

# Graves' endorsement of limited slots pleases gambling bill supporters

**By John Hanna**  
*Associated Press Writer*  
TOPEKA — Heartened by Gov. Bill Graves' endorsement, proponents of allowing slot machines at pari-mutuel racetracks said Tuesday they hope to draft a bill by the end of the month.

Such a bill would probably be introduced first in the House, where opposition to expansion of legal gambling is strongest, said Sen. Chris Steineger, D-Kansas City, a leader of the effort. Graves asserted his support for allowing slot machines at dog and horse racing tracks in his State of the State speech Monday night.

"I was glad to see he showed support for this issue," Steineger said. "I view it as a good sign."

# 'Uncle Wally' was friends to many young people

**PATTON, from Page 1**

board, "my nightmares of Uncle Wally taking the bullets for me have finally diminished somewhat."

Hearing that Schlicher is up for parole, Nelsen said, has forced him to revisit the murder in his mind.

"I was just getting over it until this thing came up," he said. "Some of that stuff I've been trying to forget."

He described his uncle as a cheerful man who liked to fish, play cards and laugh. Though Patton and his wife, Helen, didn't have children, he said, they loved to spend time with kids.

Nelsen said the couple were second parents to one of his cousins, who now lives in Denver. Kathy Russell, a

Owners of Kansas' three pari-mutuel parks — Wichita Greyhound Park, Camptown Greyhound Park near Pittsburg and The Woodlands in Kansas City — have promoted slot machines as a way to save their struggling businesses.

The track owners say they're willing to include a proposal to allow slots at the meeting halls of fraternal organizations to attract support.

But Graves told legislators that while he was willing to consider adding slot machines at the tracks, "the more you expand the number of facilities and gaming locations, the less supportive I will become."

He said he would not favor letting fraternal groups have slot machines.

"Limiting that to pari-mutuel facilities is what I envision as what I believe would be the appropriate policy for the state of Kansas," Graves said.

Supporters contend the state could receive as much as \$100 million from slots. One proposal last year would have given the state 25 percent of revenues after prizes are paid out; another would have set aside 30 percent.

The House and Senate both defeated slot machine bills last year, and opponents suggested Graves' endorsement won't change the outcome this year.

"It's an individual thing," said Rep. Doug Mays, R-Topeka, chairman of the House Federal and State Affairs Committee. "Everybody has to decide what their consciences will let

them live with."

Elsewhere in the Legislature on Tuesday:

—State Budget Director Duane Goossen defended Graves' decision to propose relatively few changes in the fiscal 2002 budget.

—State education officials briefed the Senate Education Committee on the effects of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

—The House Redistricting Committee plans to endorse a proposal for redrawing the 125 representatives' districts by Feb. 13.

—Legislators attended an annual start-of-session prayer service at Grace Episcopal Cathedral, several blocks from the Capitol.

school board member in Goodland, said Patton worked for her father, Carl Antholz, on a farm in McDonald.

She said all of the kids called Patton "Uncle Wally" and he would take them fishing and buy them sodas.

"They had no kids so they adopted everyone's children," she said. "It was kind of the way they compensated for not having kids, I guess."

Nelsen and Russell said Helen, who has since died, was never the same after the murder.

"It changed Aunt Helen completely," Nelsen said. "I don't think I ever heard her laugh again."

Nelsen said he heard Schlicher threatened his aunt in 1980 to force her to drop the charges. Russell said Helen

was petrified he would come after her.

"Her last house was lit up like a prison," she said.

Nelsen who studied electronics at the technical school said he remembers Kauffman from school. He said he remembers Kauffman coming into the station and believes now that he was scouting the place.

"After the trial," he wrote to the parole board, "I keep remembering Kauffman...came to the station several times and weeks before the murder to buy pop and candy. I know now he was sent there only to examine the possibility of a robbery and murder."

Nelsen said it's scary to think they may have expected him to be working that night.

"There is no doubt in my mind William Schlicher and his companions pre-meditated the robbery and murder for weeks in advance," he wrote. "The only difference in plans were that Uncle Wally was their victim instead

of myself."

Schlicher hasn't responded to a letter from *The Goodland Daily News* asking for a telephone interview.

Nelsen and Russell both said Patton wasn't the type to put up a fight and described him as someone who "wouldn't hurt a fly."

"He was a little, old man," Nelsen said. "He didn't ever get in any big hurry. I don't think I ever heard him say anything bad about anybody."

He said he doesn't remember working another day at the gas station after the murder and it's still hard for him to drive past the site, where a closed-down Conoco now stands.

Nelsen, whose father lives in Bird City, said he sometimes has to drive past the station to get to the elevator in Goodland during harvest. Many times, he said, he avoids it.

