

## Immigration rules need to be firm, fair, workable

Immigration reform is moving forward in Congress, but not without a lot of grumbling. The nation needs this bill, but we need to be sure whatever comes out of the mill is something that will work — that's vital — and something everyone can live with.

Our immigration and border control machinery is way past broken. Founded on illogic and surrealism, the system ground to a halt years ago. All the billions pumped into beefed-up fences and patrols and high-tech solutions have only served to point out how wrong the system is.

Our country brutalizes immigrants, insults visitors and inconveniences citizens without keeping anyone out who really wants to get in — low-wage worker or terrorist alike.

One important feature of the current compromise is the realization that we're not going to uproot 12 million illegals and deport them all. We don't have that many buses, that many judges or that many border cops.

Our goal should be a rational system that regulates the flow of immigrant labor, not a wall to keep people out. That never has worked. They come no matter what we do, and more of the same isn't going to stop them.

It's OK to ask people who broke the law to come here to pay a fine to stay. Regulations requiring them to go back to their native land to apply for legal entrance probably won't work, though, especially if they have to leave family and job to do it.

As a nation, we have had enough of a sys-

tem that deports parents while leaving citizen-children here, that divides families and dehumanizes visitors. That's not America.

Any bill needs to take into account the fact that our economy needs a certain portion of immigrant labor, and that those who come here to work often represent the best workers their lands have to offer.

We should welcome them, not degrade or insult them.

At the same time, no law of man nor nature requires us to provide welfare services to immigrants, illegal or otherwise. Anyone who comes here to go on welfare or use taxpayer supported services should be denied. Congress should be tough on that, and so should the states that supply services.

One thing all of us should fear is the trend for government to use fear of terrorism and immigration to tightly control travel and entry into the country. Our freedoms could be lost in police-state technology and star-chamber secrecy if we let them.

Fear drives many decisions, and many of the things done to "protect" us can later be used to control all of us, citizen and visitor alike.

It's good to have law enforcement looking over our shoulder at the border, but not too closely.

So far, what's in Congress is a good start on reform, but nowhere near perfect. It'll be interesting to see what comes out of the debate.

— Steve Haynes

## 'Welcome' signs easy to miss

So is anybody impressed with the new "Welcome to Kansas" signs? Didn't think so.

These little blue jobs have got to be the most underwhelming state welcome signs since, maybe, Mike Hayden's "Ah, Kansas" campaign. It seems like every governor has to fool with the welcome signs. The results are mixed at best, worse when the governor has an ad agency design the signs.

That's what the Sebelius administration did — and it shows.

The signs match the current "Kansas — big as you think" campaign, on which the state Department of Commerce has spent millions.

Probably the best signs Kansas has had were the simple green ones Bob Docking put up when he was governor back in the 1960s. While they were just highway signs, they featured a striking diagonal support which served as a stem for the big sunflower rising over the top.

The text was simple: "Welcome to Kansas," with "Midway, U.S.A." in smaller type below. That marketing survived through the Bob Bennett era, though the Republicans quickly dismantled the smaller signs below which read "Robert B. Docking, governor."

Hayden's people covered the green signs in dirt brown for the "Ah Kansas" campaign designed by — you guessed it — an advertising agency. The agency replaced the sunflower with an indecipherable logo representing the state's attractions. They even peeled the green "stem" off the supports, though many of the diagonal poles lasted



### Along the Sappa

By Steve Haynes  
schaynes@nwkansas.com

into the Sebelius era.

After the voters chased Hayden from office, the incoming Finney administration ditched the awful brown, replacing the signs with an agency-inspired version featuring the state's name exploding into confetti.

Honestly, I never did figure out what that was supposed to signify. The state was just exploding? No one ever told me, but I was living in Colorado by then.

Those signs lasted until Gov. Bill Graves' wife got tired of them. She designed the purple signs with the odd sunflower just now being replaced, five years into the Sebelius era.

And, yes, an ad agency gets the blame once more.

The new ones are attractive, really, as good as any, but they're so small you miss them if you blink. Maybe the agency needed the money for more television ads.

Does anyone think spots on a few networks touting how "big" our state is will bring us business? Or impress anyone?

The best signs so far? Bob Docking's sunflowers, hands down. And I'm a Republican.

□□□□

My advice is, never let an agency art department near a highway sign. The two don't go together.

Colorado for years had carved brown-and-white wooden signs that proclaimed "Welcome to Colorful Colorado." Cynthia used to laugh at the visual disconnect, but the understated message was clear.

While Roy Romer was governor — a long 12 years — he had those replaced with nasty orange-yellow-and-purple signs with the same slogan designed by an agency. Gov. Bill Owens thankfully had those replaced, replicating the wooden signs of yore.

Which proves that sometimes common sense does prevail.

□□□□

Anyone want to start a "bring-back-the-sunflowers" movement?

