

commentary

from other pens...

Lawmakers pressured by Graves' new plan

The Topeka Capital-Journal on Graves' education proposal:
Gov. Bill Graves is running out of gauntlets to throw down. And the Legislature is running out of time to pick them up.
The governor has made it exceedingly clear since January that Kansas must do more to invest in education — i.e., raise taxes.
He left it to the Legislature to decide how. And it hasn't. So, with time winding down in the 90-day legislative session that began in early January, the governor last week spelled it out...
The needs are nearly endless. Here's just one: Teachers' salaries must be raised...
That's just to maintain quality. To improve it, all-day kindergarten is a must. Every study, every expert, says kids need more preparation for early-grade learning.
Then there is the belated funding of special education...
Education is the state's highest and most vital mission. And it's being neglected.
If legislators let another year go by and don't seize on the opportunity to help, then the state's children will lose out on a full year's worth of the type of educational opportunities they deserve.
And what happens then? Will the Legislature be any more inclined to raise taxes next year, in an election year?
The need is here. The time is now.
If lawmakers don't like the governor's mix of taxes, then fine — propose something else.
But don't walk away with the job undone, lawmakers.
If you do, the public's only alternatives at grade time for the Legislature will be an incomplete or an F.

The Garden City Telegram on area growth:
More evidence of an increasing need to funnel state projects for infrastructure development emerged...with the release of 2000 Census data.
As suspected, migration over the past 10 years resulted in significant shift in population toward metropolitan counties — Douglas (up 22.2 percent) and Johnson (up 27.1 percent), the highest shift in all of Kansas.
Sandwiched in between and second on the list, to no one's surprise around Garden City, was Finney County, which grew by 22.5 percent.
According to Census figures, there were 33,070 people living in the county in 1990. By 2000, that number swelled to 40,523. More significant, however, is the growth experienced by the meatpacking triangle, which includes Seward County to the south and Ford County to the east...
Such growth is directly tied to the development and expansion of the meatpacking industry in the region in the past decade.
The numbers demonstrate a need for state agencies to direct dollars for programs in the area, especially highway development. Combined, the three counties make up about the same population as Douglas County, and, though covering a much larger geographical area, have arguably similar needs. The Census data confirms what we already knew. This is the growth corridor.
Lawmakers who call any one of the three counties home would do themselves well to build an alliance that could bolster efforts to direct state infrastructure projects this direction.

Letter Policy

The Goodland Daily News encourages and welcomes letters from readers. Letters should be typewritten if possible, and should include a telephone number and, most importantly, a signature. Unsigned letters will not be published. Form letters will be rejected, as will letters deemed to be of no public interest or considered offensive. We reserve the right to edit letters for length and good taste.

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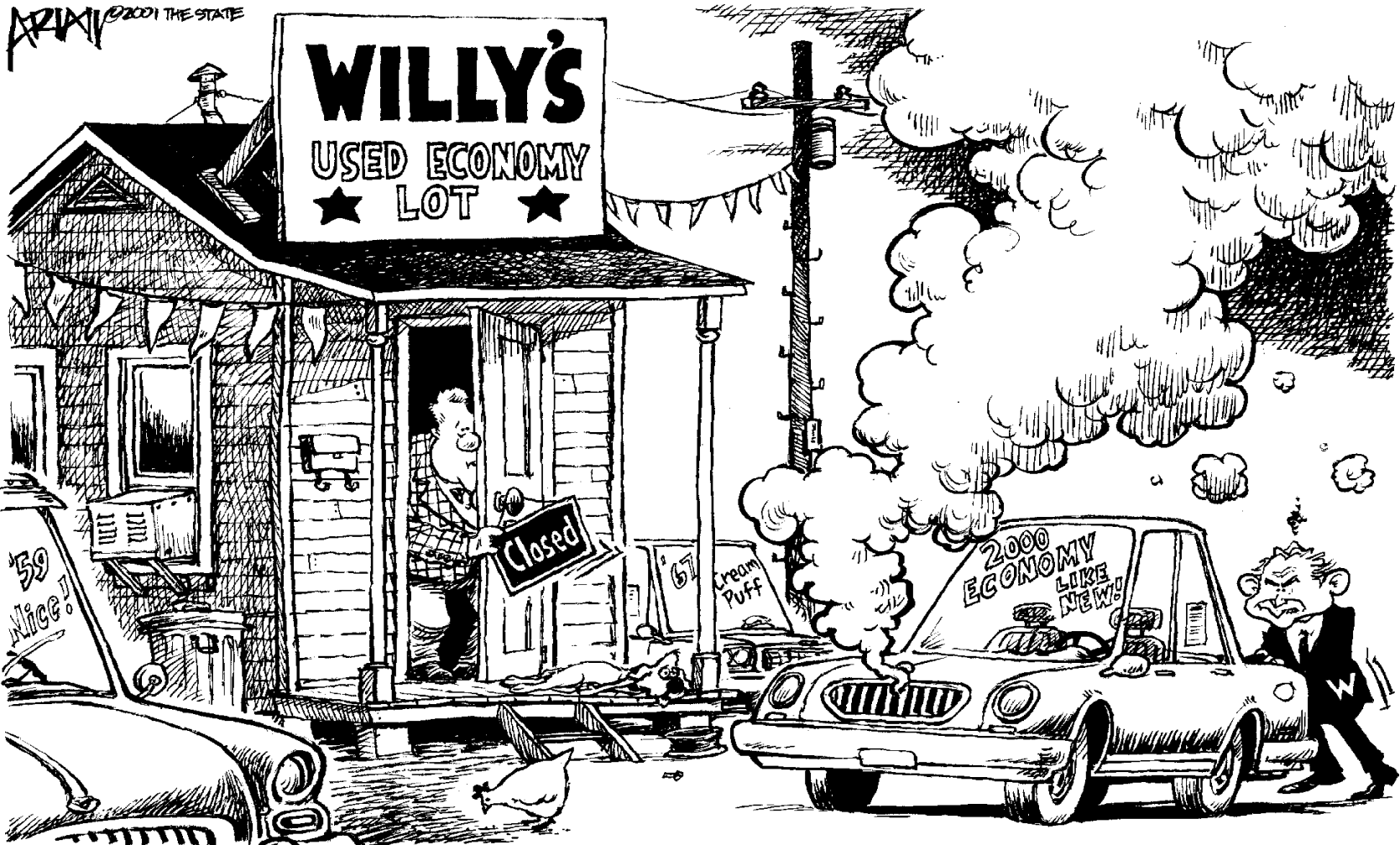
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Fancy guys fear higher food prices more than cancer

