



## Other Viewpoints

### Our windy state blows its potential for energy growth

Though Kansas is the third-windiest state (behind North Dakota and Texas), it has been slow to capitalize on its wind-energy potential. But that could change soon because of recent actions by the Kansas Legislature and Gov. Mark Parkinson, especially if Congress approves a national renewable electricity standard.

Kansas has grown its wind-energy production in the past year and a half, but it is still at only about one-tenth of its capacity, according to a U.S. Department of Energy study. The deal that Parkinson struck this spring with Sunflower Electric Power Corp. should help unlock some of this potential.

In exchange for allowing Sunflower to build a new power plant near Holcomb, Parkinson got the Legislature to approve a standard requiring Kansas utilities to generate 20 percent of their power from renewable sources by 2020. The Legislature also approved net metering, which allows Kansans in some areas to generate their own power and sell the excess back to the utilities....

Though both requirements could have been stronger, they send an important message to wind-turbine manufacturers and developers that Kansas is now "open for business."

Just as important was an announcement Parkinson made last week that two companies had reached a deal to build high-voltage transmission lines to be completed by 2013. The lack of lines to move electricity from windy rural areas to larger energy markets, including out of state, has been a major obstacle to wind-energy development....

Congress is also considering a law that could increase demand for wind-energy exports, which could be a significant economic development boon for western Kansas....

Kansas still has a lot of catching up to do with Texas and other states that have aggressively developed wind production. But at least now it is positioning itself to reach its potential.

— *The Wichita Eagle, via The Associated Press*

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**U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran**, 2202 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715 or Fax (202) 225-5124

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### Some brief comments about 'Briefly'

Probably the most popular column in the *Colby Free Press* is Briefly, which anchors Page 1 every day.

It seems like everybody who wants something in the paper wants it in Briefly, and that's testimony to the column's power and popularity.

We like Briefly, too, and we're always glad to get new items to stick in there. For one thing, as editors, we know that even on our worst day, there'll be one thing on Page 1 that people will read.

And why not? Briefly serves as the town's bulletin board, the one and single place to find out what's available for entertainment, government news, meetings, events and happenings of all kinds. It's pretty cool, some of the stuff that shows up.

We have only a few rules about what goes in the column. No. 1 is we limit it to nonprofits, either government or churches and civic groups. Even then, there are some exceptions.

Businesses and nonprofit activities that expect to raise a lot of money, we ask and expect the organizers or owners to buy an ad to get into the paper. That is how we make our living, after all, and if you're going to be making money, we need to take a little slice.

A lot of people don't seem to understand that a newspaper is a business, not a public service. We have to earn a profit to exist, and the only way we do that is by selling ads.

Sometimes people come in and say we need to put something in the paper "just because." That's nice, but who will pay for it?

Subscription fees, while substantial, only



**Steve Haynes**

#### • Letter From the Publisher

cover about 18 to 20 percent of any newspaper's bills. The rest comes from advertising of all sorts, classified, display, retail, commercial and legal. If you want something in the paper, and if you want a paper to be here the next time you want something in the paper, someone has to be buying those ads.

And if you're making money off an event or business, then you need to join the club.

That's why we offer Briefly only for nonprofits. The rest of you need to be paying customers if we are to make it. (We do print business news elsewhere in the paper. If your business has news, we want it. We also want your advertising.)

Another issue with Briefly is scheduling. We get "requests" that read more like orders: "Run this Thursday, Monday, next Friday, two days in the next week and once the following week." "Run this item until the end of July, just as it is written."

Well, we'll do our best folks, but there are days when we have twice as many briefs as we have space. We generally get them all in, but we just can't guarantee how many times or which days or when they will start. Please be understanding.

Also, please understand that for purposes of clarity, accuracy, fairness, style and brevity, every news item that goes into the paper gets edited and rewritten. We try to avoid mistakes — we know we will make some — but you should expect that we will rework your copy, tighten it, make it conform to newspaper style and maybe ask a question or two.

Every Briefly item needs to have complete information on the basics: When, Where, Who, Why and How. Plus, a phone number and the name of a contact person for people with questions to talk to. We teach the staff to hold items until all the questions are answered, and while most submissions are complete, you'd be surprised the things people leave out.

