

# Opinion



## Guest Viewpoint

## The 'Voices of Recovery' should be heard by all

September marks the 13th annual "National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month." This year's theme, "Join the Voices of Recovery: A Call to Action," is intended to focus America's attention on helping those in need of substance abuse treatment take the first step toward recovery.

According to the National Household Survey on Drug Abuse, nearly 14.5 million people in the U.S. have a diagnosable substance abuse problem. Out of this staggering number, millions who need help do not receive treatment.

The primary goal of this year's celebration is to help people recognize that alcohol and substance abuse and addiction are treatable diseases. Recovery month also celebrates the successes of individuals who have engaged in treatment, and recognizes the men and women in the treatment field who dedicate their lives to helping those with addictions.

Effective treatment programs and services are critical to the success of an individual recovering from addiction. The support of family, friends and their community are equally important.

During this month, public and private partners throughout Kansas are encouraged to join together to help individuals with drug and alcohol problems gain access to treatment services in their communities. It is also time to begin recognizing that alcohol and substance abuse and addiction require effective treatment, just like any other chronic medical condition.

While significant gains in reducing illicit drug use in Kansas have been made, we still have far too many people abusing drugs and alcohol.

Recovery month allows Kansans to highlight the benefits of prevention and treatment, as well as encourage individuals with drug and alcohol problems to enter treatment and begin their journey of recovery.

If you or someone you know is struggling with a drug or alcohol problem, join the "Voices of Recovery."

For treatment information, seek out help in your community or call 1-800-662-HELP (4357). — *Gov. Bill Graves*

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).

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**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/>  
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## Two inquisitive youngsters, for sure

IT IS not unusual to receive requests from students located elsewhere inquiring about our county. Most times a postcard, or a map, or a copy of a newspaper will suffice. Until now. Boy, we received a letter from two 7th grade students at the school in Goessel who are working on a Thomas County project. And their list is very detailed and will require more than just a thought to fulfill. I will let them tell you, in their own word, what they are looking for. Read on.

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are two 7th grade students from the Goessel High School in Goessel, KS. We are doing a project on Thomas County, KS (and) will need a little information about your county.

Here is the information we need. How is your land used? What are the main crops and livestock? What types of land and soil are in your county? What is the annual precipitation? Are there any environmental issues? (Corporate hog farms, landfills, hazardous waste, recycling, etc.)

Who were some of the early families to settle in the county? Why did they choose to settle there? Are there still any descendants remaining in the area? What significance did they play in the founding of the towns and the county?

When was the county established and by whom, county seat (past and present), any difficulties that were encountered in deciding the county seat?

List all the cities and towns in your county including ghost towns please. When was each town founded and by whom, peak population and when, present population, leading employers and industries, when and why ghost towns died out, etc.

Another if you could send us information on museums and tourist attractions in Thomas County.

Did any significant historical events in your county like Indian raids, fires, dust storms, effects of the great depression, etc. And were there any famous people that came from your county, like actors, authors, athletes, politicians, war heroes, and etc.

Also please send us a map. If you could please send all of this valuable information to us by December 16, 2002. This would be greatly appreciated.

We appreciate everything you have done for us and Thank You. This information will help us immensely. Send this information to Cameron Voth, 381 E.



Tom Dreiling

### • My Turn

150th Street, Hillsboro, KS 67063.

Sincerely

Cameron Voth and David Wiens.

I did call the school to get confirmation that Cameron and David are in fact students there. I did this because of the requested information. This is the first time in my years in this profession that information for a class project was as extensive and detailed as you have just read. I tip my hat to these two youngsters and will be anxious to read their completed project. I hope there is someone or someones out there that can fulfill the kids' request. Chamber? Convention and Visitors' Bureau? A teacher or two? County official, maybe? And I know we are blessed with historians. Please help them out. I will keep you posted and will stay in touch with the kids to see if they are getting any feedback. Thanks for your help.

**REMEMBER** not too long ago when the temperatures were flirting with and exceeding 100 degrees and the weather would take a turn and drop temperatures to 80 degrees and we thought that was really cool? And now with fall temperatures arriving, 80 suddenly feels very warm?

### THE Preacher and the Boy.

A preacher was making his rounds to his parishioners on a bicycle, when he came upon a little boy trying to sell a lawn mower. "How much do you want for the mower?" asked the preacher.

"I just want enough money to go out and buy me a bicycle," said the little boy. After a moment of consideration, the preacher asked, "Will you take my bike in trade for it?"

The little boy asked if he could try it out first, and after riding the bike around a little while said, "Mis-

ter, you've got yourself a deal!"

The preacher took the mower and began to try to crank it. He pulled on the string a few times with no response from the mower. The preacher called the little boy over and said, "I can't get this mower to start."

The little boy said, "That's because you have to cuss at it to get it started."

The preacher said, "I am a minister, and I cannot cuss. It has been so long since I have been saved that I do not even remember how to cuss."

The little boy looked at him happily and said, "Just keep pulling on that string. It'll come back to ya!"

