

Opinion

Your turn

What's your idea?

Virgil Jones
 Chair County Advisory Committee
 Western Prairie Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc.

Anyone can have a great idea. Right now you may have an idea that would make your town, community or area a better place in which to live and work, but you're just not quite sure how to get it off the ground?

Let me make a suggestion on where to get help. Covering eight northwest Kansas counties, Western Prairie Resource Conservation and Development Area, Inc., is a not-for-profit 501c3 organization formed in 1994 to help individuals and groups "develop and improve the social, economic and environmental conditions in their communities."

The Thomas County Advisory Committee is your avenue into the Western Prairie RC&D. Applicants may submit prospective projects to the advisory committee, giving highlights of what is to be accomplished and who the local leadership for the project would be. Upon approval by the Advisory Committee, the project is forwarded to the Western Prairie RC&D Area Council for consideration. If the council also sees merit in the proposal, your project can receive technical assistance with planning, help locating funding sources and assistance with interactions between public and private organizations.

Projects that have been accomplished within the region have included: park development, youth programs, public transportation, business development, educational programs, waste management projects and ag-tourism. Think your idea might fly? Give it a try.

Contact your Thomas County Advisory Committee through the Area RC&D office at 350 S. Range, Suite 13, Colby. Telephone 462-2602.

Contact myself or any other committee member: Andy Burr, Keith Corbett, Danielle Freeman, C.W. Hamilton, Lynette Koon, Joe Leibbrandt, Bob Luck, Doug Musick or Tracey Perkins.

