

Opinion



Monday's Salute

Thumbs to...



✓ **Lance Cpl. Austin Herbel** and **SPC Alex Herbel** — on your service in Iraq; the support and prayers of the community are with you. (Their addresses were published in the March 18 *Free Press*, page 4, for those who would like to drop them a note.)

✓ **Michelle Bremenkamp** — Colby Rotary Club's "Student of the Month for March."

✓ **Sgt. Billy Jones** — in your new role as public affairs representative for the 170th Maintenance's Detachment 2.

✓ **Solomon Valley 4-H Club** — for your three worthy projects: aiding the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, providing paper for the recycling center, and volunteering to help out at the June Chautauqua.

✓ **Sally Michael** — on your continuing reports on the happenings at Brewster. Comments received indicate many people appreciate your efforts.

✓ **Shane Stover** — the support for your continuing improvement remains strong.

✓ **8th-grade basketball girls** — on your perfect 14-0 season.

✓ **Donna Schielke** — director of the Senior Progress Center, for all you do.

✓ **All Winter Sports Coaches** in our reading area — for a job well done and the role models you continue to be.

✓ **Matt Hull** — co-editor of the Colby High School *eagletalon* on your professional approach to a controversial topic.

(This weekly salute is prepared by the newspaper's publisher. Submissions, questions or comments to: td@nwkansas.com, or fax (785) 462-7749, call 462-3963 or mail to 155 W. 5th, Colby 67701. Thanks!)

Addresses of elected officials:

U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts, 109 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. 171-W, Topeka 66612. 785/296-7676 e mail: jmorrison@ink.org web: <http://www.ink.org/public/legislators/jmorrison>

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@nwkansas.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@nwkansas.com

NEWS

Patty Decker - Editor

pdecker@nwkansas.com

Tisha Cox - General Assignment

ADVERTISING

Crystal Rucker - Advertising Representative

crystalr@nwkansas.com

BUSINESS OFFICE

Lea Bandy - Circulation Manager

Jeanette Applegate - Bookkeeping & Ad Building

Evan Barnum - Systems Administrator

support@nwkansas.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 every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and 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.

