

# Opinion



## A Kansas Viewpoint

### Don't bargain with Mother Nature

**By Tom Dreiling**  
Tornadoes are just a part of life in Kansas. That can't be changed. But the tornado that destroyed the community of Greensburg, isn't the norm. It was described as the most powerful storm of its kind to ever hit the state. The force was placed at EF5 with winds in excess of 200 miles per hour.

The thing about this tornado, said meteorologists, was its size — greater than a mile wide, closer to two miles. And the end result of something of that magnitude can be seen in a town that once was.

Nine people are dead, in excess of a hundred injured. Basements, which we all count on to provide the most protection in a tornado, didn't entirely fit the bill with this one. Many homes crashed into their basements.

It seems we are in an unusually difficult tornado season. Those who study these storms shake their heads at the number and the intensity so early in what is called 'tornado alley.' It's been brutal and deadly.

As far away as we are from the southcentral Kansas town of Greensburg, doesn't diminish our heartfelt sympathy for those who lost loved ones in the tornado, and for those people in general over the loss of their town.

We pray for Greensburg's residents. We pray that in this time of crises, they are given the strength needed to carry on and to eventually rebuild amidst the rubble we now see.

When the sirens forewarn that a storm is anticipated, please take cover. Mother Nature can't be bargained with.

— Tom Dreiling, publisher, Norton Telegram

#### Where to write, call

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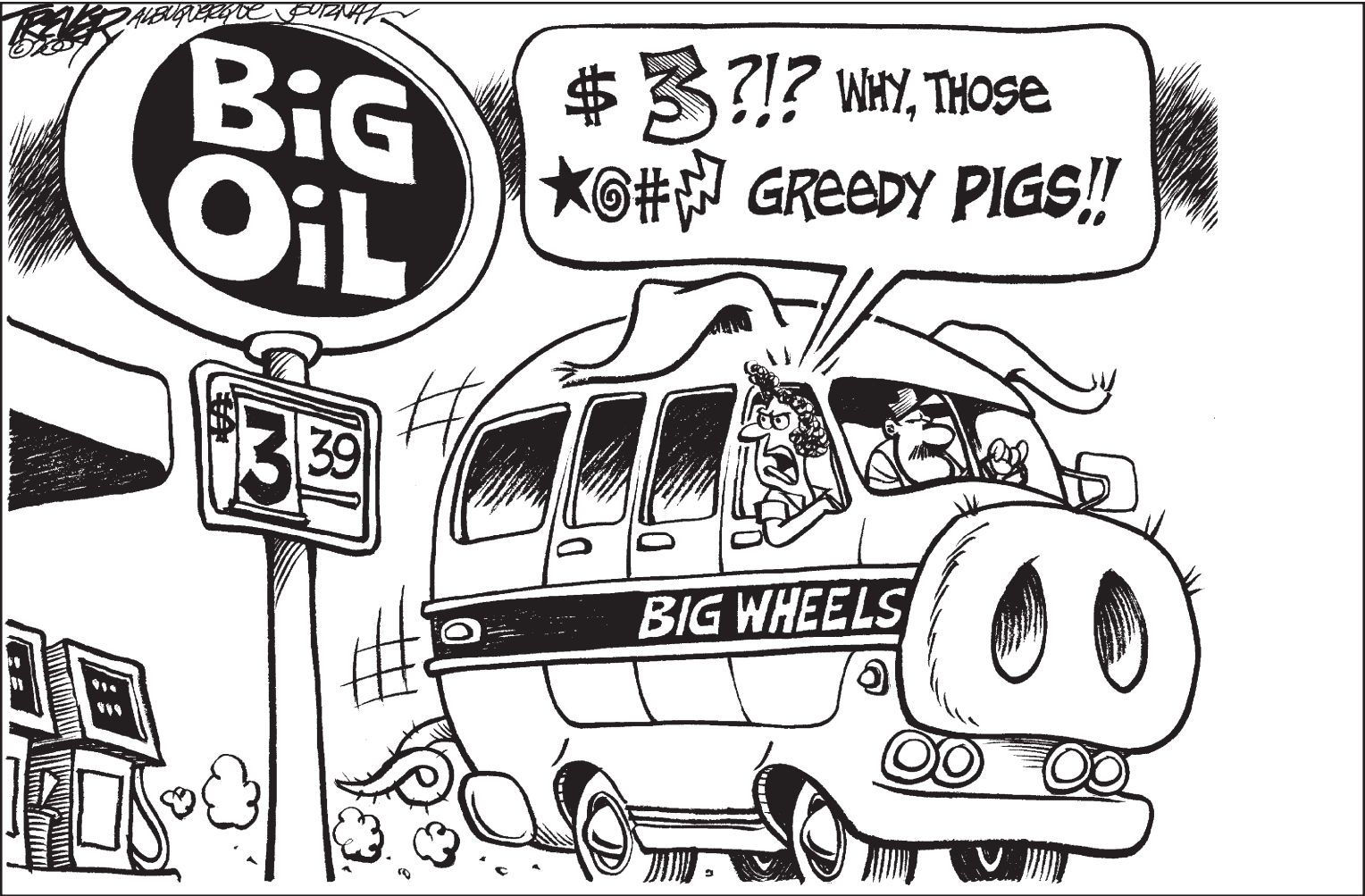
**U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback,**  
303 Hart  
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**U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran,**  
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### Glory days



**Tisha Cox**

#### • Off The Beaten Path

all went our separate ways.

