

Other Viewpoints

Republican rep does what he says

One thing is certain: When voters in Kansas' Big First District go to the polls next year to vote for a representative in the U.S. House, they'll know exactly who they're voting for if their choice is Rep. Tim Huelskamp, a Republican.

The twice-elected rep makes no bones about his defiance of current House leadership and his so-called mission to fight for American values.

"Kansans didn't send me to Washington to go-along-to-get-along," Huelskamp stated in a press release shortly after the publication this week of a McClatchy News Service story that featured the Kansas representative.

Huelskamp offers no apology for taking the word "compromise" out of his dictionary. He wants to march to his drummer and wants others to follow.

There were signs that Huelskamp, a former state senator, would buck the system in Washington if elected. And since arriving in D.C. he has bucked the system and irritated longtime Republican conservatives, specifically Speaker of the House John Boehner, who booted Huelskamp off the ag committee.

Many thought the loss of that committee assignment — a member of the Kansas delegation had served on that panel for nearly 100 years — would hurt Kansas. Huelskamp also riled Kansans when he didn't support wind energy credits or funds for the National Bio- and Agro- Disease Facility in Manhattan.

He has used his fights with the GOP right to his advantage and loves calling himself a Washington outsider. He has marshaled tea party forces and become their leader.

Despite what one thinks about Huelskamp and his politics, you have to credit the representative for maintaining a consistent stance from the moment he was elected. There are no winds of change blowing through his D.C. office. Kansans might not like the fact that voters sent Huelskamp to D.C., but he has remained true to himself and the values he espouses.

He is a rebel with a singular cause — representing American values — and rubs shoulders with equally rebellious House members. They are "unafraid, even eager, to defy their party's positions on everything from the Farm Bill to the budget," according to the McClatchy story.

And that would be good if the group actually accomplished more than defiance. But it hasn't.

It is too wrapped up in making sure it doesn't compromise — even with members of its own party — that it fails to accomplish anything relevant.

Rebellion for the sake of positive change is rebellion most can accept. But Huelskamp and his minions aren't changing a thing. They will have to compromise in order to effect change.

Huelskamp needs to understand that not everyone agrees with him and he is not always right. He has more opinions than facts — just like most politicians, who need to fashion those opinions into good legislation.

Not everyone agrees with Obama, either. The two and other party leaders need to find their way to the middle.

But Huelskamp likes to attach himself to the word uncompromising. He is not likely to change.

So voters will know exactly what they're getting if they reelect Huelskamp next year. They can have Kansas be part of a do-nothing Congress or they can find a representative who multitasks — one who focuses on American values while effecting change that matters.

— The Hutchinson News, via the Associated Press

SUMMER VACATION HAS ENDED FOR KIDS ALL OVER.

WITH SOME EXCEPTIONS.



Service group shares through dialog

Our trip to Turkey was organized and partly paid for by the Niagara Foundation, an American affiliate of something called the Hizmet (service) Movement, or more popularly, the Gülen Movement after its founder and leading thinker, Fethullah Gülen.

We would learn much more about this religious and civic movement, with its worldwide reach, as we traveled in Turkey. No one preached to us, and often we had to ask about the connection, as the television station, newspaper and university we visited turned out to be aligned with the loosely connected movement.

Mr. Gülen has been quoted as saying he does not take credit for the movement or approve of the use of his name for it, but that may be the one thought his followers disregard. Both he and the movement align with the Sunni Muslim tradition, to which an estimated 87 to 90 percent of the world's Muslims belong. They emphasize the Sufi strain of mysticism, which has many followers in areas of Persian influence, from Turkey and Iran through Afghanistan and the former Soviet republics, and in Indonesia and the Philippines.

Mr. Gülen helped to found something called the Journalists and Writers Foundation, which might be called the keystone of the movement. Eventually we found ourselves in the unimposing offices of the foundation in Istanbul, where we watched a couple of videos and learned a little more about "the Movement."

The founder himself left Turkey to seek medical treatment in the U.S. in 1999 and has not returned. In 2000, he was indicted in Turkey on charges of undermining the secular state established by Kemal Atatürk after the defeat of the Ottoman Empire in World War I.



Steve Haynes

• Along the Sappa

Today he lives in Pennsylvania, where he continues to write and lecture.

The foundation notes that one thing that fuels the movement, and the many programs and dialogs it sponsors, is the body of his work, including more than 70 books which continue to sell. While the organization includes everything from schools (more than 500 around the world) and universities to media outlets (Zaman is the largest daily newspaper in Turkey), magazine and book publishing, foundations and businesses, and a major disaster-relief organization, there is no structure to bind them together, only common beliefs.

