

Family

Church-state split poorly understood

Last weekend, we celebrated the freedoms we are privileged to enjoy as a nation. Included in that is the freedom to worship as one chooses – to embrace religion, or not at all – without interference or persecution by the government.

This freedom, included in the First Amendment, is assumed in our time, almost taken for granted, but it was not always so.

The religious freedom we enjoy came only after a hard-fought battle that lasted nearly 200 years, initiated and led primarily (though not exclusively) by Baptists. While religious freedom was added to the Constitution in 1791, it was not until 1833 that the last vestiges of state-controlled churches disappeared. That was when Massachusetts became the last state to fully provide for separation of church and state and full religious liberty.

Many people probably do not realize that the idea of unencumbered religious liberty in the early colonies is a myth. It simply did not exist.

Puritans, Congregationalists or Separatists, and Baptists all fled the control and persecution of the Church of England (Anglican) for America. But the Puritans in the Massachusetts Bay Colony merely wanted to set up their own church-controlled state, and persecuted those who didn't cooperate. Roger Williams was one; he fled to Rhode Island in the 17th century and set up a colony there, under a charter from King Charles, which granted complete and total religious liberty to anyone within its bounds. It was the first and only colony to do so.

Down in Virginia the Anglicans set up their own church-state. Baptist ministers were beaten, imprisoned and run out of town for proclaiming their dissenting faith while Anglican ministers were paid with tax money from the state treasury. Rhode Island's example gradually influenced other colonies to similarly provide religious freedom, but it was a slow process.

This battle for religious freedom and separation of church and state was shaped significantly by Baptists such as John Leland (1754-1841). In Virginia, Leland helped mold the thought of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, both of whom played key roles in the victory for religious freedom.

Leland played a critical role in persuading Madison to include religious liberty and other personal freedoms in the Constitution. Madison went on to become the principle author of the Bill of Rights, whose freedoms we enjoy. It's safe to say that without the leadership of Baptists, we probably would not be enjoying today the freedoms protected by the first amendment.

A basic distinction must be made between the terms "religious liberty" and "separation of church and state," because they are often used as if they have the same meaning. These terms are not twins; they are more like close relatives.

Religious liberty is a theological concept rooted in the Bible. Separation of church and state is the method devised by our nation's founders to implement religious liberty. Religious freedom comes before separation of church and state, both in historical sequence and in theological importance.

Let's put it another way. Religious freedom is God's gift to humanity, to embrace, use, abuse or reject. Separation of church



Carroll Morony

- From the Pulpit

and state is the nation's means of providing a political atmosphere (through the "no establishment" clause of the first amendment) which allows the gift to be expressed – in whatever way – by individuals or groups.

What the separation of church and state in America means is that the government is not to sponsor a religion nor is it to prohibit the free exercise of religion. No government, federal or state, may control any religion or church, and no church or religious group can dictate how our government acts, as long as it is acting within the law.

Influence may be brought to bear on one side or the other, but neither has authority over the other. And "authority" is the key concept here. The term "wall of separation" attributed to Jefferson actually did not originate with him. Roger Williams coined it almost 200 years earlier.

One of the threats to religious freedom in our life time is the renewed effort to make the United States a theocracy rather than the constitutional democracy the founders set in place. The founders' views of the separation of church and state have increasingly come under attack.

The views of Jefferson and Madison have been labeled by some of the leaders of the so-called Religious Right as aberrations, and the notion is advanced that the founders actually sought to establish a kind of holy commonwealth in which, while government would not dominate the church, the church could well dominate the state.

Closely connected to this historical revisionism is the view that America occupies a special role in God's plan for the ages, that the U.S. is the successor to the covenant people Israel, that she is God's own possession among the nations of the world. Although this kind of nationalistic messianism is not new to the contemporary Religious Right, it remains as morally and Biblically bankrupt today as ever, amounting really to a form of national idolatry.

Other threats are the incursion of government control (again, the key word here) over religion at federal and state levels, and judicial decisions leaning toward freedom from any kind of religion. Our duty is to do our best to insure that church and state find that delicate balance which marks their proper relationship.

