133nd Year, Number 2

Wednesday, January 12, 2011

# Kansans doing quite well with 'old' license plates

Kansas has somehow survived the state's if dull, light blue license plates.

dome" tags are still getting along just fine. These tags, made of aluminum and covered maybe two.

The Department of Revenue had planned to replace all tags between 2007 and 2009, with the blue "Ad Astra" tags. The rational was that people who get by without paying for new tags would have to do so once the white tags were outlawed.

Then came the budget crunch. The state just couldn't afford to issue new tags for everyone. So it didn't.

And the world has not come to an end.

Aside from the fact that the "capital dome" tag, with its hints of yellow wheat and blue sky above, is one of the most attractive our state has ever issued, these tags really should be good for 30-40 years.

It would be an environmental sin to replace them just because some bureaucrat figures that it would make it easier for the cops to tag. spot scofflaws.

enforcement, why not make those tiny ex-

Anyway, the "dome" tags soldier on. In failure to make everyone switch to the new, fact, the last couple of tag designs before that could still be in service. They're pretty much In fact, drivers with the 2002-issued "capital" indestructible unless you use them to stop a

The real question is, why not just let people with reflective sheeting, are nowhere near keep tags as long as they're legible? That worn out. They could last another decade, might just save the state more money than it could make from improved enforcement.

California has left it's tags in use for decades at a time. So have some other states. There's no magic in changing the design every couple of years, not at the cost of making all new

The way the budget is today, Kansas has plenty of priorities beyond new license tags.

PS: Let us add a prayer to the Revenue Department to do a slight edit on the new "In God We Trust" tags designed by a Colby couple.

While attractive, these tags are simply unreadable due to the use of outline type on the state and slogan. They look great on paper, but on a car, you can't read them.

The state should be able to fill in the type without creating a whole new master for this

Then, you could read the message – and If they wanted to do something to push sales of these tags would take off. It probably won't happen until the lettering is changed, piration stickers just a tad bigger? Too easy, however. No use paying extra for a slogan no

## He's gone into citrus business

I harvested the lemon crop yesterday.

It wasn't much. Just one. Let's just say I haven't been in-

vited to join the Sunkist co-op yet. But I'm willing to bet it was in the top 10 yields in Kansas. And I have four more on the branchs, one a quarter inch across, the others

about half an inch. It'll take them most of the year to mature – if they And I have to say, this

one may be my proudest achievement yet as lemon grower. The crop was big enough, and hung around long enough before it ripened, to have a name though I never quite got around to giving it one. It measured nearly 4

inches, by far the largest fruit I've harvested from my tree. There have been years I've had two or three lemons, but never have I raised one this big.

I picked it for New Year's and made lemonade, one from each half. Cynthia agreed, it was the best lemonade of the year, but then usually we use frozen juice.

There's just no comparison between the juice from these lemons and store-bought fruit or frozen, reconstituted juice. Regular lemon juice is pale. The juice from these home-grown lemons has a light golden color, even richer than the skin. The flavor is strong, though being lemon juice, mostly it's just

I always hate to cut one of the lemons, but you can't just keep them. After six to eight months, though,



## Along the Sappa

By Steve Haynes s.haynes@nwkansas.com

the lemon in the kitchen has become almost part of the family. And the juice is gone so quickly.

I've been growing lemat Dillon's. Who knows bugs that like to infest it. truckload survive today?

Mine is thriving right now, though it has had its ups and downs. It grew wildly the first couple of years. It's outgrown several pots, and I had to cut it back to keep it a house plant.

It lives in the kitchen, by the door, where it gets lots of sun, in the winter, and outside on the back deck in the summer. Like any crop, sometimes it's at the mercy of the weather.

It loves the afternoon sun, but you have to keep it watered. As soon as the pot dries out, and not a couple of days later, it wants a gallon. Can't keep it wet, or the roots will rot. Can't let it dry out, or the leaves suffer.

