



Other Viewpoints

Transmission line critical to Kansas for energy future

Kansans should appreciate the efforts of Gov. Mark Parkinson to keep plans for a major electrical transmission line on track.

One of Parkinson’s first successes after taking over as governor earlier this year was to barter a settlement between two companies who were competing to build a 765-kilovolt electrical transmission line across southern Kansas. The two companies agreed to share the project with ITC Great Plains building the line from Spearville through Comanche County to Medicine Lodge and Westar building the line from Wichita to Medicine Lodge and down to the Oklahoma border, where it will can tie into other high-voltage lines.

The transmission line is a critical part of the state’s ability to expand its wind power generation network. It does no good to expand wind generation if that electricity can’t be moved to the areas where it is needed. That’s why Parkinson and others were concerned when the Southwest Power Pool, which oversees a regional power transmission grid, didn’t include the so-called “V-Plan” on its priority list. Not having the support of the pool would have been a serious disadvantage, perhaps even a deal-breaker, for the Kansas line.

Realizing that, Parkinson pleaded the state’s case with the pool’s board of directors. When that board met Tuesday, the Kansas V-plan was added to the group’s list of priority projects.

... Parkinson said the high-voltage transmission line is as important to the Kansas economy as the proposed federal bio-security lab in Manhattan or the designation of a National Cancer Center at the Kansas University Medical Center. Kansas has made enormous progress in recent months in developing its wind-power potential and attracting the business and industry that will support that endeavor.

The governor’s recent efforts are a reminder that economic development efforts in the state are a marathon, not a sprint. Moving the state forward requires constant attention to any details that can potentially push a project off track. Congratulations to Parkinson for keeping this project moving forward.

— Lawrence Journal-World, via The Associated 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, 2202 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. Room 143-N, Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-7676 e-mail: jmorriso@ink.org web: www.morrisonfamily.com
- State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer, State Capitol Building, 300 SW10th St., Room 128-S., Topeka, Kan. 66612, (785) 296-7399 ralph.ostmeyer@senate.state.ks.us

COLBY FREE PRESS

155 W. Fifth St. (USPS 120-920) (785) 462-3963
Colby, Kan. 67701 fax (785) 462-7749

Send news to: colby.editor @ nwkansas.com

State award-winning newspaper, General Excellence, Design & Layout, Columns, Editorial Writing, Sports Columns, News, Photography. Official newspaper of Thomas County, Colby, Brewster and Rexford.

Steve Haynes - Publisher
s.haynes @ nwkansas.com

NEWS

Kevin Bottrell - News Editor
kbottrell @ nwkansas.com

Andy Heintz - Sports Reporter
aheintz @ nwkansas.com

Marian Ballard - Copy Editor
mballard @ nwkansas.com

Vera Sloan and Aubrey Spencer - Society Editors
colby.society @ nwkansas.com

ADVERTISING

Jasmine Stewart - Advertising Manager
j.stewart @ nwkansas.com

Heather Woofter - Advertising Sales
hwoofter @ nwkansas.com

Kathryn Ballard - Graphic Design
kballard @ nwkansas.com

BUSINESS OFFICE

Robin Tubbs - Office Manager
rtubbs @ nwkansas.com

Evan Barnum - Systems Administrator
support @ nwkansas.com

NOR’WEST PRESS

Richard Westfahl - General Manager
Lana Westfahl, Jim Jackson, Betty Morris, Jim Bowker, Judy McKnight, Barbara Ornelas, Tasha Shores, Kris McCool

THE COLBY FREE PRESS (USPS 120-920) is published every Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, except the days observed for Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year’s Day, by Nor’West Newspaper, 155 W. Fifth St., Colby, Kan., 67701.

PERIODICALS POSTAGE paid at Colby, Kan. 67701, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Colby Free Press, 155 W. Fifth St., Colby, Kan., 67701.

THE BUSINESS OFFICE at 155 W. Fifth is open from 8 a.m. to 6 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 herein. Member Kansas Press Association and National Newspaper Association.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: In Colby, Thomas County and Oakley: three months \$35, one year \$85. By mail to ZIP Codes beginning with 676 and 677: three months \$39, one year \$95. Elsewhere in the U.S., mailed once per week: three months \$39, one year \$95. Student rate, nine months, in Colby, Thomas County and Oakley, \$64; mailed once per week elsewhere in the U.S. \$72



Political ideologies rhetoric, not reason

Politics seems to bring out the very worst aspects in human nature.

If you don’t believe me, just browse the Internet for opinions about today’s political issues. The hatred and hostility expressed by people on both sides is depressing and frightening.

The ugly state of our politics and the totalitarian rhetoric that too often seeps its way into the language of America’s two major political parties is an example of the authoritarian impulses we in human nature. This is why it’s essential for us to be aware of these impulses, so they can reject them when they come.

People of all cultures and religions seem to yearn for some ideology to tell them what’s right and what’s wrong. The ideologies people subscribe to offer a black-and-white version of the world that allows them to take comfort in the fact that they are the good guys and everyone else is either bad or misguided.

Some of these ideologies are more dangerous than others. Certainly fascism, Nazism, the Soviet Union’s brand of psuedo-communism, and any sort of ideology based on religious superiority are more dangerous than ideologies such as liberalism or conservatism. But these last two hold their own hidden dangers when mindlessly accepted by large groups of people.

A significant number of people in both of our country’s major political parties ignore nuance in a nuanced world. They tend to see everything in black and white, while ignoring the shades of gray inherent in our politics and everyday lives.

