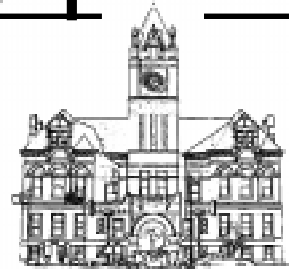


# Opinion



## Guest Viewpoint

### County fairs bring out best of Kansas

The end of summer is approaching and the school bell's ring is near. In Kansas, that means it's county fair time. Nearly all of our 105 counties host a county fair. It is a tradition that is rich in Kansas heritage and history. Our forbearers began the county fair tradition as an after-harvest celebration and today that heritage continues. Although county fairs have grown into larger and more complex events, they remain at their core, a celebration of the bounty of our state's rich agricultural legacy.

But the county fair is much more than funnel cakes and demolition derbies. They play a key role in helping to shape our future generations. Whether its showing a calf or raising the county's largest pumpkin, the Kansas county fair is a wonderful breeding ground for developing the kind of qualities we want to encourage in our young people.

Our children and grandchildren can and do learn much from their county fair endeavors. Prize-winning efforts help bolster the feeling that hard work and perseverance are rewarded. Our kids don't have to win the blue ribbon, however, to experience pride in being successful and to begin to develop a sense of responsibility and self-worth. After all, just making the effort and working hard toward a goal, in and of itself, is a wonderful way to build character.

The county fair is also the one time each year when folks from throughout the entire county, and sometimes many counties, can come together. Urban and rural, city kids and farm kids, the Main Street businessperson and the farmer. Everyone pulls together for the same purpose, experiencing a sense of community unmatched by any other event.

The county fair has become not only a celebration of a successful harvest, but a celebration of a way of life. And while it many seem old-fashioned to some out-of-staters, it's a celebration that we value as much as any of our Kansas traditions.

Kansas is an agricultural state. Farming and ranching are the backbone of our economy. We are fortunate, indeed blessed, to have such a vast and diverse history and heritage. The county fair is a big part of what makes us proud to be Kansans. — *by Gov. Bill Graves*

\*\*\*\*\*

You can contact the governor at 1-800-748-4408, or visit his website at [www.accesskansas.org/governor](http://www.accesskansas.org/governor)

Comments to any opinions expressed on this page are encouraged. Mail them to the Colby Free Press, 155 W. 5th St., Colby, Kan., 67701. Or e-mail [td@nwkansan.com](mailto:td@nwkansan.com) or [pdecker@nwkansan.com](mailto:pdecker@nwkansan.com).

#### Addresses of elected officials:

**U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts**, 302 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. 202/224-4774

**U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback**, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. 202/224-6521

**U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran**, 1519 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. 202/225-2715

**State Rep. Jim Morrison**, State Capitol Building Rm. 174-W, Topeka 66612. 785/296-7676 e mail: [jmorriso@ink.org](mailto:jmorriso@ink.org) web: <http://www.idir.net/~jmorriso/>

**State Sen. Stan Clark**, State Capitol Building Rm. 449-N, Topeka 66612. 785/296-7399 e mail: [sclark@ink.org](mailto:sclark@ink.org)

## COLBY FREE PRESS

155 W. Fifth (USPS 120-920) (785) 462-3963 Colby, Kan. 67701

[freepress@nwkansan.com](http://freepress@nwkansan.com)

State award-winning newspaper, General Excellence, Design & Layout Excellence, Column Writing, Editorial Writing, Sports Columns, News, Photography.

Official newspaper of Thomas County, Colby, Brewster and Rexford.

**Tom A. Dreiling - Publisher**  
[td@nwkansan.com](mailto:td@nwkansan.com)

#### NEWS

**Patty Decker - Editor**

[pdecker@nwkansan.com](mailto:pdecker@nwkansan.com)

**Darrel Pattillo, Sports Editor**

[colbysports@nwkansan.com](mailto:colbysports@nwkansan.com)

**Maxine Nelson, family and religion**

[mnelson@nwkansan.com](mailto:mnelson@nwkansan.com)

#### ADVERTISING

**Crystal Rucker - Advertising Representative**

[crystalr@nwkansan.com](mailto:crystalr@nwkansan.com)

**Mandy Hoagland, Advertising Representative**

[mhoagland@nwkansan.com](mailto:mhoagland@nwkansan.com)

**Flo Rodriguez - Ad Composition, Legals**

**BUSINESS OFFICE**

**Lea Bandy - Circulation Manager**

**Pattie Stevens - Office Manager, Want Ads**

**Evan Barnum - Systems Administrator**

[support@nwkansan.com](mailto:support@nwkansan.com)

#### NORWEST PRESS

**Jim Bowker - General Manager**

**Richard Westfahl, Lana Westfahl, Ron VanLoenen, Judy McKnight**

THE COLBY FREE PRESS (USPS 120-920) is published daily, every Monday through Friday, except the day observed for Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day, by Haynes Publishing Co., 155 W. Fifth, Colby, Kan., 67701.

