

commentary

from our viewpoint...

Time zone change needs citizen input

It's a question of time, but whose time is it? A group in Sherman County wants the time zone line moved to the west so the Colorado/Kansas border is the division between Central and Mountain Time.

This is not the first time a time change has been considered in the county, but there is no provision for a citizen vote on the question. Citizens remember the question was brought up before in the past 30 years, but there are no official records of a vote going back to 1950, says County Clerk Janet Rumpel

For many, the time zone question is not vital, but there are some who feel strongly in favor of Central Time and some who feel strongly the county should stay on Mountain Time.

With this in mind, *The Goodland Star-News* plans to hold a non-binding straw poll of all the residents of the county on the time zone question on Tuesday, April 1, at the same time as city and school board elections.

Under state law, the time zone vote cannot be held at the same location as the general election. Voting will take place at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, and the time-zone balloting will be at another, nearby public building.

We feel this vote will give everyone a good reading of how the people of the county view this question. Holding it on the same day as the city and school board election seems like a good way to ensure a large number of voters will have an opportunity to express their opinion.

At *The Star-News*, we have not formed an opinion about the time zone issue, but feel it is important to give all the citizens a chance to express their opinion. That means a person will not have to be a registered voter to vote in the straw poll, but will have to be a resident of the county.

Time zones have been around for about 120 years, but that doesn't mean they have remained the same as when they were drawn.

When the lines were first drawn, the western edge of Central Time was east of Phillipsburg and Dodge City. At the time, these were the main railroad points in the western part of the state.

When the time zones were establihsed in 1883, they were set at roughly 15 degrees of longitude wide. That would mean the Central Time zone would begin about the 90 degree line and extend west to the 105 degree line.

Looking at the longitude of the major cities, it is clear when the original lines were drawn the 15 degrees was not an exact measure, since it would mean that Topeka, at 95 degrees west, would be in the Mountain Time zone while the Rocky Mountains west of Denver, at 105 degrees west, would be in the Pacific Time zone.

Is it any wonder there is confusion over the time zones when they haven't followed the original mathematical layout designed 120 plus years ago? Somewhere the lines got moved for political, economic and social reasons, and they have been modified as the political climate has changed along the borders.

No matter what the decision is in Sherman County, there will continue to be a "time" problem, because moving the line to the border will only mean we now have pushed it onto our neighbors to the west who we do business with, and whom we depend on for a good portion of our sales tax income. — *Tom Betz*

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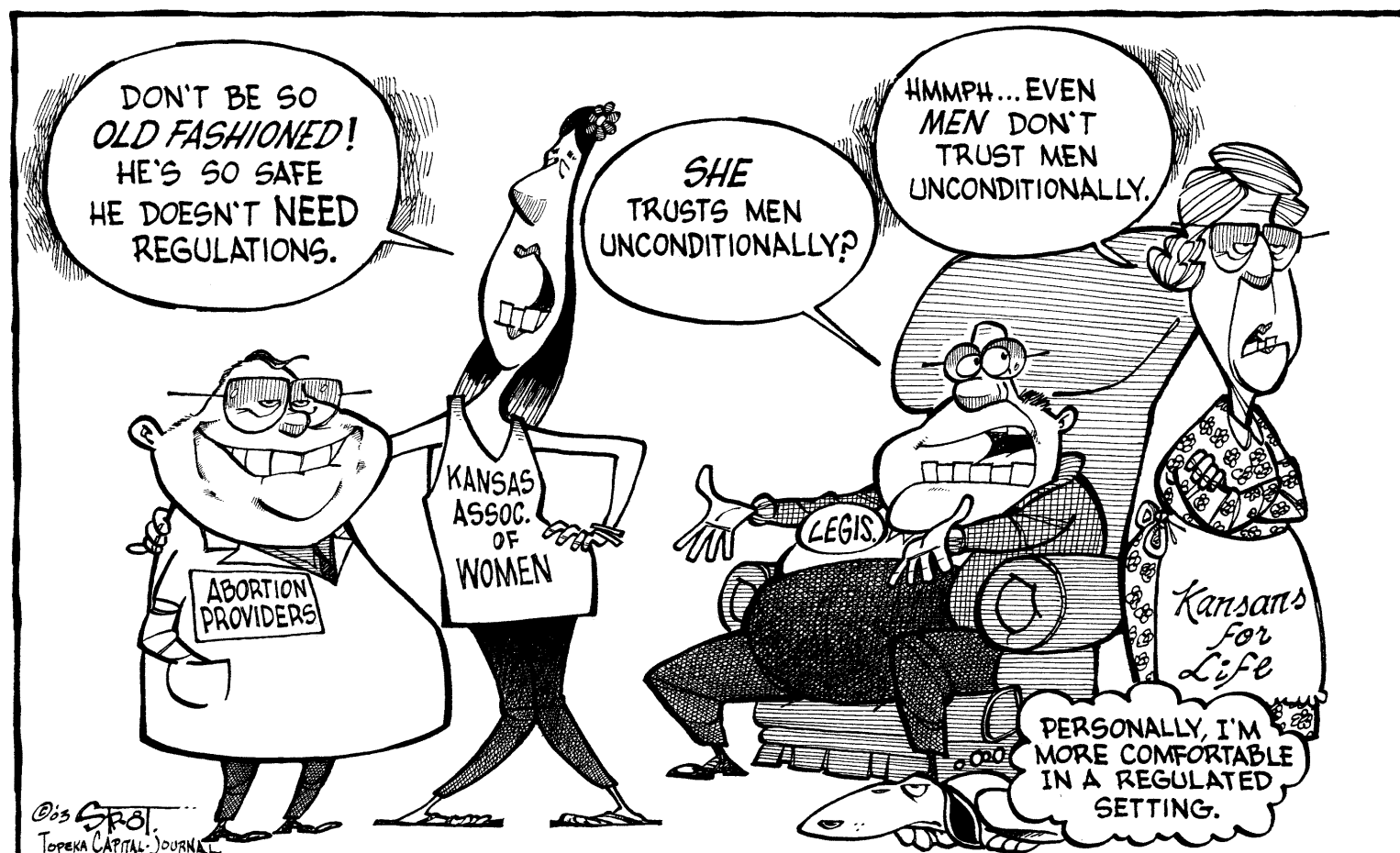
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OK, Cromwell is not from Bogue