The historical period of the Middle Ages (it is called the "Dark" ages for a reason!) is replete with lessons we forget only at our peril, both when the Papacy controlled the kings of Europe or the kings controlled the Papacy. This is an issue that affects not just Christian churches in our country, but all religious faiths. Any threat to one is a threat to all religions in America.

In a time when our religious liberty is under challenge from both sides of the separation issue, we would do well to heed the words of Wendell Phillips: "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty."

Baptists have a special historical stake in the battle for religious freedom – but so do all of us today.

Windmill photography now on display in Goodland

The exhibit "Windmill Photography," displaying the work of Rich Hugen, a philosophy instructor at Fort Hays State University, opened Sunday at the Carnegie Arts Center, 120 West 12th in Goodland.

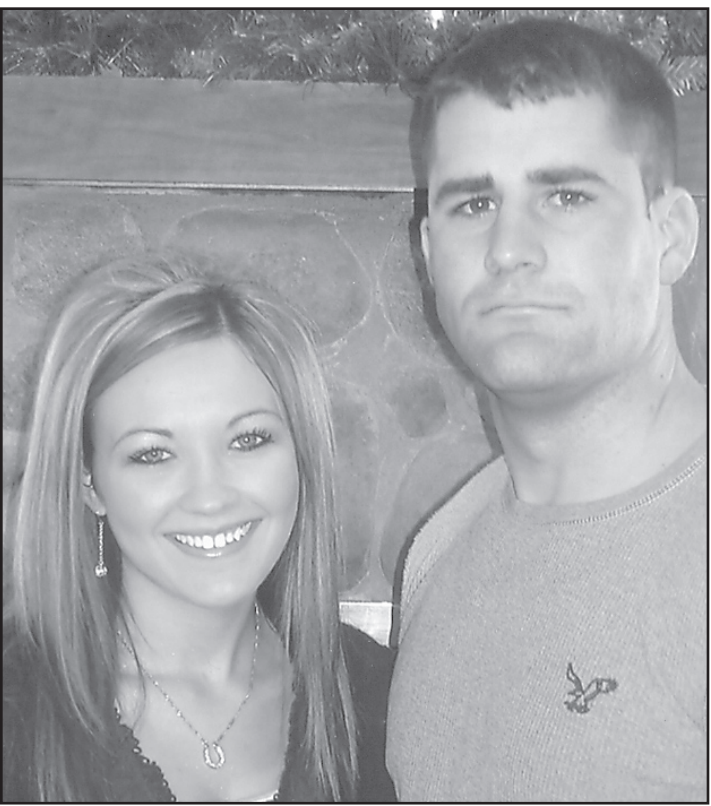
Hugen's interest in photography spans more than 50 years, but it has only been within the last few years that he has pursued it as a professional career. Windmills are a favorite subject matter.

"I use digital techniques," he says, "in an attempt to replicate in the picture what I saw and felt as I took the photography. Painters

do this very well on canvas, and so I feel especially good as a photographer when someone asks me, regarding one of my pictures, 'Is that a picture or a painting?'"

Prior to his work at Fort Hays, Hugen was an instructor at the Air Force Academy. He served in the Air Force for 20 years, including a year in Vietnam, and has taught English, math, electronics and computers.

Married for over 50 years, he and his wife have three children, nine grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.



Amanda Fromholtz and Shawn Grady

Colby woman to wed at Methodist church

Amanda Fromholtz of Colby and Shawn Grady of Lathrop, Mo., plan to marry July 18, 2009, at the Colby United Methodist Church.

Amanda is the daughter of Shawn and Lisa Fromholtz of Colby and the granddaughter of Jack and Sharee Fromholtz of Colby and Nancy and Marlyn Borger of Hays.

She is a 2008 graduate of Col-

by High School and is attending the Hays Academy of Hair.

Shawn is the son of David and Pamela Grady and the grandson of Ranze and Alberta Graves, and Doris Lee and Gene Grady, all of Lathrop.

A 2002 graduate of Lathrop High School, he is stationed with at McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita. The couple will be living in Wichita.