Some of them are married, with children. Some, like me, haven't found someone to settle down with yet.

Not only have we changed, but the world as well. I didn't have a cell phone then, and we didn't even have a computer in our house, or a CD player. Now, most people have all three, or some combination.

Then I couldn't imagine something like a DVD player, but I have one.

The students graduating this year grew up with these things, and I wonder what their children will have to look forward.

#### Summer blockbusters

The summer movie season began May 4 with the release of "Spider-Man 3." It's already broke all kinds of ticket sales records, and people are hoping for a record summer.

This summer is filled with many sequels, and a few movies that have the potential to pack people into movie theaters.

Summer, for that reason, is one of my favorite times of year.

I love movies, and this is like Christmas for

movie fans.

May has a couple of those sequels — "Shrek 3" and "Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End."

I haven't seen the Shrek movies, but I've seen the previous two pirate movies, and they are a riot. The third promises that and more, if the trailer is any guarantee.

I can't wait to see what happens to Captain Jack Sparrow, and I know a lot of people are looking forward to it.

Another big one is "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix," movie No. 5 for the boy wizard.

Yet another sequel is "Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer." The Silver Surfer comes to Earth to prepare it for destruction by the planet-eater Galactus.

Even more eagerly anticipated is "Transformers," which debuts July 4. It'll have plenty of fireworks, and the Internet buzz on this one has been going since the movie was first announced a couple of years ago. After all, what's more fun than giant robots from space running amok?

Blockbusters aren't the only hype generators this summer.

A few family movies are coming out, like "Surf's Up," an animated flick about surfing penguins and "Ratatouille," about a rat who wants to become a chef.

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### Your turn

## Greensburg resident says thanks

**Kathy Arendt**  
**Greensburg**  
**1998 Colby High School graduate**

I write this letter one week and two days after an EF5 tornado turned the lives of my 3-year old son, myself, and so many other people I know upside down.

We are the residents of Greensburg, the community leveled on May 4, 2007, at 9:45 p.m. A community leveled, but not destroyed. We are the survivors and the evacuees, not the victims. We are Greensburg.

The days following the tornado have been humbling and overwhelming. Not because of the losses, but because of the gain we have all received in our lives. People not only in Kansas, but across the United States and even all over the world have pulled together along side the residents of Greensburg as we regroup and work towards rebuilding our lives. Organizations such as the Red Cross and Salvation Army, businesses, and also families and persons on their own have made a difference to us with each and every donation. Whether it was \$10, clothes

from your closets, a case of bottled water, a box of food or other household goods, and even cards and phone calls. We appreciate the support more than mere words could ever adequately express.

The weeks and months ahead will be just as difficult as the past nine days have been as we get to the bottom of the rubble and begin to rebuild our lives from the dust up. Your continued support, thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated. At this time organizers in the heart of the disaster area are asking that clothing and food donations be put on hold. Household items will be gathered at a later time as the residents of Greensburg begin to rebuild their homes and businesses. Most people are living in shelters or with friends and family and do not have a place to store such items.

Three things are needed most at this time: sanitizing hand gel and sanitizing wipes for the volunteers and residents working in Greensburg, and monetary donations to the Greensburg Disaster Relief Fund or private residents and organizations such as churches and schools in Greensburg, as well as the Red Cross, Salvation

Army, Lions Club, etc.

In addition, Carolyn Miller-Bird, a Colby resident, has opened up her Tupperware Party to be a fund raiser for myself and other residents of Greensburg.

Purchases may be made directly for the residents, money may be donated to go towards certain items picked by residents, and credit from purchases people make for themselves will also go towards the purchase of items to be sent to Greensburg. The open house will be 1-6 p.m. Wednesday at the Trinity Lutheran Church on the corner of 5th and Country Club Drive in Colby.

For more information on this fund-raiser and others, and other ways you can help including the Greensburg Disaster Relief Fund, please contact me at (785) 460-6653. I am temporarily staying in Colby with family members at this time.

Thank you very much for everything you have done for my son and I, and the other residents of Greensburg. We appreciate it more than you could ever know.

#### 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. 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.

### Mallard Fillmore

• Bruce

Tinsley

