



Other Viewpoints

College leaders face uphill climb

Serving at the helm of a major university is not an easy job even in the best of times, but Bernadette Gray-Little and Kirk Schulz aren't taking over at the University of Kansas and Kansas State University in the best of times.

A global recession and deep budget cuts promise to add greatly to the difficulty of their tasks in the coming year and beyond....

Schulz, already in Kansas, assumed his duties as president of K-State on June 15. Gray-Little will become chancellor at KU on Aug. 15.

Among Schulz's stated priorities are dealing with the budget cuts demanded by the Legislature, drafting a strategic plan with the help of university students, faculty, staff and administrators for what K-State will look like in 2025 and ensuring the \$450 million National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility being built on the campus becomes the major research facility, and economic force in Kansas, it is intended to be.

The Legislature's budget cuts also are high on Gray-Little's list, as are a major fund-raising campaign to grow the university's private endowment, getting KU designated as a national cancer institute, improving the graduation rate of undergraduate students and increasing research activity across the university's campuses in Lawrence, Wichita, Overland Park and Kansas City.

Schulz was known as a great communicator at Mississippi State University, where he most recently served as vice president for research and economic development, and that skill should serve him well as he and the university's new athletic director, John Currie, try to calm the K-State alumni and faithful. They are upset over a recently disclosed spending spree by the athletic department involving secret buyouts and contract guarantees.

Gray-Little, provost and executive vice chancellor at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, apparently is no slouch at communication either. A co-worker says she was able to settle difficult situations at UNC in a way so no one felt injured. That sounds to us like she was able to do what was necessary without ruffling too many feathers....

It appears as though the Kansas Board of Regents entrusted the universities to capable people, each with specific experience that will be helpful to the institution they serve....

— *The Topeka Capital-Journal, via The Associated Press*

Write us

The *Colby Free Press* encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of general interest. Letters should be brief, clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and phone number of the author.

We do not publish anonymous letters. We sign our opinions and expect readers to do likewise. Nor do we run form letters or letters about topics which do not pertain to our area. Thank-yous from this area should be submitted to the Want Ad desk.

Letters will not be censored, but will be read and edited for form and style, clarity, length and legality. We will not publish attacks on private individuals or businesses not pertaining to a public issue. Before an election, letters (other than responses by a candidate) will not be published after the Thursday before the polls open.

COLBY FREE PRESS

155 W. Fifth St. (USPS 120-920) (785) 462-3963  
Colby, Kan. 67701 fax (785) 462-7749

Send news to: colby.editor @ nwkansans.com

State award-winning newspaper, General Excellence, Design & Layout, Columns, Editorial Writing, Sports Columns, News, Photography. Official newspaper of Thomas County, Colby, Brewster and Rexford.

Steve Haynes - Publisher  
s.haynes @ nwkansans.com

NEWS

Kevin Bottrell - News Editor  
kbottrell @ nwkansans.com

Andy Heintz - Sports Reporter  
aheintz @ nwkansans.com

Marian Ballard - Copy Editor  
mballard @ nwkansans.com

Vera Sloan and Aubrey Spencer - Society Editors  
colby.society @ nwkansans.com

ADVERTISING

Jasmine Stewart - Advertising Manager  
j.stewart @ nwkansans.com

Heather Wofter - Advertising Sales  
hwofter @ nwkansans.com

Marlin Stramel - Advertising Sales  
mstramel @ nwkansans.com

Kathryn Ballard - Graphic Design  
kballard @ nwkansans.com

BUSINESS OFFICE

Evan Barnum - Systems Administrator  
support @ nwkansans.com

NOR'WEST PRESS

Richard Westfahl - General Manager

Lana Westfahl, Jim Jackson, Betty Morris, Jim Bowker, Judy McKnight, James Ornelas, Barbara Ornelas, Tasha Shores, Daniel Spillman

THE COLBY FREE PRESS (USPS 120-920) is published every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, except the days observed for Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day, by Nor'West Newspaper, 155 W. Fifth St., Colby, Kan., 67701.

PERIODICALS POSTAGE paid at Colby, Kan. 67701, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Colby Free Press, 155 W. Fifth St., Colby, Kan., 67701.

THE BUSINESS OFFICE at 155 W. Fifth is open from 8 a.m. to 6 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 herein. Member Kansas Press Association and National Newspaper Association.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: In Colby, Thomas County and Oakley: three months \$35, one year \$85. By mail to ZIP Codes beginning with 676 and 677: three months \$39, one year \$95. Elsewhere in the U.S., mailed once per week: three months \$39, one year \$95. Student rate, nine months, in Colby, Thomas County and Oakley, \$64; mailed once per week elsewhere in the U.S. \$72

©2009 SAN ANTONIO  
BRANCH NORTH AMERICA  
SYNDICATE



It's time for fish, er, tomato stories

It's a sad thing to see — garden envy.

I was sitting at Rotary the other day and the topic moved from sports and politics to gardens, probably because it's sort of slow in the sports world and we've rehashed state and national politics to death.

John opened with a bow shot — his tomatoes were doing well. Ralph upped the ante — he had fruit on one of his plants. Around the table it went from having plants to BLTs for lunch. It was like listening to fish stories at the Liars Club. Those tomatoes just kept getting bigger and bigger.