Deaths

Edward Lee Griggs

Edward Lee Griggs, 53, Norfolk, Va., a 1973 graduate of Colby High School, died Friday, July 3, 2009, in Norfolk.

He was born Dec. 19, 1955, to Wilbur Clyde and Joan Pauline (Pochop) Griggs in Atwood. After graduating from high school, he served in the Navy and was stationed in Norfolk.

He married Kim Perkins in 1978. They divorced in 1987.

In 1987, he met and married Penny Oliver, and they divorced in 2006

Griggs was plumber by trade and spent his most recent years working on the Norfolk naval base.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and his grandparents, Roland and Minnie Griggs and Peter and Rosina Pochop.

He is survived by a special friend, Lisa Covey, Norfolk; two

daughters, Shelley (Brooks) Lester, Portsmouth, Va.; and Amber Griggs, Norfolk; a son, Andrew Griggs, Norfolk; and two brothers, William Griggs and Gerald (Judy) Griggs; and two sisters, Rebecca Griggs and Bernice (Frank) Skiles, all of Colby.

A memorial service will be at 3 p.m. Saturday, July 11, 2009, at the West Park Church of Christ in Norfolk. A memorial service and inurnment will be held later in Colby.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day	
Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$4.67
Corn (bushel)	\$2.83
Milo (hundredweight)	\$4.23
Soybeans (bushel)	\$10.02

Groups

ROME

Paul and the Underground Church

Colby United Methodist Church

VBS

July 13th-17th

9am-11am

Ages: 3yr old preschool-4th grade

Call 785-460-2761 for more info

SERVICES DIRECTORY

Worship in the church of your choice this weekend.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Rev. Carol Rahn, 515 W. 4th, 785-462-6342, Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.

Schedule of church services

GATEWAY FELLOWSHIP, 2nd and Sunrise, Oakley. Pastor James Bloom, Sunday Morning Worship and Children's Church 10:15 a.m., Wednesday evening Bible Study and Intercessory Prayer 6:30 p.m. 785-671-4020.

COLBY INDEPENDENT BAPTIST CHURCH, 730 E. 3rd (former Jaycee's building), Pastor Bernard Heinz, 785-460-0313, Sunday School 9:30 a.m.; Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.; Sunday Evening 6:00 p.m.; Wednesday Evening 7:00 p.m.

ASCENSION-ON-THE-PRAIRIE EPISCOPAL, Rev. Don Martin, College Drive & Wheatridge Rd., 785-462-3041, Holy Eucharist, 9:00 a.m. every Sunday. Evening Prayer, 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, September through May. Christian Education for Youth, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, September through May.

COLLEGE DRIVE ASSEMBLY OF GOD, 245 W. College Dr., Colby, Interim Pastor, Sunday School 9 a.m. for all ages, Adults: choice of Fireproof, Crown Financial, or the Bible Class. 785-462-8234. cdag@st-tel.net.

BEREAN CHURCH, 1000 S. Franklin, 785-460-2763, www.colbyborean.com; Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m. Awana Clubs, Wednesday, 7 p.m., Middle & High School, Wednesday, 7 p.m. @ the Heartland Christian School Gym.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, (Affiliated with American Baptist Churches USA) Carroll H. Morony, Pastor, 615 W. Webster, 785-462-2867. Sunday School: 9:15 a.m.; Family Worship: 10:30 a.m.; Bible Study: Sundays at 7 p.m. RC Club 2nd and 4th Sundays at 2 p.m.

COLLEGE VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH (Affiliated with Southern Baptist), 1185 Wheatridge Rd. at College Drive, 785-460-7144, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship services, 10:45 a.m. Prayer Service at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday's.

MINGO BIBLE CHURCH, 420 Main Mingo, 785-462-2992: An independent community church served by Village Missions Intern Pastor Pat Colley. Sunday School: 9:30AM -all ages. Sunday Services: 10:45AM. Sunday Nights: 1st Sunday of the month: potluck following morning service - no evening service; 2nd Sunday: services at 6:30 PM; 3rd Sunday: informal fellowship - bring a snack to share!; 4th and 5th Sunday: services at 6:30 p.m.

