

Cynthia Haynes

• Open Season

We'll take it, even if it's white moisture

silly season

I know that term is usually reserved for the legislative session, but Mother Nature gets downright

giddy during the spring. Easter was sunny and cool, but flowers were popping out all over the place.

In front of my house, the daffodils I planted along a wall were all in bloom and the tulips were budded. The forsythia was fitfully blooming and the crocuses were past their prime.

It was really a beautiful day. Steve mowed the yard and we enjoyed the cool sunshine.

Then we had to go to work. We always work on Sundays. Usually, we go in late and work until mid-

At 12:10 a.m. Monday morning, I stepped out into the darkness and spotted the first few tentative snow-

With the drought we have been having, all moisture is welcome and I remembered the snowstorm we had six or eight years ago when they almost had to cancel prom because there was such a bad storm a day or two before the big event.

However, I was praying for a snowstorm that would melt quickly — like right away, so I wouldn't have to deal with bad roads on the way to work the next day.

The next morning, I awoke to about six inches of snow on the back deck. The ornamental pear tree,

Today's

quote

They really should call spring the which had been in full bloom, hung heavy with snow on its branches and flowers. The tulips, which had been ready to open, were clamped tightly shut.

I was more than an hour late getting to work. The roads were icy, and I decided to give the plows a little time to do their work.

The day warmed up, like it was supposed to do, and Tuesday was beautiful. By Wednesday, temperatures were back up in the 70s and 80s and the snow was almost gone. Even the tulips had consented to open up and show off their beauty.

Wednesday night, we got home from work early and cooked outside on the grill. Then we washed off the picnic table and ate outside under our gloriously blossom-filled pear tree. I had really worried that the cold snap would cause all those beautiful blossoms to fall off.

Sitting there as the perfume of the tree drifted by and the cats took turns slipping in and out of the house, I know I loved spring and I loved Kansas.

However, I was wondering if someone didn't need to give Mother Nature a Prozac. She seems a little confused. Oh well, maybe she's blonde, too.

Cynthia Haynes is co-owner of Nor'West Newspapers: Colby Free Press, The Goodland Star-News, The Saint Francis Herald, Bird City Times, The Oberlin Herald and The Norton Telegram.

"There are people who make things happen;

"those who watch what hap-"and those who wonder what

happened."

—Anonymous

Small town polling is being threatened

It's fashionable for politicians to say they care about rural America. It's fashionable for politicians to say they are going to do something for rural America.

But in truth, hardly anyone in Washington or Topeka knows what goes on out here. There are not very many of us any more, and they have never been here.

Washington gives a nod to rural America now and then, mostly when the Farm Bill is up. But the Department of Agriculture is more about welfare and cities these days than it is about farming.

In Washington, they pass laws all the time, one-size-fits-all laws that might work in cities (though it's doubtful) and just mess things up in rural areas. Now we have the Helping America Vote Act, passed after the ballot-counting fiasco in Florida four years ago.

The voting act strikes out at some real problems, but it grew to include comprehensive federal standards which just won't fit rural America. It will centralize voting and may well mean the end of democracy in small towns all over the country.

Naw, they wouldn't do that.



Steve Haynes

Along the Sappa

Sure. Helping America Vote may which may cost \$10,000 each and have started out as a good idea, but that was before all the special interests and pressure groups got a hold of it. As passed, it requires all voting places to be in buildings which meet standards of the Americans With Disabilities Act. All polling places must have fancy new touchscreen voting devices to help handicapped people vote.

do with the problem the law started federal standards, they have to be politically correct.

But there are no ADA-compliant buildings in most small towns. The economy is so bad, no one has built any new buildings. And rural counties can't afford more than one of those touch-screen computers,

haven't really been invented yet anyway

The government may put up some money to buy them and the state may put up some money, though it has none. And the counties may just get stuck with the bill. No one has any money to make 80year-old buildings accessible.

The result: There will never be Neither requirement has much to another local election in most out to solve, but now that there are All polls will be in the county seat. from another good idea gone If you can't drive in, you'll have to vote an advance ballot by mail.

So a citizen of Brewster or Rexford, to vote in a city election, to another city. It's already happened in Sherman County, where citizens of Kanorado have to drive Norton Telegram.

to Goodland to vote in their own elections.

How long will city government survive in small towns after this?

