

Editorial

Your Wonderful Weekly!

Several times over my years here, I have been privileged to sit around the table with peers, friends and coworkers as editors, reporters and advertising agents for various publications gather for company-wide meetings and press association functions.

I am always pleased by the turnouts, as we are all individually busy with our own separate publications, making it difficult to get away sometimes, and the benefits of having so many years of journalism experience sitting at the same table is seen immediately.

I will never be able to accurately express how inspiring and energizing it is to be in a room with so much potential focused in the same direction. The forward thinking, the progressive motivation, the necessary rejuvenation that is so vital to a newspaper company like ours is awesome to feel in those moments.

As the newspaper industry shifts and changes in the new age of digital and accessibility at your fingertips, never forget the value of having a hometown newspaper with its doors still open in your community.

Although the phrase “newspapers are dying” seems to be rolling off of everyone’s lips in recent years, I am here to say that may be so for some daily publications and online social media accounts, but is not the case for your little weeklies.

Our doors are still open for business, and we are still able to sustain our small news staffs so that we may continue to serve our communities.

What’s the difference between a weekly and a daily, some ask, a newspaper is just a newspaper, right?

Wrong!
Anyone can pick up a daily newspaper and get the same state-wide news that is seen in the vast majority of those publications. Same story, pulled off the wire, just a different daily on the masthead.

That’s where your little weeklies have the advantage, and how we keep our edge in today’s digital age.

The news about the local activities and events? Written in house. The photos of little Johnny playing basketball? Taken by a local photographer covering the game.

The coverage for elections in November? Focused by your local newspaper on the LOCAL candidates and issues important to YOU, HERE in western Kansas.

Pages and pages and pages of local fair results and photographs of those participating, hand typed and photographed by your local news staff. Obituaries meticulously checked, legal notices painstakingly packaged and printed, all at the hands of a local.

But in an ever-changing industry, newspapers is not all we can do at your hometown paper. We have to be flexible, versatile and eager to gain your business!

Those statement pads you receive from your plumber? Worked up and printed by your local newspaper.

The calendars from your local pharmacy? We do that!

The big banner on the front of your bank? Comes from our office.

The desktop calendars and planners that businesses use throughout the community? Printed by the one and only, your local newspaper.

I could keep going, the list is endless. Envelopes and notepads and raffle tickets and posters...all the way down to the invites you got in the mail for Granny’s 90th birthday party.

You need it, we print it! You need it distributed, we can mail it! You need it covered, we’re there, camera on our neck and notepad in hand.

All to provide a necessary service to the community. To continue to support our local way of life, to grow our communities.

That’s the difference that a little weekly newspaper makes that no other service provider can touch. We give you our efforts, our hours, our paper, our time...we give our communities our hearts.

We give our readers their lives, in black and white, every week, without fail. And we do so gladly, openly and with every bit of effort we can muster, to make sure our communities are informed. To make sure they continue to survive.

Now that’s hometown service at its finest!

Nickole Byers

Just Thinking By El Dean Holthus

The views expressed here are solely those of the author.

Are any Democrat candidates being truthful in their campaign statements and advertising when they state half-truths such as “I will lower property taxes”, while in the state legislature she VOTED AGAINST capping property taxes. How about a senatorial candidate who stands in a pasture and says, “I live in the middle of the nation and am middle of the road on politics”. He lives in Johnson County, the richest county, leads the LARGEST Methodist congregation in the United States and publicly advocated for or implied support for ALL THE POLICIES OF THE DEMOCRAT PARTY . I am a Republican who accepts the decisions of the POTUS, Democrats in Kansas and other Midwest states try to HIDE from the planks of their national party to get elected AND THEN SUPPORT THEM. Kansas has a Democrat In the House of Representatives who HAS VOTED WITH THE DEMOCRAT BLOC EVERY TIME.

I repeat this today and will probably repeat it several more times before the November elections, the 2026 and 2028 elections are the most important in the 250 years of our great nation because IF SOCIALIST DEMOCRATS WIN THESE TWO ELECTIONS OUR CONSTITUTIONAL REPUBLIC WILL BECOME A SOCIALIST CESSPOOL.