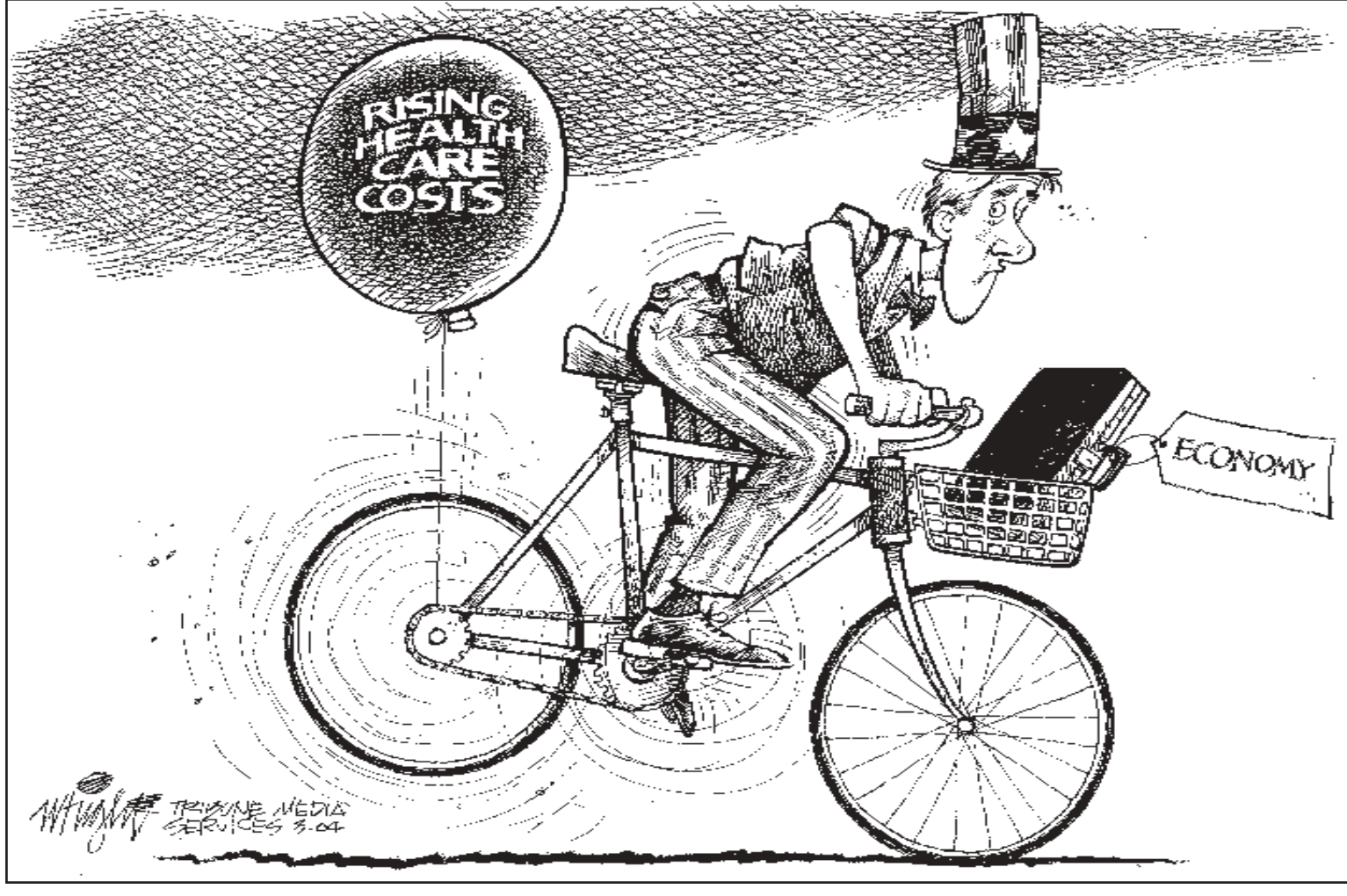
THE BUSINESS OFFICE at 155 W. Fifth is open from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, closed Saturday and Sunday.

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



Spring flicks look good



Tisha Cox

• Off The Beaten Path

My prediction for a dismal spring movie season was wrong.

Surprisingly, it's been a relatively strong season for movies.

March and April usually don't have big releases but this year studios are trotting out some ammunition before the summer movie season officially starts the first week in May.

Mad monks, demons, cows, remakes, a sandal and toga epic, a spandex-wearing web slinger and a boy wizard are what movie fans have to look forward to between now and the beginning of the summer movie season in May, which officially begins around Memorial Day.

I'm kind of wary of "Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed," which comes out March 26. Despite my opinion, expect some more humor that adults and older kids will get and not to mention every monster in the Scooby-Doo dungeon.

It should be another good movie for families to go enjoy together.

April 2, "Hellboy" hits screens. It's about a demon summoned by the Nazis during WWII, except he gets rescued and raised by an American. When he grows up, he works for a secret government agency that investigates the paranormal.

Ron Perlman plays the title character based on the comic book by Mike Mignola. If the trailer is anything to judge by, this one looks awesome.

For the family set, Disney's "Home on the Range" might be appealing. It's the story of some farm animals who try to save their home from getting sold off to turn the entire range into one giant cattle ranch.

Looks like fun for both kids and adults, with some humor that adults will find funny but will

go right over the kids' head. It comes out April 2 and will probably go horn to horn with "Hellboy" its opening weekend.

May 7 is the release date for Universal's "Van Helsing." (Think 1999's "The Mummy" meets last year's "Underworld.")

This one boasts a heavy-hitting cast — X-Men's Hugh Jackman, Kate Beckinsale from "Underworld" and David Wenham who played Faramir in the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy.

