



Free Press Viewpoint

Timing a problem for swim team start

As the Colby School Board prepares to again discuss offering a girls swim team in the spring, there are some issues worth mentioning.

The board discussed offering a team at their Aug. 15 meeting and it is on the agenda again for Monday. In an editorial on Aug. 19, the *Colby Free Press* advocated in favor of a team, but since then several citizens have brought up good issues.

The first issue is an important one to many people: money. The proposal on the table is for the swim team to pay for all its own expenses using fund raising. While the people of Colby are generous, there's so much fund raising going on, sooner or later local businesses and individual donors will simply be tapped out.

The district has lost so much funding – something like \$1.5 million over the past few years – that a lot of school activities are being asked to pay their own way on overnight trips. For something like the wrestling team, which always has high participation, that means a lot of money for motel rooms and meals.

To combat this, activities have been doing all sorts of fund raisers. They also have to compete with the college, which has its own funding issues. So is this really the time to be asking people to dig into their pockets again?

Another issue is participation. At the August meeting it was said that there are eight to 10 girls interested for this spring along with some eighth graders who would be interested next spring. Both low and high participation would be a problem. If the number turns out lower than eight, the girls might have a hard time raising enough to pay for meets, transportation, a coach and all the other expenses. If they have too many girls, the expenses would increase. They would need an assistant coach, pay for more motel rooms, etc.

The swim season would also coincide with a lot of other activities, such as forensics, track and field and softball. While some students might try to do multiple activities, others would have to choose, and there's no way to really predict which way they would go. Either way it would result in lower participation. This is nothing new, however, since the school offers many activities and students often have to make a choice what they want to do.

The school would also have to look at what schools it will compete against. There aren't a lot of swim teams in this end of the state. Hays is the closest, and most of the rest come from urban areas in the east or south. A quick look at the state results for last spring shows all the times coming from eastern Kansas. That means the team would have to travel a long way for each meet, ratcheting up the costs.

While these are many good reasons to be hesitant to start a team, our final conclusion would still be the same. The Colby School District should seriously consider offering a swim team, as long as there is enough student participation and as long as they can raise enough money on their own. The schools should provide students with any opportunity they can, as long as those opportunities don't take away from classroom instruction. —Kevin Bottrell

We encourage comments on opinions expressed on this page. Mail them to the *Colby Free Press*, 155 W. Fifth St., Colby, Kan., 67701, or e-mail colby.editor@nwkansas.com. Opinions do not necessarily reflect those of the *Free Press*, its staff or the owners.



Tea Party debate shows weak resolve

Concerned that the GOP presidential debates were not focusing upon issues close to the Tea Party Movement, especially the candidates' views on the U.S. Constitution, from which we have drifted, and the Federal Reserve, a non-governmental private organization which determines the value of every dollar in our pocket, the movement teamed up with CNN for another debate Monday in Orlando, Fla.

CNN commentator Wolf Blitzer, narrated, taking questions from the audience, the Internet and Tea Party groups assembled throughout the nation.

If these two areas were to be more thoroughly covered Tea Party members had to be sorely disappointed. With respect to the Federal Reserve created by Congress in 1913 allowing the Central Bankers to regulate the economy in order to prevent recessions and depressions in the future, the only question asked was with respect to auditing the Federal Reserve.

All seemed at least lukewarm to doing so with Ron Paul and Michelle Bachmann having the strongest positions toward doing so. These two alone were for returning the power to Congress as designated by the Constitution, and where it was before giving it to the bankers. Rick Santorum wanted the bankers to remain in control but spoke of returning to "an earlier version" of how it was run. Rick Perry was the most dubious on the subject calling it "treason" if "you are allowing the Federal Reserve to be used for political purposes" but he was not for eliminating it. Mitt Romney made the strongest case for leaving it with the bankers, as "Congress cannot possibly do it." It is very unlikely we will get back to the Constitution on this issue from anyone other than Bachmann or Paul.

There were no specific questions on getting back to the Constitution itself. Bachmann used the word "constitution" twice as much as did

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anyone else with Paul second and Perry third. Most made no mention of such a need.

Perry, however, had clarity on the 10th Amendment and spoke of it as state's rights yet, as governor, he had no problem forcing, by executive order, the inoculation of young girls 12 years and older with a vaccine against cervical cancer without any attempt to go through the state legislature for approval. He now admits that it was wrong to do so without legislative authorization. Bachmann denied even state government the right to force such action with or without legislative approval.

All seemed opposed to Obamacare but only Bachmann on clear constitutional grounds. "No state has the constitutional right to force a person, as a condition of citizenship, to buy a product or service against their will."

"It's unconstitutional whether it's the state government (referring to Romneycare in Massachusetts) or whether the federal government. The only way to eradicate Obamacare is to pull it out by the root and branch, to fully repeal it.... Because 2012 is it!" She added amid great applause, "This is the election that is going to decide if we have socialized medicine or not!"

Romney and Newt Gingrich would end the "threat" by executive order exempting every state, which itself is a constitutionally questionable solution as executive orders are not to be legislative in nature. Bachmann reminded

them that the president after them could again, by executive order, restore the unpopular legislation. Romney's only reference to something being unconstitutional was with respect to Obamacare, but he quickly followed that he "favored a health savings account," which ironically, on the federal level is just as unconstitutional.

On illegal immigration none of them were convincing that they would end it.