SACRED HEART CATHOLIC, 785-462-2179, Father Dana Clark, Pastor, Saturday Eve. Mass 5:30 p.m., Sunday Masses 8:00 & 10:00 a.m., Confessions will be heard Saturday 4:30-5:05 p.m. and from 7:30-7:45 a.m. and 9:25-9:40 a.m. on Sunday.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, Rev. Carol Rahn, 515 W. 4th, 785-462-6342, Sunday Worship 9:00 a.m.

WESLEYAN CHURCH, 320 W. Pine - 785-462-8391, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:40 a.m., Sunday Evening Cell groups at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday Youth Ministries, Kids Clubhouse 7 p.m.

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS, 1145 S. Franklin - 460-6605, President Gary Slavens, 785-460-2656; Jordan Barrett, 1st counselor, 785-460-1101; Tim Wilson, 2nd counselor, 785-846-7796. Sacrament meeting 10 a.m., Sunday School and Primary 11:20 a.m., Priesthood, Relief Society, YM/YW, 12:10 p.m.; Family History Center open to public, 7-9 p.m. Thursdays or by appointment. Call 785-462-3571.

REDEEMING LOVE MINISTRIES, INC., 345 N. Franklin, Dr. W.G. and Rev. Orvella Romine, Equipping Class, Sunday, 10a.m., Sunday worship, 11a.m., Wednesday, R.L.M Training Centers (Bible School), 5 p.m. Shop online at: www.rlmregionalchurch.com

COLBY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, Rev. James Mardock, pastor, 950 S. Franklin, 785-460-6521, Sunday Worship Services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m., Fellowship coffee 9:30 a.m., Sunday School, 9:45 a.m., KXXX broadcasts 11:00 worship. www.colbyumc.org

CHURCH OF CHRIST, Minister, Jarrod Spencer. 510 E. 4th, Sunday Bible Study 9:30 a.m., Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Interpretation for the deaf, Wednesday, Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, (Disciples of Christ), Pastor Lyle Knebel, 385 W. 3rd - 785-460-2718, Sunday Morning Worship at 10:00 a.m.; Sunday School at 11:15 a.m. E-mail: fccolby@st-tel.net.

OUR SAVIORS LUTHERAN CHURCH, Brewster, Sunday worship 9:00 a.m.; 2nd Sunday of the month at 8:00 a.m.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, Rev. John L. Schmidt, East 5th & Country Club, 785-462-3497, Services, Sat., 5:30 p.m., Sunday; Sunday School and Adult Bible Class 9:15 a.m.; Services, 10:30 a.m. Visit us at www.trinitycolby.com

PLEASANT HOME CHURCH, Pastor, Perry Baird, 785-890-3375, 3190 Road 70, Edson, Worship, 9:00 a.m., Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

LEVANT COMMUNITY CHURCH, 205 1st St., Pastor Jerry Vincent, 785-586-2376, Sunday School (classes for 3 years & up and 3 adult classes) 9:30 a.m., Morning worship 10:30 a.m.

WINONA METHODIST CHURCH, Rev. Sheryl Johnson, Sunday School, 10:30 a.m., Morning Worship 9:15 a.m. (CDT)

BREWSTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, PO Box 250, Brewster. Pastor Dorine Chambers, 785-462-6044, Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.; Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.

THE SHEPHERD'S STAFF, REXFORD, Joan Dingwerth, Director, 785-687-2565.

REXFORD COMMUNITY CHURCH, Rexford, Pastor Lane Purcell, 785-687-3305, Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

BREWSTER COMMUNITY CHURCH, Mike Pinkelman, Pastor, Brewster - 785-694-2720, Sunday School (all ages) 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Wed. mornings 6:30 a.m. - Men's Bible Study, Wed. 7:00 p.m. - Children's Ministries (Royal Rangers/Missionettes), Wed. 7:15 p.m. - Intercessory & Prayer, Thurs. 4:00 p.m. - Women's Bible Study.



This feature is sponsored by these business firms as a contribution to the religious life of the community.



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