pinion



A Kansas **Viewpoint**

The more to play, the more to pay?

The Topeka Capital-Journal

More gambling is coming to Kansas, which means more problem gambling likely won't be far behind.

How best to handle the increase in addiction?

That's a question that could be answered in a lot of ways, but state decision-makers and officials can look to California for lessons on how not to prepare.

At the same time, Kansans might also get a reminder about the importance of getting adequate addiction programs ready. ...

Addiction counselors in Kansas have been saying it's highly likely the state will see more of the same as new casinos pop up. A news report earlier this year said researchers at the University of Buffalo found that people living within 10 miles of a casino

living farther away. Where Kansas can learn from California is in allocation of resources for problem gambling.

The Golden State devotes a shamefully small amount of its gaming fees to gambling addiction — just \$3 million. ...

In Kansas, things don't look quite as bleak.

In the legislation that allowed for construction of state-owned casinos near Kansas City, Kan., Wichita, Dodge City and Pittsburg, lawmakers had enough forethought to include a provision calling for 2 percent of casino revenue to go toward addiction prevention, treatment and education programs.

That legislative tool could provide up to \$18 million a year to battle problem gambling.

It was a responsible approach, but one that was long overdue. The state had been directing \$100,000 into a problem gambling fund in recent years, not nearly enough to fund adequate pro-

Here's hoping the Legislature continues to recognize the need for more funding.

Where to write, call

U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. 202/224-4774

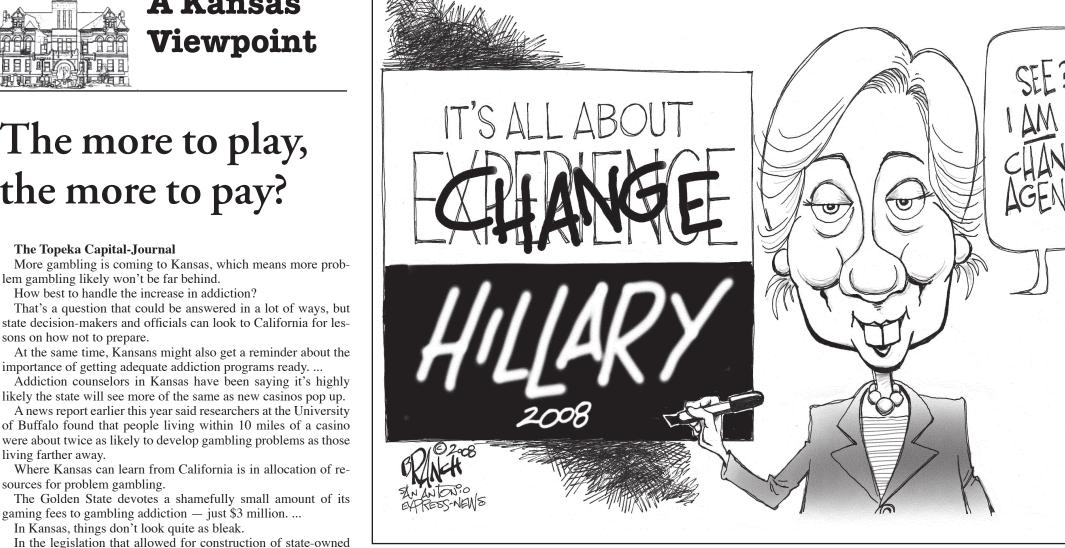
U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. 202/224-6521

U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran, 2202 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. 202/225-2715 or Fax 202/225-5124

State Rep. Jim Morrison, State Capitol Building, 300 SW 10th St. Rm. 143-N, Topeka, Kan. 66612. 785/296-7676 e mail: jmorriso@ink.org web: www.morrisonfamily.com

State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer, State Capitol, 300 SW 10th St., Rm. 128-S., Topeka, Kan. 66612, 785/296-7399 ostmeyer@senate.state.ks.us

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 jvannostrand@nwkansas.com or pdecker@nw kansas.com. Opinions do not necessarily reflect the Free



Another best-kept secret

I love my job. The main reason is because I learn so many new things and meet lots of interesting and fun people almost on a daily

For example, the other day Amanda Wahlmeier came in to drop off a "briefly" item about a charity ball.