A couple of years ago, it got caught in a sudden hailstorm. We were out of town. The hail ruined the roof, broke our siding and stripped leaves off the lemon tree. It lost three of a record five-lemon crop.

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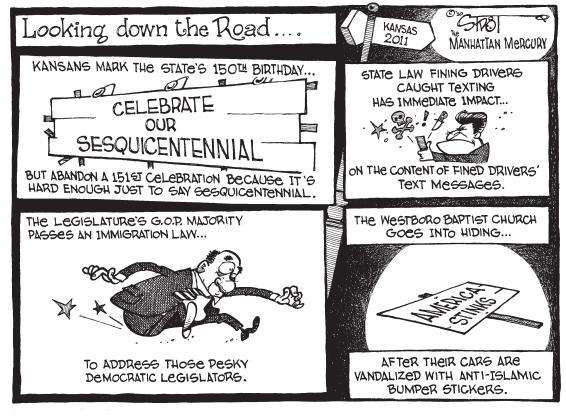
how many trees out of that Like any other crop, the have a long road to navigate before harvest. I enjoy helping them along, watching to see how the story will turn out – and the occasional lem-

> And it gives me something to do while the garden is quiet and my wheat patch is dormant. (The wheat looks pretty good, by the way, despite the dry weather. But that, as they say, is another story.)

#### From the Bible

O sing unto the Lord a new song; for he hath done marvellous things; his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory. The Lord hath made known his salvation: his righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen.

Psalms: 98 1-2



## Neighbors tussle over tree

My husband and Pastor C are fighting over Christmas trees.

Well, that's not totally true. They both had their eye on a neighbor's tree, though, and when she put it out on the curb, they both planned to grab it.

Steve was faster. He ran the half block to the neighbor's house and nabbed the tree, dragging it back over to our back-porch area.

Pastor C, who lives up the alley from us, was driving by, noted the tree sitting against the back of our house and stopped by to talk about She said that she hadn't put up

a tree this year and really missed having one. She had noted the neighbor's tree on the curb and had planned to recycle it. Pastor C said she wanted to put

the tree up with bird food in it and use it until spring as a kind of fancy bird feeder. She said she hadn't counted on anyone else wanting a used Christmas tree. Steve planned to take the tree

out to the new lake at Sappa Park Christmas tree.



### **Open Season**

By Cynthia Haynes c.haynes@nwkansas.com

and sink it for fish habitat. He had already talked to some other people with real trees who were also planning to recycle their dead Douglas firs, Scotch pines and spruce trees into the bottom of the lake for fish family apartments. So, I checked with Steve. The

fish would be fine, it seemed to me, if they didn't get a new apartment until spring. The birds, on the other hand, would be needing help long before that. Steve agreed and within the hour,

Pastor C had liberated the tree from our back porch back yard with the promise to return it in the spring. That's going to be one well-used

removed our lovely pinon pine, that was still in excellent shape, from our front room to the area near the back porch reserved for used Christmas

This all happened a week ago.

started falling in earnest, Steve and I

On Sunday, just before the snow

trees and other large recyclable I'm just wondering if it will stay there until we can get out to the lake or if it will move up the alley to serve another covey of birds. You never

know around our neighborhood. Even finished firs provide fresh forests for our feathered and finned

(Now say that really fast three

## She's learning family's way

Our new daughter-in-law, Charlotte, is still getting used to Jim's "corny" sense of humor. He asked her if she knew why pinto beans had spots, why lima beans were big and flat or why northern beans

When Charlotte said she didn't, Jim delivered the punch-line, "Well, then, you don't know beans.'

All that was missing was the rimshot, ba-da-boom-ba. Poor

Nothing I could do to help her. he will have to develop her own coping skills for how to deal with her father-in-law.

Thank goodness she is so good natured. One of Jim's biggest pleasures in life is to make people laugh. And even though I've heard most of his jokes and stories a dozen times, I try to laugh anew each time.

