

Opinion



A Kansas Viewpoint

Now that's rural

By Ron Wilson,
Director of the Huck Boyd National Institute
for Rural Development at Kansas State University.

Hi honey, I'm bringing some friends home for dinner.

How many? Oh, about 5,000 people.

Hmm, that sounds like grounds to dump your husband right there. Imagine feeding more than 5,000 people. Today we'll learn about a barbecue specialist who has fed 5,000 people, and he's still serving people across Kansas. It's today's Kansas Profile.

Meet Lorenzo Hurde, Senior, the owner of Lorenzo's Bar-BQ and Catering in Larned.

Lorenzo grew up in rural, far western Kansas - the Mountain Time Zone, in fact. He graduated at Tribune and then moved to Sharon Springs. Sharon Springs is a town of 811 people. Now, that's rural.

Lorenzo worked for the State of Kansas for some 28 years, but it was not always easy. Especially in those early days, Lorenzo faced a great deal of discrimination as an African-American applying for those jobs. After he did catch on, he became a physical plant worker in Larned, went to college at night, and rose to supervisor.

He later became the chief engineer at the Parsons State Hospital.

But what Lorenzo did for a hobby was to cook - specifically, to barbecue. His family comes from Tennessee originally, and when he would go down to visit he would drop in on barbecue places and pick up some ideas. He brought those back to Kansas and worked at improving his barbecuing skills.

He got so good at it that soon he was barbecuing for church and other local events. Demand increased, but he was still doing it on evenings and weekends. In 1964, he began his own business.

Eventually he retired from the state to concentrate on barbecue. He says he never stops trying to get better at what he does.

For example, Lorenzo was using store-bought barbecue sauce in his early days, but he was not really satisfied with it. One day in the early 1970s, he invited a bunch of friends over for a party. Lorenzo was cooking the meat, but he found late in the evening that he had no sauce. So he had to improvise. He grabbed some ketchup, vinegar and spices and mixed up some sauce on the spot. His guests raved about it. They said, "This is the best we've ever had." Lorenzo tasted it and said, "This may be just what I was looking for."

So he saved the recipe and it became his personal, original formula for barbecue sauce.

Today, Lorenzo's Bar-BQ and Catering serves products at grocery stores across Kansas and caters special events. At company picnics in southwest Kansas, he has served some 5,500 people at one event, as mentioned at the beginning. He has portable hickory smokers which he can transport to the site.

Currently, Lorenzo is working with 30 stores across Kansas, from Wamego to Hugoton. He will set up his cooker and work with the store's deli or serve as the store's deli while he is there. He offers a menu of barbecue and related products which is one of the largest menus provided by a mobile unit.

The menu includes beef, pork, and hot link sandwiches, bulk meats, chicken, turkey, ham, country style ribs, and sides such as potato salad, cole slaw, and baked beans. Family packs are also available.

Stores love it when he arrives, because the aroma of that hickory smoke will draw in customers.

