

# Opinion

## Your turn

## Don't forget mom on Mother's Day

Jean Oren, Hoxie  
Bettie Schielke, Colby

We just want to remind everyone to remember your mothers this Mother's Day. It doesn't take an expensive gift or card. The gift can be a car or window washing, it can be mowing her yard or taking her out for ice cream or just a walk in the park.

The cards can be handwritten on a piece of Big Chief Tablet. It's the words that you put on them that are special words from your heart. Those are the ones that are treasured the most.

If you don't have a mother any more you can chose a special aunt or even a friend or neighbor who might not have children any more or they live a long way apart.

Our mother passed away 20 years ago Mother's Day weekend. She had nine children to say goodbye to her she has found four of them join her, she has five who remember where with love especially on Mother's Day.

### About those letters . . .

The *Free Press* encourages and welcomes letters from readers. Letters should be typewritten, if at all possible, and should include a telephone number and an address. These are used for verification of the writer only. If, however, you want your address and telephone number to appear with your letter, please ask us to do so when you submit your letter, or include a note with your letter. Most importantly, all letters must include a signature. Unsigned letters cannot be published. We reserve the right to edit for clarity and length, and, likewise, reserve the right to reject letters deemed to be of no public interest or considered offensive or libelous. You can expect your letter to appear in print within 24-48 hours of receipt. Letters to the Free Press allow readers to become engaged in public debate on topics they deem important. Please consider sharing your thoughts with the family of Colby Free Press readers. Thank you.

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### 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](mailto:jmorrison@ink.org) web: [www.ink.org/public/legislators/jmorrison](http://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](mailto:ostmeyer@senate.state.ks.us)

## COLBY FREE PRESS

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**John Van Nostrand - Publisher**

[jvannostrand@nwkanssas.com](mailto:jvannostrand@nwkanssas.com)

### NEWS

**Patty Decker - Editor**

[pdecker@nwkanssas.com](mailto:pdecker@nwkanssas.com)

**Tisha Cox - General Assignment**

[tc Cox@nwkanssas.com](mailto:tc Cox@nwkanssas.com)

**Jan Katz Ackerman**, Area Reporter

[ackermanjk@ruraltel.net](mailto:ackermanjk@ruraltel.net)

### ADVERTISING

**Crystal Rucker - Advertising Sales/Director**

[crystalr@nwkanssas.com](mailto:crystalr@nwkanssas.com)

**Jasmine Crottinger - Advertising Sales**

[jasminec@nwkanssas.com](mailto:jasminec@nwkanssas.com)

### BUSINESS OFFICE

**Lea Bandy - Circulation Manager**

[lea@nwkanssas.com](mailto:lea@nwkanssas.com)

**Jeanette Applegate - Bookkeeping & Ad Building**

[japplegate@nwkanssas.com](mailto:japplegate@nwkanssas.com)

**Evan Barnum - Systems Administrator**

[support@nwkanssas.com](mailto:support@nwkanssas.com)

### NOR'WEST PRESS

**Jim Bowker - General Manager**

**Richard Westfahl, Lana Westfahl, Ron VanLoenen, Judy McKnight**

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## What is a vacation?

I'm trying to define the word vacation.

It's a challenge because I grew up having self-employed parents who seldom left home so I don't know what a vacation is.

Let's examine what I think a vacation could be.

Is going to visit relatives a vacation? Not if you stay in someone else's home because that's an example of *déjavu* or nothing out of the norm.

Is forcing yourself to attend a function you really don't want to attend, such as a graduation, or going only because if you don't you'll feel guilty or forever shunned, a vacation? Not to me.

How about attending weddings or funerals that you have to take off work, drive a distance, stay in a motel and then drive home? Is that a vacation? Not in my books.

What about if you are a rancher and you drive to Denver, stay in a motel, attend the stock show, go out for a few meals, stay another night and drive home? That's a working vacation and it doesn't count.

To me, a vacation could be defined as a timeframe when you leave your home, don't do any duty required of you in that home, and come back refreshed and ready to return to life as you knew it before you went away.

OK, so I've got my definition, so how long does a vacation have to be to qualify as a true vacation?

One day? That's not a vacation and it won't count.

Two days? That is a weekend. That doesn't count either.

Three days? That's an extended weekend, say Memorial Day, and that definitely doesn't count.

But a solid week, Monday through Friday, plus the weekend and back work on Monday, now that could be a vacation.

Better yet, how about leaving town after work on a Friday, off the weekend, off the next Monday through Friday, off the following weekend



**Jan Katz Ackerman**

### • From Where I stand

and back to work on Monday? That's 10 days and that could definitely qualify as a vacation.

But then you have to ask, who has the time to take 10 days away from work or home.

