Opinion



Free Press Viewpoint

Here is something this city's been overlooking

We are always aware of signs along our nation's highways that promote a community's achievements or attractions or historic landmarks.

One example are signs along Interstate-70 that proclaim: Russell, Kansas Home of United States Sentors Bob Dole and Arlen Specter.

Another are billboards proclaiming: Goodland Home of America's First Helicopter.

Or: Abilene Home of the Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library.

Colby also plays in the big arena and probably is overlooking a golden opportunity. At any given time, there are only 100 people out of 290 million (est. pop.) serving in the most powerful body on the face of the earth and one of Colby's very own held a seat in that special place.

We are talking about the United States Senate. And we are talking about Sen. Sheila Frahm. And it would make historical sense that her name appear on signage along the most traveled interstate in the country — I-70. The traveling public — from outside and inside the state —

could be made aware of that historic fact via signs that read: Colby Home of United States Senator Sheila Frahm. Granted she is "former," but so also is Mr. Dole. But that

didn't keep Russell from taking the bull by the horns and putting those signs out there for the world to see. We have to think out of the box. There are few — very few — towns in our state that can boast of having one of their very

own sit in the chamber of the United States Senate. If we think out of the box we should also be thinking of placing materials about of our "Senator" in our Visitor's Center, if

it's not already out there. A lot of what people know about any given place is by word of mouth. They see it on a sign or they see it when they stretch their legs at a visitor's center. Then they the tell their family

and their friends. When you are promoting your town, you go after the big fish. The big prize.

(On a personal note. . . When I moved here from Sheridan, Wyoming, the Frahms were, for a period of time, my neighbors. Later in my first summer here, friends from Wyoming stopped overnight. After dinner we toured the town. They were impressed with so many things about Colby. When we got back to my place, they were curious as to who my neighbors were. I told them who lived in my complex and mentioned the fact that Mrs. Frahm formerly served in the U.S. Senate. They thought that was especially interesting and took note of that fact. They said they knew of Sen. Bob Dole. I told them Mrs. Frahm was picked to succeed Mr. Dole when he left the senate to devote his time and energies to his presidential bid. I often wondered why the community never took advantage of that fact. Took strangers to our town to bring that message home.)

Tom (TD) Dreiling Free Press Publisher

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 td@nwkansas.com or pdecker@nwkansas.com.

COLBY FREE PRESS

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State award-winning newspaper, General Excellence, Design & Layout Excellence, Column Writing, Editorial Writing, Sports Columns, News, Photography.

Official newspaper of Thomas County, Colby, Brewster and Rexford.

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THE COLBY FREE PRESS (USPS 120-920) is published every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, except the day observed for Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day, by Haynes Publishing Co., 155 W. Fifth, Colby, Kan., 67701.

PERIODICALS POSTAGE is paid at Colby, Kan. 67701, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Colby Free Press, 155 W. Fifth Colby, Kan., 67701. THE BUSINESS OFFICE at 155 W. Fifth is open from 8 a.m. to 5:30 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 credited to it or not otherwise herein. Member Kansas Press Association, Inland Press Association and National Newspaper Association. SUBSCRIPTION RATES: In Colby by carrier: 4 months \$38, 8 months \$53, 12 months \$70. By mail with in Colby and the nine-county region of Thomas, Sheridan, Decatur, Rawlins, Cheyenne, Sherman, Wallace, Logan and Gove counties: 4 months \$50, 8 months \$62, 12 months \$78. Other Kansas counties and surrounding states: 4 months \$57, 8 months \$67, 12 months \$81. All other states, \$81,

Nor'West Newspapers

Haynes Publishing Company



Shannon Myers in spotlight Thursday

Just a reminder that Shannon Myers will be the featured performer at Thursday's "Picnic in the Park" at 12 noon. Bring a lawn chair and sack lunch to Fike Park and enjoy the music as you enjoy your feast. The weekly series is sponsored jointly by the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce, the Colby Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Colby Free Press. The series continues each Thursday noon at Fike Park through July 28.

