

THE CROW'S NEST

A little newspaper convention "fun"

BY AMY WOBBEMA



Did you know? Parents recognize the important role fun plays in a happy childhood, but finding time to laugh and have a good time is important for adults as well. Unfortunately, that lesson seems to have been lost on modern adults. A recent survey from the American Psychological Association found that 76% of adults felt stress from politics, race relations, violence and inflation. Such stress has had an adverse effect on respondents' health, contributing to episodes of headache, fatigue and depression, among other things. According to the nonprofit HelpGuide.org, adult play can help to alleviate stress, improve brain function, boost creativity and strengthen relationships. Sharing laughter and fun with others can encourage empathy, build trust and foster connection with others.

Last week the staff of your local newspaper got the opportunity to do some adult play, if you will. We attended the 140th annual convention of the North Dakota Newspaper Association, where we gathered with journalists from across the state to not only celebrate but also commiserate.

This is "fun" to me because in rural communities we rarely get the opportunity to gather with our peers and unload about the not-so-good news we've had to cover lately.

This year it was double the fun because we also got the chance to participate in a new activity - we went on a scavenger hunt inside North Dakota's Gateway to Science.

The awards ceremony is the part we all look forward to each year. The staff of the Independent and the Transcript keep a running "tally" of which newspaper receives more awards. This year the spoils went to the Transcript, which received two more awards than the Independent. We are competing against each other, in the same division, which adds to the fun. We all sit together, front and center, and there's a lot of friendly banter, some fist bumps and a fair amount of cheering as the winners are revealed.

I'm proud of the work we do to bring you local news each week. This year the two papers combined for 66 total awards, and 17 of them were the top prize, or first place, in the category. Each week I aim to produce two newspapers that are better than the ones I put out last week. Speaker Scott Clary put it perfectly: "Something I noticed about people in their 40s who seem at peace: They stopped competing with everyone and started competing with who they were last year. Smaller scoreboard. Better game." Amen to that.

LETTERS

Praise for the patriotism of our local youth

What a great grade school concert (Carrington Elementary, April 23). They honored our military. Our children were taught to sing patriotic songs. The ceremony for folding of the flag was beautiful. Each fold has a beautiful meaning. It brought tears to my eyes. People around me also got teary-eyed.

My husband is a disabled Vietnam veteran. I do not say that because I think he should get special treatment. I do it to honor him as a former military person. I support our military for what they do. They all should be honored,