I think many of them secretly know that what their supporting is wrong, but they’re willing to lie to themselves because it’s the easy thing to do.

This is why they get so angry when people question the logic of their beliefs. They know

Andy Heintz

- Wildcat Ramblings

they’re wrong and they’re furious with the people pointing out this inconvenient truth. They are like a little boy who lashes out at the teacher for giving him a “0” on a test he got caught cheating on.

If we refuse to guard ourselves against our own authoritarian impulses, we will continue to live in a country with way too many angry, intolerant people unwilling to try and understand people who don’t think like them. If we continue to insulate ourselves with magazines, websites, blogs and news networks that reassure us that that our view of the world is correct — and those who hold other views are morally flawed or misguided, our country will never reach its full potential.

I feel strongly about the dangers of blind allegiance to any ideology because I have fallen prey to this way of thinking before, and I was uncomfortable with the person it made me. I also know it could happen again if I get too lazy or unwilling to endure the discomfort that comes with second guessing long-held beliefs and acknowledging the logic behind views I had automatically rejected or years.

I recently read a column by Glen Greenwald, a progressive columnist from *Salon Magazine*, who commented on an article by Chris Harris of the progressive group Media Matters. Harris had written an article entitled “RNC (Republican National Committee) agrees with Taliban.”

Greenwald said the article demonized Re-

publicans for criticizing the decision to award President Barack Obama the Nobel Prize. In his article, Harris called questioning Obama getting the prize “unseemly and downright unpatriotic.”

It’s this kind of rhetoric that drives me crazy. It reflects exactly what I have always criticized Republicans for. I have always been irritated when right-wing commentators condemn all public programs (except the ones they support) as socialist and condemn anyone questioning the morality of American foreign policy as unpatriotic. But here I was reading about a so-called progressive doing the exact same thing as the Sean Hannitys of the world.

This toxic rhetoric is what causes so much hatred between liberals and conservatives. It makes both groups hostile to each other and creates a paranoid, unhealthy climate in America. It makes me sick when progressives start espousing rhetoric that sounds like it was stolen from Karl Rove’s playbook.

In his article, Greenwald writes, “some smart people yesterday made some reasonable arguments for Obama’s prize. But to insist that it’s the patriotic obligation of every American to stand and cheer — and that those who don’t are “casting their lot with the terrorists” — is creepy and repugnant.”

Greenwald is right on the money. The people trying to sell this “us-versus-them” way of thinking are teaching legions of people that it’s OK not to think. We need to reject this kind of rhetoric if we want to get serious about dealing with the problems confronting America today.

Andy Heintz, a K-State journalism graduate, is sports reporter for the Colby Free Press. He says he loves K-State athletics and fishing, sports and opinion writing.

Hunting infers courtesy to landowners

In just a few days, Kansas fields, hills and woods will awaken to the sound of booming shotguns and barking dogs. Hunters and their canines will once again swarm the countryside searching for pheasants, quail, ducks and other wildlife.

Farms and ranches have always been a handy, ready-to-use outlet for urban dwellers who travel outside their home ares in search of hunting recreation. On opening day of the upland game bird season, the east-west highways will see a steady stream of pickups, SUVs and cars headed for central and western Kansas.

If you plan to hunt on private land, remember one key word as you embark on this season’s sojourn. That word is consideration. It means thoughtful and sympathetic regard.

In this country, wildlife belongs to the people, but landowners (mostly farmers and ranchers) have the right to say who goes on their land. If you are interested in hunting, make arrangements before you hunt.

Don’t wait until the day you plan to hunt someone’s land and then knock on the door at 6 a.m. By now you should have already asked.

After you’ve secured permission, here are some suggestions to follow that will ensure a lasting relationship between you and the landowner.

- Agree on who, and how many, will hunt on

the land. Specify number and furnish names. Talk about specific times and dates you plan to hunt.

- Phone each and every time before you plan to hunt, and let the landowner know of your intentions. The landowner may have forgotten about your original conversation. It’s just common courtesy to say hello before hunting and ask again for the opportunity – or privilege, as I consider it – to hunt on someone’s property.
- Determine the exact location on the land you have permission to hunt. Some areas may be off-limits because of livestock or crops. This may be especially true this year with the wet weather.
- Always, and I can’t stress this enough, leave gates the way you find them. If they are open, leave them that way. If they are closed, shut them after you pass through.

If you ever leave a gate open and a farmer’s cow herd gets out of the pasture, “Katy bar the door.” You’ll never be invited back. Don’t

John Schlageck

- Insights

Kansas Farm Bureau

even ask.

- Once you’ve enjoyed a successful hunt, stop by to thank the landowner for his generosity. Offer to share the game you bag.
- After the season, write a note expressing your appreciation for the opportunity to hunt. Consider offering a gift.
- Leasing of land by the hunter from the landowner is becoming more popular in Kansas. Such agreements allow a hunter a guaranteed hunting site. It also provides the landowner money to recoup some of the investment he needs to leave habitat suitable for wildlife to survive and prosper.

If you enter into such a lease, make sure it is written and includes all provisions both parties deem necessary. This should include a clause for the landowner and his/her family to hunt on the land.

- Always remember that the hunter and landowner should discuss the terms of the hunt before hunting begins. This is important.
- Never forget, you are a guest and it is a privilege to hunt on the owner’s land.

John Schlageck of the Kansas Farm Bureau is a leading commentator on agriculture and rural Kansas. He grew up on a diversified farm near Seguin, and his writing reflects a lifetime of experience, knowledge and passion.

Mallard Fillmore

- Bruce Tinsley

