

# Opinion

## A Kansas Viewpoint



### Kansans helping Kansans

**From The Hutchinson News**  
 The United Health Ministries Fund, based in Hutchinson, is quietly celebrating its 20-year anniversary this year.  
 The \$65 million fund has astutely used its financial resources and grant-making capability to help improve the quality of life for Kansans. ...  
 Since inception, the fund has awarded more than \$43 million in grants to organizations across Kansas.  
 Kim Moore, president of the fund, ... cited the following areas of emphasis as some of the fund's top accomplishments:  
 — Oral Health Initiative: One of the first strategic initiatives undertaken by the fund. Launched as Healthy Teeth for Kansans in 1998, it initially focused on supporting sealant projects, backing community water fluoridation and removing barriers to Medicaid access. ...  
 — Expansion of hospice: The fund provided startup grants for 22 regional hospice programs, allowing the programs to meet Medicare certification standards. Once certified, the programs could keep their doors open by seeking Medicare reimbursement and tapping a steady flow of funds. Today, those regional hospice programs provide services to terminally ill people in all 105 Kansas counties. ...  
 — Community health clinics : The fund has awarded \$3.1 million to two community health clinics, United Methodist Western Kansas Mexican-American Ministries, based in Garden City, and GraceMed Health Clinic Inc. in Wichita. Both clinics strive to serve the uninsured and underinsured.  
 As for the primary disappointments, Moore said some programs simply failed to take hold, even with grant support. Such failures tended to revolve around one person's solitary vision. ... Moore said the accomplishments made during the fund's first 20 years show that "perpetuity has its rewards."

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](mailto:jvannostrand@nwkansans.com) or [pdecker@nwkansans.com](mailto:pdecker@nwkansans.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](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)

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**John Van Nostrand - Publisher**  
[jvannostrand@nwkansans.com](mailto:jvannostrand@nwkansans.com)

**NEWS**  
**Patty Decker - Editor**  
[pdecker@nwkansans.com](mailto:pdecker@nwkansans.com)

**Tisha Cox - General Assignment**  
[tcoc@nwkansans.com](mailto:tcoc@nwkansans.com)

**Jan Katz Ackerman, Area Reporter**  
[ackermanjk@ruraltel.net](mailto:ackermanjk@ruraltel.net)

**ADVERTISING**  
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[crystalr@nwkansans.com](mailto:crystalr@nwkansans.com)

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

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**Jeanette Applegate - Bookkeeping & Ad Building**  
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**Evan Barnum - Systems Administrator**  
[support@nwkansans.com](mailto:support@nwkansans.com)

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### Living in fear



**Tisha Cox**

#### ● Off The Beaten Path

Look around these days and it seems there is more now than ever to fear.  
 A few good examples are rising gas prices, the escalating conflict in the Middle East and a president whose administration and policy have effectively stifled the way our country's government has worked for more than 200 years.  
 And plenty of misconception runs rampant, giving people plenty of reason to be afraid.  
 For example, the one I think has been overwhelmingly popular the past six years is the notion that oil and natural gas are running out. Right now.  
 Not true. So very not true. Yet people buy into the fear, and cow down to the oil companies and every rich oil baron in the Middle East.  
 According to the Society of Petroleum Engineers Web site, [www.spe.org/spe/jsp/basic](http://www.spe.org/spe/jsp/basic) and information backed up by the United States Geological Survey, there is a more than 45-year supply left of petroleum world wide, with expectations of reserves to grow as more sources are discovered.  
 Unfortunately, the biggest current reserves are in the Middle East and Russia.  
 Of course, demand presently isn't going to go down, but there is time to develop alternative means of energy.  
 As the society's Web site states, three factors affect how much oil or gas can be extracted.  
 They are rock properties, technology and economics.  
 There are untapped reserves off the coast of the United States yet to be discovered.  
 I'm not going to mention Alaska or Antarctica for drilling — but Antarctica is protected by treaty from drilling.  
 Though the United States may not be tops in oil reserves, it is one of the countries on the planet

that is tops in natural gas resources.  
 The geological survey estimates "the onshore U.S., including Alaska, has undiscovered, technically recoverable resources of 112.3 billion barrels of oil and 1,074 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.  
 In a separate assessment of offshore resources completed in 2000, the U.S. Minerals Management Service estimated 75 billion barrels of oil and 362 trillion cubic feet of natural gas underlie the areas off the coasts of the U.S.  
 The resource assessments from the two groups make clear that, "despite being a very mature producing area, substantial resources still exist in the U.S."  
 Tell that to the gas company this winter when they try a rate hike on your gas bill. (Plus a bit of trivia — the Hugoton Gas Field, the second largest natural gas field in the world, is in southwest Kansas.)  
 Other recent ways to induce fear are mentions of bird flu and terrorist attacks.  
 I know experts say the planet is overdue for a flu pandemic, but the only thing anyone can do is prepare and go on living life.  
 The same goes for terrorist attacks.  
 The "war on terror" as President George W. Bush calls it seems to be nothing more than his pet project.