PERIODICALS POSTAGE is paid at Colby, Kan. 67701, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Colby Free Press, 155 W. Fifth, Colby, Kan., 67701.

THE BUSINESS OFFICE at 155 W. Fifth is open from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, closed Saturday and Sunday.

MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS, which is exclusively entitled to the use for publication of all news credited to it or not otherwise herein. Member Kansas Press Association, Inland Press Association and National Newspaper Association.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: In Colby by carrier: 4 months \$32, 8 months \$47, 12 months \$64. By mail with Colby and the nine-county region of Thomas, Sheridan, Decatur, Rawlins, Cheyenne, Sherman, Wallace, Logan and Gove counties: 4 months \$44, 8 months \$56, 12 months \$72. Other Kansas counties and surrounding states: 4 months \$51, 8 months \$61, 12 months \$75. All other states, \$75, 12 months.

## Nor'West Newspapers

Haynes Publishing Company



## Now that, folks, is dry



Tom Dreiling

### • My Turn

A CALL to my home this morning before I left for work from a rural Oakley lady, gave me my first laugh of the day. I promised I wouldn't use her name, so a promise is a promise. She said she noticed the contest in which I asked readers to complete the sentence, "It is so dry that...." Here is how she finished the sentence: "It is so dry that the cows down here are giving powdered milk!" Love it!

WHILE driving around the area this week, I kept noticing the various signs promoting Republican candidates for the office of governor. The largest of the signs belongs to Tim Shallenburger. Of course with a name that long it only stands to reason that his signs are what they are. Large! I counted the letters in his last name and they total 13, nearly as many letters as the names of the other three candidates combined — Knight, Kerr and Bloom — which total 15. Does that mean anything? If you follow politics closely you know it does. "What?" you ask. It means you can count on Shallenburger having the longest name for governor on the Aug. 6 primary ballot.

Be sure to vote.

ISEE where the polls in Wichita show Bob Knight — that city's mayor — leading the gubernatorial pack with the primary less than a week away. Close behind is Tim Shallenburger, followed by Dave Kerr and then Dan Bloom. The polls further show that no matter who wins Tuesday, he is, at this point in time, a virtual loser to Democrat Kathleen Sebelius in the November general election. But there a lot of time between now and Nov. 5 and lots can happen. Polls serve no other purpose then to entertain voters until election day arrives.

AND no matter what I do — hold the map upside down, or sideways, or backwards — I just cannot manage to move Pratt into western Kansas. That candidate who has been pushing hard that he's a western Kansan and will look out for western Kansas if elected governor, leaves me a bit bewildered. I can't remember him promoting the virtues of western Kansas before. The only thing I can remember about him is that he was in a leadership position in the Legisla-

ture when the state's financial standing went south.

#### HAPPY Birthday to...

July 31 — Janice Schaeffer, Frank Skiles, Debbie Quagliano

Aug. 1 — Jeff Koel, Jamaca Asbridge, Emma Rogers, Sandra Rall, (daughter-in-law) Tobie Dreiling

#### HAPPY Anniversary to...

July 30 (belatedly) — Anton & Ann Riedel  
July 31 — Dr. & Mrs. Mason Wolf, Jim "Pete" and Connie Peterson

Congratulations!

If you have had a birthday or anniversary within the last few days and it hasn't showed up please call me at 462-3963. I'm suspecting a congratulatory thief at work. There is no charge to have your special day mentioned in this column, it's our way of giftng you at that special time. Also, please let us know of any changes in any listing. Thanks!

DON'T you get just a bit suspicious of how quickly people seem to recover from whatever their ailment in all those drug commercials on television? Early in those ads we see people literally falling apart, but by the end of the commercial they are out dancing or running or walking with vigor that would put a physically perfect humankind to shame. I tried the drug one commercial featured and it did about as much good for me as it would have done if I shoved it down the throat of a rubberized frog I've got. Thank goodness it was a sample, so I didn't have to give up an arm or a leg to try the stupid thing. These drug manufacturers are quick to insist that we ask our doctor if their particular drug might be right for us. I think they should be pushing those drugs to the doctors, and let them decide, not put the pressure on the patients to

pressure their doctors based on flimsy information we only have by watching a goofy television commercial. Next time you see one of those miracle conclusions to a drug commercial remember this: you are paying dearly for it.

HAVE YOU been out to the Thomas County Fair yet? Do yourself and your family a favor: GO! Of interest this year is the Dunk Tank, sponsored by Colby Ag Center, at which you can put your favorite personality in the water — if your aim is right. All proceeds go to the newly formed Thomas County Amusement Association in its quest to see a home-owned carnival become a reality. Check page 1 today to see who the "water bugs" tonight are and also who is up Thursday night. Also, it's just plan nice to get out among friends and neighbors and family in a community setting. Lots to see.

