

Opinion

Free Press Viewpoint



Thanks to the clubs

A gigantic thank you to the Colby Lions Club and the others who have joined forces to provide some sort of entertainment and fellowship in Colby on the Fourth of July. And we can't forget Colby's Kiwanis club, another great group, for backing the fireworks show.

Your turn

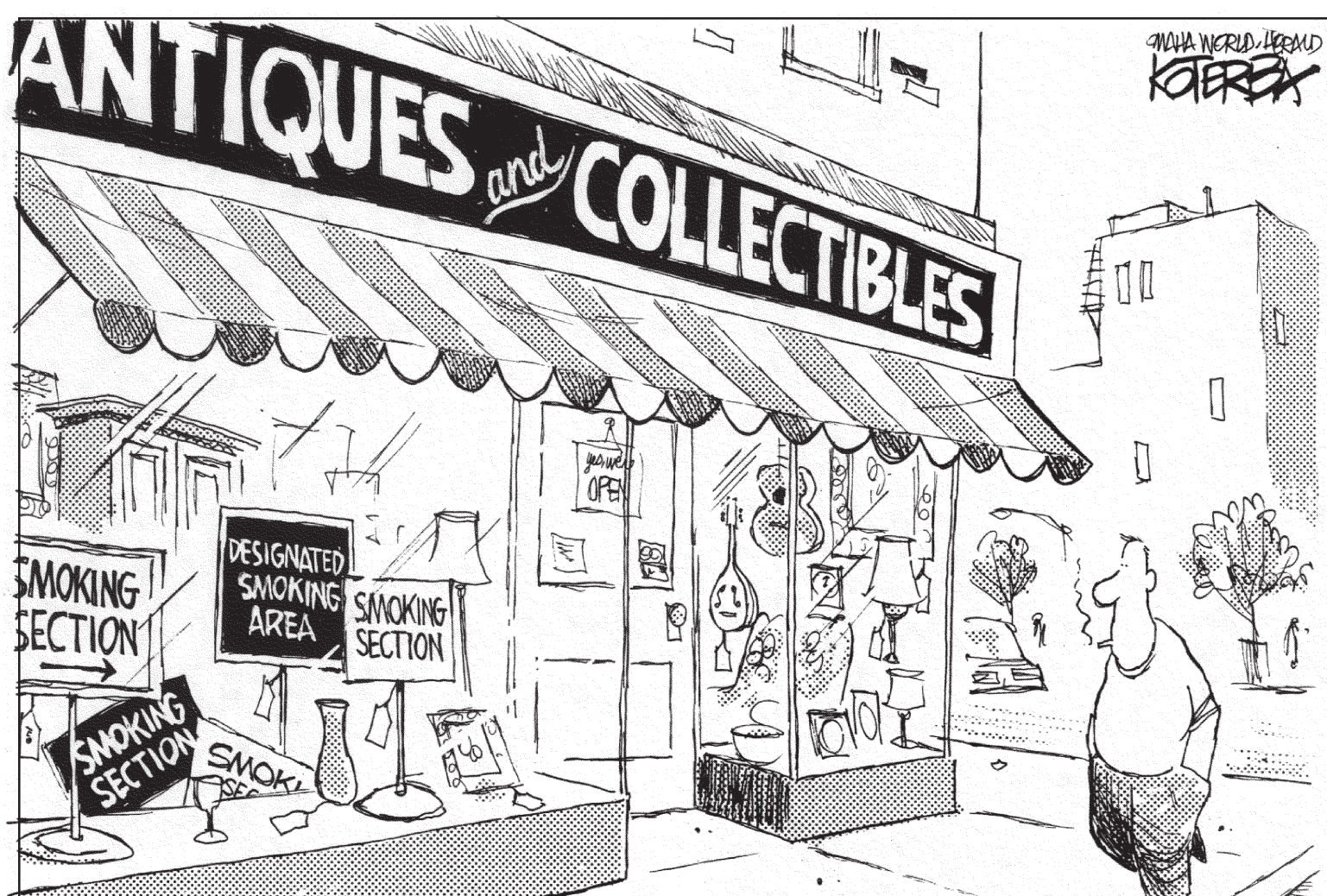
What new doctor would want Colby?

Cheryl Solberg Grinnell
After reading Monday's article about the August suspension of Dr. Hildyard, I had to write. I am so angry and ashamed of this community. What is being done is wrong. It has moved from discipline to destroying a doctor's whole life and his ability to work. Dr. Hildyard is a good doctor. He has a huge following of patients for a reason. After all of these years, the only thing the board had left to gripe about was some bad language. Take a stroll through your local school or hang around the pool. You will hear worse from your own kids. I can't believe grown, professional people are doing this. It is just a personal vendetta at this point. Citizens Medical Center wants to bring in new doctors? What new doctor in his right mind would want to come to Colby? I think this is a shameful thing. If Dr. Hildyard cannot continue to practice here after August, my family will be going to a doctor elsewhere.

