

Opinion



A Kansas Viewpoint

We don't need shortsightedness

From Parsons Sun
Harvest season is well under way in many parts of the country including Texas and Oklahoma, and it is quickly moving into Kansas.
However, due to the increasing regulations put on migrant workers, the needed work force hasn't moved in near as quickly. Unfortunately, these regulations are affecting migrant workers trying to gain access to the United States legally, not the illegal immigrants flooding across our borders. ...
U.S. custom cutters rely on foreign workers to make up about 75 percent of their work force.
However, these are not unskilled laborers flooding across the U.S./Mexican border.
Most of these workers are experienced farm hands that come to the U.S. seeking temporary employment while their home countries of Australia, South Africa and others are in the growing season. Companies spend several hundred dollars per worker moving them through the agricultural guest worker program known as H-2A, which is also causing problems.
By law, H-2A must process applications within 45 days.
However, in some instances companies that applied for workers in December didn't get the first ones until April 25.
According to the Department of Homeland Security, there are no delays. However they do concede there may be delays overseas.
This is causing more inconvenience for companies trying to follow the legal system. ...
Illegal immigration is causing a world of problems in our country.
We don't need the shortsightedness of a state legislature or the bureaucracy of a government program gumming it up even more.
We have to come up with laws and regulations that affect the illegal immigrants, not ones that hinder the efforts of law-abiding migrant workers.
If we don't, we will end up hampering industries vital to our economy.

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

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, 300 SW 10th St. Rm. 143-N, Topeka 66612. 785/296-7676 e-mail: jmorrison@ink.org web: www.morrisonfamily.com
State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer, State Capitol, 300 SW 10th St., Rm. 128-S., Topeka, Kan. 66612, 785/296-7399
ostmeyer@senate.state.ks.us

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@nwkans.com

NEWS

Patty Decker - Editor
pdecker@nwkans.com

Tisha Cox - General Assignment
tcx@nwkans.com

Jan Katz Ackerman, Area Reporter
ackermanjk@ruraltel.net

ADVERTISING

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

Kristi Powell - Advertising Sales
kpowell@nwkans.com

Emily Wederski - Advertising Sales
ewederski@nwkans.com

BUSINESS OFFICE

Jeanette Applegate - Bookkeeping, Ad Building
japplegate@nwkans.com

Everett Robert - Circulation, Classifieds
erobert@nwkans.com

Evan Barnum - Systems Administrator
support@nwkans.com

NOR'WEST PRESS

Jim Bowker - General Manager

Richard Westfahl, Lana Westfahl, Judy McKnight, Jim Jackson, DeLisa Allen, David Erickson, Betty Morris, and Dana Huthansel

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 \$40, 8 months \$56, 12 months \$74. By mail in Colby and the nine-county region of Thomas, Sheridan, Decatur, Rawlins, Cheyenne, Sherman, Wallace, Logan and Gove counties: 4 months \$53, 8 months \$65, 12 months \$82. Other Kansas counties: 4 months \$60, 8 months \$70, 12 months \$85. All other states, \$85, 12 months.



Close, affordable and fun

I read an article over the weekend where the writer stated \$3 a gallon gas is a "bargain." I think he needs his head examined, but aside from that, the price of gas isn't keeping people off the road this summer.
It's still cheaper than flying, but somebody needs to do something before the price goes higher.
Everybody blames everything from the Iraq war to the gas companies, but the question still remains — why hasn't our own government done anything about it?
The price of everything goes up along with the price of gas, yet it seems the majority has just thrown up its hands and decided nothing can be done.
Fuel costs, at this point, are just a broken record.
The experts recommend getting a better, fuel efficient car. Again, not everyone can afford to run out and get a new car. And I imagine many families would be reluctant to downsize from their SUV to a small car.
But then again, maybe that's the problem. Families used to get by with just a car, but those vehicles of the past were not as fuel efficient as what is available now.
Along with fuel prices, the cost of feed, mainly corn, is going up as the demand for corn for ethanol increases.
As corn goes up, so will the price of beef.



