

IN KEVIN'S WORDS

Unique positions in life



Kevin Holten

Are you in a unique position in your life? And when I talk about unique positions, I'm not talking about something that is unique for you, as much as it is unique for others.

According to Mr. Dictionary, the definition of unique is being the only one of its kind; unlike anything else. The definition of position is a place where a particular someone or something is located or has been put.

In other words, it's about a unique person in a special place. And if we look deeply enough, we can see that we are all one of those people. But there was one person in particular that made me think about it the other day.

We tend to spend a fair amount of time wondering about the meaning of life. And as a result, we frequently wonder what we are supposed to do with our life.

Are we to do what we most enjoy and is most rewarding? Or

are we to settle for a very good job that pays well, provides us with security and gives us status but causes us a great deal of stress and makes us dread going to work almost every day.

Our decision is typically based upon the almighty dollar. Do we ultimately love the dollar despite the job? And is it the dollar that gives us more joy or the job? Or, more importantly, is it our job that gives others more joy?

The person I told you about is a cashier at Walmart. Naturally, there are a variety of cashiers and even self-checkout stations to choose from. But I'd rather wait a little longer for this cashier because his wit makes me smile, chuckle, and sometimes gives me a better perspective on life.

Is that part of a Walmart cashier's job description? If not, maybe it should be. And maybe it should be for all of us.

Now, let's say that, as a young single man he meets a young lady someplace who asks him what he does for a living. He might be tempted to tell her that he's a doctor, lawyer, spy, astronaut or real estate mogul rather than a cashier at Walmart.

After all, he seems

very intelligent and could probably do any job well. But the question is, what position would a different job put him in?

Because right now, thanks to the constant flow of traffic, he has an opportunity to positively affect the mood of countless people in all walks of life. And that is a very valuable position.

In other words, he's doing work that doesn't reward him well monetarily right now. But it might be building him a big-sized savings account for eternity.

And yet, the girl he is trying to impress might not be impressed if she doesn't understand the impact he has.

Singer Andy Williams once said that the important things in life are children, honesty, integrity and faith. And that's true except, aren't those things already part of our job description? And how many of us take bold steps beyond that?

I like a statement by educational entrepreneur, motivational speaker, and author Anthony J. D'Angelo, who might have summed it up best when he said, "The most important things in life aren't things".

Somehow that young cashier at Walmart is well beyond knowing all about that.

PARKER'S PERSPECTIVE

The older you get, the lines are drawn heavier



Gaylon Wm. Parker

Gaylon is a news and sports writer who originally is from Jensen Beach, Fla. And his columns appear weekly. He can be reached at bcpnews@gspublishing.net and/or 701-502-1867.

My prevailing theory in this world is the dichotomy between "this" or "that." We can learn a LOT about people based on what side they're on (and, no, I'm NOT talking politics ... that dopey subject sucks too-much air out the room).

It's mostly simple stuff: Who do you like better, Stones of Beatles ... Batman or Superman ... Godfather I or GODFATHER II ... fish or chicken(?) But these silly little details save time, like, "I can get along with this person, so long as I ask the right questions." Getting closer to the grave than the cradle, the sands through the hourglass are diminishing and it just makes sense.

Somebody said recently, "When you look at life as 'One-day-less, as opposed to 'One more day,' we start to treat the sand as a grain and not-so-much a volume. People send me YouTube videos or the infernal TikTok all the time, and knowing I'm running out of it makes me scroll-past.

In the meantime, there are evaluations we respect from outside observation. I LOVE my job, and because being an athlete meant an

understanding of WHO athletes are, there's a different appreciation there. They sweat, practice, fail, succeed, fall, rise, absorb pressure and transcend. Perhaps failing more than succeeding on the field-of-play, but ALL of them can put either in their places and experiences.

Being a sucker for simple-quotes, it becomes fun (as a writer) to see how-much wisdom to be derived from less words. It's not that journalists are lazy, so-much as we tend to crystallize as few words into wisdom in the same way coal is compressed into a diamond over a long-span of time.

