

News Column

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SUCCESSION PLANNING – AGAIN

Ryan, our youngest child, is a freshman at Kansas State University and he appears to be thoroughly enjoying the college experience. If he didn't run into his parents nearly every Sunday in church, his college life would be much like any other college student.

Ryan studies more than his dad ever studied – he gets that from his mom – but he is enjoying school and taking advantage of the student athletic tickets like his dad and uncle did 40-some years ago. He has been on TV at men's basketball games at least three or four times already this year, evidence that he is using his time wisely, standing in line to get the good seats.

There isn't anything quite like being in the middle of the student section at a K-State basketball game. It really gets you pumped up!

At home basketball games the students hide behind newspapers as the opposing team's players are introduced. Then they tear up those newspapers and throw the pieces in the air after K-State's players are introduced.

Somewhere in the concourse above the student section is a pile of newspapers for students to grab and use during player introductions. They don't have to bring their own newspapers.

I don't know where the university gets the newspapers but I'm guessing someone may have cleaned out a hoarder's house and donated the newspapers for student use. Since I'm guessing, I'm going to also guess the hoarder's name might even be Donna.

On more than once occasion Ryan has told me his newspaper was The Riley Countian,... and my news column was in his paper. He even sent a picture before the February 21 game, with my column on the front page of his newspaper.

I responded to Ryan's text and asked if he was going to keep that newspaper for his scrapbook. His response, "Imma tear it up. You tell that story a lot."

What? I tell that story a lot? What is he talking about?

I was only slightly offended because I'm pretty self-aware and realize I'm starting to get old,...and old guys tell the same stories over and over. It's just what old guys do.

Still, I wondered what Ryan was talking about so I went back to his text and zoomed in on the picture of The Riley Countian. Surprisingly, I was actually able to blow it up big enough to read what I had written. It was a story about returning to the farm in 1980 and my parents setting up trusts so I could continue to farm once they were gone without fear of my brothers selling the farm out from under me.

OK. I told that story a couple of months ago. That must be the newspaper he picked up.

Nope. I zoomed in closer and focused on the upper right corner of the paper. It was dated January 6, 2006.

Still, is it fair for him to say I tell that story all the time when it was more than 16 years between the telling? And,...it seemed to be new information to him when he read it in January. Go figure.

Since I have been chastised by my son I won't tell the story again. Instead, I'll jump right to the point where I invite you to attend a succession planning workshop. We aren't even hosting this event, yet I still want to draw it to your attention. I'm sure it will be good.

Shannon Ferrell, Oklahoma State University professor of agricultural economics will be

the featured speaker at two sessions on Wednesday, March 22 during the Mid America Farm Show in Salina. His 10:00 a.m. session will cover the Basics of Farm Transition Planning, and the 1:30 p.m. session will discuss Mechanics of Building a Farm Legacy: Transactional Tools for Farm Transitions. Both sessions will be held in the 4-H Building, across the street from the Tony's Pizza Event Center.

I attended a workshop in December where Dr. Ferrell was the keynote speaker so I have scouted this one out for you. I promise it will be worth your time.

If you have questions you can reach me at the Riley County Extension Office at 785/537-6350. Or, you can send e-mail to gmcclure@ksu.edu.

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