

Commentary

Telescope Pushes For "Merle Miller" Name Added To US 81

I owe a lot to Merle Miller. Everything actually.

The longtime former owner/publisher of **The Belleville Telescope** instilled many things in me including the love of Belleville, Republic County and North Central Kansas. Merle never gave anything. He believed you earned what you have.

It was through his mentoring and tough love that I learned about life, how you treat others, honor, integrity and the importance of community journalism.

"Fred, if you can go to bed with a clear conscience at night, you know you did the best you could," he told me time and again.

He gave everything he had for the Telescope. It's now time _____
for the Telescope to give back to him.

Merle worked tirelessly for improved transportation routes. His lifelong project was seeing that US 81 became a four-lane highway from South America to Canada. The Pan American Highway.

Though he never lived to see his dream completed. We all are seeing the benefits of his work. Increased traffic counts through Bel-

leville, economic industrial growth and a population increase, to name a few. Merle never asked for any accolades, but we're going to see to it that he gets the recognition that is long overdue.

The Telescope is spearheading an effort to have a portion of US Highway 81, through Belleville, re-named in his honor. It is the least we can do for a man who gave everything to our community, for a career that lasted well into its sixth decade.

The Telescope is currently working with State Senator Elaine Bowers to make this happen. Bowers, who was director of the Concordia Chamber of Commerce back in the day, knew and worked with Mer-

le. She is on board. Her support in the senate will be key in getting this done.

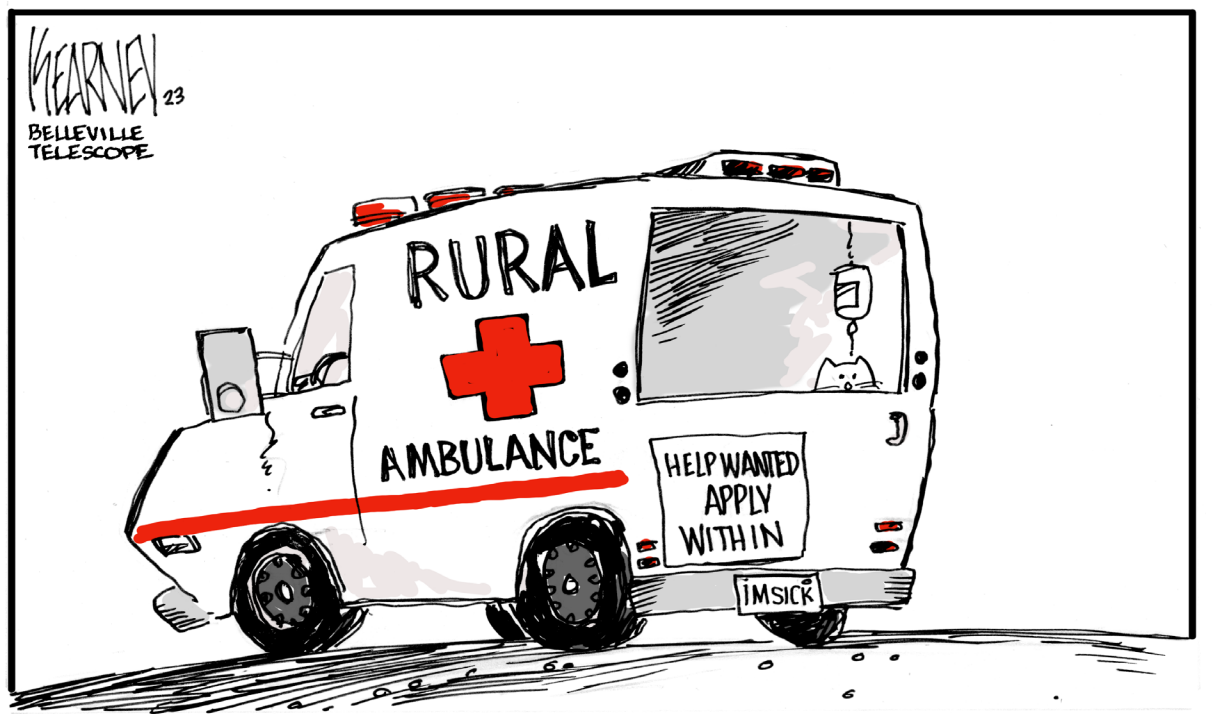
As our community gets ready to celebrate a new permanent exhibit honoring AQ Miller, tireless promoter of US Highway 36 (Merle's father) at The Republic County Historical Society Museum, I can think of no better accolade than to honor both the father and son.