The scary thing is, state and county officials have rolled over and just accepted this dictate from Washington. Not one county so far has said, "Take your fancy machines and your federal money and just stick 'em."

No state has stood up and said, 'Our small towns are important, too, and we don't want to see them

No one planned to put an end to small-town elections. But in Topeka and Washington, no one knows where these towns are, though some of them may have been raised in one. Worse yet, no one cares much what happens to smaller towns across rural Kansas. them. It's just collateral damage

Steve Haynes is co-owner of Nor'West Newspapers: Colby Free will have to drive 10 miles or more *Press, The Goodland Star-News*, The Saint Francis Herald, Bird City Times, The Oberlin Herald and The

E-mail your comments to: td@nwkansas.com, or mail to 155 W. 5th, Colby



Check each issue of the Free Press for additional TV Listings

TV LISTINGS sponsored by the COLBY FREE PRESS

WEEKDAYS APRIL 20 - APRIL 26

	6 AM	6:30	7 AM	7:30	8 AM	8:30	9 AM	9:30	10 AM	10:30	11 AM	11:30
KLBY/ABC 4 6	News	-	Good Morning America				Mak- eover	Mak- eover	The View		Holly- wood	News
KSNK/NBC 8 9	News Cor	nt'd	Today						Live With Regis and Kelly		Martha St Living	ewart
KBSL/CBS	News				The Early	Show	The 700 Club		The Price Is Right		The Young and the Restless	
K15CG 3	World News	Priscilla- Yoga	Body Electric	Caillou	Boohbah	Barney- Friends	Dragon Tales	Lions	Sesame S	treet	Clifford- Red	Teletub- bies
WGN 13	Chang- ing	Believer Celebrity Hillbil- Voice Justice lies			Hillbil- lies	Happy Days	Matlock		In the Heat of the Night		Rockford Files	
NICK 29	Oddpar- ents	Rocket Power	Rugrats	Spon- geBob	Max & Ruby	Rubba- dubbers	Dora the Explorer	Blue's Clues	Dora the Explorer	Blue's Clues	Little Bill	Maggie- Beast
FAM 30	Digimon- Digital	Bey- blade	Power Rangers	Digimon- Digital	Growing Pains	Living the Life	The 700 C	lub	7th Heave	n	Full House	Growing Pains
USA (31)	JAG	Varied Pro	ograms									
TBS (37)	Saved by Bell	Saved by Bell	Movie				Dawson's Creek		Dawson's Creek		Saved by Bell	Saved by Bell
TNT (38)	The Lost	World	The Prete	nder	Charmed		ER		ER		Judging Amy	
DSC (42)	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Assignme Discovery		Monster H	louse	Designer Guys	Designer Guys	Rally Rou House	nd the
A&E (47)	Varied Pro	ograms	Movie				Murder, She Wrote		Murder, She Wrote		City Confidential	
ESPN (49)	SportsCe	nter	SportsCe	nter	Sports- Center	Varied	SportsCenter		SportsCenter		Outside- Lines	Baseball Tonight
HBO	Movie		Varied Programs		•		Movie		•	Varied		
DISN (17)	JoJo's Circus	Stanley	The Wiggles	JoJo's Circus	The Wiggles	Stanley	Rolie Polie	Rolie Polie	Out of the Box	PB&J Otter	Koala Brothers	The Wiggles
MAX	Movie Cont'd	Varied Programs								Movie		