WHAT IS it we don't know about the Kennedys? I see where in August one of the television networks is going to feature "RFK." It's supposed to feature things we never knew about this man who sought to become president but was cut down by an assassin's bullet during his campaign. Sorry, I won't watch it. I've had it up to here with the Kennedys! I don't need to be spoon fed anymore from that bunch. I was a fan of the late President John F. Kennedy, but as history unravels his shortcomings I wonder if I had known then what I know now if I would have continued to be a fan. You know they — the networks — don't say much anymore about Sen. Ted Kennedy's inability to get his car across a bridge. Remember that? The car went into the water and a female passenger drowned? Everytime I see that guy stand up in the United States Senate that's the thing that runs through my mind. Enough already.

I LIKE the way George Carlin put it in *Life Reflections*: I'm not into working out. My philosophy is no pain, no pain."

HAVE a good evening!

\*\*\*\*\*

Dreiling is publisher of the Free Press. His column appears Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. [td@nwkansan.com](mailto:td@nwkansan.com)

## A gift that keeps on giving

Steven Weiss

### • Another Viewpoint

The presidential election campaign had barely begun in the spring of 1999 when advisors to Texas governor George W. Bush announced an ambitious fund raising goal: \$50 million, far more than the \$31 million raised three years earlier by Bob Dole.

The Bush team would enlist the support of an exclusive group of longtime Republican fund raisers — individuals they dubbed the "Pioneers" — who each pledged to raise at least \$100,000 for the campaign.

The effort paid off. The campaign took in \$117 million, shattering all previous records for federal campaigns. For their part, the Pioneers not only raised enormous sums (the campaign would not reveal how much), they contributed generously as well. In the 1999 to 2000 cycle, the Pioneers and their immediate families contributed \$13 million to Republicans, an average of nearly \$61,000 each.

Given that success, Republicans are calling on the same group to raise and contribute money for Senate and House candidates this year. And once again, it's working.

The 214 Pioneers and their families already have contributed \$3.6 million to candidates, party committees and leadership PACs in the 2001 to 2002 election cycle, an average of nearly \$17,000 each. Those figures are certain to rise significantly. The Pioneers have remained steadfast since the presidential election. Nearly 99 percent of their contributions went to Republicans in 2000, and 97 percent so far in 2002.

The most generous Pioneer this time has been Alex Spanos, the real estate mogul and owner of the San Diego Chargers. Spanos and his family have contributed \$352,427 to all candidates, parties and leadership PACs (99 percent to Republicans). A longtime

donor who ranked No. 3 among Pioneers in 1999 to 2000, Spanos accompanied President Bush on a state visit to Greece. He is on the hot seat in San Diego as the result of rumors that he might move the Chargers to Los Angeles. He has also been criticized for a ticket guarantee provision in his lease that has cost the San Diego an estimated \$25 million.

No. 2 on the list is Michael Kojaian (\$288,301), a Detroit real estate developer. Kojaian is at the center of a potential merger between two of the nation's largest real estate brokerage firms. He leads a group that recently invested more than \$15 million in Grubb & Ellis Co., which is in merger talks with CB Richard Ellis Services Inc. The merger would create a commercial real estate powerhouse. During the 2000 campaign, Kojaian paid Bush's \$43,500 bill for Iowa's Republican straw poll, according to Texans for Public Justice.

Rounding out the top five Pioneers are Sam Fox (\$231,433), head of the holding company Harbour Group and the top giver among the Pioneers in 1999 to 2000; real estate developer Joseph Canizaro (\$161,764); and Floyd Kvamme (\$98,236), a Silicon Valley venture capitalist who President Bush recently named co-chair of the President's Committee of Ad-

visors on Science and Technology.

With control of the Senate and House up for grabs, the Republican Party is leaning on the Pioneers to support specific candidates. Topping the beneficiaries' list is Texas Attorney General John Cornyn (R), who has received \$58,750 from the Pioneers in his race to succeed retiring GOP Sen. Phil Gramm.

No. 2 is Elizabeth Dole (\$34,500 from the Pioneers), who battled Bush for the nomination in 2000 and now faces former Clinton Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles in North Carolina for retiring GOP Sen. Jesse Helms' seat.

The only non-candidate on the top 10 list of Pioneer contributions also happens to be a Democrat: New York Sen. Charles Schumer (\$12,000). Schumer, who doesn't face re-election until 2004, has raised \$4,000 from Pioneer Maurice Greenberg in the 2002 cycle. As chief executive of American International Group, one of the world's largest insurance firms, Greenberg is pushing Congress to provide federal insurance in the event of a future terrorist attack. Schumer has been deeply involved in the debate, having proposed legislation for a federal terrorism insurance backstop.

\*\*\*\*\*

Steven Weiss is communications director for The Center for Responsive Politics (CRP). (Douglas Weber also contributed to this column.) CRP is a nonpartisan, nonprofit research group based in Washington, D.C., that tracks money in politics, and its effect on elections and public policy. For more information, visit: [info@crp.org](http://info@crp.org).

The views are those of the writer, not of the Colby Free Press. Feedback to [td@nwkansan.com](mailto:td@nwkansan.com)