



Other Viewpoints

Despite questions, blood still needed

If you've donated blood more than once, you have probably noticed how there always seems to be some new requirement or restriction, new questions and variations on the routine.

There may be one more question coming, according to a new report by food scientists, including two from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

They have found evidence that eating peanuts before you donate could cause a reaction in the recipient if he or she is allergic to the food.

A six-year-old boy in the Netherlands who received a transfusion as part of his cancer treatment developed a rash, low blood pressure, swelling and had difficulty breathing — the same reaction he experienced at one year old after eating peanuts.

Three of the five blood donors involved recalled eating several handfuls of peanuts the evening before donation. Further tests confirmed the boy's peanut allergy. The researchers said the reaction happens because the major peanut allergen resists digestion.

They emphasize that it's important not to overreact to the finding, since it involves only one person, and his immune system was compromised because of his illness.

More study is needed to determine whether this was an isolated case, or if blood banks need to ask one more question when screening donors.

It seems like biology is conspiring to make blood donation as complicated as possible — all the more reason to make sure we donate when we can.

That's especially important during the summer months, when it's easy to miss a chance to donate.

"The need for blood is constant. Every two seconds, a patient needs a blood transfusion," said Tricia Rubens, chief executive officer of the Midwest Region.

Don't let complicated forms and dozens of questions keep you from doing what you can to save someone else's life.

— *McCook Daily Gazette, via the Associated Press*

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roberts.editor.gov/public/

U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran, 354 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 228-6966. Fax (202) 225-5124 moran.senate.gov/public/

U.S. Rep. Tim Huelskamp, 126 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715 or Fax (202) 225-5124. Web site: huelskamp.house.gov

State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer, State Capitol Building, 300 SW10th St., Room 225-E., Topeka, Kan. 66612, (785) 296-7399 ralph.ostmeyer@senate.state.ks.us

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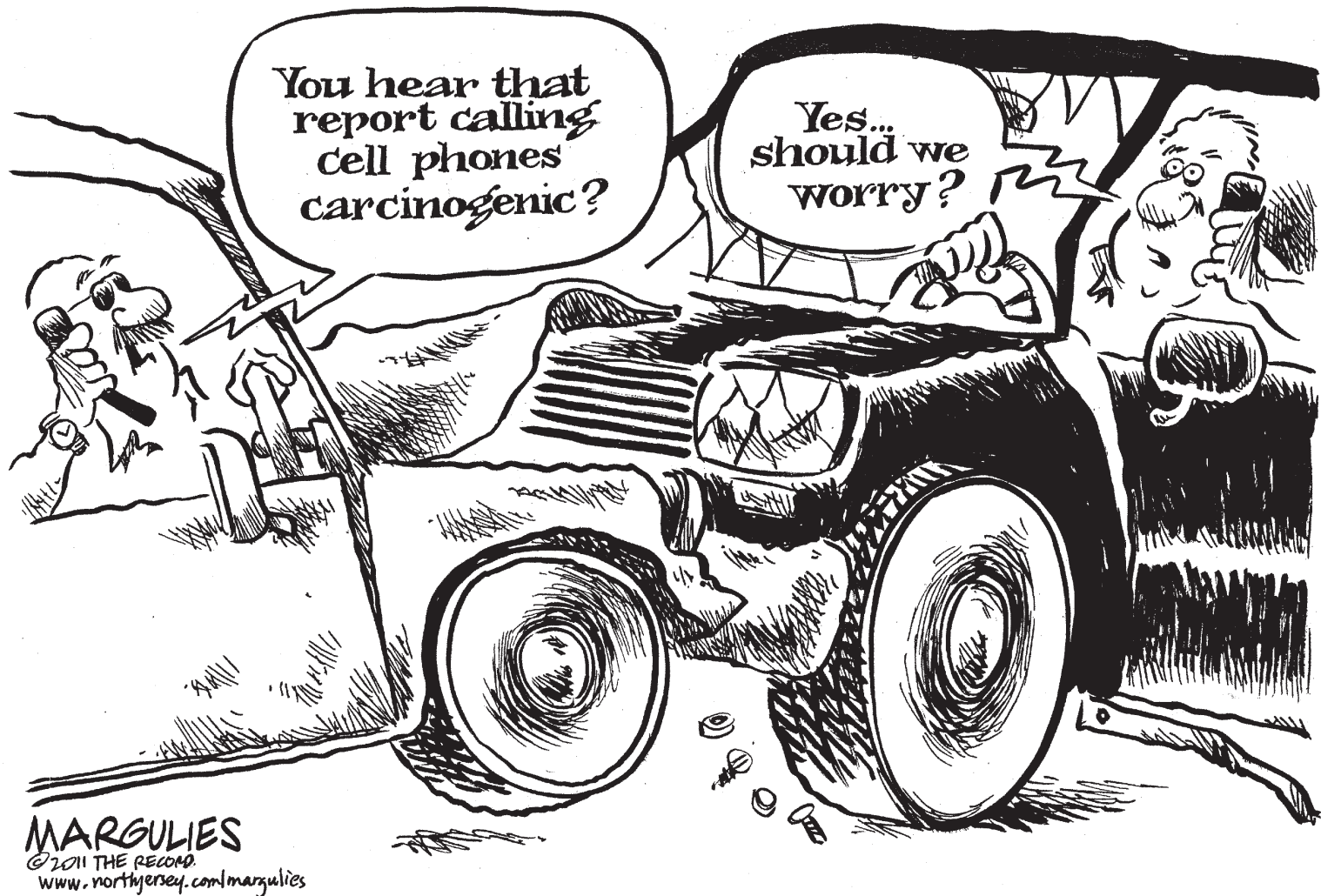
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Puppy ad starts a whole new friendship

