

Opinion



Letter Drop

- Our Readers Sound Off

Here's why he resigned

To The Free Press:
I resigned my position in May as Department Director of Anesthesia at Citizens Medical Center. Since then I've been providing temporary coverage at various hospitals around the state. When I occasionally return to Colby I hear all sorts of incredible rumors as to why I resigned and today I heard more. Below is a copy of my letter of resignation. I hope this puts a stop to the blame game ill-informed or ill-intentioned people are playing.

Sincerely,
Jerry Campbell, CRNA
(Letter #141)

05-02-02
Mr. Michael Boyles, CEO
Citizens Medical Center
100 E. College Drive
Colby, Kansas 67701

Dear Mr. Boyles:
As you know, my contract to provide anesthesia services at Citizens Medical Center expired on November 1, 2001. At that time I verbally agreed to cover the hospital on a "day to day" basis. It is with extreme sadness and regret that I must immediately end my 24 year anesthesia practice in Colby. The practice environment is of concern. In my professional opinion, it is not safe for me to practice in an environment I believe to be hostile and disruptive. I have no reason to hope that this situation will improve. So as of today May 2, 2002, and with sorrow, I am immediately terminating my services at Citizens Medical Center and resigning my clinical privileges.

And in this difficult time for health care in general and for our hospital in particular, I fully and unequivocally support Administration and the Board in their effort to provide the proper environment for staff and patients. I also hope an informed community will do the same.

Sincerely,
Jerry Campbell, CRNA
Former Department Director of Anesthesia
Citizens Medical Center

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@nwkansans.com or pdecker@nwkansans.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 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

COLBY FREE PRESS

155 W. Fifth (USPS 120-920) (785) 462-3963
Colby, Kan. 67701
freepress@nwkansans.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 (TD) Dreiling - Publisher
td@nwkansans.com

NEWS

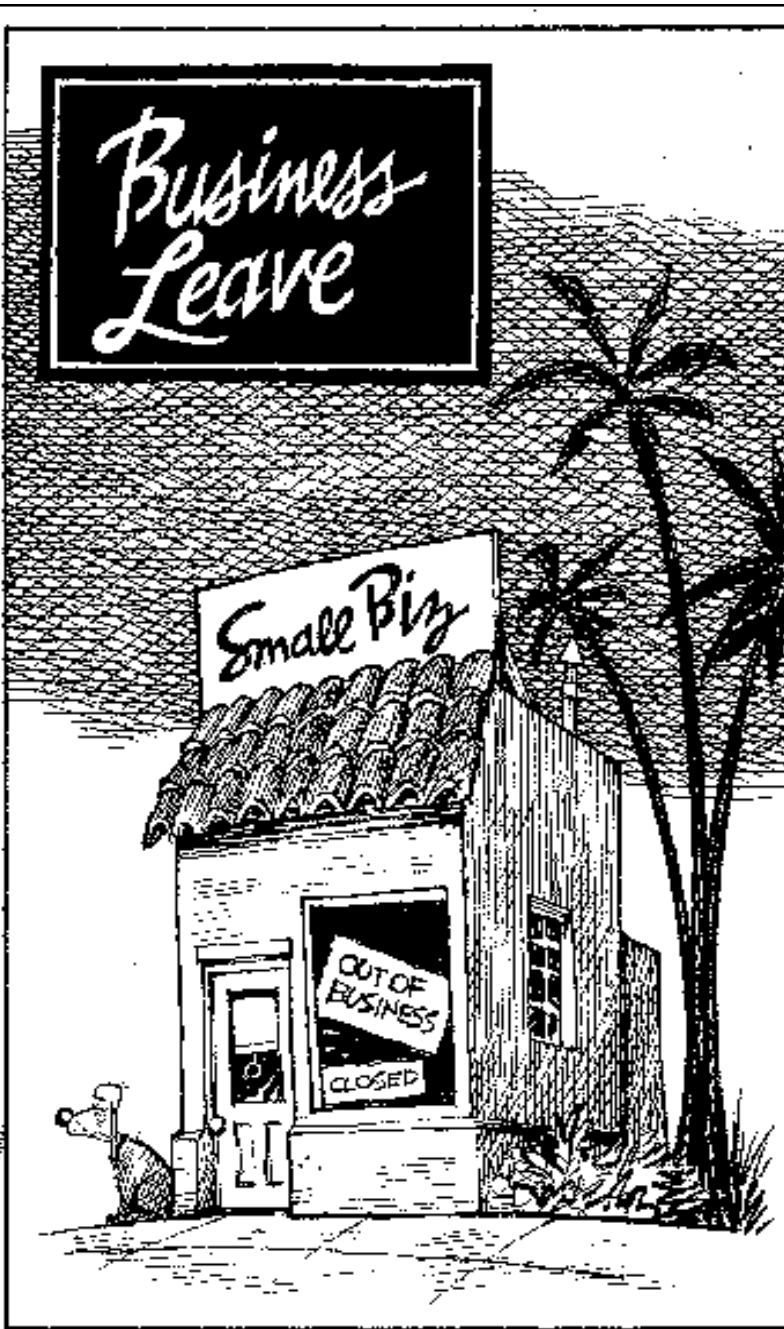
Patty Decker - Editor
pdecker@nwkansans.com
Darrel Pattillo, Sports Editor
colbysports@nwkansans.com
Michelle L. Hawkins, Family and Religion
mhawkins@nwkansans.com

