

commentary

from other pens...

Safety zones expand during summertime

The Topeka Capital-Journal on summer safety:
It's a bit of an irony that the school zones around town go silent about the time school is out — and there are even more kids likely to be out on the streets.
Maybe we need to change our thinking a little. Perhaps in summer we ought to consider that the entire community is a school zone.
That may not entail driving 20 mph, as one must do in a school zone. That would be unrealistic. But what it does mean is that we should slow down in general and keep a lookout.
There are a number of other safety issues that arise with the dawn of summer. ...
Water safety is a huge issue.
Pools and lakes will bring tons of summer fun, but they are quite capable of delivering terrible tragedies, too. ...
First things first: If you haven't already done it, you might seek out swimming and first aid classes for you and/or your children. The second thing to do with regard to water safety is to be vigilant. Never leave children unattended in a body of water.
In addition, we shouldn't need to warn about the dangers of mixing alcohol and water sports each year, but it's obviously necessary. ...
There are a host of other safety issues that summer brings with it, including exposure to the sun. The danger is very real; damage from sun now can hurt you for years to come.
Idle time can be a manmade danger, too. Mischievousness doesn't intrude much on the occupied.
Summer can be the best time of year for fun. But only if safety comes first.

The Clay Center Dispatch on the shift of power in the U.S. Senate:
... First we get a Republican president we didn't elect and now we have a Senate we didn't elect.
In what is probably one of the most costly political betrayals in history, an unknown Vermont closet Democrat Republican senator, James Jeffords, has switched parties substantially altering the balance of elected power in the country, gaining himself a committee chairship and fixing the national spotlight on himself for the indefinite future.
His switch will mean Democrats take control of the Senate. ...
Under the rules, all Jeffords has to do is say, "Hey, I'm a Democrat," and cash in on his promise of a committee chairmanship. ...
... There is nothing to prevent any of the others from switching any time. Senate rules trump the intent of the voters, apparently. ...
The cost of changing the Senate will be horrendous. The majority senators live in big offices and will now have to switch with minority senators in small offices, staffers will have to be purged or switched, since majority members have larger staffs than minority members. We would guess the total cost of Jeffords' insecurity to be around \$10 million.
... Jeffords has gone in 24 hours from being unknown to being known as a wishy-washy one man band with a contempt for voters, an unhealthy taste for power, and a willingness to lie, betray his constituents and waste American taxpayer's money.
At least he's finally in the right party.

Letter Policy

The Goodland Daily News encourages and welcomes letters from readers. Letters should be typewritten if possible, and should include a telephone number and, most importantly, a signature. Unsigned letters will not be published. Form letters will be rejected, as will letters deemed to be of no public interest or considered offensive. We reserve the right to edit letters for length and good taste.

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Life undergoes big change, a sad good-bye

We have some sad news. This will be my final column.
My life is undergoing a big change.
After my column on "Granny's Gourmet Pinto and Cranberry Beans," the responses received from you, my readers, caused GR Foods to contact me.
They have offered me a great opportunity promoting their beans.
I will be traveling all over the country and will not be able to write my column from the road.



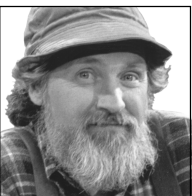
sally mosier

- freedom in eating

I just want to thank each of you for your faithfulness to "Freedom in Eating." I have been so blessed by your letters and e-mails.
Please feel free to stay in touch. My address and

e-mail will stay the same.
You can still order the "Freedom Packages." In case you missed the information on the beans. You can contact them by calling 806-373-7101, or e-mail them at grfoods@amaonline.
My address is Sally Mosier, 400 10th. St. Canyon, Texas, 79015. E-mail me at gosally@netwest.com.
Watch for me in your town, I would love to meet you in person.
Enjoy your freedom and God bless!

Touchy about feel-ly



red green

- north of forty

It's like a well-planned garden: There's always something blooming. Think how much worse it would be if instead it all came together at the age of say, 85. Imagine being an experienced, savvy, athletic, wise octogenarian at the height of your sexual prowess and having an embarrassment of riches and not nearly enough time to spend them. Not to mention the difficulty you'd have getting a date. Like I said, nature is pretty smart.

WAITING FOR THE GUFF

In my life I've taken a fair bit of guff from my siblings and my friends and neighbors and my bosses and especially from my wife. But I'm not complaining. We all need guff. And to prove it, here's a list of bad things that would happen to you if you weren't taking guff from people who care:
— You'd be wearing those orange pants you bought at the thrift shop.
— You'd be riding a moped.
— You'd have a mullet haircut.
— You'd do karaoke.
— You'd have a Zamboni in your driveway.
— You'd be in the backyard without a shirt on.

Whose right to die?



joan ryan

- commentary

"It's a matter of how you view the patient's prognosis," said one doctor I know who treats primarily the elderly. "If you have a patient who has no hope of recovery, who is totally demented, has had amputations, has leg sores — are we doing this patient a favor by keeping him alive?"

The decision is less disquieting with an old person who has lived a full life, and, no matter what measures the doctors take, is on a painful, degenerative path to death. As distasteful as it sounds, we can't ignore the reality of money. A large percentage of our medical dollars go to treating elderly patients in the last three to six months of life. Does it make sense to keep alive someone so deteriorated that his brain and body just barely function and he has no hope of recovery? Could that money be better spent elsewhere?

The more wrenching decisions are those faced by the mother, the wife and the husband. Their loved ones are still young. Their organs aren't giving out. Yet, their doctors agree they have no hope of getting better.

"I love my daughter," Diane Arnder said. "The only thing I was trying to do was give her a rest."

Said Michael Schiavo, "Has my wife no right to depart this world with some semblance of peace?"

I wonder whether any of us can say with certainty what we would do if we were in Diane Arnder's shoes, or Michael Schiavo's or Rose Wendland's. I can't imagine the pain of seeing someone I love become an empty shell of himself. I can't imagine knowing that as I went about my daily life — when I went out to dinner or took a hike or went on vacation - that my mother, husband, son, sat mute and helpless in a sterile hospital room, alone in their

impenetrable world.

Could I ever be 100-percent certain that they no longer want to live, even in this ghostly state? How could I be sure they don't have a satisfying fantasy life inside their heads, or that they can't still hear my voice or feel my touch and derive pleasure from it?

If I were faced with deciding whether to remove feeding and hydration tubes, I would have to answer with brutal honesty a single question: Would I be doing it to end my loved one's suffering, or my own?

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berry's world



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