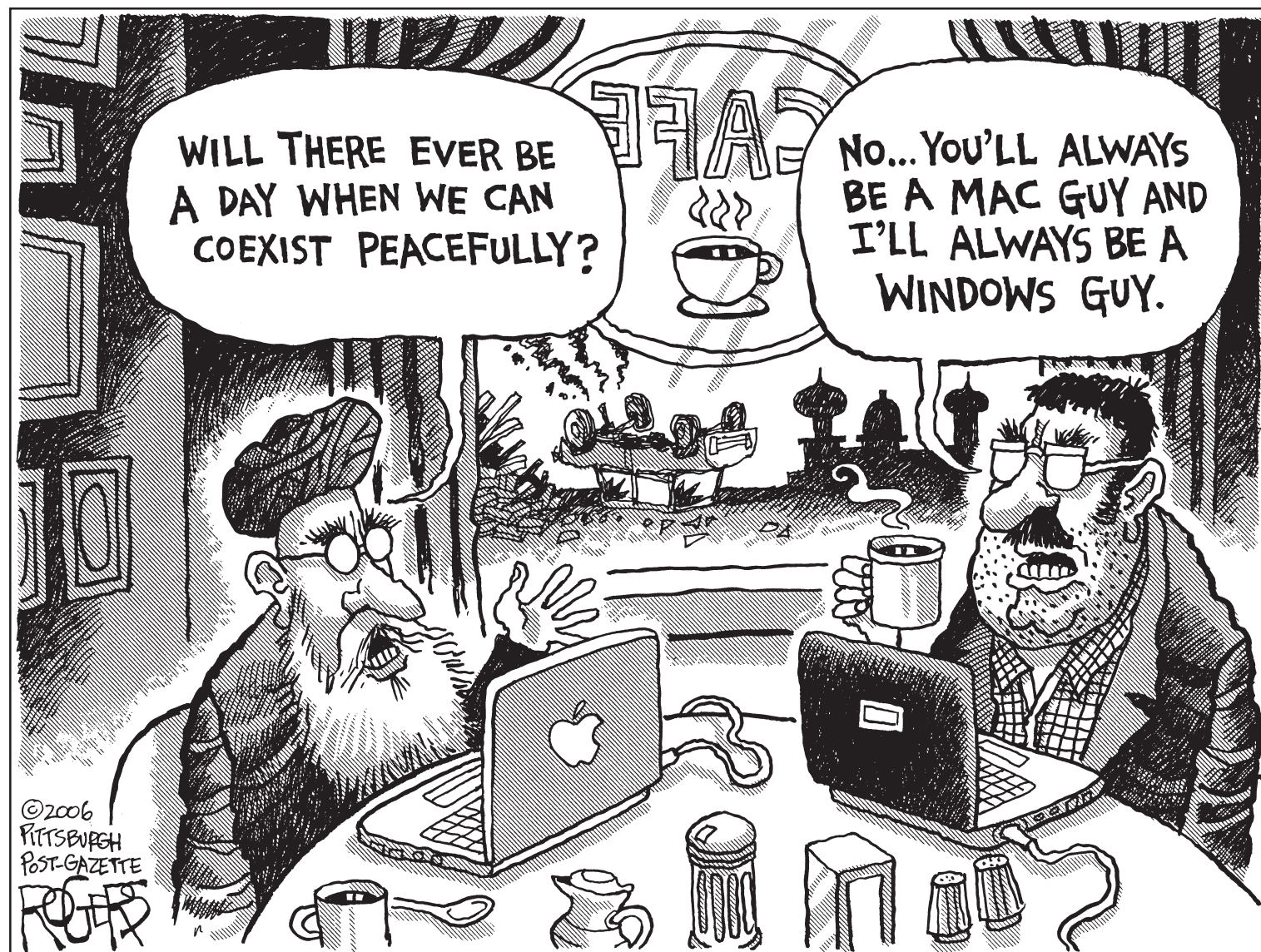
Correction

Dates in a letter that was in Friday's *Colby Free Press* were incorrect. Dr. Donna Roper, an archaeologist, is coming to Colby April 19-23.

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 jvannostrand@nwkansan.com or pdecker@nwkansan.com.

Where to write, call

- U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts**, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. 202/224-4774
- U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback**, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. 202/224-6521
- U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran**, 2443 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. 202/225-2715 or Fax 202/225-5124
- State Rep. Jim Morrison**, State Capitol Building, 303 SW 10th St. Rm. 171-W, Topeka 66612. 785/296-7676 e-mail: jmorrison@ink.org web: www.ink.org/public/legislators/jmorrison
- State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer**, State Capitol, 300 SW 10th St., Rm. 128-S., Topeka, Kan. 66612, 785/296-7399 ostmeyer@senate.state.ks.us



Let's spring into the summer movies

Spring has me looking forward to summer. Not only because of warm weather, but also because it's one of my favorite times of year. It is the most extravagant time of year when it comes to movies.

"Blockbuster" is now synonymous with summer.

Each year since 1999, I've had at least one summer flick I've eagerly awaited. This year is no exception. And for the record, the movies were: "Star Wars, Episode I: The Phantom Menace," 1999; "X-Men," 2000; "Moulin Rouge," 2001; "Star Wars, Episode II: Attack of the Clones," 2002; "X-Men 2," 2003; "Star Wars, Episode III: Revenge of the Sith."

All those movies were released in May, and Memorial Day weekend this year I'm already anticipating "X-Men: The Last Stand."

Touted as the last of the big screen adaptations of the successful Marvel comic book "Uncanny X-Men," the movie promises to be one of the biggest hits of the first official weekend of the summer season.

Strangely enough, that franchise has been unique in its appeal to both fans and non-fans alike, but the series' themes of outcasts looking for acceptance, or at least tolerance, has resonated with audiences.

Plus it's also a chance to see many of things that make summer movies so attractive. Like fights and explosions, but at least it has a story behind it, and characters people can relate to.

It will also bring a classic comic book arc to a



Tisha Cox

• Off The Beaten Path

wider audience.

A key plotline in the new X-Men movie was lifted from the Dark Phoenix saga from "Uncanny X-Men" 129-137 in 1980.

Written by Chris Claremont and penciled by John Byrne, the saga told the story of the corruption and death of the character of Jean Grey, aka "Phoenix."

I love "X-Men," and 20 years of mutant angst keeps me coming back, and will this summer.

While there are movies like "X-Men" I'm guaranteed to go see, there are plenty of other movies this summer I know people will want to check out.

And as in other years, the release dates keep inching back into early May.

The first movie of this year's blockbuster season is "Mission: Impossible III" May 5.

At least Tom Cruise's entry into the fray is also the first, so people can get it out of the way and move on to the really good stuff. However, the "M:I" remakes are a guilty pleasure, and aren't all that bad.

Second out of the gate is "Poseidon," a remake

of the 1972 hit "The Poseidon Adventure."

A week later, May 12, the silver screen adaptation of Dan Brown's novel, "The Da Vinci Code" will grace theater screens. Tom Hanks has the starring role of Dr. Robert Langdon, and if book sales are any indication, this could be the monster of the summer.

And rounding out the May releases on Friday, May 26, is "X-Men: The Last Stand."

June will bring the release of Disney's computer animated kid-friendly movie "Cars" June 6.

