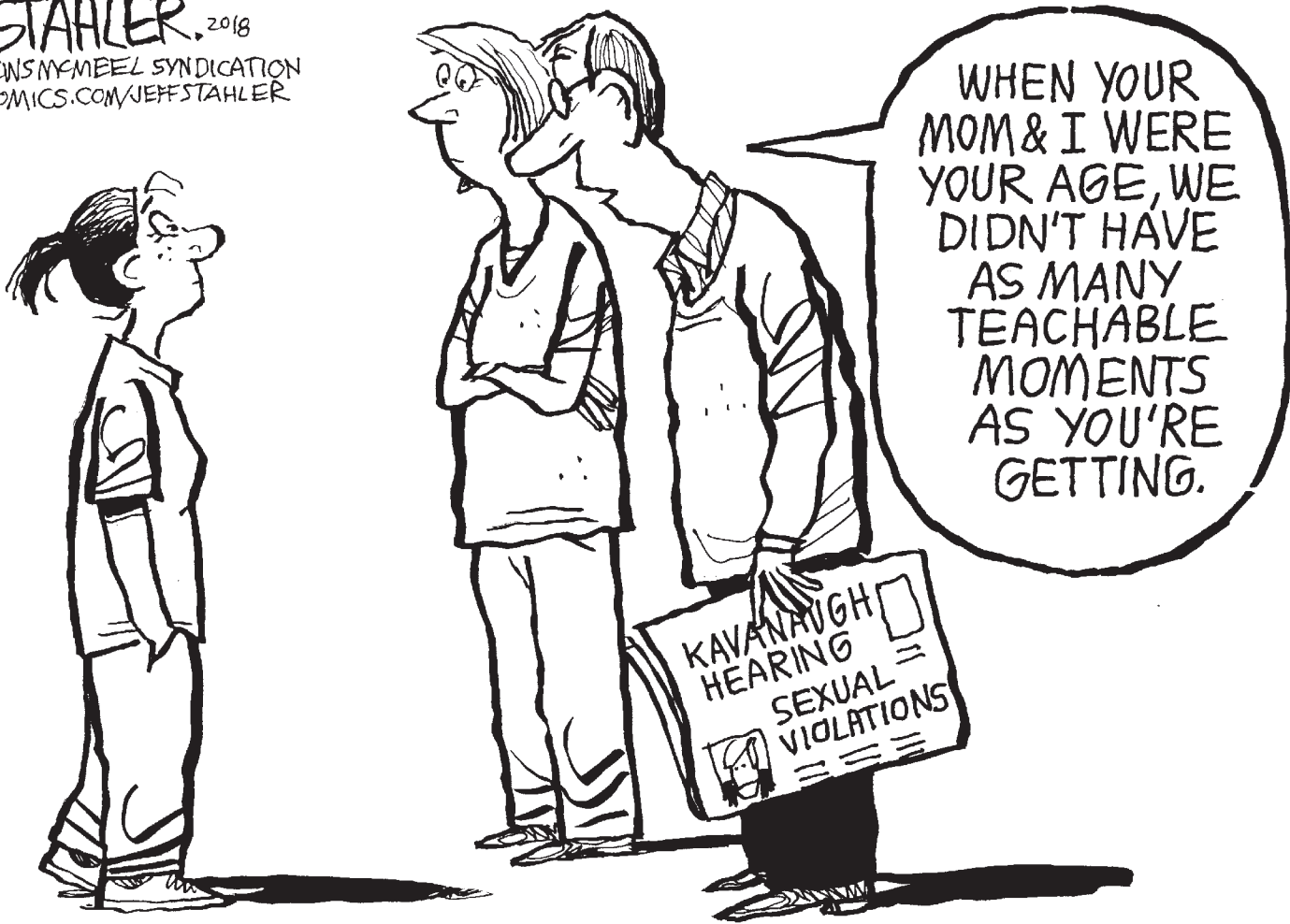


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Highway of doom fraught with perils

Those in glass houses should never throw rocks. I never really understood that line since no one I know of lives in a glass house in the first place and if I actually did live in a glass house, I'd be more worried about tornadoes as a glass house in a twister would make the average trailer park look like a nuclear bomb fallout shelter in comparison.

But this column isn't about glass houses. No, it's about dodging rocks. Specifically dodging them on Highway 45 between here and McMinnville.

"You big dummy," I can hear you saying after I referred to Highway 56 (McMinnville Highway) as Highway 45. "Don't you even know the road names?"

Actually, the highway between McMinnville and Smithville is known to some as Highway 45 since you generally get behind someone who refuses

to go over 45 miles per hour on the two-lane stretch, most of which is a double yellow line which forbids passing. These 45'ers act like their car will explode if they actually hit 46 on the speedometer even though the speed limit most of the way is 55 (translated to 65 for us scofflaws who take our lives in our own hands and do 10 over).

The chances of getting behind one of those putt-putt drivers increases exponentially with your rush to get to McMinnville or Smithville. If you're in no hurry, the road will be wide open except for that one trooper who you will pass while you're doing 75. That's more than 10 over, lead foot.

"Do you know how fast you were going, sir?" the trooper will say as he asks

for license and registration.

"No officer, but I figure you're about to tell me," you respond as you're about to get hit with a \$200 ticket.

If you're in a hurry then you will always have the 45'er who pulls out just ahead of you from some side road and goes like he's in the Christmas parade, speeding up only when there's a dotted line where you might could pass. There will always be that semi-truck coming when the possibility of passing presents itself, causing you to tuck back in behind the slow poke.

Sorry, I got off on a rabbit trail. This column isn't about dodging rocks, specifically the horrifying highway of doom someone has set

up just on the other side of the Warren County line. For some reason, and I'm sure it makes all the sense in the world, they put down a coating of tar and them put gravel on top of it. They then posted signs warning of "loose gravel."

