

commentary

from other pens...

What do we expect from new program?

For the past several months, there has been a gnashing of teeth and wringing of hands as an ad hoc group of citizens began meeting and organizing a new economic development program for Sherman County.

In July that effort took another step with the approval of a county resolution establishing the Sherman County Economic Development Council.

Getting the program organized has been the focus of the steering committee and board, but with the details coming together the next step is to look forward and determine the goals.

Economic development has been a catch phrase for nearly 30 years, but it doesn't always mean the same thing. For every economic development program, we need to determine what it means for the people.

For many, the term has meant seeking large companies to relocate to the rural areas, and one of the early programs that was supposed to help that effort was the development of industrial parks like the one on the west edge of Goodland. There is nothing wrong with having an industrial park, but statistics show the more than half are not full after 30 years or more.

Sometimes a community can hit the big one, as Holcomb did in 1979 with Iowa Beef Processors or Lamar, Colo., in 1980 with the Neoplan USA bus plant. These have changed both cities in many ways over the more than 20 years they have been in operation.

The effect on Holcomb and nearby Garden City has been more dramatic than the slower growth experienced in Lamar, but both areas have show growth in the past two national censuses. The Garden City area has expanded dramatically and the influx of the Vietnamese people has made the city a widely mixed cultural center.

For Lamar, the bus plant was followed by a number of smaller plants which located in the nearby industrial park and make parts which are used in the bus manufacturing process as well as other products. The bus plant has had its ups and downs, but today it employees about 400 people and there are another 150-200 in the smaller plants. it has not been all roses, as some of the smaller firms have opened locations in the Denver area also.

