

from our viewpoint...

Greedy schools want more money

Appalling.
Greedy midsize school districts that have been pushing for more money have asked the Kansas Supreme Court to take over Kansas schools and order the Legislature to spend nearly a billion dollars more on education this year.
We hope the court will realize the wrongness of this position, but there are no guarantees in the crazy age we live in.
It's time for Kansas taxpayers to wake up.
There is no crisis in education, except the one created by this lawsuit.
Kansas schools function well. They are among the best in the nation.
Sure, they could use more money. Couldn't we all?
But it's the Legislature's job to divide the pie, and the Legislature has done what it can for schools without raising taxes.
There is no way to get the billion dollars these greedy school districts want without a huge tax hike. The people running them don't care. They just want money.
Rural school districts and school boards ought to wake up, too.

The money the midsize districts want is the money our schools used to get for "low enrollment weighting." This is supposed to cover the extra costs of running a small, isolated district.

The latest school finance bill does away with this differential and covers it with a one-time increase in the per-pupil base. That's a scam that will come back to haunt rural schools.
To be fair, the midsize districts are not really out to destroy western Kansas schools, but we will suffer for their wants.
Their real targets are the growing, popular "ex urban" districts that surround city schools in Salina, Topeka, Wichita and other eastern cities. The districts lack the "city" problems like drugs, violence and crowding that plague larger districts. They draw students — and money — from city schools. And because of low-enrollment weighting, they get more money for each student.

City schools see this. They hate these smaller neighbors.
Make no mistake. This is not about the disadvantaged or the downtrodden. It's not about minority students or special education.
It's the money.
And if we don't do something now, our schools out here won't have any.
The way our government is supposed to work, the Legislature decides how to spend the state's money and how much to tax citizens. Not the courts.
Unless we want to be taxed to death, that's the way it should stay.
The Supreme Court needs to keep out of school finance and let the Legislature do its job.
This is a money issue, not a legal problem, and the court needs to see that.
Otherwise, we are facing a constitutional crisis in this state.
— Steve Haynes

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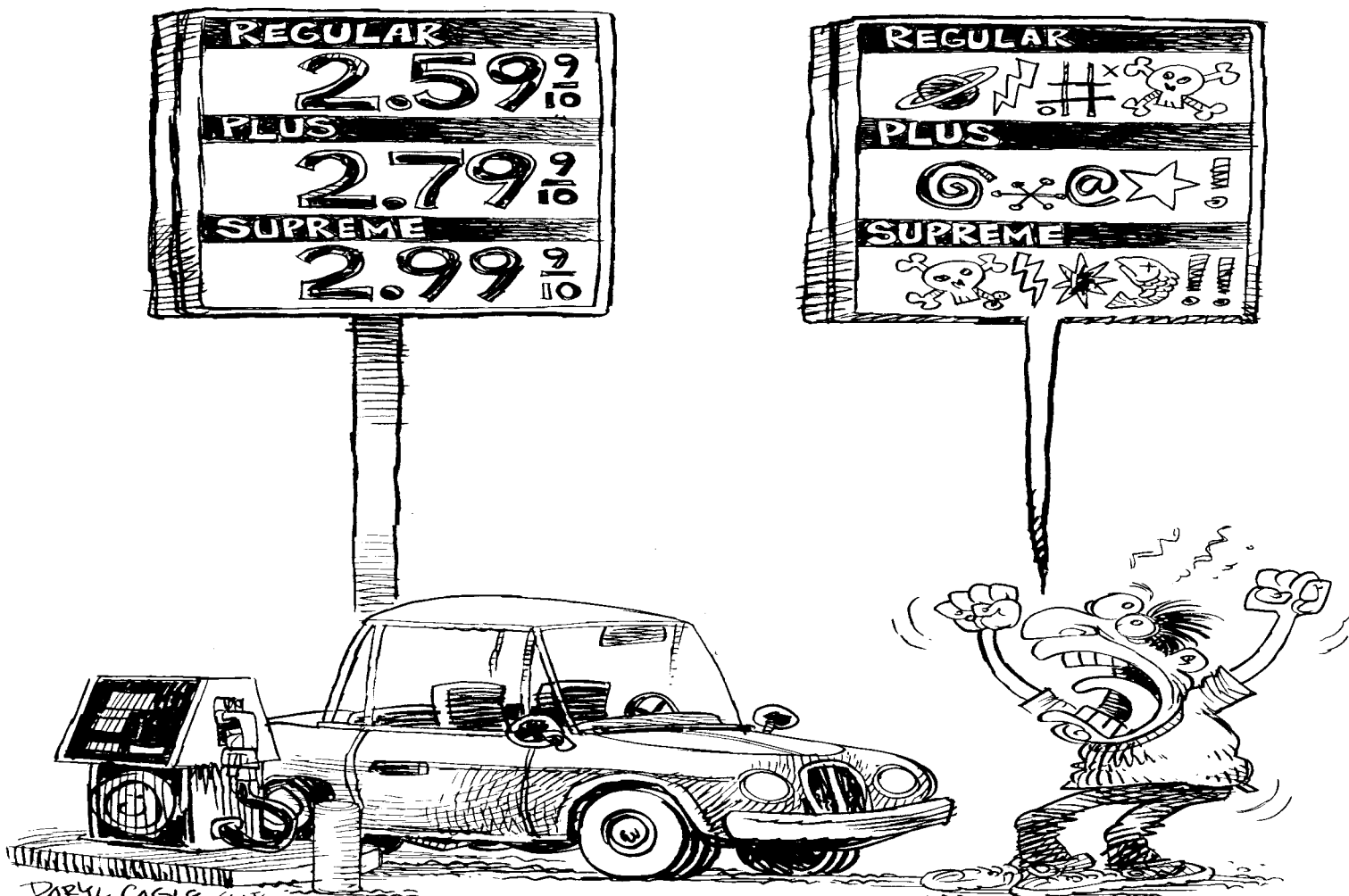
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Our society seems to be losing humility

I don't know about you, but I think that our society is losing a lot of great attributes.