I think there is a clause in the marriage contract that binds wives to always laugh at their husband's jokes.



#### **Out Back** By Carolyn Sue Kelley-Plotts quality-pro@webtv.net

After hitting a deer and totaling turn on and off. out our red van, we are driving a new vehicle. Well, new to us.

I am still trying to learn the new set of bells and whistles. Speed And, we have a lot of it to talk about controls are on the steering wheel with more coming. Since we're so instead of the signal lever on the steering column. I can't tell you how many times I have activated the window-washing feature when what I really wanted to do was set the cruise control.

Jim finally figured out how to change tracks on the CD player, we're trying to remember that the "unlock" button has to be pushed in order to open the side doors and the headlights don't automatically

My, old habits die hard.

Snow, of course, is the big news. thoroughly modern, we sent a picture of the snow, via cell phone text message, to one of our daughters in San Antonio. She always hated winters in western Kansas and was not the least bit sympathetic to our

According to Jennifer, the only way she will enjoy snow is to see a picture of it. Guess she won't be joining us on any ski trips.

## Pastor had license to marry couples

To the Editor:

I was reading in a book my great aunt Emma Meyer had written about her father, Peter W. Thoren, about his being pastor. One young couple during that time was concerned about Pastor Peter marrying them. After seeing his license, they were happy to let him marry them.

I was excited to learn that Pastor Peter W. Thoren was a licensed pastor. In those days, that must have been how they became pastors. It was from the Swedish Free Mission of Colorado USA. Peter's license read.

### Letter to the Editor

"In nominee Jesus, Amen.

"licensed minister of the Gospel of Christ," entitled to officiate as such be called to Labor as missionary, evangelist and Pastor. Believing him to possess for such office the necessary qualifications according of the New Testament of our Lord Jesus Christ, this license was dated

"This is to certify, that the bearer, in Denver, Colorado, and sealed by Rev. P.W. Thoren, is by us known, a Edward Thorell, Chairman and duty called, and recognized, as a Director of the Swedish Evangelical Free Mission of Colorado."

These licenses were renewed for among us and where ever he may a year at a time. Mr. Thoren was pastor years ago of what is now the Lund Covenant Church.

> I wish I would have known Pastor Thoren, as he was a special greatgrandfather of mine.

Elsie L. Wolters, Oberlin

### Why do people vote the way they do?

#### To the Editor:

This is in response to your editorial about change after the elections in November. What surprises me is that we have

seen a very large number of voters taking positions contrary to their own best interest, including their own children. For instance, while most Ameri-

cans have no chance of earning or inheriting significant wealth, 68 percent want the estate tax eliminated and believe that should be one of the top priorities of the current Congress, while it affects only 0.2

percent of the population. Another disturbing viewpoint is that the current increase in wealth is a "for-profit" industry, plus the inequality is good and worth mainonly country where pharmaceutical taining by preserving a privileged companies push their drugs through

person, like myself, his tax cuts. In costly advertising. the 1950s, a decade of which many American conservatives feel a sense of nostalgia, the marginal tax rate for the the wealthy was over 90 percent. In fact, prior to the 1980s, it never dipped below 70 percent, at a time when every middle class working man had a good-paying job. However, what frightens me

the most is the threat to repeal all health-care reforms made without substituting anything in its place, such as the public option or a singlepayer healthcare system.

We need to ask ourselves how can this be, since we are the only G-20 country where primary healthcare

Even conservatives around the

world are scratching their heads over "Americans don't want affordable healthcare?"

If you are also perplexed with why would we should choose to roll back the last two years and return to the decade that caused the worst recession in living memory, I suggest reading the book by a former CIGNA insider, Wendall Potter, titled "Deadly Spin." This book explains how corporate

public relations is killing health care and deceiving Americans. Lyle Black

Beverly Hills, Calif.

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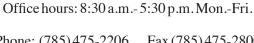
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