ADVERTISING

Crystal Rucker - Advertising Manager
crystalr@nwkansans.com
Derek Bell - Advertising Account Manager
dbell@nwkansans.com
Flo Rodriguez - Ad Composition, Legals
BUSINESS OFFICE
Lea Bandy - Circulation Manager
Pattie Stevens - Office Manager, Want Ads
Evan Barnum - Systems Administrator
support@nwkansans.com
NOR'WEST 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 in 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



Are you ready for the spotlight?

THE spotlight will most definitely be on Colby this coming Sunday. At 7 o'clock in the evening, the four candidates for governor will take the stage at the Northwest Kansas Cultural Arts Center on the campus of Colby Community College for one of five gubernatorial debates this campaign season. The candidates are: Republican Tim Shallenburger, Democrat Kathleen Sebelius, Libertarian Dennis Hawver and Reform Ted Pettibone. The Kansas League of Women Voters is sponsoring the debate and will provide the moderator. There is no charge to attend, but you better get their early as it could end up being a standing room only situation.

A tip-of-the-hat to Duane Brown, who capped an honorable nearly 30-year career with the city this past week. A reception was held to acknowledge his years of service. He is one of those unsung heroes who went about his responsibilities without fanfare. We wish him the best in his retirement.

THE doctor and hospital controversies aren't anything new. I didn't think so. A reader dropped off two old copies of the Colby Free Press — 1978 and 1988 — and front page stories covered hospital issues. The 1988 paper also contained letters to the editor dealing with the doctors' controversy. Thought those of you who didn't know would like to know that bit of information. No, I am not going to reprint any of that stuff. That was yesterday, this is today — and the issues remain.

NICE shower overnight (0.23 inches). Nice cool down, too. It's October and anything — ANYTHING — can happen. We are not too far removed from our first frost date. The National Weather Service will be providing us with a frost date list and I'll pass along that information as soon as I receive it. It can also snow in October. We turn our clocks back one hour on Oct. 27. And of course Halloween is the 31st. Ahh, October!

I SEE where the New Jersey Democrats are in

Last month:
• US Airways filed for bankruptcy protection.
• United Airlines said it would have to do the same by mid-November unless it got major concessions from labor unions and suppliers.
• American Airlines announced it would be cutting jobs, planes and flights in an effort to stay afloat.
• Amtrak twice had to pull its newest and fastest trains out of service on the Boston-New York-Washington run because it discovered cracks in the structure of the trains.

This came a few weeks after Amtrak had come within days of shutting down because it had run out of money. Only a last-minute infusion of cash from Congress saved it.

Let's face it folks, we may be a world-class military power but we are a Third World transportation power, and losing ground.
It's kind of funny, really. Here we are, all puffed up about being the greatest country on earth (and if you don't believe that, just ask us) and we can't figure out how to get from here to there.

France figures it out. So do England, Germany, Japan, Spain and dozens of other countries, but it seems to be beyond us. We not only don't have the answers to our transportation problems, we're not even asking the questions.

For example, when's the last time you heard an American president talk about transportation policy? With me it's been so long that I don't remember it happening.