"Sometimes I kinda like to take the long way around," he said.

# Hutchison to plug vent wells

HUTCHINSON (AP) — Gas pressure beneath this central Kansas city has dropped enough to plug most of the venting wells drilled following deadly explosions a year ago, a Kansas Geological Survey official said Tuesday.

Lee Allison, director of the Kansas Geological Survey, told city commissioners that only three or four of the 57 venting wells near the Yaggy underground gas storage field are still releasing small amounts of gas. Those remaining venting wells will remain open for six months to a year.

Kansas Gas Service plans to begin pressure testing the wells on Jan. 25, and make recommendations to shut down most of the remaining wells by mid-February. About 37 wells never hit gas, Allison said.

escaping gas from the Yaggy storage field to travel uphill toward Hutchinson, he said.

"The vent well program has been extremely successful," he said. "It has achieved what it was intended to do and end the crisis."

His update comes as the city nears its first anniversary of the Jan. 17 gas explosions that destroyed two downtown businesses. The next day, geysers spewing mud and gas began erupting through abandoned brine wells around town — including a blast that killed a Hutchinson couple in their mobile home.

Allison also presented the Kansas Geological Survey's latest theory on how the natural gas traveled under the city.

Some 57 wells and millions of dollars later, the agency now believes that subtle folds in the shale rock in the region created a narrow arch that allowed

# Gingrich says small towns poised for growth

SALINA (AP) — Rural America could experience a renaissance as technology eliminates the edge bigger cities have over smaller communities, said former House speaker Newt Gingrich.

The conservative Republican was in Salina Tuesday delivering his message to business and community leaders.

"You have a big story to tell already," he said during an afternoon news conference. "The greatest single attribute is this is a great place to raise a family. As people get wealthier, the quality of life gets more important."

Gingrich, who spent part of his childhood at Fort Riley, said the lure of a large metropolitan area is its access to advanced services and experts. But the Internet can give those same amenities to small towns in rural areas, he said.

Communities wanting to tap into the opportunities provided by technology need to effectively pool the resources of their businesses and government services, he said.

Gingrich also urged his audience to consider the advantages of linking small-town emergency rooms with the Mayo Clinic or the University of Kansas Medical Center.

# Cigarette tax idea meets mixed review

**TAXES, from Page 1**

age of recommended tax and fee increases "as simple and straightforward as possible."

Legislators talked last year about a smaller increase in cigarette taxes — 5 cents or 10 cents a package — to raise money for public schools, but no proposal passed.

The Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition believes a cigarette tax increase is long overdue.

The coalition estimates that 500,000 Kansans — about 21 percent of the population — are smokers. The group says the tax increase on cigarettes would reduce adult smoking by 4 percent and youth smoking by 12 percent.

a bit the first time, but they aren't going to quit smoking."

Roberts, the coalition president, disagreed.

"The principle of economics will apply here," she said. "In terms of the income available to spend, you will have less to spend on cigarettes."

STATES' CIGARETTE TAXES (Per Pack, as of November)	
STATE	AMOUNT
Washington	\$1.425
New York	\$1.11
Alaska	\$1.00
Hawaii	\$1.00
Maine	\$1.00
Rhode Island	\$1.00
California	\$0.87
New Jersey	\$0.80
Wisconsin	\$0.77
Massachusetts	\$0.76
Michigan	\$0.75
Oregon	\$0.68
Maryland	\$0.66
District of Columbia	\$0.65
Arizona	\$0.58
Illinois	\$0.58
New Hampshire	\$0.52
Utah	\$0.515
Connecticut	\$0.50
Minnesota	\$0.48
North Dakota	\$0.44
Vermont	\$0.44
Texas	\$0.41
Iowa	\$0.36
Nevada	\$0.35
Nebraska	\$0.34
Florida	\$0.339
South Dakota	\$0.33
Arkansas	\$0.315
Pennsylvania	\$0.31
Idaho	\$0.28
Delaware	\$0.24
KANSAS	\$0.24
Louisiana	\$0.24
Ohio	\$0.24
Oklahoma	\$0.23
New Mexico	\$0.21
Colorado	\$0.20
Mississippi	\$0.18
Montana	\$0.18
Missouri	\$0.17
West Virginia	\$0.17
Alabama	\$0.165
Indiana	\$0.155
Tennessee	\$0.13
Georgia	\$0.12
Wyoming	\$0.12
South Carolina	\$0.07
North Carolina	\$0.05
Kentucky	\$0.03
Virginia	\$0.025
As of Jan. 1, 2000, federal cigarette excise tax was \$0.34.	

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