First things first: Nolan Cromwell is not from Bogue. Twenty five years ago, apparently, I was duped into believing that Nolan had grown up in this kid's house that I had met the day after we moved to Bogue. What the heck did I know? I was just a dumb city kid new to western Kansas.

So, Lyle Smith and that other gentleman who stopped by the paper to let me know that Cromwell's nickname was "The Ransom Rambler," thank you for your input and thank you for reading. You were right, and man, it didn't take long for me to stick my foot in my mouth, did it?

Falling for a line like that seems to be a pattern for me. When I was in the Navy, I spent a couple of hours on the ship once looking for a board stretcher. I also went in search of a light bulb repair kit. And a gallon of bulkhead remover. (You sailors will know what a bulkhead is. The rest of you can go look it up, then laugh at me.)

I was like Charlie Brown and Lucy, with the football. He always fell for it, when she told him that she was not going to pull the football away at the last second.

I always thought that whatever I was sent off to find was something that actually existed.

Especially the fifty feet of flight line that I



darrel pattillo

on the ball

was ordered to fetch. I went all over the ship looking for that stuff.

You know, come to think of it, I got into an awful lot of trouble on the ship. The first day I was on board the Kitty Hawk, I got lost. It is after all, an aircraft carrier, and while today's new super-carriers dwarf it, it's still a HUGE ship.

There are a few places you don't want to get lost on an aircraft carrier. Seven or eight decks below, where the boiler technicians and the boatswain's mates lived and worked, you didn't want to be wandering around by yourself, 'specially if you're about 5 foot 7 and weigh 130 pounds. If they caught you down there, they liked to play weird games that I don't want to go into here.

Another place you don't go if you're an enlisted man is what's called "officer's country." Any place that had blue tile was officer's country, and you weren't supposed to walk there, even if you had a 100-pound weapons computer to haul up to the flight deck and going

Are you causing God's name to be blasphemed?

It seems many people today have little respect for religion or don't take it seriously as a force for good. Attending church once a week is considered devout, regardless of the conduct of the person attending, and no one really seems to expect those claiming to be Christians to obey the Bible's commandments.

What is considered as being a "good" person is donating to a charity once in a while or occasionally helping someone in need.

The apostle Paul warned Christians of the first century that God's name could be blasphemed on account of their conduct. In Romans 2:22-24 he says, "You who say one must not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? You who boast in the law, do you dishonor God by breaking the law? For, as it is written, 'The name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles because of you.'"

Those Christians were teaching one thing and acting another way. Paul wrote to warn them they could bring reproach on God's name and become disapproved by him.