If you are a loyal, patriotic Democrat, a Trump hater or a RINO directly or indirectly supporting the Democratic Socialists of America (DSA) here is what you support; 1.Capitalism is evil by exploiting the working class private ownership must be replaced by GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP. 2. Our government must be changed to a LEFT LEANING DEMOCRACY.3. All restrictions on voting must be REMOVED. 4. THERE MUST BE FREE UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE WITH ONE PAYOR (government). 5. There must be FREE public education, PRE-K THROUGH COLLEGE and CANCEL ALL EXISTING STUDENT DEBT. 6. The minimum wage must be raised and a 32-HOUR WORK WEEK secured WITH FULL PAY. 6. Stop climate change. 7. More public housing must be created funded with WEALTH taxes on rich individuals and corporations.8. Law enforcement expenditures must be reduced.

The DSA is NOT a political party; it is a PAC that from all indications controls the Democrat party and MSM as evidenced by recent primary elections. They may also own some RINOs as evidenced by some recent Senate votes.

I am convinced the DSA has infiltrated our education system evidenced by actions in universities and the “dumbing down” our education scoring and teaching sexual subjects inappropriate to children along with SOCIALISM and failing to teach about FREE ENTERPRISE. This deterioration, declining test core, seems to have begun with the creation of the US Department of Education and growth in Teacher Unions who tend to lean toward support of Socialist Democrat political candidates to the extent teachers are campaigning for or against candidates in the classroom.

A profound FAILURE in reading skills has presented itself in our schools in the past ten years, I provided by KANSAS numbers last week, WE ARE NOT

ALONE, NATIONALLY ONLY 1/3 OF 12TH GRADERS REACH PROFICIENT READING LEVELS, NEARLY HALF REACH BELOW PROFICIENCY LEVELS. The bureaucracy has created a term to blame the parents, “generational learning recession”. Refusing to make the effort to teach children to read is a subliminal way of preparing them for Socialist orientation. If one can only read at a minimal level they are receptive to words such as, “free, equal, entitled” and have no knowledge to challenge such teaching.

A personal paragraph. Results of the reading scores makes me heartsick, I guess it is because I have no knowledge of never being able to read, I was told I could read the county paper before I went to the first grade. If that is true then I was taught to read by my paternal grandfather who was a German immigrant who HAD TO LEARN TO READ ENGLISH TO PASS THE CITIZENSHIP TEST. I have benefited from this start given by a man who had to learn to read English as an adult making sure I learned it at a young age.

I close with 2 charges: IF YOU ARE A PARENT OR GRANDPARENT WITH A CHILD IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, SIT DOWN TONIGHT AND HAVE THEM READ TO YOU. UNINFORMED IS UNRESPONSIVE.

IF YOU A PATRIOTIC DEMOCRAT OR A REPUBLICAN MAKE SURE YOU ARE REGISTERED TO VOTE ALONG WITH ALL YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS. WE ARE PRIVILEGED TO LIVE IN A NATION THAT IS 250 YEARS OLD, WE MUST SAVE IT.

From the Blue Side

By Kelli Schmidt & Lori Bortz

The views expressed here are solely those of the authors.

Good morning readers! The air's finally taken on that cooler, “don’t-tell-anyone-but-fall-is-coming” vibe, school buses are humming again, and these Two Dem Girls are shaking off the summer dust and stepping straight into campaign season. Yard signs are sprouting like sunflowers, our coffee’s running on determination, and we’re heading into the midterms with ambition in our plans and faith in our hearts. Buckle up—autumn may be crisp, but we’re bringing the heat.

The Smith County Democrats met on Monday, August 17th for their regular monthly meeting at Pooches Bar and Grill in the Vineyard Room. Election of officers was the main order of business and a review of Adam Hamilton’s visit to Smith Center was discussed with excitement that we have lots of great Dems running for several key positions this year! The Smith County Democrats will not be having a monthly meeting in September. A few of the members will be heading to the Kansas State Fair to work in the Kansas Democrats Booth and helping to register new voters! We will also be helping with canvassing in the month of September. Our next meeting will be Monday, October 19th.

Proposed Beef Import Plan Raises Concerns Among Kansas Cattle Producers: Kansas cattle producers are expressing concern over a proposal discussed by President Donald Trump that would temporarily increase imports of lower-priced foreign beef in an effort to reduce grocery costs. The plan, as described publicly, would allow a large volume of imported ground beef into the United States for a 90-day period, potentially

sold at prices below current domestic levels.

Kansas is the third-largest cattle-producing state in the nation, and many local ranchers say the move could come at a difficult time. After several years of drought, high feed costs, and shrinking herd sizes, producers have only recently begun to see stronger cattle prices. Farm groups warn that a sudden influx of cheaper imported beef could push those prices down again.