WEEKDAYS APRIL 20 - APRIL 26

12 PM | 12:30 | 1 PM | 1:30 | 2 PM | 2:30 | 3 PM | 3:30 | 4 PM | 4:30 | 5 PM | 5:30

	12 1 101	12.00	1 1 171	1.00	2 1 IVI	2.00	O I IVI	0.00	7 1 101	7.00	3 1 W	3.00	
KLBY/ABC 4 6	All My Ch	ildren	One Life to Live		General H	General Hospital Di			Judge Judy	Judge Judy	News	ABC WId News	
KSNK/NBC	News	Family Feud	Days of Our Lives		Passions	Passions Inside Edition		Family Feud	Million- aire	Jeop- ardy!	News	NBC News	
KBSL/CBS	News	Bold, Beautiful	As the World Turns		Guiding Light Th		The People's Court		Oprah Winfrey		News	CBS News	
K15CG 3	Reading Rainbow			Varied Programs		George Shrinks	Beren. Bears	Liberty's Kids	Cyber- chase	Arthur	Zoom	Busi- ness	
WGN 13	News				Street Smarts	Cosby Show	Cosby Show	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Home Improve.	Will & Grace		
NICK 29	Max & Ruby	Dora the Explorer	Rugrats	Rugrats	Varied Pro		•		Spon- geBob	Amanda	U-Pick	U-Pick	
FAM 30	Family Matters	Family Matters	Step by Step	Step by Step	So Little Time	Full House	7th Heave	n	Switche- d!	Knock First	Full House	Full House	
USA 31)	JAG		Walker, Texas Mov Ranger		Movie	Movie		Varied Programs		Walker, Texas Ranger		Walker, Texas Ranger	
TBS 37	Cosby	Cosby Show	Cosby Show	Fresh Prince	Fresh Prince	Steve Harvey	Steve Harvey	Drew Carey	Drew Carey	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Seinfeld	
TNT 38	Law & Ord	der	NYPD Blue NYPD E		NYPD Blu	lue Judging Amy		Angel		Charmed			
DSC (42)	Surprise b	y Design	Surprise b	y Design	Rally Rou House	nd the	Double Agents		Varied Programs				
A&E (47)	American	Justice	Movie				Murder, S	he Wrote	Murder, She Wrote		City Confidential		
ESPN 49	Varied Programs			NFL Live	Varied Pro	grams		Around the Horn	Interrup- SportsCente tion		nter		
HBO	Movie Movie Varied Programs							Movie					
DISN (17)	JoJo's Circus	Stanley	Winnie- Pooh	House of Mouse	House of Mouse	Recess	Lilo & Stitch	Recess	Kim Possible	Proud Family	Even Stevens	Sister, Sister	
MAX (21)	Movie Co	nt'd	Varied	Movie		-	Varied	Movie			Movie	Varied	

THURSDAY APRIL 22

	6 PM	6 :3 0	7 PM	7:3 0	8 PM	8:3 0	9 PM	9:3 0	10 PM	10 :3 0	11 PM	11 :3 0	
KLBY/ABC 4 6	(5:59) Ne ws	Ent. Tonight	Extreme Makeover: Stephen King' Home Edition (CC) Kingdom Hos			Primetime Thursday (CC)		News (CC)	Nightline (CC)	Jimmy Kimmel Live (CC)			
KSNK/NBC	Ne ws	Fortune			ER Just a Touch (N) (CC)		Ne ws	The Tonig (N) (CC)	ht Show	Late Night			
KBSL/CBS	News (CC)	Friends (CC)					Without a Moving On		News (CC)	Late Shov	v (CC)	Late Late	
K15CG 3	The News With Jim I		Sun- flower Auction The New This House Hour (0				Frontline Qaida (N)		World News	Keeping Up	Charlie Ro (CC)	ose (N)	
WGN 13	Will & Grace	Home Improve.		MLB Base ball: New York Yankees at Chicago White So: Cellular Field. (Live) (CC)				ox. U.S.	WGN Ne ws	Becker (CC)	Elimi- date	The 5th Wheel	
NICK 29	Rugrats (CC)	Spon- ge Bob	Oddpar- ents	Sabrina- Witch	Full House	Full House	Cosby Show	Cosby Show	Rose - anne	Rose - anne	Cosby Show	Cosby Show	
FAM 30	7th H e av e Tribes Tha				t Here ★★≠ ughter and			Whose Line? The 700 Club (CC) America's Funniest Home Videos (CC)					
USA 31)	JAG Frien (CC) (DVS			Law & Order: Movie: Big Daddy ★½ (1999) A Special Victims adopts an impressionable young									
TBS 37)	Seinfeld The Tape	Friends (CC)		yback ★★⅓ aibson, Gre	½ (1999, Su gg Henry.	spense)			rback ★★½ (1999, Suspense) Movie: Cliffhangeribson, Gregg Henry. ★★★ (1993) (CC)				
TNT (38)	Law & Ord Humiliation			etball: Firs d. (Live) (Co					te tba ll: Firs d. (Live) (C 0		Teams to Be		
DSC (42)	New Detectors Forensic S		ND-Struct	ible (CC)	Building t		Sucking A electric car		ND-Struct	O-Structible (CC)		Building the Impossible	
A&E (47)	Am e rican Parent's N				Answer in t		Elizabeth Smart: Long Way Home		Third Watch Officer Involved (CC)		Cold Case Files (CC)		
ESPN (49)	Sports- Center	NHL Hock to Be Anno	e y : Confere	ey: Conference Semifinal Game 1 Teams Base (Live) (CC)							Outside - Lines	Base ball Tonight	
HBO (7)	(4:45) Mov Batman F		, , , ,				ck: Never Scared		Taxicab Confessions		Deadwood The Trial of Jack McCall (CC)		
DISN (17)	Sister, Sister	Lizzie McGuire	Movie: A l Light ★½			Recess (CC)	Sister, Sister	Boy Mts. World	Kim Possible	Proud Family	Even Stevens	Sister, Sister	
MAX (21)		/ie: Femme Suspense)			il ibu's Mos Jamie Ken						lovie: Haunting Desires 2003, Adult) Beverly Lynne.		

