



RAMBLINGS

By: Josh Ellis
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Irish Spring

Being a human is a lot of work, especially if you happen to be a human that resides in a human body. The upkeep is ridiculous...feeding it, washing it, clothing it, moving it, resting it, deodorizing it, odorizing it...its needs are endless. Thankfully the fine folks at Irish Spring have taken it upon themselves to consolidate some of this endless upkeep into one bottle—a stately green bottle with a shamrock and misty water cascading over rocks. Tis an Irish spring...or a German spring where the product was first introduced in 1970, or an American spring where it arrived in 1972, or a spring in Mexico, China or Indonesia where some of the manufacturing occurs today, or an AI generated rendering of what an artificially intelligent “thing” (without a hairy, sweaty body to maintain) thinks an Irish spring might look like. So it goes.

Five bodily tasks in one bottle, a bottle that is “50% more” for a price that is 50% less than some other bottle...shampoo, conditioner, body wash, face wash, and 24 hour deodorizer. Whatever will I do with the 37 seconds of my life this green genie of clean has bestowed upon me? Perhaps finally discover that elusive boundary between the skin on my body and the skin on my face that apparently require different types of soap? Is it at turtleneck level...mock turtleneck...crew neck...V-neck...scoop neck? I heard someone say once that wearing a turtleneck was like being slowly strangled by someone with really weak hands. There was a phase around 1990 where a mock turtleneck adorned with a gold chain under a cardigan topped with a magnificent mullet was the epitome of style...then it was mocked. As for scoop neck, I find the

constant cleavage leering to be unsettling, “Hello! My eyes are up here!” The other day, with 37 seconds to spare, I stood in the shower and pondered. I pondered the fact there is a spot in the middle of my back, roughly the size of two helpings of 1970s Burke County Fair cotton candy on a paper cone, that I have not laid my hands upon for many moons. It’s not for lack of effort. Oh, I’ve tried many times to scratch that itch, that itch that perhaps a lathering of Irish Spring might serve to alleviate. I’ve written Irish Spring and requested an upgrade to a 6-in-1 product, with the sixth addition being a bottle the size and shape of a gorilla arm. I suppose the other option is an actual gorilla, but I don’t want to go through the hassle of obtaining a building permit to add onto our shower. Speaking of cotton candy at the Burke County Fair (Flaxton Fair as we normal folk have always referred to it as), one of my earliest memories is walking down the midway with a fresh swirl of cotton candy on a paper cone in one hand and my mom’s hand in the other. I’m not sure how old I was, old enough to walk and young enough to not be mortified about holding my mom’s hand in public... 17...18? I remember we walked by an electrical pole, a wooden one, roughed up and splintery from years of weather and linemen climbing gaffs. As we went by the pole, as my mom’s hand led me in one direction, I felt a tug in my other hand, the hand that was now holding a paper cone. The last I saw of my swirl of cotton candy, it was clinging to that pole, wagging a bit in the prairie breeze...free at last. Whenever I try and scratch that itch I think of that cotton candy and wonder how its life turned out?

A Look at the Past



Week of September 17

70 years
This week another member has been added to the Tribune staff of correspondents. Mrs. Mary Lynch of Flaxton will furnish our readers with news from Flaxton. Jack Westra, assistant Ward County Agent since July of 1954, has taken over the duties of Burke County Agent, replacing T. Nordbo. A total of 164 students are enrolled at the Flaxton School. Portal School opened Monday with Curtis Rime as superintendent and Mrs. Emil Saby as principal. Enrollment was at 104 on opening day. Births: daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Carl Johnson; son to Mr. and Mrs. Doran Christensen. **60 years** Mrs. Melvin Handeland of Bowbells was among a group of 100 housewives from a seven state area who won cash awards in a family favorite recipe search conducted by the Festal Food Division of Owatonna Canning Company. Wayne Christensen scored two touchdowns and passed to Larry Zepp for three more as Flaxton Raiders tumbled Bowbells High, 33-6 in the Souris River Conference football