And in a bit of comic book controversy, "Superman Returns" comes out on June 30.

Director Bryan Singer helmed the first two "X-Men" movies for Fox, but jumped ship for Warner when the opportunity came up to remake "Superman."

I've seen the teaser trailer, and it looks amazing. And a bit more trivia — from what I've heard, this movie is a "what-if" reinvention of the Superman franchise.

More highly anticipated movies in July are "Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest" and "Lady in the Water," director M. Night Shyamalan's latest movie.

I think this summer looks good for movies, plenty of variety, and new spins on old stories.

Tisha Cox is a general assignment reporter/photographer for the Free Press. Her column appears on Mondays. tcx@nwkansan.com.

Let them come and stay

As Congress struggles to find a solution to illegal immigration acceptable to all parties, I am reminded of the fact that we are all immigrants. In fact, even the Native Americans now called "First Peoples" probably came here from somewhere else.

We are also immigrants who made good. It is interesting how many of our founding fathers married above their station, but not for the reason most think. Many young men were acceptable to the older families in colonial times not because of their money or heritage, but because they had the drive and ambition to succeed in a climate of tremendous opportunity and equal danger.

There were failures as well. Some adapted to the new world better than others and some did not adapt at all, but all had one thing in common, the struggle for a new life and the melting pot they created.

By 1776, and even earlier, the colonists were not British. Oh, they were British citizens for the most part, but they were Americans. There were French, Germans and Scots among them who had stirred their own customs into the melting pot that would become America.

Later, there would be more Germans, Irishmen, Italians, Chinese and countless others from every corner of the globe who would each add their own distinct flavor to American culture.

Each changed our customs, our food and even our language. Hamburgers and pizza are not



Jay Kelley

• Speaking MyMind

originally American, but I'll guarantee we make them different than the Germans and Italians we got them from.

Do you want to go to the largest St. Patrick's Day parade in the world? It isn't in Dublin; it is in New York City and it is also the oldest, dating from colonial days.

Yes, we have a problem with illegal immigration, but it isn't the numbers. As long as there is opportunity in America that others lack in their own countries, we will have immigration and it will be a good thing.

It only becomes a bad thing when a couple of things happen. First, we cannot allow other countries to simply dump criminals and the insane upon our shores because they are unwilling to care for their own people.

When someone who is here illegally commits a crime, deportation should be the rule after our justice system finishes. Depending on the seriousness of the crime, a permanent ban might even be in order.

Many immigrants, however, have committed no crime other than being here illegally. In most

cases they keep a low profile and are afraid to even call the police when they are needed because of the possible consequences.

I like the amnesty suggestions on the table right now. If someone is working and making a life here, there should be provisions for citizenship, but if not, they need to go home.

One thing I haven't heard much about is what we should do with the coyotes, those who bring illegals into the country, often at a huge personal profit. Those who prey on others should be locked away somewhere where sunlight doesn't exist and the key thrown away.

In the end, we must control our borders. Even in a free and open society such as ours there must be limits to avoid anarchy and chaos. We cannot, however, close those borders.

Nor do we need to make immigrants second-class citizens through bilingual schools and other forms of condescension which only serve to propitiate a servant class while making the cultural elite (liberals) feel good about helping the downtrodden.

Immigration should be encouraged and immigrants must be encouraged to melt into our culture changing not only their own culture, but ours as well until the final product is stronger than either was before.

Jay Kelley is a local minister and writer who speaks his mind from time to time. His e-mail is jkelly@st-tel.net.

COLBY FREE PRESS

155 W. Fifth (USPS 120-920) (785) 462-3963
 Colby, Kan. 67701

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@nwkansan.com

NEWS

Patty Decker - Editor

pdecker@nwkansan.com

Tisha Cox - General Assignment

tcx@nwkansan.com

Jan Katz Ackerman, Area Reporter

ackermanjk@ruraltel.net

ADVERTISING

Crystal Rucker - Advertising Sales/Director

crystalr@nwkansan.com

Jasmine Crotinger - Advertising Sales

jasminee@nwkansan.com

John Altman - Advertising Sales

jaltman@nwkansan.com

BUSINESS OFFICE

Lea Bandy - Circulation Manager

lea@nwkansan.com

Jeanette Applegate - Bookkeeping & Ad Building

japplegate@nwkansan.com

Evan Barnum - Systems Administrator

support@nwkansan.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

Mallard Fillmore

• Bruce Tinsley