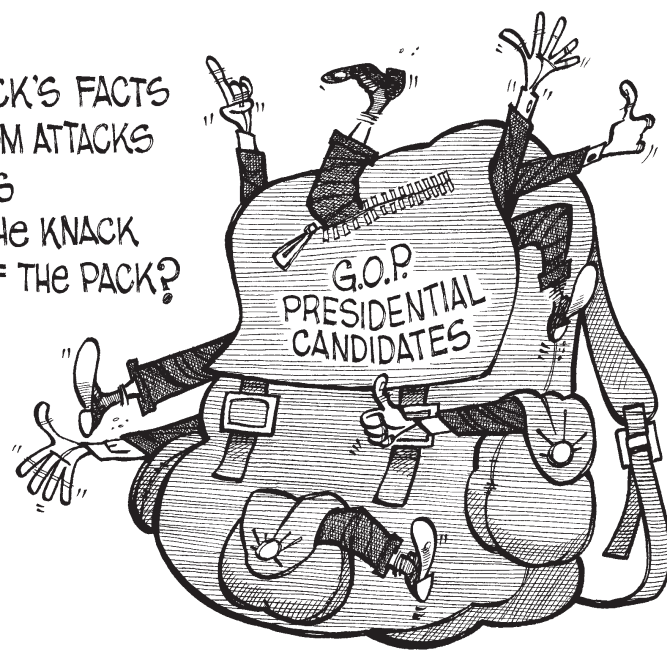
### From the Bible

I have no greater joy than to hear that my beloved children walk in truth.

John III, v. 4

"A KANSAS LIMERICK"

WILL BROWNBACK'S FACTS SHIELD HIM FROM ATTACKS BY RIVAL HACKS AND PROVIDE THE KNACK TO BREAK OUT OF THE PACK?



©2007 STAB THE MANHATTAN MERCURY

## Visit to graves scheduled for dark

If this is Tuesday, it must mean we survived the weekend.

Occasionally, I overbook our schedule — we don't like to miss anything — but this past weekend was cram-packed.

I won't bore you with the details, because everyone lives busy lives, but our schedule was so tight that we decorated graves after the alumni banquet, in the dark. It was, literally, the only time slot we had.

Monday afternoon we did manage to squeeze in a nice little nap right before we grilled a couple of ribeye steaks.

After dinner, we worked in the yard, planting flowers, weeding and transplanting a nice little walnut tree from a neighbor's yard.

She had plenty of trees and said it was volunteer. She suspected a squirrel forgot where he had stored his walnut a couple years ago. She has worked around it for two summers and was ready to see it go.

-ob-

My daughter Kara and I con-



### Out Back

By Carolyn Sue Kelley-Plotts  
cplotts@nwkansas.com

firmed the dates for granddaughter Taylor to stay with us.

We'll wait until July 21 to make the trade. That will give Taylor two weeks with us before her parents come to get her when they are here for the Decatur County Fair.

By then, Taylor will have already had one week of the Norton County Fair under her belt. She also will get to go to another wedding with us. A dear friend's daughter is marrying during Taylor's stay, so she'll get to go to another party.

Two summers ago, a young couple we think a lot of got married. As we were leaving the festivities,

Taylor said, "G'ma, that was the bestest party I have EVER been to."

Everyone loves a wedding. And I know this will be a wedding to remember, as well.

-ob-

This was my brother Bob's 60th high school reunion. I delighted in telling everyone I knew it was his 60th because I was the reason his mother was pregnant at his high school graduation.

Of course, that lets the cat out of the bag about my age.

I don't care, though. The older I get, the less sensitive I am about age. One of the blessings of maturity.

## Ex-teacher says man slighted

To the Editor:

As a former teacher in your school district and as someone who still holds the Oberlin Schools close to his heart, I felt it necessary to echo the feelings of the Oberlin Elementary faculty and staff. The letter to the editor in the May 16 edition of *The Oberlin Herald* could not have been more accurate and more timely.

Having also read the articles about the individual hired to replace Superintendent Kelly Glodt, as well as the other candidates interviewed, it makes no sense to me why the board hired who they did. This is not meant to be an attack on the person hired, as I am sure he is an outstanding man.

Two things that do stand out in this decision: Why hire a man close to retirement with no kids to bring to the district, when there were clearly two younger choices with each of them being able to add kids to the enrollment? Secondly, why not have the decency to at least interview an administrator in your own district, someone who has committed to you for over 20 years?

To answer the first question, the board doesn't want a leader with the vision to last for the next 10 years and possibly make the changes or improvements necessary to build upon an excellent school system.

### Letters to the Editor

To answer the second question, the board has certain members who would prefer to sneak around, offer the chance to apply, and then stab that person in the back by not even offering a token interview.

Duane Dorshorst was a role model and a mentor to me when I taught in your school for the first six years of my professional life. He continues to be a good friend and someone I admire for his character, class and loyalty. The unfortunate part of loyalty, though, is that sometimes it's a one-way street, as evidenced by your school board's recent decision to not hire him as your school's leader, let alone grant him an interview. What a shame and what a disgraceful lesson you have just taught your children!