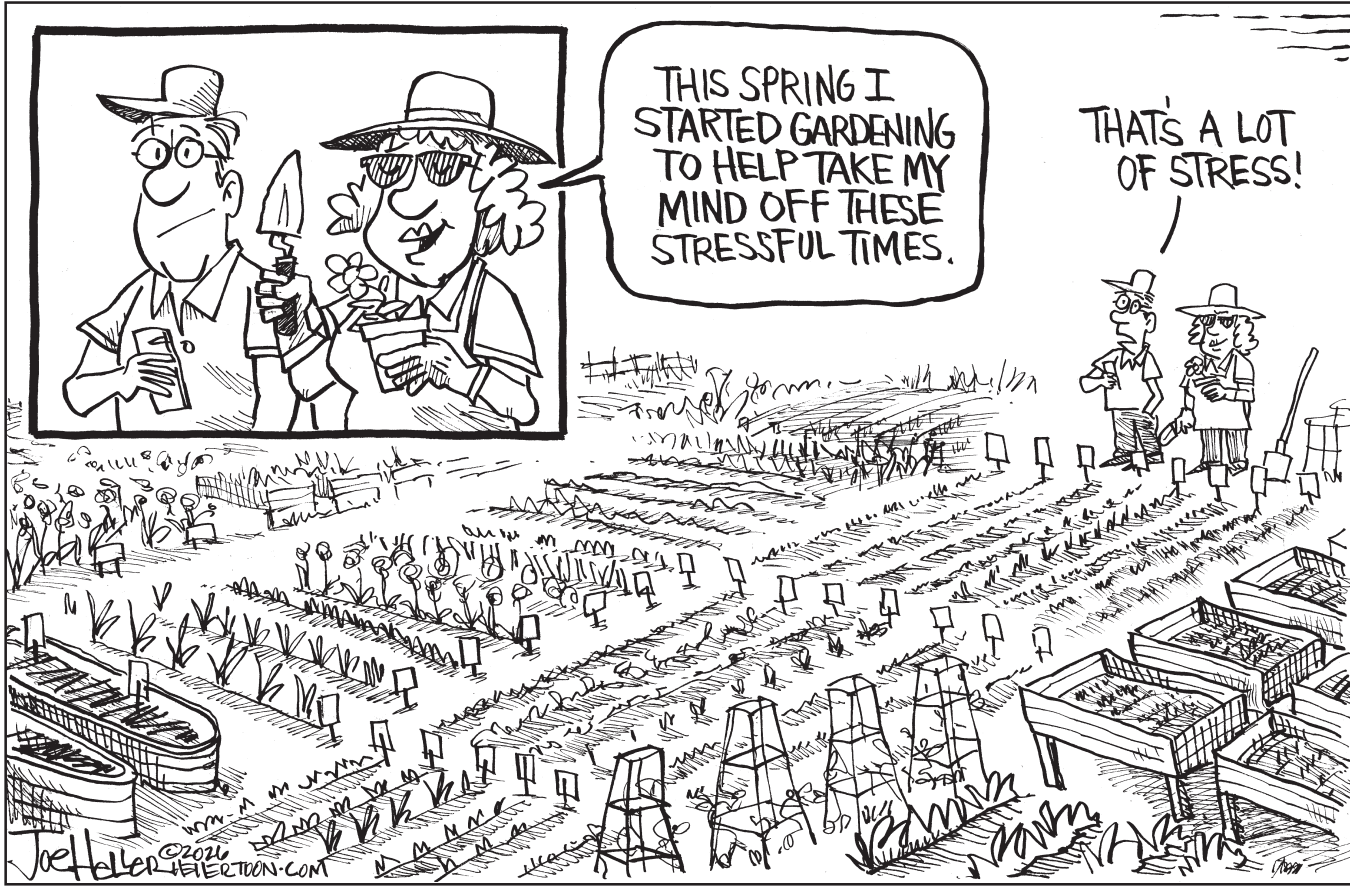
whether currently serving or having served in the past.

It makes me feel so good when he is out and people rush to open the door for him. Even though I am with him, they also hold the door open for me. I guess that could be considered special treatment.

Thank you to all these great people that rush to help a disabled person. I am sure that my husband is not the only disabled person you help.

USA, USA, Happy 250 years!

Bernice Sandvol
Carrington, N.D.



UPSIDE DOWN UNDER

Take in some area car shows this summer

BY MARVIN BAKER

By the end of May and into June, your going to start seeing ads for area car shows. It seems to be an up-and-coming pastime and every year it involves more people and more cars and motorcycles.

You probably live near or in a community that will have a car show this summer or fall. Some of them are small and informal, while others become quite large and well organized.

Car shows, or "Show and Shine," as some of the events are called, are happening all over the state, from Walhalla to Carson and from Medora to Wahpeton. There are also numerous car shows outside North Dakota, but within driving distance.

The season really kicks off with a bang when Devils Run takes place in Devils Lake at the end of May. It has been said that 1,000 vehicles enter that show. This year Mopars are being featured.

Motorheads will converge in downtown Carrington July 18 for the OK Tire Roundup car show, held in conjunction with Central City Bash.

On July 31, August 1-2, the Western Canadian Nationals Car Show will be held in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. This show, one of the largest in western Canada with the exception of World of Wheels in Winnipeg, rotates venues. It could be anywhere from

Vancouver to Winnipeg, so we are lucky to have it nearby.

Moose Jaw is close to many of us and is a good opportunity to meet new people and see some incredible vehicles. The only issue here in North Dakota is the Bottineau Car Show takes place that same weekend.

Last year was the first time I took a stab at showing my car. It's a restored 1985, black, Pontiac Trans Am. I've had the car for 36 years, but only recently had it restored well enough to have it at a public showing. Last year I attended the Bottineau show and had a really great time. But this year, because Moose Jaw is only 217 miles from where I live, I've already registered my car for that show.

My hometown of Hazelton had its centennial in 2003 and it included a car show. It was June and I was stationed at Fort Riley, Kan. The local organizer really wanted my Trans Am in the show. I told him where I was and that getting a three-day pass would be like pulling teeth.