FRIDAY APRIL 23

	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	
KLBY/ABC 4 6	(5:59) News	Ent. Tonight	George Lopez	The Big House	Hope & Faith	Married- Kellys	20/20 (CC))	News (CC)	Nightline (CC)	Jimmy Ki Bob Cribbi	mmel Live e. (CC)	
KSNK/NBC	News	Wheel of Fortune					Third Watch In Plain View (N) (CC)		News	The Tonig (N) (CC)	ht Show	Late Night	
KBSL/CBS	News (CC)	Friends (CC)	Joan of Arcadia (CC) JAG Posse Comitatus					Without a Trace Coming Home (CC)		Late Shov	v (CC)	Late Late	
K15CG 3	The News With Jim		Wash. Week	Wall- Fortune	Market- Market	Kansas L	egislature			Red Charlie Ro Green (CC)		ose (N)	
WGN 13	Will & Grace	Home Improve.		lovie: The Perfect Wife ★ (2000, uspense) Perry King. (CC) WGN News (CC)		s at Nine	Becker (CC)	Becker (CC)	Elimi- date	The 5th Wheel			
NICK 29	Rugrats (CC)	Spon- geBob	Jimmy Neutron	Danny Phantom	Teenage Robot	Chalk- Zone (N)	Cosby Show	Cosby Show	Rose- anne	Rose- anne	Cosby Show	Cosby Show	
FAM 30	7th Heave Praise of V		Movie: Pic Comedy)	cture Perfe Jennifer Ani	ct ★½ (199 ston, Jay N	7, Iohr.	Whose Whose Line?		The 700 Club (CC)		Paid Program	Paid Program	
USA (31)		JAG Heart and Soul Law & Order: (CC) (DVS) Law & Order: Special Victims				der: ictims	Touching (CC)	Evil K	Law & Ord Special V		Touching Evil K (CC)		
TBS 37	Friends (CC)	MLB Base Stadium. (a Braves at	Florida Ma	ırlins. Pro P	layer	Movie: Striking Distance ** (Drama) (PA) Bruce Willis. (CC)			993,	Movie: Licence	
TNT 38	Law & Ord Libel (CC)		Law & Ord Turnaroun		Law & Ord Losing Sea		Law & Order Hubris (CC) (DVS)		Law & Order Paranoia		Movie: The Big Hit ★★ (1998)		
DSC (42)	Monster H Mad Scien	louse tist House	Motorcyc (CC)	le Mania 2	American Liberty Bik		American Hot Rod Junkyard Dog 2		Motorcycle Mania 2 (CC)		American Chopper Liberty Bike 2		
A&E (47)	American Spree Kille		Movie: Es plots to es	cape From	Alcatraz de he notoriou	★★ (1979) s island pris	A convict son. (CC)			Third Watch Nature or Nurture? (CC)		Movie: Escape From Alcatraz ★★★	
ESPN (49)	Sports- Center	NBA		cetball : Firs d. (Live) (C 0		ame 3 Tea	ams to Be		ketball: First Round Game 3 Teams to d. (Live) (CC)				
HBO	Real Spor	ts (CC)		sic ★★ (20) John Trav		Man on Fire	Deadwood The Trial of Jack McCall (CC)		On the Re	cord (N)	Movie: Th Transport		
<u> </u>					. ,			<u> </u>				<u> </u>	