The fact remains that you have certain board members who "represent" the community, while in fact pursuing their own agendas and living off their own opinions based solely on what matters only to them, not to the greater good of the school district and community they "represent."

While you have some very good board members — Dewayne Jackson, Chris Bailey and Kurt Vollert-

son, to name a few — there are a couple of others who seem to speak louder or manipulate better when it comes to what they want, not what is right. The petty unprofessionalism, as well as the "teenager mentality," are inappropriate when dealing with an educational system and its leaders.

The one glaring aspect that your school board lacks, as I now look from the outside, is the vision to move above and beyond. The opportunity was there to downsize your school district by eliminating an administrator, while holding on to a committed and excellent person in Duane Dorshorst. It was the only common sense and natural thing to do.

The board has down-sized everywhere else, cutting staff after the closing of the Sappa Valley Youth Ranch. Unfortunately, the interests of a few are damaging the visions of many. As Mr. Dorshorst taught me, the children come first, but in my opinion, for two of your board members — Barb Olson and Delayne May — only their children come first. The rest have been left out of the equation.

Paul Nepodal, Franklin, Neb.

## Woman appalled by 'unfair' choice

To the Editor:

I was appalled to find that the Oberlin School Board had passed by Duane Dorshorst for the position of superintendent. It is unfathomable that you denied him an interview in favor of someone from outside the district.

Duane has faithfully served the Oberlin Schools for the past 24 years. He not only serves the schools but also the community in general. He is active in his church, library board and the Oberlin movie theater. He and his family have spent numerous hours coaching and participating in the sporting events that play a central role in entertainment for the community.

I very much appreciated the fact that Duane came to my father's funeral. I don't know whether he came for my mother, who volunteers at the grade school; for me and my brother, who have served in the education system; or for our children, whom he taught. The fact that he showed his concern for our family and came to be with us meant more to our family than he ever suspected. This is just one of the many ways he has contributed to our family and the community.

After being involved in education

for over 44 years, I have come to realize that this sort of behavior is just "par for the course." When you dedicate your life to a school and community, it is typical to get stabbed in the back and overlooked for promotions that you've worked hard for.

Did the board ever stop to think that you could have saved the school district some much-needed money by promoting Duane to superinten-

dent while keeping him on as the grade-school principal? Why can't the board simply promote from within the ranks rather than spending more money that the schools can't really afford to lose?

Duane, you are very much appreciated by those who work with you. Your hard work has been admirable and we thank you for all you've done for our families and the community.

Roxie Erickson, Manhattan

### Photo Policy

*The Oberlin Herald* wants to emphasize photos of people doing things in the community. If you know of an event or news happening that we should attend, please call 475-2206.

Please be sure to allow a couple of days' notice so we can arrange to be there.

Space in the paper is limited and so is the time of our staff, so we may not be able to get to every event, but we will try.

Because space is so limited, we cannot run team or group photos, any pictures of people lined up or of people passing checks, certificates

and the like. (We will always try to make room for a story about any of these events, however.)

We do run wedding and engagement pictures and "mug" shots with stories and obituaries, when they are provided to us. Please remember that we need a clear, sharp picture. Dark or fuzzy prints will not work.

We cannot return photos unless you submit a self-addressed, stamped envelope with clear instructions for return. Other photos submitted may be picked up at our office within two weeks. After that, they will be disposed of.

# THE OBERLIN HERALD

Serving Oberlin and Decatur County since 1879

USPS 401-600

170 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan. 67749-2243

Phone: (785) 475-2206 Fax (785) 475-2800

E-mail: oberlinherald@nwkansas.com

### Nor'West Newspapers

#### STAFF

Steve Haynes ..... editor  
Kimberly Davis ..... managing editor  
Mary Lou Olson ..... society editor  
Judy Jordan ..... proofreader  
Carolyn Kelley-Plotts ..... columnist  
Cynthia Haynes ..... business manager  
David Bergling ..... advertising manager  
Pat Cozad ..... wantads/circulation  
Karla Jones ..... advertising production  
Joan Betts ..... historian  
Jim Merriott ..... sports reporter

Published each Wednesday by Haynes Publishing Co., 170 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan. 67749. Periodicals mail postage paid at Oberlin, Kan. 67749.

Steve and Cynthia Haynes, publishers  
Official newspaper of Oberlin, Jennings, Norcat, Dresden and Decatur County. Member of the Kansas Press Association, National Newspaper Association, Colorado Press Association, Nebraska Press Association and Inland Press Association.

Subscriptions: One year, \$33 (tax included) in Decatur, Norton, Rawlins, Sheridan, Thomas and Red Willow counties; \$38 (tax included) elsewhere in Kansas; \$42 elsewhere in the U.S. Foreign subscriptions, \$50-\$250 (in US dollars only) extra per year (except APO/FPO). POSTMASTER: Send change of address to 170 S. Penn Ave., Oberlin, Kan. 67749-2243.

Office hours: 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.

(Also open most Saturdays when someone is in.)

