

Opinion



Your Views Count

- Letters

You were a big help

To the Colby Free Press:

I want to thank everyone from the Thomas County Inter-agency Coalition who helped raise awareness on prevention of child abuse and neglect by distributing blue ribbons across Thomas County. In addition, I want to thank everyone in Thomas County who also helped raise awareness by wearing the blue ribbons during the month of April.

Child abuse and neglect is a subject that no one likes to talk about or even think about. Although it's an ugly subject, it's an issue we have to acknowledge and learn more about in order to help prevent it. Child abuse and neglect is a tragedy that extends beyond childhood. Research shows that the effects of abuse often carries into adulthood. As adults, they have a high risk of substance abuse, depression, physical disabilities, learning delays, criminal activity, and continuing the cycle of abuse.

Child abuse and neglect not only hurts the child, but it hurts the community by raising the costs of child welfare, education, health care, and juvenile justice. It is our job to learn more about child abuse and neglect and not be afraid to talk about it, in order to help prevent it.

Lately, there has been a lot of national attention in the media about sex offenders. Just because we live in a small community doesn't mean that we shouldn't be concerned or aware of any sex offenders living in our neighborhoods. To find out if there are any sex offenders living in your county log onto www.accesskansas.org/kbi/

For more information on the prevention of child abuse and neglect, contact Northwest Kansas Regional Prevention Center at (785) 462-8152.

Respectfully,

Roxy Cabral
PCAN Director
Northwest Kansas Regional Prevention Center
990 S. Range, Suite 7
Colby
(785) 462-8152
(Letter #43)

We are privileged

To the Colby Free Press:

We would like to give a public "Thank You" to two of our great organizations in Colby.

First of all to the Heartland Christian School for the lovely Mother's Day banquet they had on Sunday at the Community Building. The food was great, and the fellowship was great!

Secondly, to J and R Marketing, for bringing the Signature Sound Quartet to our area. What a privilege we had hearing them. Rich and Judy (Epp) do a great job getting wonderful groups to our area.

We have a great community, and are proud to be Colbyites!

Linda Goossen
Colby
(Letter #44)

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
tcx@nwkansas.com

Jan Katz Ackerman, Area Reporter
ackermanjk@ruraltel.net

ADVERTISING

Crystal Rucker - Advertising Sales/Director

crystalr@nwkansas.com

Jasmine Crotinger - Advertising Sales

jasminec@nwkansas.com

BUSINESS OFFICE

Lea Bandy - Circulation Manager
lea@nwkansas.com

Jeanette Applegate - Bookkeeping & Ad Building
japplegate@nwkansas.com

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 \$38, 8 months \$53, 12 months \$70. By mail with in Colby and the nine-county region of Thomas, Sheridan, Decatur, Rawlins, Cheyenne, Sherman, Wallace, Logan and Gove counties: 4 months \$50, 8 months \$62, 12 months \$78. Other Kansas counties and surrounding states: 4 months \$57, 8 months \$67, 12 months \$81. All other states, \$81, 12 months.

Nor'West Newspapers
Haynes Publishing Company



Playing into their hands

I was listening to some goofy babbling on the tube the other evening proclaim, "It's good news to hear the price of gasoline has dropped 3 cents at the pump!" Big deal! It needs to drop another dollar to bring it down to an honest level — like \$1.23 instead of \$2.23 or whatever it is today. Dropping the price by a cent or two every now and then and hearing us say, "Well, how about that, it's going down," is music to the big oil companies' ears. They can tease us that way. It's legal pickpocketing in my opinion. And I don't care what the prez says or any of his bunch says.

So, what is the solution? Well hold on for this one: I have read where the guys and gals on Capitol Hill are whispering about reducing the speed to 55 miles per hour (remember that bunch of foolishness back in the '70s?). It might come about again.

Where are all the people with all the brains that seemingly have an answer to everything? Where are the smarts in all of those so-called "think tanks" that seem to pop up like unwanted weeds in the lawn?