It's the very least this community can do.



Fred Arnold
Publisher

"It is the least we can do for a man who gave everything to our community, for a career that lasted well into its sixth decade."



The Write Stuff / The View From Our Homes On The Range

Type the words "nuisance properties" into Google, and you will get 36.4 million results in .4 seconds.

It's a problem everywhere that people try to attack from multiple sides.

Republic County is part of a Demolition Pilot program through North Central Regional Planning which offers reimbursement grants of up to \$5,000 per property for removal and cleanup of dilapidated residential structures.

On a smaller scale, some churches and the ecumenical organizations Faith Works have tried to lend a hand to property owners who are unable to make basic repairs or do cleanup because of age or disability.

And city councils everywhere, God bless, have made endless good faith attempts to work with property owners before they take legal action. Unfortunately, there are properties in the county that might have been historic showplaces—or at least good, basic, safe housing for individuals or couples—had the decline of structures not spiraled into the abyss.

A man's home may be his castle—or it may also be a public health hazard.

At a presentation at the Republic County Historical Museum Sunday, travel writer Roxie Yonkey led a couple of rousing verses of

"Home on the Range", the state song celebrating its 150th anniversary this year.

Our long-time friend and well-known area basketball coach Eugene Johnson had asked that tune be sung at his funeral. Many of us have great memories of



Deb
Hadachek

Gene that make us smile, but that moment with his friends singing "Home on the Range" with gusto in the prairie in the cemetery at Superior NE is one of my favorites.

According to Yonkey, Brewster Higley wrote the poem "My Western Home" at his cabin in Smith County, stuck it in a book, and forgot about it. As Higley, who was a frontier doctor, treated a patient one day, the patient's friend opened the book and the poem fell out. Eventually the words were set to music.

It wasn't until Franklin Delano Roosevelt declared it his favorite song while campaigning for president in the 1930s that "Home on the Range" gained national popularity.

It became the Kansas state song in 1947.

There's more verses to the song than just the well-known first verse, including:

How often at night, when the heavens are bright, By the light of the glittering stars, Have I stood there amazed and asked as I gazed, If their beauty exceeds this of ours.

An annular or "ring of fire" solar eclipse will be partially visible midday over Kansas on October 14. About 60 percent of the sun will be covered here.

While it won't be as "totality awesome" as the solar eclipse across this region in August 2017, it still should be fun.

The total eclipse six years ago was the first of its kind in the area in 99 years. The last time a total solar eclipse was visible in Kansas was 1918; the next total eclipse to be visible in Kansas will occur on Aug. 12, 2045.

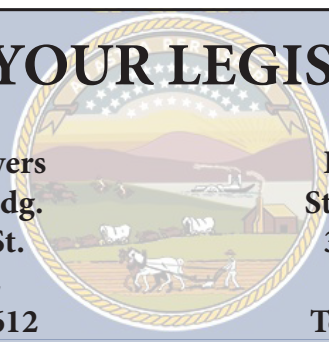
This will be the last annular eclipse visible from the continental U.S. until June 21, 2039, according to NASA.

My favorite memory of the 2017 eclipse was standing on the viaduct on US36 to watch two lanes of bumper-to-bumper traffic race north on US81 to the optimum viewing sites in Nebraska, and then race back south later in the day.

We're just babies when it comes to our place in world history. But as Dr. Higley knew, our homes on the range are still a great place to stand amazed as upward we gaze.