So, and likewise, diamonds are multifaceted. The most-beautiful gems contain the highest degree of clarity and reflect light to draw the eye. Crafting 100 future jewels takes discipline, like encouraging 100 athletes requires understanding and patience. For the sportswriter, we learn - or know through experience - how to "separate the wheat from the chaff" in short order.

Like jewels, the best athletes are multifaceted. You see their skills and talents over a broad spectrum of athletic endeavors and it's easy to appreciate them as they are polished and find their way to perfection (or something close to it). Plus, in rural North Dakota no school system can survive without them transitioning from season to season.

We all have our favorite sports to cover, but over time we grow accustomed to appreciating them all. With baseball and softball - and the most-difficult task in the world of sports is hitting a round ball with a round

bat - that timeline is longer, but eventually those sports become second-nature. Basketball and football require teamwork and cohesion and an artful approach to catching, shooting or throwing the ball into somebody's hands or through the net. In track & field, generally you're either fast or you're not and you build endurance for longer races or you come up short, but the athletes wring every ounce of energy from themselves on their way to the finish line.

The most-obvious and necessary element of ANY quality athlete - in the end - is whether they try as hard as they can or they don't. Every play, every pitch, every step, they pour everything they have into the effort. When a friend of mine down home asked me how the athletes compare to Florida, I responded that, "I've never seen athletes work harder in such an unselfish and earnest fashion."

So, my barometer for those at the top of their respective disciplines doesn't always show up in the box score or a stopwatch, but whether they continue to aspire to more and never quit. That is a "lights-on/lights-off" situation, no matter how you slice it, and when it all comes together the victory is even sweeter.

As we head into Spring (and I know we're bound to experience a cold-snap or two along the way) I'm always happy with the transitions, and with all there is to enjoy on the diamond, court or track and field we sportswriters get to appreciate a few gems along the way. Win or lose, the games and races are never a waste of time.



Taylor Schmitt
PHOTOGRAPHY
701-516-7209
taylorshmittphotography1@gmail.com
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USPS - 056-180
P.O. Box 156
Beach, ND 58621
701-872-3755 • bcp@gspublishing.net
Billings County
PIONEER
*Official Newspaper for the City of Medora.
Official Newspaper for Belfield and Billings County School Districts.
Official Newspaper for Billings County, ND.*
Jill M. Friesz..... Publisher
Gaylon Parker..... Reporter
The Billings County Pioneer is published each Thursday at
GS Publishing, LLC, 22 Central Ave. Suite 4, Beach, ND 58621.
Periodicals postage is paid
at Beach, ND and at additional mailing offices.
Postmaster send address changes to:
Billings County Pioneer • P.O. Box 156, Beach, ND 58621
In Billings County\$50.00
All other subscriptions\$60.00
E-edition\$40.00
Proud members of the
North Dakota Newspaper
Association and National
Newspaper Association.

NDNA
NORTH DAKOTA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION
Published April 2, 9 & 16, 2026

Notice to Creditors

Kubik, Bogner, Ridl & Selinger
Attn: Jon Bogner, ID# 03468
P.O. Box 1173
Dickinson, ND 58602-1173
Attorneys for the Personal Representative
04-2026-PR-00001

**IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
BILLINGS COUNTY, STATE
OF NORTH DAKOTA**

**In the Matter of the Estate of
ROGER MYERS, deceased.**

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN That the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the said deceased are required to present their claims within three months after the date of the first publication of this notice or said claims will be forever barred. Claims must either be presented to Lori A. Elliott, Personal Representative of the estate of Roger Myers, at P.O. Box 1173, Dickinson, North Dakota 58602-1173, or filed with the Court.

Dated this 12th day of
January, 2026.
/s/ Lori A. Elliott
Lori A. Elliott,
Personal Representative

Published April 2, 9 & 16, 2026