Lower prices would not only affect ranchers but also the rural businesses connected to the livestock economy, including feed suppliers, veterinarians, equipment dealers, and small-town banks.

National organizations such as the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association and the American Farm Bureau Federation have issued statements opposing the proposal, saying it could undermine herd rebuilding efforts and create long-term challenges for domestic producers. They also note that beef processing plants in southwest Kansas are already operating with reduced cattle numbers, and additional pressure from imports could make conditions more difficult.

Producers in north-central Kansas say they understand the desire to lower food costs for families but worry that short-term price relief at the grocery store could lead to long-term harm for rural communities. Many emphasize that cattle production remains a cornerstone of the local economy, and any disruption in the market is felt far beyond the ranch gate.

As discussions continue in Washington, Kansas ranchers and agricultural leaders say they will be watching closely and urging policymakers to consider the potential impact

on the state’s livestock industry and the rural towns that depend on it.

With just 71 days until the 2026 Midterm elections Kansas Democrats are showing up in rural communities and running in very key seats across the state including Congress, Senate, Insurance Commissioner, Attorney General, Secretary of State and Kansas State Board of Education. Check into these races and do your research to see who has your best interest in mind. Democrats are turning more GOP Senate strongholds into midterm battlegrounds. Kansas will be one to watch with Pastor Adam Hamilton who is running for U.S. Senate and making Senator Roger Marshall’s (R) re-election less certain. While Kansas has not elected a Democrat to the Senate in nearly a century, the current Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly is proof the party can win statewide. When you head to the polls, think about the fact that the U.S. economy faces heavy pressure as national debt hits \$40 trillion, trade talks with Canada break down, and new global sanctions target Iran which is creating a massive pain point for consumer wallets. Federal tariff actions have severely raised consumer costs across the Midwest with estimated yearly costs coming in at \$2,000 to \$3,200 per family in the last year. With prices in fuel, food, clothing and several other everyday household goods. The ag industry has taken a hit as well with the cost of fertilizer, fuel and parts for equipment continuing to rise and lower commodity prices. It is time to vote for your best interest and who will work the hardest for you in Washington! We need better representation than what we currently have.

Political Happening By Larry Lambert

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A fast food delivery, South Korea style.

Dallas Fort Worth International airport has scrapped plans for a foot-washing station for Muslims.

When President Obama said "we will fundamentally transform America" he meant transform to communism/socialism. This is the root of the widespread socialist movement we are seeing in today's Democratic Party. The main stream media lacks any diversity in their reporting. Wow to those who call evil good and good evil.

In 1966 there was 20 Mosques in the U.S. and today 2026 there are 3,150.

Karoline Leavitt, THANK YOU for your service to our country.

To South Korea leadership the real message from President Trump is to shape up and stop being so friendly to the Chinese communists. We have

leverage in the form of 40,000 troops in South Korea.

North Korea, which I got to step into in a DMZ tour when Laurie was teaching school in South Korea is the most heavily sanctioned country in the world. Those North Korean soldiers are so brainwashed. That is sad. About as biased as ABC News is against the Trump Administration and conservatives.

There has been a spill over now to fake polls. Some are just cooking up numbers trying to influence the elections.

Our Judiciary system is pretty far left. There have been 333 liberal left of center Judge decisions against the Trump Administration. We have no Democrats who vote for anything that promotes election integrity.

There is so much attack on the truth.

The nations mental health crisis has escalated to dangerous levels especially for some young women. Faith leaders are calling for the Church to step up. They need more hope not more medicine.

Our country has now passed the \$40 trillion in debt now. 5 months ago it was \$39 trillion. The biggest expense is interest.

Both our June and July credit card statements have had charges on them that are not ours. Mostly scams charges from Asia. It's been a hassle to keep up with this and get charges corrected and stopped.

The AP pre season college football rankings are out. #10 Oklahoma, #9 Old Miss, #8 Texas A&M, #7 Miami, #6 Indiana, #5 Texas #4 Notre Dame, #3 Georgia. #2 Oregon and #1 Ohio State.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

It is refreshing to now see a political column in the Pioneer that offers up dialogue, relevant information,

concerns and viewpoints that reflect something beyond just the typical and consistent Republican talk tracks of the area local to

Smith Center.

Respectfully,
Randy Schuessler

Pickem’ Forms due to our office on Fridays by 3pm