It all started out so simply. The ad read, "Bloodhound puppies. AKC reg. males and females, call."

I went home and told my husband about the ad because I had never seen an ad for bloodhounds in our paper. He asked me if I had called about them and I told him no. He knew I was lonely since my springer had died several months ago.

I got busy and forgot about the ad until he asked me again had I called. I finally did call and found out the price. It was higher than I expected. My husband reminded me I am a pretty good negotiator — and why didn't I try again. I called and the breeder agreed to a lower price and to meet us halfway with a male and female for us to choose from.

We met on a wide spot in the road early Saturday morning. When the two puppies bounded out of the van, I knew I was a goner! They were so full of life and so danged soft. They both wanted to cuddle up to you and it was hard to decide which one we wanted.

The clincher was when Noah put his head on my shoulder as if to say "lets go home now."

The breeder told us it would be best to kennel Noah when we weren't home since blood-



Sharon Friedlander

• Musings

hounds will eat anything they can get hold of. I guess we should have listened closer to that advice. We had never kenneled any of our critters and didn't really understand the wisdom of her advice.

Shame on us!

Noah became a one-pup wrecking crew. We discovered he could reach anything on counters, tables and cabinets and enjoyed swiping anything there to chew up. He claimed the space behind the couch as his and when he stole something that's where he would take it. I guess he thought we wouldn't be able to see him with his goodies.

He became adept at making the 90-degree turn to go behind the couch at a dead run.

Having realized the error of our ways, we did get a kennel, a large kennel, one Noah

could turn around in and comfortably sleep on his back in.

Noah adapted to his kennel very quickly and so did his owners. We never did use the kennel as punishment so he didn't mind going in it. He soon found out he could prop his legs on the side and lie on his back to nap. Must be very comfortable, since he still does it.

Noah must pay attention to us more than we thought, because before long whenever we'd say we had to go he would head for the kennel, go in and wait for his treat.

Noah had also claimed one of our recliners as his own. As we prepared to move to Texas I bought new living room furniture. My husband wanted to throw out both old recliners and I told him he would have to explain to Noah why his recliner was gone.

The ugly recliner is still with us, but it looks beautiful with the big red dog upside down in it.

Stay tuned for more adventures with Noah.

Sharon Friedlander, publisher of the Colby Free Press, enjoys reading, hot rods and critters. Contact her at sfriedlander@nwkansas.com.

Graduation brings back memories

It finally happened to this Man of the Plains!

My first grandchild received her high school graduation diploma on Friday, May 27. On Sunday, May 31, 1953, I received my high school graduation diploma.

My graduation class at St. Joseph's College and Military Academy (exactly so named on my diploma) numbered 47. Alyssa Dreiling, my granddaughter, was one of slightly more than 600 graduates from Eaglecrest High School, Aurora, Colo.