Do you really want to plan where to go, amass the budget it would take to be gone 10 days, and deal with what happened at work or home when you get back?

Think about it. You'd have to make sure someone covers for you while you were away from your job. You'd have to set up a system to have your phone calls and mail accepted, dealt with and prioritized as to needs to be left for your return.

In some cases you'd have to make sure whatever you do for work was done in advance so there weren't any lag times or gaps in the flow of production.

At home, you'd have to line up someone to mow and water the yard and flowers and bring in the mail and newspapers. However, you could go on vacation during the winter or just let the yard and flowers die.

And as far as mail and papers, you can have them held at the post office or by the carrier until you return.

Now that I've got the definition I want to work with you have to remember that the definition may vary depending on whether it's a man or woman using it. For a man, a vacation might mean a camping and fishing trip, but for a woman, it might mean a trip to mountain or

beachside resort.

That points back to my definition.

First of all you have to get in the car and drive away from where you live. You can't do anything which constitutes doing the same thing you do at home.

For instance, if your job at home is to cook and do dishes, cooking out at a campground or lake really doesn't qualify as vacation fun. It only qualifies as a busman's holiday. And, camping entails hauling tons of stuff with you and unloading it, using it, then reloading it.

And, do you come home refreshed from a camping trip? I've always said the best campgrounds are named Ramada Inn or Holiday Inn.

I think there has to be some ground rules for taking a vacation and I've established five:

1. Take along lots of money. You need enough money so you don't have to stop and ask, "Can I afford this?" If you want a \$5 glass of orange juice with room service, go for it.
2. Take along a cell phone but make sure it's not turned on.

A cell phone can only be used for emergencies, not checking the stock markets.

3. Take along a camera. You'll want to capture your vacation on film/card so you can prove that you actually left home and went somewhere.

4. Buy postcards and mail them to yourself. This can further document you left town and went somewhere.

5. Have fun.

Well, as one can see there is no "for sures" when talking about the topic of vacation. My definition and rules are certainly my own and they might not work for the next person.

However, one hard fast thing which is a for sure when talking about vacations - I WANT ONE!

## The culture war

Sunday evening I attended a party for a young man who has joined the United States Air Force. He wants to work on electronics and radar equipment.

He isn't going into some elite Special Forces unit, nor will he see any place more dangerous than Wichita Falls, Texas, for at least a year, but he has joined to serve his country nonetheless.

Like everyone else who joins, he is taking his chances concerning combat, but it has always been so. American warships during the 1980s were constantly at wartime readiness levels whenever they were on deployments and several got shot at more than once.

The U.S. Marines even "invaded" Libya in 1805 to protect American shipping from Tripolitan pirates.

The Tripolitan war, like our other wars, was cultural in the respect that the two cultures involved have come to a divergence from which there seemed to be no turning back. Even our revolution was a cultural war. We were no longer British, though even many of us did not know it, so we could no longer abide their rulership.

The reason we have fought is that we understood our culture to be worth defending. Of course, our culture has been changing. The America our patriots of 1776 fought and died to create was not the same America the patriots of 1941 fought and died to protect. Some patriots in the 1860s even fought a war to change the



**Jay Kelley**

### • Speaking MyMind

culture in which we lived.

We are in a culture war right now. In fact, we are in two culture wars. The first is with Islam and the second is with the eastern powers on the rise; China and to a lesser extent India.

For all our mistakes, we have consistently held a higher view of human worth than any culture before us and the reason for that is that we believe all men were created in the image of God.

No westerner in his right mind believes the Muslims will afford us the same courtesy. Nor does any sensible person think a world controlled by China, India or an uneasy peace between the two will result in the benevolent leadership shown by the British and Americans over the past two centuries.

Not only are we fighting for our survival, but we are fighting to ensure the world does not fall into another dark age to rival the 500 years immediately following the fall of Rome.

There is no choice but to win. Failure means destruction. We must stop fighting a political war at home over Iraq. We must stop being squeamish and tell our President to win this war. We must tell our protestors to be quiet and go home, then simply ignore them until they do. We must tell our soldiers that, whatever they have to do to win, we will be here for them when they return. We must instill an honor code into our children that says service is a privilege, not a burden.

We must also learn to curb our immense appetite for the world's goods so that other cultures do have such a hold over us. It is not the oil companies who have our soldiers in Iraq. It is the 10 mile-per-gallon sport utility vehicles in our driveways.

Our gluttony is also the problem with China. Their power is directly derived from the fact that we owe them too much. It is no different with India and in the end I fear that we may defeat the middle-eastern terrorists only to succumb to the eastern executives.

Our culture war is not about trade balances or even terrorist threats. It is about survival and it's time we understood that.

Surrender is not an option.

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

## Mallard Fillmore

• Bruce Tinsley