When was the last time you saw a bear? Sure hope never, they are as mean as the free food pentagon ((big five food processors, IBP ConAgra and Excel (Cargill subsidiary) in meat processing and Cargill and Archer Daniels Midland in grains.)
Right now both tribes in that pioneer village along the Potomac are scalping each other over whether unions can use money in elections without the member's consent. Well, if you want to work you better pay your union dues, and if you want to stay out of the big house you better pay your mandatory livestock checkoff taxes.
These guys would create lifetime sanctuaries for chimpanzees. The Department of Agriculture has brought suits against ranchers who refused to contribute their dues to their processor slush fund. They use the checkoff money to lobby against the interests of independent ranchers and hog farmers, but want them to pay the bill. The way they use producer taxes would make the house banking scandal look like money to a soup kitchen.
All of this has come to the forefront since the new



wayne gattshall

- wayne's world

tribal Chiefette at the Department of Agriculture set aside the results of the hog checkoff vote.
Mandatory checkoffs is government sanctioned taxation without representation. They share no mutual ethical bias to receive Market Promotion checkoff assessments from the smallest producer groups to money from taxpayers. Further, it is more like the Asian family-owned crony corporations than we think.
The meat processor, IBP (Iowa Beef Processors) was a creation of the 60s, when guns for the Vietnam war and butter for the war on poverty was at stake.
It was about that time the late C.J. Holman, chair-

Tips for buying a used car



carla j. stovall

- consumer corner

tutions or on the Internet. Once you have decided on the general type of vehicle you are looking for, start shopping for reliable dealers. Ask family and friends or call my Consumer Protection division to see if there are any complaints logged against a specific dealer. You also may consider calling your local Better Business Bureau.
Second, carefully inspect the vehicle for any signs of previous damage. Test drive the vehicle directly to a mechanic you trust to have it mechanically inspected. The mechanic may charge you a fee, but that fee is small compared to the cost of an undetected mechanical problem down the road. Ask the dealer to run a title history on the vehicle. This will ensure that the car has never had a "branded" title such as salvaged, rebuilt, flooded, non-highway, odometer discrepancy or any of the numerous brands that indicate that the car has been seriously damaged or altered. You also can use the title information to find the previous owners and ask them about the condition of the vehicle, any repairs that were made or needed to be made, and if they ever wrecked the vehicle.
At the negotiating table, you likely will be offered a service contract, often called an extended warranty, for an additional charge. These contracts are optional. If you are interested in purchasing one, look at the items it covers, the length of the contract (often stated in years and mileage, which-

man of IBP, Inc., was convicted of conspiring with the underworld crime boss Moe Steinman. Then boxed beef was a new marketing concept and IBP saw the world's largest meat market was the New York City metropolitan area.
Therefore IBP needed (Moe Steinman, his family and friends) to bribe the company's way into the New York beef market, and like an Asian crony government, they used kick-backs to both union officials and supermarket executives.
On the other side, mandatory checkoffs is a Quasi-government extortion scheme that is used on farmers. In the last year there has been two food scares. First it was the mad cow disease in the United Kingdom and now the foot and mouth virus has spread across the European Union and South America. So, just as sure as there are farm subsidies in China, these fancy guys who fear higher food prices more than cancer—will say higher food prices would be a big tax increase on the people? Yal, sir, yal, sir!
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ever comes first) and when the contract goes into effect. If the used car still has a portion of the manufacturer's warranty remaining and the service contract runs along with it, you may want to decide whether this double coverage is worth the extra money. Also, be aware that all automobile dealers in Kansas must provide a warranty for every car they sell. This must be stated on the buyer's guide.
As for financing, you can have the dealer find you financing, or you can apply for a loan yourself through a bank or credit union. While it is convenient to "one stop shop" at a dealership for a car and financing, it also reveals your credit history and ability to pay to the dealer, which may give the dealer the upper hand during the negotiating process.
Make sure you understand all the documents involved in the purchase of an automobile before you sign them. Make sure you get any statements you are relying on in writing. Hopefully, with these precautions, you will come away with a purchase that will serve your needs well and be a wise investment of your hard-earned money.
Attorney General Carla J. Stovall offers this public service to help you avoid becoming a victim of consumer fraud. Although some of the details have been changed, the cases appearing in this column are based on actual complaints. For further information or to file a complaint, please write Attorney General Carla J. Stovall, Consumer Protection Division, 120 SW 10th, 2nd Floor, Topeka, Kansas 66612, or call the toll-free Consumer Hotline, 1-800-432-2310. Leave your name, number and subject of your inquiry with the receptionist and an agent will return your call promptly.

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