Medical dispute is disgraceful

Elizabeth Ziegelmeier Gem
How sad and disgraceful to the medical community, and as unnecessary as the Iraqi War, is the dispute in the medical area of our county and medical profession. It is a disgrace and a deep grievance to cause a good doctor to lose his reputation and long profession and also to his many patients that have depended on him these many years to take care of their health problems. It's also damaging to the fine hospital and its patients that he helped form the fine institution it is. Who will be the winner, if there is one? As hard as the rural areas have to struggle to keep in service to all of us and as hard to have doctors come to serve us, it is unspeakable and a real tragedy to have ever had it happen. May God be in control. What a job He has.

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@nwkansans.com or pdecker@nwkansans.com. Opinions do not necessarily reflect the *Free Press*.



Pony cars making a comeback

Pictures I tripped across on the Internet recently left me wanting more. One evening I was on a Web site that had nothing to do with cars, yet ended up following a link to check out the pictures it promised.

I wasn't expecting anything too fantastic. But I got a surprise.

Pictures of a 2009 Camaro Saleen. Yellow with black rally stripes, this car made me sit up and take notice.

I already told my sister, Chris, if the car goes into production in three years, I'm getting one. No ifs, ands or buts about it.

Not necessarily a Saleen, but a brand-spanking new 2009 Camaro when it comes off the assembly line.

I've wanted a classic Camaro hardtop since before I was old enough to drive. It didn't really matter what year.

If I ever get the chance to buy a classic Camaro, I've settled on a 1968. But gas prices being what they are, and considering the fuel efficiency of the old pony cars, it's pretty much a pipe dream.

But then came the news in 2004 GM was developing a Camaro concept. The concept debuted at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit in January and it's been generating enthusiasm and buzz since.

Allegedly, the car is a shoe-in for production and the introduction of the Saleen concept has sent speculation through the roof.

The news the car is designed to get 30 mpg on the highway is a step in the right direction.



Tisha Cox
● Off The Beaten Path

Finally, American muscle car enthusiasts may be able to get a pony car without having a guilty conscience.

But what's brought all this to a head is news that came out Friday. Dodge announced it's going to begin production on its Challenger concept, a car that also debuted at the Detroit show. However, it was overshadowed by the introduction of the Camaro.

The last Camaros rolled off the assembly line in 2002, and weren't exactly hits with auto buyers.

A couple of years ago, interest in muscle cars was renewed when Ford revamped its Mustang. The redesign paid tribute to the originals of the 1960s, yet its updated style has been a hit so far.

Why so much interest in a gas-guzzling fast car?

I think it's because people are tired of sport utility vehicles and cars that all look the same, or as my sister Chris suggested, maybe people just love a classic.

A case in point would be the people who turned out in droves to test drive the Camaro concept in Detroit during a consumer panel in Detroit last month.

There is no doubt people want the car. Otherwise

there wouldn't be so much interest. That desire was why Ford redesigned the Mustang and Dodge decided to build the new version of its pony car.

Nostalgia aside, the renewed interest in American muscle isn't for nothing. Besides new designs for cars, it's also bringing about innovation in engine design. And if there is one thing Detroit is good at turning out, it is innovative, provocative car designs, designs one won't see anywhere else in the world.

Japan can keep its little cars and Europe's sports cars have an air of sophistication and luxury that just doesn't go with "sports" car.

American muscle, old or new, is classic. Otherwise, why would the cars be in so many movies, magazines, and bring in so much money at the Barrett-Jackson Classic Car Auctions in Arizona?

Yes, they may be old, and loud, and get lousy mileage, but people love them anyway. The cars bring to mind an era when things were good, times were fast, and nothing would ever change.

But times have changed, people have changed, our country has changed. Even the cars have changed, but the spirit remains the same.

And that's a good thing.

So, the next time you see one of those pony cars, old or new, think about what they stand for. Freedom and good times. Two things we're celebrating this week.

Happy Independence Day.

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

Independence Day



Jay Kelley
● Speaking MyMind

It is the time of year when the Declaration of Independence becomes important again. Pundits, preachers and politicians quote portions of the text, sometimes in context and sometimes not, in order to inspire, teach or simply stir us up.

I thought I would do something different this year. Here is most of the text.

"When in the Course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States...

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good...

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable

to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their Public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected, whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people and eat out their substance...

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefit of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences:

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies...

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us....

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred, to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States, that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor."

Enjoy your independence — it was not free.

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

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