One of them is true humility. Somehow we have become a nation who glorifies arrogant over-achievers, and we overlook the good, humble people who also accomplish great things.

Humble people aren't necessarily timid or shy. They just don't care who gets the credit. They are often the ones who work to right social wrongs. They don't care to be in the spotlight; they just want justice to be done.

Parker J. Palmer in his book "Let Your Life Speak" says: "Before spring becomes beautiful, it is ugly, nothing but mud and muck. I love the fact that the word humus-the decayed vegetable matter that feeds plants-comes from the same root that gives rise to the word humility. It helps me understand that the humiliating events of life, the events that leave 'mud on my face' or that 'make my name mud,' may create the fertile soil in which something new can grow."

Humility isn't the same as being humiliated.



Lorna
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• commentary

No one likes humiliation.

That is one of my great phobias: the fear of being laughed at behind my back. Of course I have no control over that — except to try and live in a way that will minimize the chances of attracting scornful laughter.

Usually we can't control the things we fear. If we could, they wouldn't be phobias. But often an incident of humiliation creates a fertile area where growth can occur.

We don't like to be out of control. However, we often have to acknowledge our lack of power before we're willing to surrender to God.

Someone has written: "On occasion we all have...down drafts in our lives, reversals in

our fortunes, humiliating experiences. We want to lift ourselves up, but God's Word...tells us to do just the opposite. God's Word tells us to dive - to humble ourselves under the hand of God. If we humble ourselves, God will send thermal wind that will lift us up."

Just when things seem to be the most hopeless is when God can work wonders. Humility is not a bad thing. Humility often involves a single-minded resolve to change something without fanfare or praise.

That is the kind of service God will honor. We don't have to do "great" things; it's often the small acts of kindness that matter.

Here is a thought on being a servant: "No one can help everybody, but everybody can help someone."

You might not get your name in the paper, but you will certainly make a friend. When you hide behind humility and refuse to get involved, here is a quick prayer to inspire you: "God, grant that the heat in my heart will melt the lead in my feet."

Arts Council reaching out for new members

To the Editor:

The Goodland Arts Council board thanks all of those who have renewed membership so far this year. The council appreciates your continued support.

The annual membership drive began in January and until now, all mailings have been sent to past members. However, the board like to reach out to residents of Goodland who have not been members.

The board has set a lofty goal for its membership this year and will be working hard to attain it. The board invites all Sherman County residents to join the council. Membership support is one of the most valuable assets as the council strives to provide unique art experiences.

Memberships received last year enabled the council to expand and extend more arts opportunities. Through community support, the Carnegie Arts Center remains open every day, free of charge to all Sherman County residents.

Since its beginnings in 1984, the center has brought workshops, artist exhibits, children's programs, theater, and music to Goodland and promotes all dimensions of art.

Last year, our Summer Art Institute for children once again flourished. More than 100 children participated in two fun-filled months of learning about famous artists, sculpture, drawing, theater and much more. Additional activities offered included four individual artists' monthly shows and three group shows, our holiday home tour, a Smithsonian Institute traveling exhibit and a duo piano performance. The Carnegie Arts Center hosted an exhibit of all local artists, as well as its elementary school show, and teamed with the 4-H Council to host the Favorite Foods exhibit.

This year, the council will strive to provide the same quality of art programming. The Arts Center is dedicated to achieve its goal of bringing an important and varied program of art events to Goodland. We are pleased to be a host



from our
readers

• to the editor

site for a traveling exhibit from the Wichita Art Museum.

As a member, you are the most important part of our success. Your support and interest helps to provide an active facility of which you can be proud. It is expensive to maintain a community arts facility; therefore, we are seeking your financial support and encourage your membership. Your contribution is important to us.

There are many levels of membership. Please consider how you can help support the arts in our community. For information on becoming a member, stop by the center at 120 W. 12th Street or call at 890-6442. Center hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, Sunday and Monday, 1 to 4 p.m.

Tina Goodwin, director
Carnegie Art Center

To the Editor:

The Terri Schiavo case should be a wake up call for our nation. According to 2003 federal statistics, there are 77,429,844 million Americans with disabilities.

People with disabilities must be seen as people first, and only after that seen as persons with disabilities. All people — the unborn, elderly, children, those with disability and those without disability — all people should have the basic needs of life protected, including food, water, safety, love, self-esteem and the right to reach their full potential.

It was my belief that our Constitution protected these basic needs of life. Maybe at one time it did, but through compromise something has changed. The basic needs of life of the most

innocent are being lost.

We began as a nation of rights protectors, and for this reason grew to greatness. Because of compromise against basic needs of human life, we have turned into a nation that allows the killing of infants. We strip them of all the basic needs of life, even life itself, and say its someone else's right . We kill those guilty of killing, and making ourselves there equal. And we then call it justice. Now we have become guilty of killing those with disabilities by stripping them of the basic needs of life.

We must all, lawyers, cooks, doctors, housewives, teachers, preachers, truck drivers, everyone with any compassion in there heart must stand against this assault on our and others' freedoms. If not, the assault will knock on your door or a loved one's door. One family in three has a relative with disabilities.

I am sure someone will say, if you don't like the direction the country is heading, why don't you just leave? My answer I have 77,429,843 million reasons to stay.

Rod Miller
Goodland

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