### HAPPY Birthday to...

**Sept. 20** — Bonnie Carpenter, Pat Hartford  
**Sept. 21** — Gary Baumfalk, Cade Peters, Maxine Swihart, Duane Woofter, Richard Kubic, Carol Thiel

**Sept. 22** — Shawn Blazek, Rob Dice, Julie Green, Denise Harkness, Jessica Stockton, Delores Dible

**Sept. 23** — Joyce Dean, Jacob Trundle, Marvin Lovenstein, Carol DeBoer

**Sept. 24** — Jack Luker, Tara Griffin, Dora Hopson, Peggy Helus

### HAPPY Anniversary to...

**Sept. 21** — Ohio & Deloris Aumiller, Eric & Roxanne Baker

**Sept. 22** — David & Teresa Knowles

Congratulations!

Call us at 462-3963 or email [td@nwkansan.com](mailto:td@nwkansan.com) to have your special day mentioned. And please, please, keep us updated on any and all changes, and if you are not a member of the family be sure of the date and spelling of the name. Thanks for your help!

### POINT to Ponder from Fred:

Weight is not put on by the minutes we spend at the table, it's all those seconds.

Momentarily on the lips become forever on the hips.

That's life in the Fat Lane.

**HAVE** a good evening....and a good weekend!

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*Dreiling is publisher of the Free Press. His column appears Wednesdays and Fridays.*

## Hearing from the 'Next Generation'

The sweet smell of hay wafted through the open shed as those attending the 27th Governor's Farm & Ranch Field Day settled onto the bales. South of the shed, combines, tractors and other farm implements were lined up in perfect formation for Gov. Bill Graves and those accompanying him on the Farm Bureau sponsored event. The roads were freshly bladed and every aspect of the farm appeared to be standing at attention — ready for exhibit.

Debbie and Randy Suiter, who farm outside of Macksville, welcomed Gov. Graves onto their farm for the first leg of the annual Farm & Ranch Field Day. This tour is designed to provide the state's chief executive officer with an up-close and personal look at agriculture in rural Kansas.

The 27th edition showcased the farmers and ranchers who make up the volunteer leadership of Stafford County Farm Bureau. This group of young leaders is primarily in their late 20s and early 30s. They all made a conscious decision to raise their families and earn a living in a rural community and an ever-changing agricultural industry.

Gov. Graves had toured farms in other parts of Kansas in the seven preceding years. This tour marked the eighth and final time he would set foot on Kansas farms as the state's chief executive officer while being hosted by Farm Bureau.

As Debbie Suiter welcomed the governor, she remarked that every farm is a unique operation, each as diverse as the countryside itself.

She detailed her family's farm history and current operation. She also told Gov. Graves about some of their challenges including weather, low commodity prices, costly government regulations and tons of paper work.

One particular challenge Suiter focused on was building a cattle lagoon and the frustration caused by the Kansas Department of Health and Education.

"We filled out all the forms for a cost-share program through EQUIP and worked with our county extension agent," Suiter told the governor. "We've been waiting almost two years to hear what we are

John Schlageck

### • Insight

supposed to do."

During a one-on-one visit with the family later, Gov. Graves promised he would look into this particular situation. As he's done throughout his eight tours, Graves listened intently and took time at each stop to listen to, and ask questions of, the hosting farm families. He also told each family how much he appreciated the opportunity to see their individual operations.

At the noon luncheon Gov. Graves again thanked all of the host families. He talked about a recent trip to Japan where food safety was the No. 1 issue in the highly populated country.

"We produce the safest food in the world right here in Kansas," Graves said. "This is what you are all about, what Kansas is all about. It's about families farming the land where people grow up and work together."

Graves said government can help farmers create markets. He concluded his remarks by saying that the Farm Bureau Governor's Farm & Ranch Tour was one of the highlights for him during his eight years in office.

"I've looked forward to seeing agriculture firsthand on these visits each year," Graves said. "It's provided me with a wealth of information and background on individual farming operations."

On the second farm stop, the governor heard from Mike and Kent Lamb. This son/father combination talked about the irrigation operation and the history of their family farm. They also visited about water tables, crop selection and balancing the needs of farm-

ers and wildlife.

Kent Lamb credited his father for many of the innovations on a farm that supports six families. He also mentioned that young farmers today need plenty of help to start in the highly capital-intensive profession. It all starts with family support.

"We all need help," Kent said. "My dad always said, 'figure out what you can do well and do it.'"

The final farm stop on the tour was the Leon and Brian Dunn farm north of St. John. On this 3rd generation farm, tour participants visited a seed-stock swine operation, which provides breeding stock for other sow farms. A number of issues were discussed by the DUNNs particularly home rule, the environment and biosecurity.

"We understand state and national regulations," Leon told the Governor. "With our county commissions we're concerned we may not always have sound science and they sometimes have a hard time making up their mind."

While he's farmed for 42 years, Leon said he's concerned about foot and mouth disease. He considers this every bit as critical today as it was 18 months ago.

"There's no idea of what might happen if we have an outbreak here. It would shut us down. It could ruin us."

The elder Dunn said he was proud to have his children back home and his son on the board of the Stafford County Farm Bureau.

"I'm not a bit concerned to hand our keys to the 21st Century farmers we have today," he said.

Gov. Graves' last stop was lunch and a tour of the Hudson Cream Flour Mill. gubernatorial candidates Kathleen Sebelius and Tim Shallenburger were on hand and addressed those attending the tour.

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*John Schlageck has been writing about farming and ranching in Kansas for 25 years. He is the managing editor of "Kansas Living," a quarterly magazine dedicated to agriculture and rural life in Kansas.*