Someone told me at Dillons the other night that we shouldn't really complain because in some foreign countries they pay \$7-\$8 a gallon. Of course my answer was two fold: 1) I don't live in a foreign country, I live here; and 2) They can't be that stupid.

Well, enough of my continuing gripe.

I thought it was interesting as I listened to Mike Coffman, State Treasurer of Colorado, on KUSA-Ch. 9, Denver, talk about his resignation and subsequent re-entry into the U.S. Marines and asking for assignment to Iraq. He's a retired Marine Corps reserve officer and said he felt the need to go back and continue his service to his country.

Obviously his family had issues with his decision, but that now he has their full support. That's what you call a real story.

A couple of Saturday nights ago, First Lady Laura Bush took the podium at the Washington White House Correspondents annual awards



Tom Dreiling

- My Turn

banquet and she stole the show.

I have never seen the first lady deliver the humor she delivered that night. It was a laugh a second as she poked fun of her husband and their lifestyle. Roaring laughter and a prolonged standing ovation was accorded this generally reserved person. It aired on C-Span and some of you might have watched it.

Can you imagine this: The oldest person in Russia, said to be 124, told a reporter, "I have had a good life but I have lived too long. I am tired of living."

Don't take offense to this, but there is a new term making the rounds — "born again virgin." The young Georgia man linked to the bride-to-be who kidnapped herself, used the term in talking with reporters last week. Some experts who have gone before the television cameras said youth today are beginning to spin that phrase because they are of the belief all things are possible.

Guess I was born too soon to understand. Maybe if I did I would be labeled a "born again underlander."

Gov. Mike Huckabee of Arkansas was on Imus in the Morning Monday pushing his book, "Quit Digging Your Grave With a Knife and Fork." The governor, who was as heavy as 290 pounds is now a slim 175 and said weight in itself does not denote a healthy person. He said weight loss is as much a mind game as it is a game of dieting.

He had some awfully good points but space

won't allow me to get into it. But pick up his book if it's available around here. I plan to.

This came my way and I thought you would enjoy it. It's called "New Words for the 21 Century."

Smile, and enjoy.

√Begathon — Any fund-raising drive by a public television or radio station so you won't have to put up with commercials for the rest of the year.

√Bozone — The layer of air around stupid people that stops good ideas from penetrating into their brain. Sadly, no holes in this substance can be found.

√Chocloniverous — Used to describe a person who bites the head off a chocolate Easter bunny first.

√Deodorend. — The last 1/2 inch of a stick of deodorant that won't push up, making the tube good only for underarm lacerations.

√Elbonics — The actions of two people in a movie theater trying to share one armrest.

√Execuglide — Propelling ones self around an office in a chair on wheels.

√Fizzfall — The point at which the head of foam on a drink begins to recede.

What is a: Billion?

The next time you hear a politician use the words "billion" casually, think about whether you want that politician spending your tax dollars.

A billion is a difficult number to comprehend, but one advertising agency did a good job of putting that figure into perspective:

A billion seconds ago, it was 1959.

A billion minutes ago, Jesus was alive.

A billion hours ago, our ancestors were living in the Stone Age.

Have a good evening!

Tom Dreiling is publisher of the Free Press. His column appears Wednesdays and Fridays. E-mail td@nwkansas.com.

About those letters . . .

The Free Press encourages and welcomes letters from readers. Letters should be typewritten, if at all possible, and should include a telephone number and an address. These are used for verification of the writer only. If, however, you want your address and telephone number to appear with your letter, please ask us to do so when you submit your letter, or include a note with your letter. Most importantly, all letters must include a signature. Unsigned letters cannot be published. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and length, and, likewise, reserve the right to reject letters deemed to be of no public interest or considered offensive or libelous. You can expect your letter to appear in print within 24-48 hours of receipt. Letters to the Free Press allow readers to become engaged in public debate on topics they deem important. Please consider sharing your thoughts with the family of Colby Free Press readers. Thank you.

Doonesbury

- Gary Trudeau