I can't begin to imagine First Lady Laura Bush with a cigarette in her mouth. But apparently she's one of those who kicked the habit. An item in this past Sunday's USA Weekend magazine tells about Mrs. Bush's pack-a-day habit in the early years of her marriage. She then quit smoking during her pregnancy with the twins. After the twins were born she started lighting up again and smoked until George W. was elected Texas governor. Rumors were circulating that Mrs. Bush was smoking again, but the item in the magazine said there is no truth to that rumor. There was a time, for benefit of those who are much to young to remember, when cigarette smoking was encouraged. Seemed back in those years that you weren't anybody unless you had a cigarette hanging out of your mouth. So Laura Bush being a former smoker shouldn't have come as a surprise. I guess when I look at her I see the graciousness of a first lady, not that of a smoker. I smoked at one time, but kicked the habit like 30+ years ago. With the cost of cigarettes today....

A baby boy had just been born. He had all his parts and seemed normal, except that he was laughing, laughing very hard. All the doctors and nurses were examining the little guy in front of his worried parents. But he kept on laughing and laughing and laughing, his tiny fist tightly closed and tears rolling down his cheeks. One at a time, a pediatrician unfolded his tiny fingers to check if his hand was OK, and guess what he found?

Clutched in the baby's little hand was a birth

Tom Dreiling My Turn

control pill.

I heard the voice on the radio Tuesday morning talk about the day's forecast which he said didn't include any storm warnings or things like that, only a very slight chance for a sprinkle or two. Then he said there is always the possibility of severe storms forming which could result in warnings being issued and storm spotters being called out. And on he went. By the time he was done I wasn't quite sure what I was to expect. Sometimes words become an enemy, and that was certainly the case in this instance. The forecast we get each morning usually includes a span of seven days. I generally opt for eyes and ears turned in the direction of the eltwo or three days, knowing even the best of the evators in our towns to see how it's going. We best would have difficulty telling me what the weather was going to be like next Wednesday, June 29. An old friend in the business of forecasting once told me that, "We're pretty accurate 24-48 hours, beyond that it's a guesscast."

A Lawyer runs a stop sign and gets pulled over by a sheriff's deputy. He thinks that he is smarter than the deputy because he is sure that he has a better education. He decides to prove this to himself and have some fun at the deputy's expense.

Deputy says, "License and registration,

Lawyer says, "What for?"

stop at the stop sign "

Lawyer says, "I slowed down, and no one was

coming." Deputy says, "You still didn't come to a com-

Deputy says, "You didn't come to a complete

plete stop. License and registration, please.' Lawyer says, "What's the difference?"

Deputy says, "The difference is, you have to come to a complete stop, that's the law. License and registration, please!" Lawyer says, "If you can show me the legal

difference between slow down and stop, I'll give you my license and registration and you give me the ticket. If not you let me go and no Deputy says, "OK. Exit your vehicle, sir."

At this point, the deputy takes out his nightstick and starts beating the daylights out of the lawyer and says, "Now, sir, do you want me to stop of just slow down?"

Combines should begin the annual assault on the wheat fields in our area by week's end – perhaps a day or two longer. There are a lot of good fields out there and a few not so good. But those in the know say the good far outweigh the bad. After several years of frustration, this might be the harvest that begins the turnaround. And the late moisture helped. We'll all have our hope the response is described in two words, "Goin' good!"

Reminder: If you want to help the Kiwanis Club financially with the July 4th fireworks at the Thomas County Fairgrounds (and they do need your help), please send a check to:

Kiwanis Club PO Box 501

Colby, Kan. 67701

They thank-you in advance!

Have a good evening!

Tom Dreiling is publisher of the Free Press. His column appears Wednesdays and Fridays. E-mail td@nwkansas.com, call (785) 462-3963 or fax 462-7749.

Letter Policy

Doonesbury

Gary Trudeau

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