And those, by the standards of today's world, are fairly benign. Mr. Gülen adheres to an ancient tradition of tolerance and peace that may predate Islam itself and which has influence far beyond the Muslim world. It's best-known proponent was Mevlana (master) Mohammed Rumi, a 13th century Sufi theologian, philosopher and poet whose works are familiar in the West. (Time magazine reported that Rumi remains today the best-selling poet in the U.S.)

We visited Rumi's mausoleum in Konya, a beautifully tiled structure which sits at the center of the Mevlana Museum, and Mevlana University on the outskirts of town, where Gülen followers are building a college in the

tradition of both the 13th century saint and today's "modern Rumi," as some followers like to call Mr. Gülen.

(The college is housed for now in a former shopping center donated by a developer aligned with the Movement. A permanent campus is a-building as the university ramps up to a full compliment of about 4,000 students.)

The message of all these people is one of peace, love, tolerance and freedom. The Movement is built on earlier Sunni and Sufi thought, on the teachings of Mevlana Rumi, on the ample works of Mr. Gülen, who has met with world and religious leaders ranging from Greek Orthodox Patriarch Bartholomeos I to Pope John Paul II to Eliyahu Bakshi Doron, former Sephardi chief rabbi of Israel.

The guiding principle through all this is dialog, talk among and between nations, religions and groups of all kinds. It's a central thought driving the movement, including the Niagara Foundation.

Fascinating. And by the way, our delegation of 16, mostly editors and journalists from Nebraska, did not enjoy a free trip to Turkey. We bought our own tickets and made a "donation" of \$500 each to the foundation's Omaha branch, which sponsors several such trips each year, along with programs in Nebraska. That didn't begin to cover in-country expenses, however.

Compared to what we saw and learned in eight days, though, the cost to us was nothing.

Steve Haynes is president of Nor'West Newspapers. When he has the time, he'd rather be reading a good book or casting a fly.

When the sun shines bright — stay safe

My dermatologist recently shared with me a list of five ways to die on a golf course. The five ways include hit by a golf ball, run over by a golf cart, whacked by a golf club, struck by lightning and forgot your hat.

While none of these possibilities is pleasant to contemplate, the threat of skin cancer is real and should be considered carefully.

Every year one million new cases of skin cancer are detected, according to the American Academy of Dermatology. One out of five people in this country develops skin cancer during his/her lifetime.

Americans love vacations with their families — many of these trips include trips to the beach or outdoor amusement parks. Many others work for long hours in the sun during the summer months — farmers, ranchers, construction workers and amusement park attendants.

If you spend several hours in the sun, protect yourself. Avoid the midday sun if at all possible. Cover up. Always wear a hat. Work in the shade whenever possible. And don't forget to wear sunscreen.

Melanoma is the deadliest form of skin cancer. One person dies every hour from this disease in the United States, according to the American Academy of Dermatology.

Fortunately, melanoma can be completely cured if it's caught early enough. Dermatologists advise us to examine our skin regularly.

If you find a blemish larger than a pencil eraser, multi-colored, asymmetrical or



John Schlageck

• Insights Kansas Farm Bureau

irregular at the edges, you may have melanoma and should see your dermatologist.

While we should protect ourselves from potential skin cancer, we should be every bit as aware of this danger for our children. Overexposure to sunlight during childhood will affect children for the rest of their lives.

Studies show that damage from the sun to a child's skin can actually increase the odds that he or she will develop skin cancer as an adult.

The American Academy of Dermatology estimates 80 percent of a person's total lifetime sun exposure occurs in the first 18 years. Protect your children. Cover them up. Teach them to wear long-sleeved cotton shirts that breathe. Make sure they wear head protection at all times. Make wearing sunscreen part of the ritual for gearing up for the sun.

While skin cancer can kill you, it's much more likely to disfigure you. Each year, thousands of Americans lose chunks of their skin to this disease. Some people lose their nose; others may lose their ears, while others may get off with only the loss of an eyebrow.

Examine your skin regularly, at least once a week. Look for warning signs.

If you find anything bleeding, crusting or not healing, see your dermatologist immediately. And if you want information on how to identify skin cancer visit www.aad.org.

It's all right to enjoy the sun and spend time outside. Remember these common-sense suggestions, have fun, and like everything else in life — enjoy the sun in moderation.

John Schlageck of the Kansas Farm Bureau is a leading commentator on agriculture and rural Kansas. He grew up on a diversified farm near Seguin, and his writing reflects a lifetime of experience, knowledge and passion.

Where to write, call

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

roberts.senate.gov/public/

U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran, 354 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 228-6966.

Fax (202) 225-5124 moran.senate.gov/public/

U.S. Rep. Tim Huelskamp, 126 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715 or Fax (202) 225-5124. Web site: huelskamp.house.gov

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.

Mallard Fillmore

• Bruce Tinsley

