commentary

from other pens...

A timely tip prevents tragedy, saves lives

The Topeka Capital-Journal on reporting crime:

In the wake of recent school shootings and threats, the nation is trying to change the way children look at turning in each other.

We adults could stand to learn the same lesson.

Long viewed as dishonorable "tattling," the practice of reporting crimes and potential crimes in schools is earning new respect. And thank God for that. A timely tip from someone in the know can prevent tragedy and save lives ...

Well, speaking up doesn't just work at school; it works in the community at large, too.

We know that intrinsically. And we certainly have seen the principle at work with such shows as "America's Most Wanted." But here's yet more evidence of the benefits of speaking up: The Kansas Bureau of Investigation's 8-year-old "Kansas' Most Wanted" program has led to the arrests of an impressive 1,000 fugitives from justice.

The arrests have led to the solving of 3,332 total cases...

Law enforcement agencies, after all, cannot be expected to solve every case by themselves. We'd be foolish to sit back and hope for it. Rather, citizens have got to be the eyes and ears of law enforcement...

Wherever we got the notion that it's someone else's job to protect us - or that it's honorable to hide crimes and criminals, thus giving aid and comfort to the enemy — we've got to jettison such feelings.

If our kids can learn it, so can we.

And the KBI has proved that it works.

The Iola Register on Graves' education proposal:

Too bad every Kansan can't witness in person Bill Graves' passion for education.

The governor was at the Register Thursday morning to make his case for a \$167 million state aid to education proposal. He wants to pay for the proposal with a two-tenths of a percent increase in the sales tax and an additional two-cent tax on motor fuels.

Graves isn't locked to those funding mechanisms and would be eager to negotiate with legislators on whatever means they would accept to raise the money.

Graves is convinced that increasing state aid by no less than \$167 million...is essential to keep Kansas schools competitive with others across the nation ...

The message from Graves is that Kansas hasn't been funding education nearly enough in recent years...

Graves' aid proposal would put \$110 million into general fund coffers across the state, which could translate to salaries, but there are other needs, some on task and some not of the school districts' making...

Teachers need a conducive environment to learning to bring reading, writing and arithmetic to life ...

Arbitrarily throwing money at education — an exercise that hasn't been done in Kansas in recent memory, regardless of what cynics say - doesn't necessarily make it better. But failing to provide adequate funding most certainly impedes the process and discourages the best and brightest from returning to the classroom to impart wisdom and knowledge.

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. We encourage letters, with phone numbers, by e-mail to: <daily@nwkansas.com>.



Studying the Mad DOW disease

Listening to the cry babies you would think the statue of liberty Alan Greenspan had defected to Communist China. Greenspan is still here but some say as much as \$4.6 trillion in the stock market is not. Since the recent Wall Street bear market...Pfff it went that-a-way, its gone. Can't find where it went, either.

Well farmers sure know how those guys feel. Beginning in 1975 a series of grain embargoes ripped \$2.50 a bushel out of the price of wheat. What did the fancy guys say then? They said bad news for rich farmer good news for consumers. Low farm prices is better than a tax cut, don't you know. So it's true government does influence farm prices. For twenty years the US stock market was everyone's money tree, especially for New York City hedge funds. You know what a hedge fund is? Maybe, but it's like farmers playing the futures market on the Chicago Board of Trade.

Now everyone knows what the futures market is, but what may not be known is these hedge funds trade four or five trillion dollars every day, on the International Monetary Market (IMM). Ever hear of crazy speculators? If there is such a thing these guys are, and rebel currency traders who carry no national flag overthrew the World's Central Banks.

It also was why the U.S. stock market got hot-

wayne gattshall • waynne's world

that flowed like quick silver into the Asian crony corporations now sought anything American including the all mighty US stock market.

Now that was great for the computer geeks but it was worse than a dose of poison ivy for farm exports. It was good for the (Donald Duck) imports from China, too.

But there was a little problem when the computer trading hedge funds got caught betting the wrong way with the other guy's money they faced bankruptcy.

they say it was free trade? No, quicker than a out an export license they want a change in monpolitician's lawyer the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, redefined the words of moral hazard. It was called the new paradigm of American capitalism and it should not be confused with the old governors told Fed Chairman Paul Volcker you are paradigm of you take care of yourself. That was killing us with 20 percent interest? In the cellar the old economy and it was as ancient as five dol- eating sauerkraut? ter than a two dollar pistol. The hedge fund money lar wheat and twenty thousand dollar greenline

tractors.