KNOW YOUR LEGISLATORS

Sen. Elaine Bowers
State Capital Bldg.
300 SW 10th St.
Room 223-E
Topeka, KS 66612
785-296-7389



Rep. Lisa Moser
State Capital Bldg.
300 SW 10th St.
Room 268-W
Topeka, KS 66612
785-296-7637

KANSAS

Things I Think.....I Think/Fall, Not Fall, Maybe Fall

When is Fall not Fall? Last week a friend told me Kansas is one of the only places they knew of where you could run the furnace and the air conditioner, both on the same day. That's true. Last Friday I wore jeans and a jacket to a cool, drizzly Republic County High School football game. By the end of the night sweat was in places where there shouldn't be sweat. Kansas.

There's no disputing the fact that the weather has been great, and if we can believe those weather folks, it will be for at least another two weeks. My sister told me every warm Fall-like day we

have is another day closer to Spring.

Her loathing of winter ranks right up there with mine.

Super out of touch Washington.

Democrats are lining up to "stand with our brothers' AWU strike," as the seek, among other things, a 40% hike in wages and a four-day (paid for five) work week. Here's what people don't seem to get: if workers' wages go up 40%, the price of a new vehicle, used vehicle and everything else we use each day, will also go up 40%.

Paychecks will go up, but

the net buying power will not follow suit. Any elected leader who is supporting this kind of a measure likely has never had to make a payroll or decide if the bank payment can wait another day if the utilities are paid first.

Viewpoint

Fred Arnold
Publisher

Like I said - out of touch.

The headline news story both Sunday night and

Monday was Taylor Swift is seen wearing a Travis Kelsey jersey at the Kansas City Chiefs football game versus the Bears.

Being a news guy, at first this irritated me. Come on, is there no more important story anywhere in the United States than what Taylor Swift may or may not be doing? But then I gave it a little more thought. I am tired of hearing about shootings, illegals crossing the border, wildfires and all other segments reporting doom and gloom.

Maybe a little distraction from reality is a nice change of pace. I never did see her do "The Tomahawk Chop"...

not that I was looking.

You would think that with more than 100 years in automotive advancements, that the engineers in Detroit (or wherever they work) could design a functional way to take an oil filter off of an engine that doesn't involve motor oil running down my arm and into my eyes.

For what it's worth, Dawn dishwashing liquid does more than clean oil off of baby ducks. It also cleans oil off of eyeglasses. I suppose it does the dishes too.

Staff Directory

Fred A. Arnold Jr, Publisher
farnold.mcbattas@gmail.com

Chris Zach, Creative Director
bellevilletelescope@gmail.com

Tim Talkington, Sports Writer

Deb Hadachek, Contributing Writer
dhadachek@gmail.com

Lizz Skocny, Staff Photographer

Freddie Arnold, Co-Publisher
arnoldfj@gmail.com

Sarah Cox, Receptionist
telescope.sarah@gmail.com

Lori Arnold, Bookkeeping/ Circulation Manager
telescopebookkeeping@gmail.com

Susan Bartels, Advertising Manager
susanism2@yahoo.com

Katy Duryea, Staff Writer
telescope.katy@gmail.com

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION
Single copy price: \$1.75
Subscription Rates:
\$62 per year plus local tax rate in Republic and adjoining counties, Other Kansas Counties \$65
Outside of Kansas \$69
Online Only Edition \$35
telescope.sarah@gmail.com

785-527-2244

Send News Submissions to:
farnold.mcbattas@gmail.com

The Belleville
Telescope

The McBattas Group

Published on Thursdays
(USPS 049-160)

Periodicals Postage Paid at Belleville, KS 66935
Postmaster; Send address change to:
The Belleville Telescope, 1805 N, Belleville, KS 66935

ADVERTISERS: The newspaper, its owners and employees shall not be liable for damages caused by typographical errors in advertisements beyond the amount paid for space actually occupied by that portion of the advertisement in which the error occurred. Advertisers must notify sales representatives of adjustment request within 7 days of first ad run date. Adjustment will be made in the form of credit. Credit will be given at the current open inch rate with a 1" minimum. No price adjustment or credit will be given on proofed ads.