"Van Helsing" is about Gabriel Van Helsing (of Bram Stoker's "Dracula" fame), a vampire hunter who works for the Vatican. In this flick, he's joined by a gypsy girl to take on the likes of the wolf man, vampires and Frankenstein's monster.

It sounds hokey but without giving away spoilers, buzz is that director Steven Sommers manages to tie-in the three monsters in a cohesive story line.

June brings the much-awaited "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban," the third installment of J.K. Rowling's series. This one looks much better than the previous two.

Changes on the set delayed the film from a November, 2003 release. Director Chris Columbus stepped down and Richard Harris, who

played Dumbledore, (he was also in "A Man Called Horse" and "Camelot" back in the day) died of cancer last year, requiring a replacement, which both pushed back the release date.

The release date for a remake of "The Stepford Wives" with Nicole Kidman and Matthew Broderick is slated for June 11. This could be an interesting one.

Also coming out this spring is "Troy" with Brad Pitt and Orlando Bloom (insert girlie scream of joy here). Tells the epic story of the Trojan War.

So-called perfect male specimens running around in short leather skirts. In the words of the immortal Stan Lee, 'Nuff said. (Give me leather, except with a crossbow. See listing for "Van Helsing.")

Further proof this movie is "Lord of the Rings" in short skirts is the presence of Sean Bean who played Boromir in "The Fellowship of the Ring."

"Spider-Man 2" comes out some time this spring. More Tobey McGuire's Spider-Man saving Kirsten Dunst's Mary Jane. Only this time the villain is Doc Octopus. Instead of green armor, we get green spandex with the deluxe addition of eight mechanical octopus tentacles.

That's just a sampling of some of the possible hits and misses coming out this spring and early summer. Here's to hoping they live up to the hype.

Tisha Cox is a general assignment reporter/photographer for the Free Press. Her column appears on Mondays. tcx@nwkansas.com. Some of the information in this column was gleaned from <http://www.canoe.ca>.

Change is ongoing

John Schlageck

• Weekly Insight

cations pie.

Used to be when driving your car, windshield time was spent thinking, dreaming and planning future work projects or events with the family. Today, most people conduct business by phone, or even hand-held computers — some while speeding along at 70 miles-per-hour. Try as we may, the phone, pager or e-mail are effective tools and they're here to stay.

The farm organization I've worked with for many years introduced another way of communicating with our elected officials. We all know how important it is to tell our story, especially to those who have the power to make a difference.

In this new day of anthrax and ricin, congressional members now warm constituents not to mail letters to them. If letters do make it through the security measures, it may take months.

Farm Bureau's new communication's link is called Cap Wiz. With this new on-line political tool, Farm Bureau members can contact these key individuals about issues of importance with just a few simple clicks of a mouse.

By logging on to the FB Web site at www.kfb.org, you can contact congressional members or state legislators, receive the latest election information, find the latest background

information on issues with "Action Alerts" while sending your message with a simple mouse click; find contact information on many county and city government officials, contact the media about issues of interest, or review the background of elected officials. Cap Wiz works and FB members have started to use this method of communication. As an example, SB 464 — an act concerning pest control and fertilizer relating to application equipment — the Kansas Senate committee working this bill received more than 750 messages in opposition from Farm Bureau members across Kansas. This bill died in committee.

Today, there are countless ways to deliver the message about farmers and ranchers who supply the healthiest food in the world.

Some people prefer to read newspapers, others like to surf the net, and still others watch their news on television in the comfort of their easy chair.

Regardless of the way we wind up delivering our message, we will all have to figure change into the communications equation. Change affects most people in one of three ways: it excites them, scares them or fills them with hope.

Regardless of how it makes us feel, change is ongoing. Always has been, always will be.

To be successful, we must anticipate change and adapt quickly. We must be wise enough to incorporate change that will help us and continue to use tried and true methods that seldom alter.

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.

Doonesbury

• Gary Trudeau