Guess what? I asked the major and he was on board. He told me that I couldn't miss my hometown centennial. So, as I was driving a rented car home from Fort Riley, my wife

drove the Trans Am to Hazelton. Unfortunately, there was a strong wind that day and as she was driving, the wind took the spoiler right off the back of the car somewhere between Washburn and Wilton.

When I got home and saw that, I told my wife there is no way we can have that car in the show. It looks horrible. But the organizer insisted I enter it. So I did, but before that happened, we went to the local hardware store and bought mass quantities of black electrical tape and wrapped it around what was left of the spoiler. It didn't look so good and we sure weren't going to win any awards, but that's where I caught the car show bug.

But since that time, working full time and being in the National Guard prevented me from working on the car. So it sat idle for a number of years until last year.

The Trans Am, which a lot of people call the "KITTY" car, was in six shows last year. And it seems I always have to explain to them that KITTY was a 1982 model and mine is '85, but they do look similar. It certainly is a way to start a conversation. KITTY was the car featured in the early 1980s TV show "Knight Rider."

Looking back at last year, we went to some dynamic shows and it's a matter of opinion which one could be considered better than others.

I would have to say the

Medora Classic in June was incredible. We met people all the way from Topeka, Kan., to Carnduff, Saskatchewan. There was intermittent rain the entire day, but it still was an awful lot of fun and well attended.

In September, we were in Grand Forks for the Rydell Classic charity event. There were approximately 1,000 vehicles in that show with license plates in addition to North Dakota, from Iowa, Minnesota, Manitoba, Montana and Wisconsin. The difference in that show was the registration fee was for charity so it made it a bit more special.

I've heard a lot about the Carson show in August and over the 4th of July weekend, there is said to be quite a "show and shine" in Walhalla. Fargo has numerous shows, as does Bismarck. Kenmare, Mohall, Jamestown, Valley City, Rugby, Lisbon and Minot also have dynamic shows in their own right.

If you have a classic car, truck or motorcycle, it would behoove you to attend an area show. Car shows are more fun than a lot of parties, they're more relaxing than playing golf and you get to meet a whole new society of like-minded individuals.

Marvin Baker is a news writer for the Kenmare News and formerly Foster County Independent.

- Weekly Crossword -

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Notable casino destination
- 6. Current units
- 10. Roman military unit
- 14. American lizard
- 15. Fates
- 17. The Yankees have lots of these
- 19. Unhappy
- 20. Mimic
- 21. Remove from the record
- 22. Where cargo ships dock (abbr.)
- 23. A way to fight
- 24. Turfs
- 26. Contract
- 29. Country along the Arabian peninsula
- 31. Tree species
- 32. Pituitary gland secretion (abbr.)
- 34. Perfect
- 35. "Partner" to groans
- 37. Jewish calendar month
- 38. Where wrestlers work
- 39. Egotistical
- 40. Potted plants
- 41. Containers

- 43. Large, flightless birds
- 45. Part of a book
- 46. American spies
- 47. Pancakes made of buckwheat flour
- 49. Swiss river
- 50. Disfigure
- 53. Have surgery
- 57. Formal withdrawal
- 58. Early English council
- 59. Area units
- 60. 2,000 lbs.
- 61. Siskel and ___

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Animal jaws
- 2. Small water buffalo
- 3. An appliance has one
- 4. Every
- 5. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- 6. Very skilled
- 7. No more than what is specified
- 8. Tire measurement
- 9. Towers
- 10. Forward
- 11. Jacob __, American journalist
- 12. Vale

- 13. Former CIA
- 16. Middle Eastern nation
- 18. Exhausts
- 22. South Dakota
- 23. The complete duration of something
- 24. Kids love him
- 25. Singular
- 27. Cod genus
- 28. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
- 29. Resistance unit
- 30. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 31. Cast out
- 33. 60-minute periods
- 35. Most worn
- 36. European river
- 37. Atomic mass unit
- 39. Items of food
- 42. Body parts
- 43. Ireland
- 44. Partner to Pa
- 46. Sammy __, songwriter
- 47. Dutch settler
- 48. Full-grown pike fish
- 49. Sun or solar disk
- 50. Minute arachnid
- 51. From a distance
- 52. A monthly expense

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- 53. Young women's association
- 54. Brazilian state

- 55. Air freight provider
- 56. Pointed end of a pen

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