match. **50 years** Birth: daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hill. Powers Lake Elementary School has a new look. Mr. and Mrs. Stefan Jastrzebski have grass started around the school, trees in front and a lovely flower bed on the outside. The Bicentennial Train appeared in Portal on Sept. 8. The Yard of the Week goes to Elton Peterson. Obituary: Teckla Olson, 93, of Bowbells. Henry and Myrtle Johnson of Powers Lake celebrated their 40th anniversary. Ed Pixley of rural Powers Lake celebrated his 93rd birthday. **40 years** The new Johnson Oil Card-trol station, located on Main Street in Bowbells, opened for business Sept. 5. Owners are Lloyd (Pompy) and son, Jeff Johnson. At the June meeting of the Columbus Jaycee women, it was decided to drop the affiliation with the Jaycees. Their new name is the Columbus Community Women. Births: son to Mr. and Mrs. James Van Berkom; daughter to Monte and Karen Burau. Bowbells Homecoming coronation queen candidates are Lori Beard, Tammy Olson and Tana Erickson. The King candidates are Kyle Melby, Jade Par-

kinson and Jon Eggen. Crown bearers are Derek Herbel and Joy Aufforth. Obituaries: Dr. John Kanaly, 37, of WY; Maxine Kanaly, 29, of WY; M.E. (Sam) Glaspey, 84, former State Legislator of Lignite; Stella Piper, 81, of Battlevue; Verner Hermansen, 82, of Flaxton. **30 years** The City of Kenmare, the Kenmare Park Board and the Des Lacs National Wildlife Refuge are pleased to announce the opening of the Des Lacs scenic road. **20 years** Lignite residents raise money for Hurricane Katrina victims. Advertise and they will come, is what two Portal women have done. They have a home ready to move into for victims who want to relocate after the hurricane. They also helped with other aspects of housing and relocating to this area. Prairie Wellness Center is looking for grants to open a new facility. Obituaries: Jeanie Anderson, 49, of Velva; Leanard Holte, 92, of Larson; Orvin Thorlakson, 86, of Clinton. **10 years** Alan Colbenson is celebrating his 80th birthday. Powers Lake Civic Club is celebrating 80 years. The club was organized in December of 1935 with charter members Mrs. T. A. Anderson; Mrs.

Mrs. Elmer Bloom; Mrs. Olaf Enget; Mrs. Rhoda Frank; Mrs. Robert Goodman; Mrs. Victor Helberg; Mrs. Ella Lorentzen; Mrs. Mary Sadek; Mrs. Bessie Spalberry and Mrs. J. H. Van Berkom. Kinzi Grubb has recorded her 100th dig at Powers Lake. Stephanie St. Croix is teaching back in Bowbells. She is teaching the 1st and 2nd grade combination class. Obituaries: Erik Helseth, 23, rural Columbus; Beatrice Wilson, 89, formerly of Bowbells and Williston; Norman Fagerbakke, 87, of Noonan. **one year** Suicide prevention events planned documentary to be shown in Kenmare and Crosby. Kayla Barral, Bowbells graduate, chosen for Diplomacy Internship. Grandparents Day was celebrated at Burke Central school. Aliyah Bly with her grandma, Betty Bly had a fun time together. They shared muffins, read books and filled out a questionnaire about grandma. Many grandparents took part in the festivities. Obituaries: Leland Schweyen, 96, Northgate; Delmer Christensen, 88, of Kenmare. Bonnie Jorgenson will be celebrating her 90th birthday Oct. 5. Joanne Colbenson is celebrating her 90th birthday at the View on Sept. 28.

I’d Like to Retire Early, But Don’t Want My Social Security Reduced



Social Security Matters

by Russell Gloor, National Social Security Advisor at AMAC Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Association of Mature American Citizens

Dear Rusty: I will be 65 this year and my husband is 72 (he retired in 2019 at age 66). I would like to retire and enjoy some time with him before he gets too much older. I do not want to have my benefits cut by retiring earlier, but I don’t see a way to be able to do that. My benefit will be \$1343 on my full retirement age (FRA). If I took half his retirement when he retired, it would be less than mine. If I take early retirement and he passes away before me, would I get his full benefit as his survivor, or will it be cut? We are trying to figure it out. His current benefit (before