Perry, with the most practical real life experience with the issue, seemed willing to "put boots on the ground" as president because Constitutionally it was the federal government's first responsibility to protect its people – but he as governor encouraged illegal immigration with tax-payer money to illegals for college expenses.

Jon Huntsman gave driving permits to illegals in Utah. Romney and Bachmann opposed any money going to "those who broke the law" but neither stated constitutional reasons. Paul was not given opportunity to respond on this question nor was Herman Cain.

On the basis of the debate, which was to emphasize constitutional themes in dealing with the realities of our time, Bachmann and Paul were the clear winners with Perry a distant, but dubious third; Bachmann even promising to return the Constitution to the White House as her last comment.

I could detect no reason to believe that the other five candidates for president would be any better than George W. Bush in getting us back to this document or even seriously reigning in the Federal Reserve. It is your liberty. Pass it along.

Dr. Harold Pease has spent his career studying the writings of the Founding Fathers. He teaches history and political science at Taft College. To read more of his articles, visit www.LibertyUnderFire.org.

Over-regulation: more than rumor mill

In August, a farmer in Illinois kindly requested that President Obama stop burdening and challenging America's agriculture community with unnecessary and burdensome new regulations. The President tried to brush off the man's appeal by simply telling him to contact the Department of Agriculture, suggesting that this farmer was being duped by special interests.

An inquisitive reporter tried to simulate what that farmer would have found on his own, and that reporter was left running in circles, being transferred from one office to another, leaving one voicemail after another, and even being instructed to just "Google" for the answer.

Sadly, this story is all too familiar. Concerned constituents, simply trying to keep the family farms and other businesses running, share with me often their frustrations and worries about what's next from Washington. It's not enough to have to worry about the next harvest; now, it is what is coming next in the Federal Register, where proposed regulations are offered.

Be it dust regulation, treating milk spills like oil spills, or greenhouse gas emissions, the White House and its Environmental Protection Agency are on the prowl, in search of another way to insert itself in the affairs of America's rural communities and in the way of American prosperity.

What these regulations have in common is that they approach governance as "guilty until



U.S. Rep. Tim Huelskamp

Capitol Notes

proven innocent." It is as if farmers and producers cannot be trusted to take care of the land, air and water. What Washington cannot seem to grasp is that those who work the land tend to be some of the best stewards of natural resources – after all, farmers and producers rely on the continued existence, availability, and capability of them. A Kansas business owner recently summed up the situation for me: "We have a regulatory environment that assumes businesses are crooks and government must catch them at it. This only raises costs on business and makes it more difficult to operate."

Since the beginning of his presidency, Barack Obama's agencies and departments have issued 75 major new regulations, carrying a \$38 billion annual price tag that employers and entrepreneurs pay and pass along to consumers.

However, the private sector's loss is Washington's gain: there was a 3 percent increase in regulatory staff at federal agencies between

2009 and 2010 and another 4 percent uptick is expected this year, according to George Washington University's Regulatory Studies Center. And there are more costly regulations looming, in 144 pending "economically significant" rules that cost at least \$100 million each. Taking more from the economy while growing the government is not the economic equation that creates jobs.

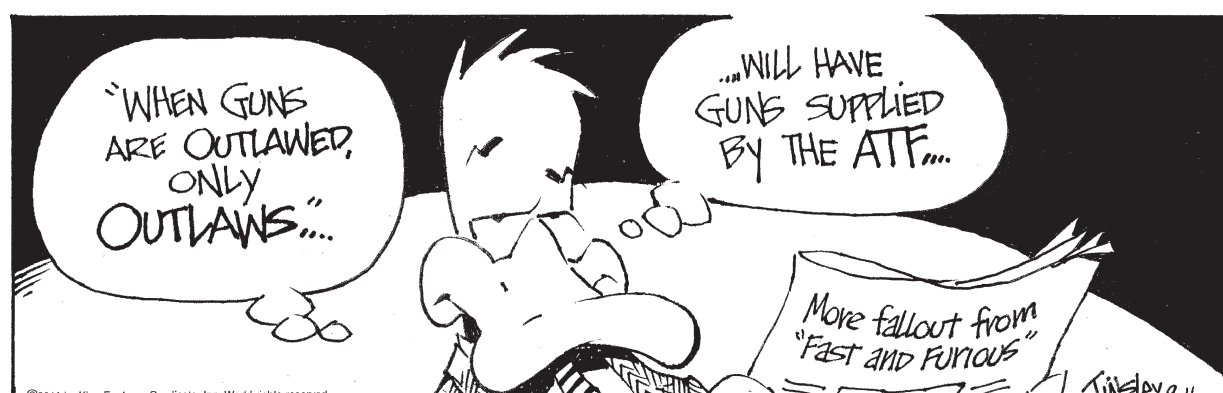
Congress has the authority to veto regulations, but such power is rarely exercised. I am proud to cosponsor H.R. 10, The Regulations From the Executive in Need of Scrutiny Act of 2011, which would require congressional approval of any "major rule" that is likely to result in costs of \$100 million or more annually; major increases in the costs of goods; or adverse effects to the health of the economy and competitiveness. This type of oversight not only holds rule makers accountable, but also lawmakers who pass the laws that enable overregulation.

It's not just the rumor mill or unsubstantiated Google searches that are generating concern and worry about the President's plans for regulation. It's Washington's track record that has people nervous. Washington's lack of common sense has made the President and regulators blind to the anxiety they have created.

Tim Huelskamp is the congressman from Kansas' 1st District, serving his first term.

Mallard Fillmore

Bruce Tinsley



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.