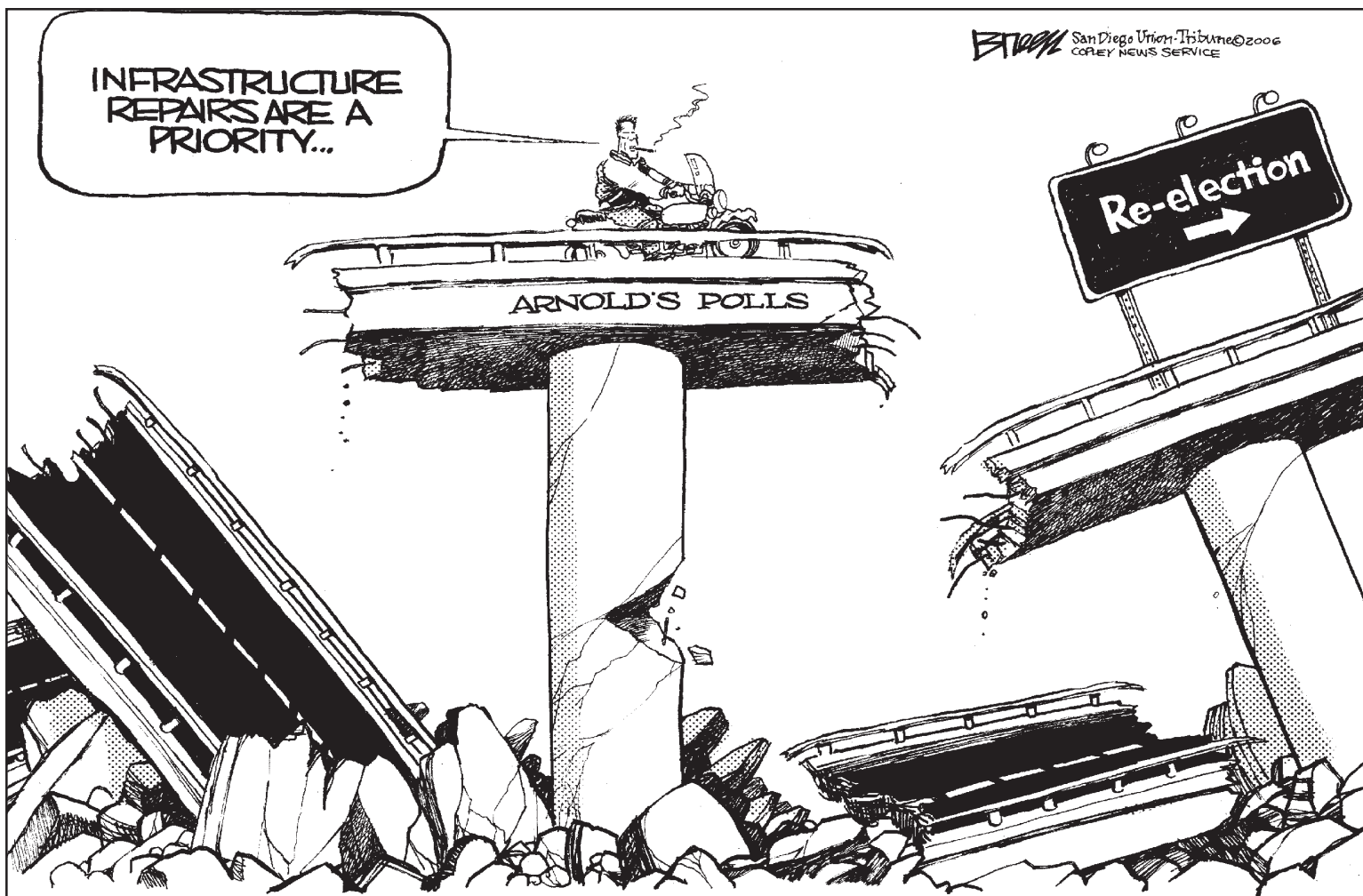
What are his keys to success? Lorenzo says, "You've got to be people-oriented and have a sense of pride in what you're doing. If it ain't right, we're not gonna serve it. And you have to like to cook, to have the patience to take the time it needs."

"We mix our own spices. We make our own sauce. We make our own cole slaw. We make our own baked beans. And we never stop learnin,'" Lorenzo says.

"Hi honey. Don't worry, we'll have Lorenzo Hurde cater our 5,000 friends with his original recipe barbecue."

That will get me back in her good graces.

It's great to find this African-American who is using his culinary skills in small-town Kansas. We salute Lorenzo Hurde for making a difference in a barbecue business with rural roots.



... and the winner is

As a member organization of the Associated Press, editors each year are asked to rank the state's top stories from 2005.

I enjoy reviewing the random story list — many times amazed that something happened only last year.

I find myself saying, "Gosh, that happened in 2005? It seemed like it was longer than that."

While other stories may have totally slipped my mind. Anyway, this year the Associated Press came up with 39 possible contenders. Due to space limitations, I am not listing all the suggestions.

After reading the list, which is in no particular order, what would you choose as the top 10?

Here they are:

- Capping of the nation's most notorious serial killer cases, BTK killer Dennis Rader is captured after 31 years. He later confesses and is sentenced to life in prison.

- The Kansas Supreme Court rules that legislators aren't meeting their constitutional obligations to adequately fund schools, and its rulings forces the first special legislative session in 15 years.

- The State Board of Education approves new science standards that treat evolution as a flawed theory, prompting international ridicule.

- Paul Mirecki, head of the University of Kansas' religious studies program, creates a furor by proposing a course that will treat intelligent design as mythology. The university cancels the class and he's forced to give up his post, when his Internet postings denigrating Christianity come to light. Mirecki later reports being the victim of a beating.

- The State Board of Education hires Bob Corkins as education commissioner, and the appointment worries educators because Corkins has never run a school or school district.

- A single Fort Riley unit, the 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, spawns a raft of court martials. Three soldiers are convicted of murder for deaths of Iraqi civilians; another received a life sentence for the drug-related killings of two



Patty Decker

● Deep Thoughts

other soldiers on a farm near Clay Center, and a fifth soldier, who testified against him, also was sent to prison.

- Millionaire adventurer Steve Fossett takes off from Salina to pilot the first solo, nonstop flight around the world without refueling.

- Phill Kline's attempt to gain access to the records of 90 patients from two abortion clinics comes to light when the battle reaches the Kansas Supreme Court.