Thus we have a ramshackle, hit-or-miss rail sys-



Tom Dreiling

- My Turn

shambles following the withdrawal of Sen. Robert Torricelli from the campaign. The senator, it is reported, was forced out of the race by powerful Democrats who knew he wouldn't win reelection because of dealings that some call out-and-out bribery. Torricelli's poll numbers have dropped dramatically and Republican Douglas Forrester was expected to crush him in the November general election. That defeat would be new for New Jersey Democrats who have held the two senate seats for the past 30+ years. What happens now? That all depends on what happens in Superior Court today at which time New Jersey Democrats want to place another name on the ballot, although that state's constitution does not allow for names to be placed on the ballot within 48 days of an election. It'll be interesting to see how this thing all comes out. I can recall Torricelli appearing in front of television cameras and shouting, "I have not done anything wrong!" When they do that you know they did.

EVER notice what happens when you take one letter away from the word "good" and add one letter to the word "evil"? Watch: "Good," remove one letter and it becomes God; "evil," add one letter and it becomes "devil."

I HAD all sorts of things for today's column, but yesterday my computer when south, or something, and I have nothing. What you are reading is what is coming to mind as I type. Sorry about that but computers are wonderful things — when they are working. And absolutely awful when they aren't.

You can't get there from here

Donald Kaul

- Another Viewpoint

tem that can't even serve its prime areas — places where the people actually would use trains if they were reliable and efficient — and an airline system that only works if the weather is good and there aren't any bomb scares and nobody goes on strike and passengers don't mind being strip-searched every once in a while.

What about cars, you say? Well, what about them? In the past year I have driven thousands of miles throughout the eastern United States and I'm here to say that the experience is one of unrelieved horror.

Have you tried driving on an Interstate highway at the legal speed limit recently? How about five miles per hour above the speed limit? It's worth your life. If you're in the left lane, people angrily pass you on the right and cut back in front of you in a huff.

I've even had a SUV pass me on the right when I was in the right lane traveling at the speed limit. He used the shoulder of the road.

But it's not just the speed. I've been driving a car for 50 years and I can honestly say that the quality of driving today is worse than any I've ever seen. No

HAPPY Birthday to....
Oct. 2 — Nadene Zeller
Oct. 3 — Elizabeth Codner, Kayla Skiles, Martin Rinehart, Amanda Buehner, Ashley Albers
HAPPY Anniversary to....
Oct. 3 — Kenneth & Carolyn Call
Congratulations!
Call us at 462-3963 or email td@nwkansans.com to have your special day mentioned. And *please* keep us advised of any changes in any listing. Thanks!

I WAS reading where a gang of kids, ages 10 to 18, literally beat a guy to death. I think it was in Wisconsin. Ten are being held out of 20 reportedly involved. Reports are they used sticks and brooms and shovels and anything else they could get their hands on. Strange, but we aren't talking about the victim, but about the little murderers who some are quick to point out, "They probably come from misguided homes." Misguided? Some legal voices can be heard in the background softly saying, "these kids need help." They are beyond help. They need prison time, along with their parents. We live in a society that doesn't look kindly on murderers or on people who turn out these kinds of misfits. We need to hold parents' feet to the fire. If we don't we've lost all control.

DON'T forget the United States Air Force Band/Singing Sergeants concert in the Colby Community Building next Tuesday night at 7:30. There are still some tickets available (free) and you can get yours by mailing a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Pat Ziegelmeier at Colby Community College. Should be a memorable evening. The concert is co-sponsored by the Western Plains Arts Association and your Colby Free Press.

HAVE a good evening!

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

matter what the traffic conditions, the weather, the time of day or week, practically everybody is in a hurry. They weave in and out of lanes — often cutting off drivers to do so — tailgate, fail to use their turn signals and otherwise display horrendous road manners.

All that, of course, is when they're not using their cell phones or playing with their onboard computers or fiddling with their CD players.

And then there's the thrill of driving along at 75 miles per hour and looking in your rearview mirror to see it filled by a gigantic radiator grill.

Driving would be bad enough if the roads were in good shape, but they're not.

It's much safer in cities, of course. You can't have an accident if you can't move.

Our answer to all of this has been *nothing*. Basically nothing. There has not been a really innovative transportation initiative in this country since Dwight Eisenhower's National Defense Highway Act, which didn't have much to do with defense but did give us a decent high-speed road system.

Those roads are now falling apart faster than we repair them under an ever-increasing onslaught of cars and trucks. And we are doing next to nothing about trying to find alternatives.

You would think that the self-admitted Greatest Country on Earth would do better than that.

Wouldn't you?

Donald Kaul recently retired as Washington columnist for the Des Moines Register.