Then, some people call at 10 a.m. and want to be in today's paper. If that happens, it had better be a surprise to you as well as the editor. The deadline is noon the day before, so we have time to do things right. Call at the last minute, likely we can't get you in.

None of this is meant to discourage anyone from sending in a brief. We love 'em. We just want you to appreciate some of the problems and pitfalls we face. To know when you ought to buy an ad. And to understand how the column works.

Questions? Give us a call. But get those briefs in. The best way is by e-mail to colby.editor@nwkansas.com.

*Steve Haynes is editor and publisher of The Colby Free Press and president of Nor'West Newspapers. In his spare time, whenever that is, he like to ride and watch trains.*

### What will Obama's diplomacy do for us?

Barack Obama's recent trip abroad, and especially his speech in Cairo, Egypt, are a welcome departure from the too-often abrasive, in-your-face diplomacy of some of our previous presidents.

There are no easy solutions to the political and financial problems around the world. As Christians, we know, from our Bible, that this world will never enjoy universal peace. But, from that same Bible, we are compelled to strive toward the goal of peace on earth and goodwill toward men.

Who is this guy, Barack Hussein Obama? He is not one of "us." Certainly not if you are a radical leftist or liberal free thinker who defies any social constraints of any kind.

He is not one of "us." Certainly not if you are a radical right winger or fundamental conservative who is in the position of power (or desiring that position) that perpetuates your political, economic and physical dominance of society.

Is he black, white, Muslim, Christian or Humanist? If you are a member of any one of these exclusive groups, you will say, "He's not one of 'us.'" Of course, all these groups are not exclusive, but they all have radicals within them who are. Exclusive groups do not accept any one who is not exactly like them. They do not accept diversity of any kind.

Barack is politically identified as a Democrat, but he is not one of "us," if you are one who thinks the Democrat party is narrowly defined by absolute parameters.

There is no question, he's not a Republican, even though he refuses to bow to some Democrat leaders and overturn all policies of the last



**Ken Poland**

#### • Ken's World

administration. I've done a pretty thorough job of covering who he isn't. Now, who do I think he is?

Neither blacks nor whites can claim him as their own. He is mulatto, of mixed heritage, and has never indicated he is either ashamed or proud of that fact. Race or ethnic origin doesn't seem to be of any great importance to him.

He grew up in family settings that don't appear to have been active participants of any religious group. He chose to accept Christianity as an adult. He neither flaunts nor hides his Christianity. He doesn't appear to have been poverty stricken at any time nor did he enjoy unlimited affluence.

He appears to be just a common, ordinary fellow who grew up with all the advantages or disadvantages of society. Remember the hype about Palin just being a common "soccer mom." Well that isn't very factual and neither is Barack Obama "just common ordinary" up-bringing. Most boys didn't enjoy world travel and education while growing up. That, by the way, comes from the disadvantage of being from a mixed marriage and broken home. Very few of us from northwest Kansas have had to deal with the adversities that come with that combination.

Barack has had the opportunity for advanced formal education and appears to be blessed with mental capacity to absorb its benefits. He was motivated, beyond the norm for most of us, to take advantage of educational opportunity and applies those benefits in his everyday social surroundings.

Barack Hussein Obama is president of the United States of America, our chief executive officer. As such, he doesn't enjoy dictatorial power, but must rely on the legislative and judicial branches of our government and popular opinion of society to further his agenda, both nationally and internationally.

*Ken Poland describes himself as a semiretired farmer living north of Gem, a Christian, affiliated with American Baptist Churches, and a radical believer in separation of church and state. Contact him at rcwinc@cheerful.com.*

The *Colby Free Press* encourages Letters to the Editor on any topic of general interest. Letters should be brief, clear and to the point. They must be signed and carry the address and phone number of the author.

We do not publish anonymous letters. We sign our opinions and expect readers to do likewise. Nor do we run form letters or letters about topics which do not pertain to our area. Thank-yous from this area should be submitted to the Want Ad desk.

Letters will not be censored, but will be read and edited for form and style, clarity, length and legality. We will not publish attacks on private individuals or businesses not pertaining to a public issue.

### Mallard Fillmore

• Bruce Tinsley