- An Abilene resident leads a crusade against sexually oriented businesses in communities across the state and persuades lawmakers to consider imposing a special tax on them.

- Former executive David Wittig and Douglas Lake are convicted by a federal jury of looting Westar Energy, Inc.

- Kansas votes to add a ban on gay marriage to the state constitution. The measure also bans civil unions and critics say it could restrict benefits to unmarried couples.

- Legislators pass restrictions on sale of products to make meth, requiring retailers to keep some allergy, cold and flu medicines behind the counter.

- Greenwood County Sheriff Matt Samuels is killed when he leads a raid on a suspected meth operation.

- The Kansas Supreme Court declares that its unconstitutional for the state to punish illegal gay sex more harshly than illegal straight sex and defendant Matthew Limon is freed from prison.

- Evacuees come to Kansas and Kansans go South to help victims of two Gulf Coast hurricanes.

- The Big Red One comes back to Kansas and

Fort Riley is expected to grow by thousands of soldiers and civilians.

- Federal government finally hands over the Sunflower Army Ammunition Plant to local officials

- Telecom giants Sprint and Nextel merge.

- Koch industries buys Georgia Pacific, becoming the largest privately held company in the world.

- Kansas Supreme Court Justice Robert Gernon dies.

- The former head of the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center is found guilty of stealing and selling space suit components and other artifacts that belonged to the institution and NASA.

- Bill Snyder retires, Ron Prince to replace him, becoming first black head coach in Kansas State history.

- Kansas goes to a bowl game, while Kansas State stays home.

- Bucknell shocks Kansas in the NCAA basketball tournament.

- Emporia native Clint Bowyer surges in NASCAR Busch Series.

- Kansas Speedway is in hunt for NASCAR Hall of Fame.

- Barton County Community College is enmeshed in scandal when three former and current basketball coaches are accused of fraud and embezzlement.

- A Newton couple is convicted of enslaving residents of a group home for the mentally ill, forcing them to work naked and perform sex acts, and illegally billing their families and the federal government for therapy.

Although no official results were tabulated, hands down, according to the AP, the capture of the BTK serial killer scripted a real-life drama so bizarre it riveted the nation's attention throughout much of 2005, ending a mystery that has haunted this community and the families of his victims for more than three decades.

Decker is the editor of the Free Press.

So small, yet so powerful

The Hutchinson News

An Apple iPod at peak volume puts out sound at 115 decibels.

That exceeds the decibel levels of hair dryers (90); rock concerts (105); and chain saws (110). It also rates right below jackhammers (120) and gunshots and fireworks (140).

Hearing loss is no small concern.

According to a Wall Street Journal report, doctors say younger and younger patients show signs of noise-induced hearing loss that

wouldn't typically emerge before middle age.

The doctors worry that the constant use of iPods and other MP3 players, which blare music directly into the ears, may be partly to blame. Other MP3 models include products offered by competitors iRiver, Sony and SanDisk.

To make matters worse, the devices continue to gain in popularity. Apple Inc. this week reported that it sold 14 million iPods in the holiday quarter, compared with 4.6 million a year

earlier. The sales also beat analysts' expectations. The financial experts had estimated Apple would sell 10 million to 11 million of the digital music players.

The MP3 players such as the Apple iPod hold thousands of songs and they use longer-lasting batteries. Listeners use the devices for longer durations — and that adds to the health concern.

No doubt, the players drip with cutting-edge cool. But turn down the volume. There's nothing chic about losing your hearing.

Doonesbury

● Gary Trudeau



COLBY FREE PRESS
(USPS 120-920) (785) 462-3963
155 W. Fifth Colby, Kan. 67701
freepress@nwkansans.com

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.

John Van Nostrand - Publisher
jvannostrand@nwkansans.com

NEWS

Patty Decker - Editor
pdecker@nwkansans.com

Tisha Cox - General Assignment
tcox@nwkansans.com

Jan Katz Ackerman, Area Reporter
ackermanjk@ruraltel.net

ADVERTISING

Crystal Rucker - Advertising Sales/Director
crystalr@nwkansans.com

Jasmine Crotinger - Advertising Sales
jasminec@nwkansans.com

Cindy Davis - Advertising Sales
c.davis@nwkansans.com

BUSINESS OFFICE

Lea Bandy - Circulation Manager
lea@nwkansans.com

Jeanette Applegate - Bookkeeping & Ad Building
japplegate@nwkansans.com

Evan Barnum - Systems Administrator
support@nwkansans.com

NOR'WEST PRESS

Jim Bowker - General Manager

Richard Westfahl, Lana Westfahl, Ron VanLoenen, Judy McKnight

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: 4 months \$57, 8 months \$67, 12 months \$81. All other states, \$81, 12 months.

Nor'West Newspapers
Haynes Publishing Company