They should have said "watch for shrapnel!" instead as rocks flung by cars going 45 to 75 miles per hour are getting thrown at hyper speed. While I'm yet to lose a windshield, I can hear the rocks pinging off my paint job. From what I understand, several motorists have filed claims against whoever started the highway of doom.

Yes, my short commute to work has gotten adventurous. Now I not only have to worry about getting behind a 45'er, I also have to worry about him or her busting my windshield on the highway of doom.

Contact Duane Sherrill at news@smithvillereview.com



THAT NEW GUY

by Duane Sherrill

Earth stood still

In 1951, the man who later, in 1979, created the first "Star Trek" movie, produced a science fiction classic called "The Day the Earth Stood Still." An alien and a powerful robot from outer space appeared in Washington, D. C. to warn the world to get along together or face destruction by other planets.

In the days of Joshua, the successor to Moses, and leader of the nation of Israel, the inhabitants of a city called Gibeon made peace with Israel. The five kings of the Amorite people joined forces to attack Gibeon, and so the people of Gibeon asked Joshua to help them. God assured Joshua that the Amorites would be defeated, and God personally slaughtered many of them. They began to flee, so God dropped large hailstones from heaven, and He destroyed more of the Amorites with the hailstones than Joshua's army had killed with swords.

At this point, Joshua made a bold statement, commanding the sun and the moon to stand still until all the Amorites could be completely destroyed. They both stood still for about an entire day, and Joshua 10:14 says, "There was no day like that before or after, that the Lord hearkened to the voice of a man, for the Lord fought for Israel."

In II Kings 20, the prophet Isaiah was sent by God to Hezekiah the king, because he was deathly sick. Isaiah told him to "set your house in

order, for you will die, and not live." Hezekiah turned toward the wall and prayed to God to remember how he had walked before Him in truth and with a perfect heart, and had done good in His sight. God decided to heal him and to add fifteen more years to his life.

Hezekiah then asked Isaiah for a sign that he would be healed, so Isaiah gave him a choice between having the sun go backward or forward ten degrees. Hezekiah chose for the sun to go backward ten degrees since he thought that would be more difficult.

God honored Hezekiah's request, and the shadow on the sundial went back ten degrees, which would equate to forty minutes of time.

A story is told about scientists in the space program checking the position of the sun, moon, and stars 100 and 1,000 years into the future, in case they wanted to send satellites into orbit. Their computers discovered a missing day in elapsed time in the universe, so a Christian scientist told the story of Joshua. When they added the 10 degrees from Hezekiah's day, the 24 hours of missing time problem was solved, and the Bible was found to be accurate, as usual.

Larry R. Steffee is pastor of the Center Hill Brethren In Christ Church on Miller Road in Smithville. Everyone is welcome to attend. You may email lrsteeftn@yahoo.com for information.



WORDS FROM ABOVE

by Larry R. Steffee

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR TO THE POLICY

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Cheap travel tips

If there's one thing I know, it's travel. I've acquired some great money-saving tips over the years, and decided I can't keep them to myself any longer. So here are Jim's Tips on How to Save Money While Traveling. You're welcome in advance!

1. Just stay home. If you still feel the urge to travel, go spend a day watching the Travel Channel. Then cook a meal with some kind of sausage that doesn't taste like any meat you can identify. Goat, maybe? Horse? Soy lent Green?

2. Sometimes we travel because we think it's important to meet people in person. If it's so important, why are WE doing the traveling? Why don't THEY do it?

3. Small children don't need a vacation. They are already on vacation. Their whole life is a vacation. Maybe you've noticed: They do exactly what they want, whenever they want.

4. Teenagers do not need a vacation. Remember, they get three months off each summer. Don't spoil it for them. Leave them at home. No, not alone, but with some caregiver who doesn't cook or clean as well as you do. The worse, the better. Aunt Tillie, maybe. She's 80 and yet the 6-foot-4 postman is scared of her. The kids hate it when she visits. She'll make them porridge with prunes for breakfast and will stand there until they eat it. Boy, will those kids be glad to see you when you get back.

5. Thanksgiving and Christmas are coming up, and you might be tempted to travel to Grandma's house or some other crazy place to "catch up with the relatives" or because it's a tradition. Here's

an idea: Go to Grandma's house today, instead. Or sometime not during the holiday rush. Go visit your hometown while the lines at the airport are only ONE hour long. You'll finally be able to enjoy Thanksgiving and Christmas.

6. For the money you spend traveling to a wedding, you could have sent a very nice gift. Two, really: one for yourself and one for the new couple. And you're also giving them the gift of not having to feed you at the reception.

7. If you still insist on traveling, remember that you're not saving any money by taking the cheaper flight at 6 a.m. First, it means you have to be at the airport by 5 a.m. And unless you live next-door to the airport, you'll have to leave the house at 4. If you want to take a shower first, we're talking about setting the alarm for 3:30 a.m. So instead, you'll rent a hotel room next to the airport the night before your trip, costing you \$200 -- which is exactly how much more money the 9 a.m. flight cost.

8. Visiting the family? Rent a car and stay in a hotel. Make up some story about why you can't actually spend the night at their house, like, "My doctor says I have to sit in a spa for at least 40 minutes twice a day," or "I don't want to bother you with my giant sleep apnea machine." Or better yet, "Some of my medicines are highly explosive." They'll insist that you stay with them but, alas, you've already rented the room where you won't have to share a bathroom with Cousin Itt, and you won't wake up to Fluffy the cat sitting on your face at 5 a.m.

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VILLAGE IDIOT

by Jim Mullen