the lights. It's a cheap evening that she will enjoy with her family.

Another idea, with the nice weather returning, is packing a basket and taking her out for a picnic.

But whether your love comes

in a card, flowers or interpretive dance of praise, just remember one thing; Mother's Day this Sunday!

It's the least you can do for all she has for you.

Across the County

Several factors should play role in pasture rental rates

By Marty Fear



County Extension Agent

For those who have not yet negotiated pasture rental rates for this year, Kansas State University agricultural economist Kevin Dhuyvetter reminds that there are several factors that landowners and livestock producers should consider as they negotiate rates.

Numerous factors influence the rental rate for any tract of land, such as forage quality, stocking rate, size of pasture, water availability and more, but there are three primary factors that explain much of the variability in average rental rates over time, said Dhuyvetter, who is a farm management specialist with K-State Research and Extension.

"First, rates trend up over time and so are expected to increase from year to year, all else being equal," he said. "Second, rates are positively related to cattle prices. For example, rental rates tend to increase more when cattle prices are high compared to when cattle prices are low. Third, rental rates

are positively related to corn prices, suggesting that producers will pay more to rent grass when feed prices are high."

Dhuyvetter and a team of economists built those relationships into a tool that can help pasture owners and livestock producers as they negotiate rental agreements. The tool and related resources can be found online at www.agmanager.info/farmmgmt/land/lease/.

The tool might prove especially handy now that Kansas Agricultural Statistics is no longer publishing the publication, Bluestem Pasture Release, because of budget issues, the agricultural economist said.

When it comes to this year, Dhuyvetter noted that while rates will vary depending on cattle type and grazing program, various factors generally suggest an increase in rental rates of 6 to 10 percent from last year's rates.

"The percentage change for the previous 30 years has averaged roughly 1.5 to 2 percent per year, so

this suggests pasture rates in 2011 are expected to increase more than average due to this year's historically high cattle and corn prices," he said. "It is important for landowners to recognize that while the current economic conditions (high corn and cattle prices) reflect conditions that suggest pasture rental rates likely will increase more than average, rates also may need to decrease if and when conditions go the other direction."

If cattle or feed prices change significantly in the next month or two, producers and landowners may want to plug those values into the model to see how the changed values impact projected rental rates, he said.

Contact the Cheyenne County Extension office at 332-3171 or cfear@ksu.edu with questions or comments. Till next week

— Marty

The Gardener

Kay Melia

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My 5 year old great-grandson Cole is in pre-school this year, and will be a full-fledged kindergartner next fall. He has spent a lot of time during the summers of his short life "helping" his Granddad Marty in Marty's spacious country backyard.

Several weeks ago, Cole was playing in his backyard over on College Street with his little sister Lauren, and was observed doing some digging in his large sandbox. He announced to his parents that he was working in his garden.

When Granddad Marty received word of Cole's backyard effort, he proceeded to mark off a small area on the north side of his garden and told Cole he could have that plot for his very own garden if he wished. Indeed, he wished.

Marty explained very carefully to Cole that there was more to having a successful garden than just planting the seeds and harvesting the crop. He must water the plants when they came up, and he must keep the weeds pulled as well as watching out for those bugs who wanted to eat his lettuce as much as he did.

Cole and his Granddad planted most of the cool-weather crops the day before Easter, and left space for cucumbers and zucchini when the soil warms. He planted a lot

of green things like lettuce, spinach, mescluns and also a couple of broccoli plants. (Coles mother, a registered dietician, may have had some serious input on what he planted since she is an admitted greens freak.) And now comes the waiting for plant emergence and the road to maturity. The family will learn a lot about Cole's early-age patience as the spring merges into summer.

I, too, learned about the gardening process when I was about Cole's age. In those days some 75 years ago, my early experience in the garden was not necessarily intended to teach me the finer points of gardening. It was more like an annual "sentence" to spend the summer in the garden where the results would determine whether or not our family would have enough to eat, not only during

the summer, but for the following winter, thanks to canning jars and pressure cookers.

What a nice project for parents of young children (or grandparents) to encourage the youngsters to join them in preparing a small space in the backyard for a garden. It doesn't have to be an area the size of Logan Township, and it doesn't have to consist of only vegetables. Flowers from both seeds and plants can teach children a lot about nature's beauty and the earth's ability to produce wonderful things that are to be enjoyed by everyone.

There's still time! If you're a newcomer to the gardening mystique, remember that there is plenty of help out there. Pose a few questions to an experienced friend or neighbor. Make it a true family garden this year!

GOD SAYS
Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep. I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.
John 10:7, 9

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