The behavior of many people who claim to serve God today has led to many not taking religion seriously. Often this behavior is the result of relaxed standards as to right and wrong. If people believe something is acceptable, they don't have to feel guilty for doing it. So, the Bible's standards are ignored, even by people who claim to serve God.

This attitude, by many claiming to be Christians, reflects badly on God's name. Whether you call him Yahweh, Jehovah, the True God or the Almighty, he is the father of the Messiah and the creator of the universe. He deserves a good name, not one sullied by people who claim to serve him but disobey his commandments.

Granted, we are all sinners and, as Romans 3:23 says, "fall short of the glory of God." God does not expect us to be perfect, but he expects us to obey his commandments to the best of our ability. Psalm 97, verse 10, says, "Ye that love the Lord, hate evil."

If we hate evil, we will not deliberately commit sins, all the while telling ourselves there is



sharon corcoran

use it or lose it

nothing wrong with it; everyone else does it. We will have standards as to right and wrong.

Some who would never go around shooting innocent people in the street, readily go to war and shoot or bomb innocent people from enemy nations. Often religious leaders support those actions.

The Bible tells us at Romans 12:20, "But if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink."

Revelation 7:9 says, "After these things, I saw, and, look! a great crowd, which no man was able to number, out of all nations and tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb."

People from countries all around the world will receive salvation from God; surely he doesn't approve of his worshippers killing them.

1 Corinthians 6:9, 10 says, "What! Do you not know that unrighteous persons will not inherit God's kingdom? Do not be misled. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men kept for unnatural purposes, nor men who lie with men, nor thieves, nor greedy persons, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit God's kingdom."

It's clear in this scripture and many others that God does not approve of these practices. Nonetheless, when Christians practice such things, it gives people the impression that God does approve of them, thus damaging his name.

Will this be allowed to continue forever? Surely not! Why would God have the Bible recorded, with so many commandments in it, if he did not expect people to live by them?

Ezekiel prophesied, in Chapter 9 of the book named after him, about a judgment from God. Verse 2 talks about a man with an inkhorn who, in verse 4, marks those who are "sighing and

around officer's country meant going down three ladders, through a hatch, up two ladders, down about 30 yards of passageway, up two ladders, crawl through another hatch, and then head up to the flight deck. All that just so an officer didn't have to suffer you walking through a 10-foot hallway, getting enlisted man cooties all over the place.

Anyway, the worst place for an enlisted man to get caught was on a set of ladders (ladders are stairs, on a ship, by the way) that had gold bannisters. These are Captain's Ladders and if a captain catches you on one, he grabs you by your ear (I'm serious) and hauls you down to his office, where he tells a yeoman lieutenant to yell at you for a half hour even though you tell them you were lost and nobody ever said anything about not going on the ladders with the gold bannisters.

Guess what? When they threw me out of the office, I was still lost. The only thing that saved me was a man-overboard drill, and I was able to follow the crowd clock-wise around the ship until I got to my workspaces.

Yep, the Navy was fun!

Darrel Pattillo is on temporary assignment from the Colby Free Press and is handling sports and other assignments for the Goodland Star-News.

groaning over all the detestable things that are being done." Those distressed at the evil works of others, those who hate evil, are marked for salvation.

Verse 6 says, "Old man, young man, virgin and little child and women you should kill off — to a ruination. But to any man upon whom there is the mark do not go near, and from my sanctuary you should start."

God's judgment will begin with those who claim to serve him; those who are giving him a bad name face destruction. What should we do? Revelation 18 talks about Babylon the Great, "a dwelling place of demons and a lurking place of every unclean exhalation."

The chapter continues by saying Babylon the Great committed fornication with the kings of the earth and that traveling merchants became rich from her shameless luxury. What is this describing? False religion.

Religions who claim to serve God have committed fornication by forming alliances with government authorities when they should have been committed to God's kingdom. They should have been God's wife in a spiritual sense, so those actions are described as fornication.

Revelation 18:4 says, "And I heard another voice out of heaven say: 'Get out of her, my people, if you do not want to share with her in her sins, and if you do not want to receive part of her plagues.'"

Anyone who belongs to a religion that fits the description of Babylon the Great, needs to get out immediately. Where should they go?

Isaiah 2:2, 3 says, "It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; and all the nations shall flow to it, and many peoples shall come, and say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways.'"

People are streaming to God's mountain, learning his commandments from the Bible and obeying them. Those who need to flee from Babylon the Great are urged to find this mountain.

garfield