As I read the information, I noticed it was an American Cancer Society event, but I couldn't figure out who was sponsoring it locally so I called Jennifer Van Eaton, the contact number for the fundraiser.

After talking with her for a few minutes, I discovered Colby has sort of a satellite office — branching off the Topeka-based headquarters.

Jennifer told me she has been the community coordinator for about 20 months and helps cancer patients in Thomas, Cheyenne, Decatur, Rawlins, Logan, Norton, Phillips, and Sherman counties.

"You must do a lot of driving," I said. Jennifer confirmed that she does, but likes

Then I was curious what services our satellite office can provide. She told me she works with Kelly Kriegshauser, a social worker at Citizens Medical Center, and together they can help cancer patients travel to treatment rectly. facilities, provide wigs, gas cards or whatever they might need in speeding their recovery.

Even though northwest Kansas might not fees?" have all the resources of Topeka, Kansas City



Deep Thoughts

with services made available through people like Jennifer.

During our conversation, we also discussed fundraising and what types of events are coming up to help the American Cancer Society. She told me Daffodil Days is underway and Cathy Harrison is coordinating the orders. Of course, we have the "Relay for Life" during the summer and another fundraiser I thought was too good to be true was called "The American Cancer Society's 2008 Golf Pass.'

Jennifer told me this fundraiser costs \$35 and the recipient can enjoy more than 857 rounds of golf at 322 courses in Missouri, Texas, Oklahoma, Nebraska and Kansas.

When she told me about the golf pass, I questioned whether or not I heard her cor-

"What? Are you saying that for \$35 I can golf in any of those states and not pay green 8255) or by calling Jennifer.

Jennifer probably thought I was a bit dense,

She explained it like this: As an example, someone who buys the "pass" can golf at Meadow Lake Golf Course in Colby two times — 18 holes each. This doesn't include the golf cart, but it is for green fees.

Likewise, a golfer can then head to Goodland's Sugar Hills Golf Club and do the same thing four times or 72 holes.

I told her that's incredible, and of course, the list goes on and on. Someone who loves to golf can visit courses all over the area and be helping the cancer society at the same time. What a deal! Cambridge, Neb., Kearney, it's something to check out.

Later this week, we will have an article about the charity ball and some other interesting tidbits about the American Cancer Society. I just thought the golf pass was such a neat idea that I couldn't help but share it with everyone ahead of time.

If interested, call Jennifer at 462-2183. To learn more about the services the cancer society provides, call toll-free (800) 237-2345. Jennifer said that number will get someone to a representative 24 hours a day and seven days a week.

Thank you, Jennifer, for being there to help so many people. By the way, tickets for the first charity ball, Saturday, Feb. 23, can be purchased at Homeland Real Estate (462-

Decker is editor of the Free Press. Her color other metropolitan areas, we make up for it but I asked her the question more than once. umn appears on Mondays.

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Your turn

Politically correct

Lloyd Theimer Colby

There is legal issue in our community that needs to be addressed publicly.

school board's promotion of a bond issue that is voted down, be allowed to immediately use taxpayer's funds to manipulate the same "end" If legal counsel receiving taxpayers' funds for the board that the voters have just voted no

as payment for his expertise for an elected on? Wouldn't it seem logical at that point that the taxpayer's paid counselor would be obligated to explain to the elected board members

OKAY.... PO I CALL

THE GUY IN INDIA,

WHO KNOWS WHAT

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what no means? Wouldn't that be politically correct?

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The following events are even more

horrifying because they're true...



W000...

FINALLY

Bruce

Tinsley