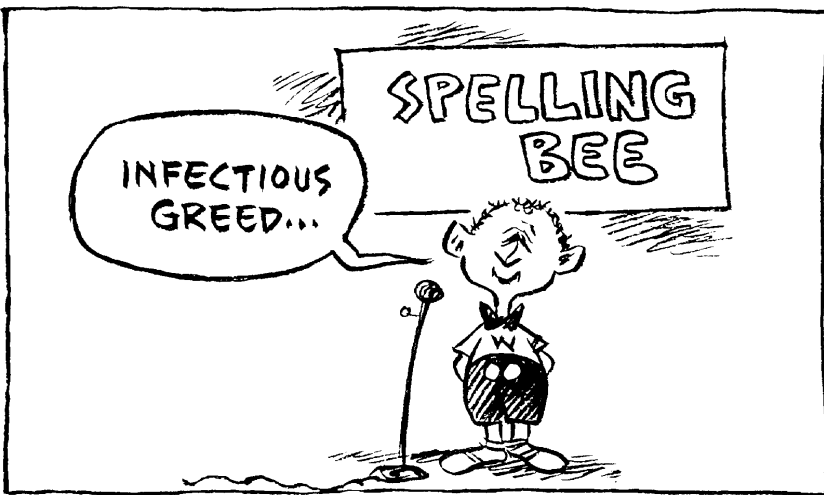
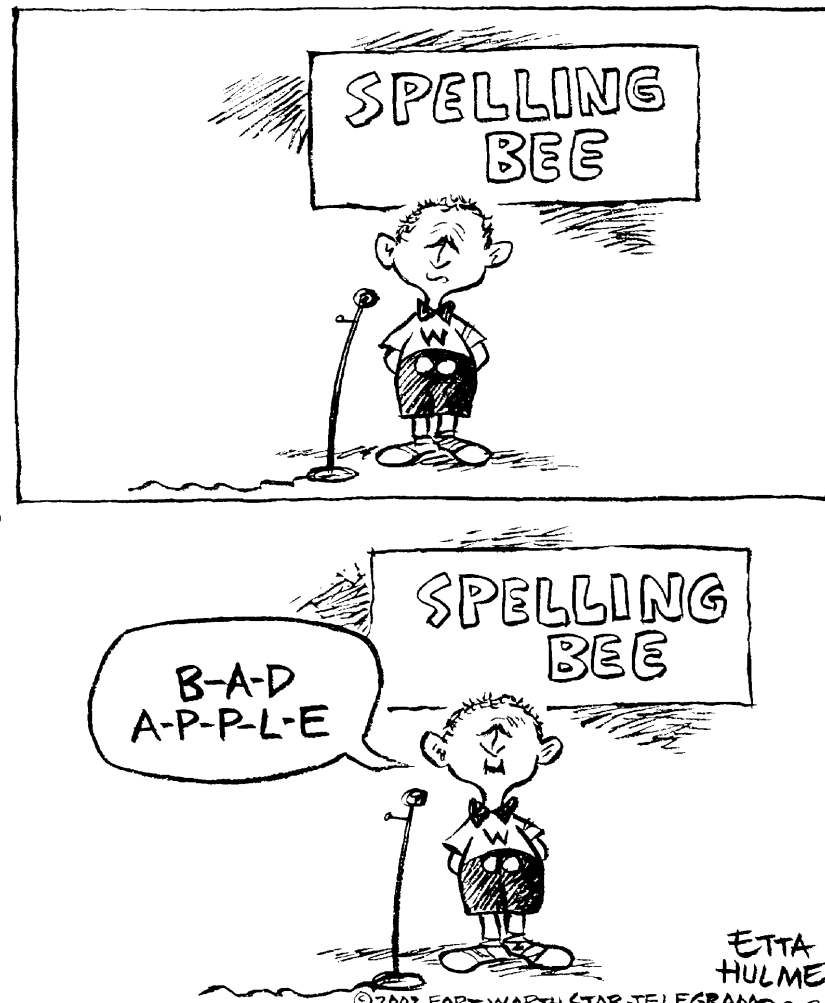
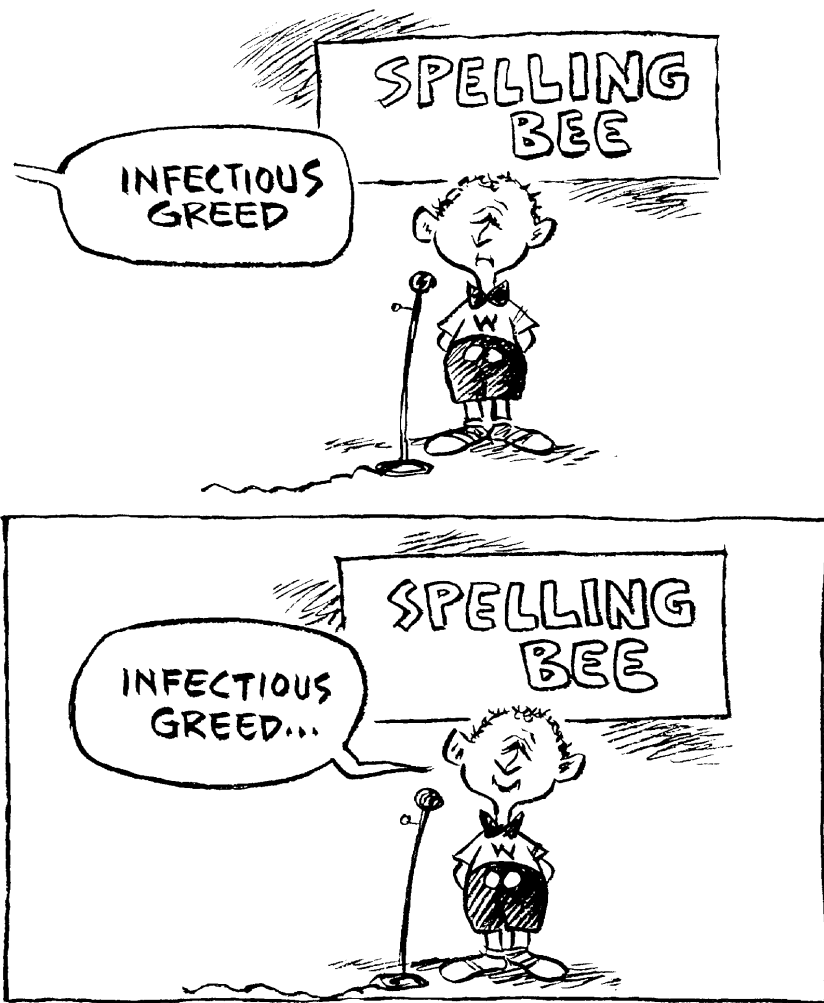
The Lamar story is similar to Goodland's in that they have lost air service and retail stores in recent years — Kmart in Lamar and Gibson's and in Goodland and each has lost at least one major grocery store — plus they have had a Wal-Mart Supercenter open which has affected the downtown business area.

The successful efforts were pushed by local economic development programs which took advantage of what was a seemingly impossible task to bring success. In Lamar's case, they had lost out to Holcomb in the Iowa Beef plant, but with the information and group they had put together were able to turn that to advantage with the Neoplan program, and even got some help from Iowa Beef to help land the bus plant.

While there is no bus plant on the horizon for Sherman County, it is important to look ahead and determine up front the type of business would do best here, and what steps need to be taken to make it possible.

With the development council looking for a full-time director, it is a good time for the people to look at the goals that person will be asked to carry out. We need to be sure whoever is selected has a clear idea of what is expected, and what opportunities are available to assist in reaching the goal.

We must remember that not all economic development comes in the form of 400-job plants, but that every new job and business that comes to Sherman County is important and deserves any assistance and support we can provide. — Tom Betz



I don't want to be president

I don't know about you, but I wouldn't want to be president.

It used to seem very appealing, but maybe that was a strong, independent young girl's dream.

Now it seems a thankless, stress-filled occupation that doesn't pay nearly enough.

Our president is never off duty and is paid much less than many company Chief executive officer's.

Why would anyone even want the job?

Have you ever noticed how much being president ages a person? Even Bill Clinton left office with a head of gray hair.

Sometimes it's hard to tell if our presidents have religious faith, but our current one openly professes his. There is something comforting to me about that boldness.

I'd like to share part of an e-mail I received during the dispute of the last presidential election. I



lorna g. t.