His reason for setting off a conflict in a region where we cannot win; for inciting panic and paranoia at home.  
 I was afraid after Sept. 11, 2001. Who wasn't?  
 But it is five years in the past now.  
 People still must be vigilant, but as a people, I'm convinced we can't continue to live in fear.  
 What good does it do?  
 Plus this isn't the first time people have been afraid.  
 President Franklin D. Roosevelt addressed the issue in his first inaugural speech. And here is part of it:  
 "I am certain that my fellow Americans expect that on my induction into the Presidency I will address them with a candor and a decision which the present situation of our people impel.  
 This is preeminently the time to speak the truth, the whole truth, frankly and boldly. Nor need we shrink from honestly facing conditions in our country today.  
 This great nation will endure as it has endured, will revive and will prosper. So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself — nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance.  
 In every dark hour of our national life a leadership of frankness and vigor has met with that understanding and support of the people themselves which is essential to victory. I am convinced that you will again give that support to leadership in these critical days."  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
*Tisha Cox is a general assignment reporter/photographer for the Free Press. Her column appears on Mondays. [tcoc@nwkansans.com](mailto:tcoc@nwkansans.com).*

### Some are better than others

**Ken Poland**

#### ● Ken's world

"I don't think we moved too quickly," General Caldwell said of putting the Iraqis in charge of Baghdad. "I don't think anyone could have anticipated the sectarian violence."  
 Hmmm. We've heard that from some of our other leaders, too.  
 Who is this General? Is he in a position to influence policy? How in the world could anyone not expect sectarian violence, when the country of Iraq was left with no government? It appears to me that every little country that is dominated by Islamic governance has a history of sectarian violence. The struggle between Shiite, Sunni, and Kurds has been on the front page of world news for years. The one thing that has united those three divisions of Islam has been their united effort to destroy the Jews and Christians. Indeed, who would have thought there might be sectarian violence? It has been three years after the over throw and there is still no viable government.  
 Sadaam Hussein apparently was sympathetic to the Sunni division and used them to enforce his iron fist rule of the country. What did our leaders think was going to happen? Did they even think? Revenge has been the driving force in the Mid East and Northern Africa countries for centuries.  
 This geographic area is the setting of the Biblical religious history of man. The Old Testament attests to the jealousy and greed of mankind. It relates over and over the cycle of dominance,

over throw and revenge in society. And, a great deal of it was driven by sectarian prejudice and dominance.  
 We just expected those people to join hands and have a big picnic. Of course we expected the big picnic, after they danced in the streets and cheered the most awesome military parade in history. There would be no way that the people of this region would be suspect of the motive behind that overwhelming show of power that could conceivably crush any resistance. There would be no way that the religious factions of that country would begin getting even for past inequities between themselves.  
 What do we do now? I don't know! I know that what we are doing isn't working.  
 I do know some things we can't do.  
 We can't train a police force or military force to love their religious or political adversaries with traditional military training. The primary goal of military training is: self preservation in vulnerable situations and destruction of threatening forces. As my training Sergeant in basic training said: "I will teach you how to kill and

how to stay alive". "I don't love you and you won't love me". "You will learn to shoot when I say shoot, advance when I say, retreat when I say, eat when I say, and drink when I say. You will sleep between times if you can." The goal was to take all emotion out of war and produce willing, eager, and loyal subjects to follow the orders from the Commandant. There was nothing democratic about the system.  
 And we expect that system to establish a democratic government?  
 We can't convert them to Christianity by decree nor by threat. Supplying military equipment to those who, at the moment, seem to be our allies will not promote peace in the area. Military power does not reflect the love of God.  
 What might we be able to do?  
 Pray? Just how much faith do we have in prayer? We claim to be a Christian nation, but do we rely on prayer and faith? Or, do we rely primarily on our military prowess and wealth?  
 We can change our aid from military substance to humanitarian substance.  
 Maybe even a little shuffling of political leadership in our own nation is in order. Simply partisan change isn't the answer either. We have persons with faith in God in both major parties. We have statesmen with wisdom in both major parties. None are perfect, but some are certainly better than others. Let's find them.  
*Ken Poland lives in Gem and occasionally contributes to the Colby Free Press.*

### Mallard Fillmore

● Bruce Tinsley