Tisha Cox
• Off the beaten path

It's a vicious circle and there are no easy answers.
Summer road trips
On the other hand, it is summer, and time to think about a road trip while the price of gas is still below \$4 or \$5.
Some ideas for road trips are picking a city, beach or car camping.
Denver is a good choice for a road trip, if one can find an inexpensive place to stay. It has the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, zoo, and art museum. There are also a lot of smaller museums around the city, like the quilt museum in Golden or the Colorado Train Museum.
A beach? Not exactly a viable option here in our landlocked state.
But car camping is an option. One can camp out of a car. It is possible. I even did it once.
It's easy — just pack up the car with all the necessary gear — and pick a campground with tent sites or cabins.

A camp site is much cheaper than a hotel, (\$10-\$15 a night at some places, barebones for a site, depending on where it is.)
Even a cabin can be more affordable if someone doesn't mind sleeping on a bunk bed in a sleeping bag.
And here are some tips to help survive a road trip:
Well-timed stops can break up the monotony of being in the car, along with bringing along a jump rope or Frisbee to get a little exercise on a stop.
If children are along, pack their own activity back with crayons, books, and games.
Pillows and blankets can make the car more comfortable.
If possible, books on tape or personal DVD players can provide entertainment on the trip. For families, the "Harry Potter" series is allegedly a good choice, for books on tape, and I would hope they would get an abridged version for a trip.
Disposable or digital cameras are another choice so everyone can capture whatever catches their eye, and can give everyone the chance to make their own memories.
Another tip is on the way to the destination, let everyone pick their own stop, a way to make sure everyone is involved in the trip.
— Tisha Cox is a reporter for the Colby Free Press.

Fitting in

Editor's note: Colby Church of Christ preacher Jay Kelley is spending a month in Athens, Greece, on a Christian teaching mission.
I have finished the first week.
The classes are great. I have a preaching lab on Sunday, which I haven't had to teach yet, Distinctive Nature of the Church on Monday and Minor Prophets on Tuesday.
There are more hours and more concentration than in many stateside schools, but the students are working as well as attending school. Most of the students are African and Bulgarian immigrants.
I have the Bulgarians, who do not speak English. I was a little worried about overwhelming the interpreter, but he actually had to tell me to speed up. By Tuesday afternoon I was really preaching and he never missed a beat.
Of course, the temperature was 110, so I was also sweating! By the time I finished Tuesday, I needed a towel.
The students are very inquisitive. They seem to take the school very seriously and want to do their best. Many of their questions are insightful and tough as well. They are also unused to a servant-leader model, so Ron makes it a point not to allow them to do many things for him in order to model that.
My concern about Greek food is quickly



Jay Kelley
• Speaking my mind

evaporating. I was on a limited diet for a few days because of a mild gout attack (something I ate during transit?) but the food has been wonderful.
Coffee also takes on a new meaning here. The national drink is Frappe, a double (or triple) strong concoction of instant coffee, milk and sugar. It will definitely wake you up - I only needed one to get my attention.
They also have a drink, the name of which I can't pronounce, which is almost like a coffee milkshake. It's good too.
I can get around pretty good by now. Most of the signs are in English as well as Greek and most Greeks speak English. I'm trying to learn a few words in Greek, such as thank you, please and excuse me in order to be polite. So far I've learned yes and two, so I've got a ways to go.
They seem to tolerate Americans pretty well, though. I think it's the tourism money.

Everything's reasonably disorganized here, but you can get what you need. I am in the instructors apartment now.
I only need to know two buses - the one to school also takes me downtown if I want and the other one takes me to the directors house. The metro takes me on to school, but I have to remember when to change trains - only once and its pretty simple.
You can get a seven-day pass for 10 Euro (about \$13.50) and it's good on anything except the cabs, so it isn't too bad getting around.
We went to the Acropolis today. Besides Mars Hill, the Parthenon and the temples of Zeus, Athena, Nike and others, there were countless other digs and sites of interest only to a history nut like me.
We went in the morning, so the heat was not so intense, but there is a lot of climbing (they are on mountains, for those who didn't know) I took pictures, but left the camera at the directors house, so I'll send them Sunday night.
Hope all is well at home. I'm enjoying myself and doing a good work, but I still miss the good old USA.
See you all soon.
Jay Kelley is a local writer who speaks his mind from time to time. His e-mail is jkelley@st-tel.net.

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. 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.

Mallard Fillmore

• Bruce Tinsley