In this new economy all Joe six pack had to do was to take a second on his home and buy Yahoo! or Microsoft. It was better than farmers waiting for \$5.00 wheat. All they had to do was wait a little while and they got more money.

But it was so false to say look at the stock market isn't the economy great? The health of the Dow is only one part of the U.S. economy. However this bear stock market is not bean bags and it isn't a joke. Some real people did get hurt. For the first time since the great depression U.S. household wealth saw its net worth decline.

No one held a gun on the head of these hedge funds who trade derivatives on the Chicago Board of trade they knew what the rules were but quicker than a turpentine cat they still get on the Internet they will day trade the Dow like a farmer would soybeans on the Chicago Board of Trade. So just Now what do you suppose happened next, did as sure as a farmer would need a pardon to sell withetary policy and have Uncle Alan to cut interest rates. Cut interest rates you say? That's funny where were they when a delegation of farm state

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i<u>x</u>ks.com State sponsored lottery only legal one in Kansas

Dear Attorney General Stovall:

I received a phone call yesterday from a person claiming to represent a lottery in a foreign country. The person stated that I had won \$250,000. All I needed to do was pay \$10,000 to cover the taxes. I could either get a cashier's check or I could give the person my credit card or bank account number.



tact my Consumer Protection division to report the

The solicitations may seem urgent. Be wary of any type of offer that pushes you to make a quick decision. This is a common tactic among scam art ists, in that it does not allow you time to research the offer. If you are pressured to make a hasty decision, decline the offer. Remember, the Kansas Lottery is the only lottery that you may legally play in Kansas. Solicitations to play other lotteries are almost always scams. If you have received solicitations to play foreign lotteries, please contact my Consumer Protection division at 1-800-432-2310. 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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I requested that the lottery take the taxes out of my winnings, but the person made some excuse about it being against the regulations. Attorney General Stovall, I felt this was a scam to take my money and hung up the phone. Could you let others know that this type of scam is operating? Dear Kansas Consumers:

To protect yourself from this type of scam, remember that the only legal lottery in Kansas is the state-sponsored Kansas Lottery. It is illegal to buy or sell tickets to lotteries in other states or countries and offers to do so are almost always scams. If you send your money, you will probably never see it or any tickets.

These scams can take on several variations. You may receive notice of the lottery by phone, mail or the Internet. Often, you are told that you have already won, even though you have never heard

of the lottery, let alone played it. Then, you will be asked to pay a large sum of money to collect your prize.

Remember, if you have to pay, you did not win. You also may be asked to purchase a large number of tickets for a large sum of money. You usually are told the odds of winning are favorable to you. More likely than not, you will not see any tickets or any winnings, yet your money will be gone.

If you receive such solicitations, protect yourself by not responding. If you receive a phone call, do not give the scam artist any of your personal information, such as credit card or bank account numbers.

Request that the lottery place you on its "Do Not Call" list and tell the representative that you will report the lottery to authorities. End the phone call as quickly as you can. You may feel free to con-

Combining offices saves money berry's world

To the Editor:

Kansas is one of the few states in our nation where all of the U.S. Department of Agriculture state offices are not located together. Nationwide, most state offices are in the same building because it saves money. Office personnel and equipment are shared and these offices are more efficient. The taxpayer saves money.

Unfortunately, Congressman Jerry Moran wants to stop the collocation of state offices in Kansas. He wants to stop this positive action for his own political benefit.

Moran wants to run for governor and he cannot afford to offend Salina, Manhattan, or Topeka by working to collocate all three of the U.S.D.A. state offices into one of these cities. It appears that he has convinced top Bush administration officials to stop any such move "for the foreseeable future" (Salina Journal 3/28/01).

<u>where to write</u>

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from our readers

While stopping this action will help Congressman Moran politically, it will cost the U.S. taxpayer because of the savings that would have accrued from merging the three state offices. This is another example of how Republican leaders such as Moran want to save the taxpayer's money only when it is in their interest to do so.

If Congressman Moran was an effective leader for Kansas, he would demand that this action be taken immediately. He will not and he is not. **Tim Peterson** Monument



v comics com TROUBLE IN JAPAN



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