That May 27, 2011, event was one of those truly proud moments. Alyssa is enrolled to begin studies at the Denver Art Institute in early July. She is the daughter of Master Sgt. Lance and Tobie Dreiling. Lance, by the way, graduated from Goodland High School in 1988 and took some classes at Colby Community College and Fort Hays State University prior to joining the United States Air Force.

As I reflect on my high school years, memories swirl around my head. The seriousness of being a student at a military academy where, incidentally, we knew exactly what we would be wearing to school each day, was offset by the good times, the fun times we had when the day's dismissal bell rang.

I doubt my granddaughter could name more than a handful of her classmates. I have no problem naming all 47 (okay, my yearbook was called in to help with the spelling of several names). Here's the roster: Ron Rupp, Clair Dome, Rich Deen, Pat Giebler, Ernie Leiker, Elmer Miller, Lloyd Urie, Sylvester Leiker, Vern Giebler, Al Rohr, Victor Van Hee, Loren Pfeifer, Cecil Gottschalk, Jim Dalton, Dan Stonecipher, Lawrence Schueler, Louis Dunn, Richard Odette, Donny Wasinger, Howard Spies, Tommy Olson, Harold Engel, Maurice Redetzke, Jim Werner, Urban Hickert, Artie Evans, Tom Depperschmidt, Hilarion Brake, Norman Klaus, Pat McCarthy, Ernie Horinek, Donny Gabel, Alan Ross, Gerald Leikam, Joe Staab, LeRoy Rome, Francis Gatschet, Wayne Gabel, Louis Wellbrock, Gerald Vitztum, John



Tom Dreiling

• Man of the Plains

Tasset, Eugene Sramek, Arlen Walters, Jude Werth, Herb Schmidt, Art Winters and yours truly. I'm sure the classmates will be surprised, but pleased to see their names in the paper once again.

Sadly, some of our classmates are no longer with us, but they are constantly remembered for the roles they played in helping make our class, "The Class of the Corps!"

Absent from my graduation was my father, Richard A. Dreiling, who took ill several weeks before the big event. He died just 12 days later.

St. Joseph's College and Military Academy is now Thomas More Prep-Marian High School. The total enrollment my senior year was 250 with 85 of those being boarder students.

(Apologies if I incorrectly spelled a name or overlooked a name.)

Everybody's now talking about the 2012 presidential election. The Democrats are set to launch President Barack H. Obama for a second term, while the Republicans have a vegetable soup kind of situation whereby the letters of the alphabet are rapidly being depleted.

It is interesting to watch the posturing of the wannabes, and also the names of those deciding against seeking the office. Even Donald "you're fired" Trump took off his political mask and walked away from becoming a candidate.

If the Republicans are smart, and I truly believe they are, they would do what the Democrats did in 2008: pick a younger, less known figure. If you remember, the Dems nominated

an African-American, little known U.S. Senator from Illinois with a funny name. He went up against an American war hero, Republican Sen. John McCain. I'm still of the opinion Sen. McCain could have won that election if he hadn't brought that frozen lollipop from Alaska, Sarah Palin, on board as his running mate. Fatal political mistake.

I'm looking at someone of the likes of former Minnesota Gov. Tim Pawlenty, or if the GOP is more comfortable with an "older" person, Mitt Romney.

Snippets

"Mr. Man of the Plains, you are a natural advocate for those of us who are in the same fix you are in. Social Security just doesn't stretch far enough. Please, please keep talking for those of us who don't have a pulpit."

"...Your explanation of trying to live on Social Security hit the nail on the head. I hope your writings find their way to Capitol Hill." (They will if you clip them out and mail them off.)

"...My aging mother, like you, is trying to make Social Security do. But it don't! Then some of those elected people in Washington want to cut it up like a pig. Shame on them...."

"...You may not have a retirement plan, but you have an army of followers!"

"Your use of the English language is exceptional. I've learned a lot about how not to write. You are my best classroom teacher ever!" (What makes it even better is I don't charge.)

Snippets to my e-mail address.

Tom Dreiling of Aurora, Colo., is a former publisher of the Colby Free Press and The Norton Telegram, and a former long-time editor of the old Goodland Daily News. He is a life-long Democrat, a curmudgeon come lately and a newly minted Coloradan.

Mallard Fillmore

• Bruce Tinsley