Medicare Part B) is \$2978. It’s very confusing. *Signed: Confused and Wondering* **Dear Confused:** Whenever any Social Security benefit is claimed earlier than full retirement age (FRA), the monthly amount is permanently reduced. If you were to retire at age 65, your Social Security benefit would be reduced by about 13% - in other words, if your FRA (age 67) amount is \$1343, at 65 you would get about \$1164. And at age 66 you would get about \$1253 per month. Whether you would be entitled to a “spousal boost” from your husband depends on how your FRA amount compares to 50% of his FRA entitlement. If your FRA amount is less than 50% of his FRA amount, then you would get a “spousal boost,” but the amount of that boost would also be reduced if you claim before your FRA. (Note: from the numbers you provided, you may be entitled to a spousal boost and, if so,

it would be applied by Social Security when you claim). Also, FYI, if you take SS before your FRA and are still working, Social Security has an annual earnings test which limits how much you can earn while collecting early benefits. If you earn more than \$23,400 in 2025, you will likely not get all of your monthly SS payments (SS will take away some monthly benefits if you exceed the earnings limit). Of course, if you retire from working, this will not be a problem, because earnings before you claim SS won’t count toward the limit. When you claim your SS retirement benefit now will not affect your survivor benefit from your husband later. If your husband passes first, your benefit as a surviving spouse would be based on the amount your husband was receiving at his death. But if you were to claim your widow’s benefit prior to your FRA, your survivor benefit would also be reduced (the amount of reduc-

tion depends on how much before your FRA you claim your survivor benefit). If you claim your widow’s benefit at or after you FRA, you will get 100% of the amount your husband was receiving at his death (instead of your own smaller amount). It will only be reduced if you claim before your full retirement age. *This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation’s staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisor@amacfoundation.org.*

Kitchen creations

To submit a favorite recipe, mail to P.O. Box 40, Bowbells ND 58721, or e-mail to tribune@nccray.net.

DONNA’S VEGETABLE SALAD

- 1 head cauliflower - cut
 - 1 head broccoli - cut
 - 1 c. celery - chopped
 - 2 bunches green onion - cut
 - 1 c. carrots - cut
 - 2 green peppers - chopped
 - radishes - optional
- DRESSING:
- 1. c. mayonnaise
 - 1/4 c. sugar
 - 1/2 c. sour cream

- 1/4 c. French dressing
 - 1 Tbsp. vinegar
 - 1 tsp. salt
- Mix dressing with vegetables just before serving. This recipe is by Jean Nygaard of Wildrose. It was printed in the “Tastes of Christmas” supplement of The Journal, Dec. 13, 2023. Time to send in recipes to keep running this column.

Dakota Attitude by James Puppe

Allen G. Roll

Interview: June 17, 2014
County: Dunn
City: Dunn Center

Allen G. Roll was born on a farm just north of Burt, in 1933. During the hard years of the 1930s the Burt bank failed, and Allen’s father and grandfather lost their farms. Later the family moved to a quarter of land north of Burt. Allen grew up there and attended a country school in Solon Township, then graduated from Mott High School in 1952. He was in the service from 1954 to 1956. Allen and his wife, the former Ione Oster, were married in 1957. They raised five children. Ione suffers from dementia and has been in a nursing home for two years. After farming near Burt for a number of years, Allen bought a place near McClusky. “That was on a contract for deed, but then I paid that off. I traded it off for a filling station

in Mercer. And then that burnt down on me so that’s when I quit and I said, ‘I’m not going back in debt again.’ The insurance paid everything off, but I didn’t have enough to restock.” In 1983, Allen moved to Dunn Center and drove truck for Eklund Brothers Transport hauling crude oil. Before retiring in 1997, Allen was mayor of Dunn Center for 23 years. Dogs were involved in one of his toughest decision as mayor. “Lot of them let their dogs run loose around here, you know. So we had to have the judge in there to stop that.” But now Allen has a dog, “named Koda. It was a boy, but he’s a good companion.” Besides being mayor of Dunn Center, Allen served as Legion

commander for two years. He considers it one of his successes in life. The other success is more personal: “That I raised my family, you know, and everything. That I’m still happy that way, you know.” Advice to the younger generation? “Behave yourselves, and listen to your parents.” (Editor’s Note: The following profiles of North Dakota residents were collected by author James Puppe between 2004-2018, covering 617 subjects and 113,000 miles. He has given permission for his book to be serialized in North Dakota Newspapers at no charge. To find out how you can read the entire collection of Dakota Attitude profiles go to dakotaattitude.com.)



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