• commentary

don't know who wrote it, but I received it from a pastor in New Jersey:

"There is a man in our church, Jeff Benoit, who has a friend who served on President Elect Bush's campaign in Austin. She called to tell Jeff this story: 'Last week, Gov. Bush appeared at the thank-you banquet for his campaign staff and was going table to table to shake hands with the 1,000 plus campaign volunteers. He got to one lady, who by a brief comment she made, indicated she was a Christian.

She was there with her 20-year old son. Gov. Bush asked him if he was a believer, too. He said he didn't think so. Gov. Bush then asked, 'Do you mind if I tell you how I came to know Christ as my Savior?' The boy agreed, so Gov. Bush pulled up a chair and witnessed to him for 20 minutes and led him in the sinner's prayer!"

Whether you're Republican or Democrat makes no difference. The presidency is a hard job, and often thankless. We need to support and pray for any person who is willing to take on the responsibility. It often involves more criticism than praise, more heartache than glory.

But there is something very comforting to me (and to the writer of the story) to know we have a President who thinks it's worthwhile to take the time to lead others to Christ. Maybe there's hope for the country and the world after all.

Contest highlights many uses of sunflowers

The Chamber, and a number of sponsors, is having a sunflower bake off contest in conjunction with the fair. Entries will be taken from 9-11 a.m. Tuesday at the Agriculture Building.

The following two recipes are from the bake off in 2000.

Apple Nut Cinnamon Sunflower Streusel Cake

By Kathryn Kuhlman

- 4 eggs
- 2 cups sour cream
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 3 cups flour
- 1 1/2 cup peeled dried apples
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 teaspoon soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup sunflower roasted seeds

- Topping
- 1/4 cup sunflower margarine, melted
 - 2/3 cup flour
 - 2/3 cup brown sugar
 - 1/2 cup sunflower seeds

Beat eggs, sugar and sour cream. Add soda, salt, baking powder and flour. Mix well, add apples and sunflower seeds. Pour into 9 x 13 x 2 pan. Mix topping and put on cake. Bake at 350 degrees for 25 minutes.



pat schiefen

• postscript

Sunflower Seed Pie

By Judy Escudero

- 3 eggs
- 1 cup dark or light corn syrup
- 1 cup sunflower seeds
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup butter or margarine, melted
- Pastry for single crust pie

If sunflower seeds are unsalted use a dash of salt. In mixing bowl beat eggs with a fork. Add sugar and salt (if using), stir until dissolved. Stir in syrup and melted butter, mix well. Stir in sunflower seeds. Pour into pastry lined pie pan. Cover edges of pie with foil. Bake at 350 degrees for 25 minutes. Remove foil, bake another 25 minutes or until a knife inserted in center comes out clean. Cool before serving. Makes one 9 inch pie.

Caramel Sunflower Rolls

- 2 packages active dry yeast
- 1/4 cup water (warm)

- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 cups warm milk
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 cup light molasses
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 4 1/2 cups flour
- 1 cup whole wheat flour
- 1/4 cup sunflower margarine
- 1/2 cup raw or roasted sunflower kernels
- 2/3 cup brown sugar, packed
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- Caramel sauce

In a large bowl dissolve yeast in water. Add sugar, milk, salt and molasses. Mix well. Add eggs and 1 cup flour, mix. Add whole wheat flour and mix well. Continue add remaining flour, 1 cup at a time, mixing after each cup, until dough is soft but not sticky to the hands. Knead about 4 to 5 minutes. Roll 1/4 inch thick and at least 18 inches long and spread with 1/4 cup margarine. Roll sunflower kernels with a rolling pin until finely crushed; sprinkle over margarine. Sprinkle cinnamon and brown sugar over sunflower kernels. Roll dough, jelly roll fashion, and cut into 24 rolls. Place in pans on top of the Caramel sauce. Cover and let rise for one hour in a warm place. Bake at 325-350 degrees for 25 to 30 minutes. Invert onto serving platter. Makes 24 rolls.

Caramel Sauce: Melt 2 tablespoons sunflower margarine and add 1 1/2 cups packed brown sugar and 1/4 cup honey. Cook over low heat until mixture begins to boil. Pour caramel into 2 greased 8x12-inch pans and sprinkle 1/4 cup raw or roasted sunflower kernels over each pan.

This recipe was furnished by the National Sunflower Association.

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Kerr, a governor for all of Kansas

Dave Kerr is the only Republican candidate who has the background, the education, and the experience to understand where our state needs to go during the next four years, and how to get us there.

Dave was raised in southwestern Kansas and now resides in Hutchinson. He is a product of Kansas schools and colleges. He has been in business for himself, and now has served the State of Kansas for 18 years as a state senator. In 2000, he was elected senate president by his peers.

There is no question Dave has the work ethic, the experience, and the integrity to serve as the next governor of Kansas. His mission is clear, and he said: "As governor, I will not be satisfied until Kansas becomes known for the excellence of its



from our readers

• to the editor

education, the strength of its economy, and the efficiency of its government."

I believe him, and encourage you to believe him. Please vote for Dave Kerr for governor on Tuesday.

Cora A. House
Goodland



berry's world