Then Steve arrived home with real, vine-ripened tomatoes from a friend in Sharon Springs.

Back at the office it was more of the same. Kim's cantaloupes are developing nicely and Pat's green peppers are blossoming. Linda said that her chickens are good at keeping bugs away from her garden.

I produced some of my carrots.

This is the first time I've tried carrots, and the staff was not impressed. The two specimens I brought in looked like short, orange pencils. But, hey, they were my very own home-grown



Cynthia Haynes

• Open Season

carrots. I was proud of them. I might even eat them.

Actually, the garden is doing pretty well, even if I don't have any ripe tomatoes.

Several of the snow peas made it through installation of the neighbor's new fence, which required the removal of their supports when they were just plantlets. The ones that survived have provided us with a few dozen pods and a lot of fun.

The zucchini is blooming, but so far the flowers all seem to be nonproductive. You know, the male ones.

Soon, I'm sure, we'll be trying people's back doors and leaving excess zuchs in unlocked cars.

Actually, my system is to take the spares to

the office and anyone who comes in for a paper, subscription or classified ad can have one only if they take a zucchini.

A couple of years ago, a lawyer down the street had a bumper crop of cucumbers. He put them in a pot outside his door on Main Street and everyone could have what they wanted. He gave it up, however, when people started replacing the cucumbers with zucchini.

I may have to try the pot idea, myself this year. I have about 50 tiny cucumbers on the four vines we bought. Since Steve doesn't like cucumbers, I'll have a few more than I can eat.

Other than that, the corn is doing well, the broccoli has little white moths dancing over it and my green beans are almost one-half inch long. Oh, and the two cabbage plants we can't remember buying are heading up nicely.

Now, aren't you envious?

Cynthia Haynes, co-owner and chief financial officer of Nor'West Newspapers, writes this column weekly. Her pets include cats, toads and a praying mantis. Contact her at c.haynes @ nwkansans.com

Open records keep us free

Open government is the foundation of our democracy. Our government is most efficient when the public can inspect public records and gain access to meetings where public business is conducted.

This year, I partnered with the Kansas Sunshine Coalition to host four regional training opportunities on the Kansas Open Records Act and Kansas Open Meetings Act. My office — along with participants from the Kansas League of Municipalities, Kansas Association of Counties, Kansas Press Association and more — visited Dodge City, Olathe, Topeka, and Wichita to educate government employees, media and the public about these important laws.



Robert Six

• Attorney General

These laws allow us to hold our elected officials accountable. We can review their decisions, examine documents, inspect government spending and learn more about how our government functions.

Each training session consisted of an introduction to each of the acts, as well as a panel

discussion focusing on the real-world successes and challenges of these laws. The panel is diverse and represents many perspectives, including the media, city and county officials and law enforcement.

The more we understand these laws and our rights, the more likely we will become active participants in our state's government. It is the job of my office to enforce these laws, as well as educate officials and the public and make our government more accessible.

The Kansas attorney general's office stands ready to enforce your rights as a resident of Kansas to participate in your own governance. To learn more about Kansas open government laws, visit: www.ksag.org.

Celebrate freedom, not high taxes

To the Editor:

It is time to celebrate our nation's 233rd birthday and all the freedoms that were born in a long and bloody War of Independence from British rule.

The men who declared our much-cherished freedoms are long dead, but what the gift they gave us to carry into future generations is quickly becoming something our children, grandchildren and generations after them may never know!

Freedom is something we all take for granted. We assume "the government knows best." (You know what they say about the word assume don't you? If not, it means when you ass/u/me something, that makes an ass of u and me.) No, the government doesn't know what's best, they just assume!

We, on the other hand, assume they do know!

This is not what the founding fathers had in mind when they drew up the Constitution. America was founded as a republic, leaving as much freedom and personal responsibility as possible for the individual. Since Franklin D. Roosevelt and the Great Depression, we have



Free Press Letter Drop

• Our readers sound off

lost more and more of our freedoms. We have depended on the government to take care of us.

Think of all the government programs that have been around for many, many years. Why do you think people come here from other lands? Because they know that they can get government assistance without much trouble.

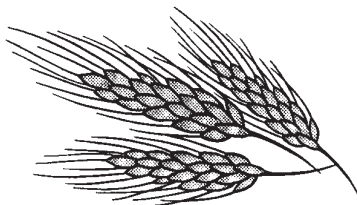
This country is a compassionate country, but dammit, I'm tired of being taxed to death! Our present Congress and president are on one heckuva spending spree!

Obama wants us to be conservative in our energy use, correct? You tell me, who is footing the bills for his flights on the infamous

"Obama's date night"? Who footed the bills when he was flying all over the U.S. after the election last November? It sure ain't Obama! It's us, it's you and me, the American taxpayers who pay for it!

I encourage all of us who are 40 and older to remind our kids and grandkids why America is a great country and why we fought the War of Independence. It was a great and worthy cause in 1776, and it's an even greater and worthier cause now, when our present leaders, our own government, are trying to take away these freedoms and the American idea is very much at risk of being lost forever!

Jari Skiles, Colby



Mallard Fillmore

• Bruce Tinsley

