

# commentary

from other pens...

## Wind fastest-growing of the clean energies

### The Wichita Eagle on wind energy:

Wind energy is the fastest-growing and most promising of the clean, renewable energy sources that could lessen our nation's dependence on fossil fuels. The potential is huge, especially for Kansas, which one survey recently ranked first in the nation in wind-energy potential. That could translate into \$1 billion of wind development for Kansas in the next decade, according to Jim Ploger, energy program manager at the Kansas Corporation Commission.

Kansas can't let this opportunity blow past. But the rush to harness the wind must be done right, or we risk degrading other valuable state resources.

It all comes down to careful siting.

The Flint Hills offer three things of great interest to wind-power companies: high wind, transmission lines and willing landowners (southwest Kansas also has potential, although the lack of transmission lines makes it less attractive). Because wind companies pay at least \$2,000 a year per windmill to landowners, the projects could pump some much-needed income into the rural economy.

But some adjacent landowners complain that the huge towers will degrade their property and their rural quality of life. Another concern is that large-scale windmill developments will harm the fragile ecosystem of the native tallgrass prairie and disrupt prairie chicken and other native wildlife habitat.

It's not realistic for the Flint Hills region, an area the size of Vermont, to be placed off-limits to wind-power development. At the same time, these sites must be chosen and developed with sensitivity — or developers will risk damaging treasured places and turning Kansans against these projects. ...

### Parsons Sun on Farm Bureau non-endorsement:

The story may have been brief, but it couldn't have carried more of a wallop. The Farm Bureau declined to endorse either of the gubernatorial candidates for the November election.

This is a major break from the traditional endorsement list from Kansas' largest agricultural group. Since it began issuing endorsements in 1993, they read like a Republican ballot. A Democrat's name was plugged in only when there was no competition. ...

But this year's list will make people sit up and take notice.

Many farmers, some of the state's most staunch Republicans, are lending their support to Kathleen Sebelius. And it's happening in large enough numbers that it severely dampens their traditional blanket of support.

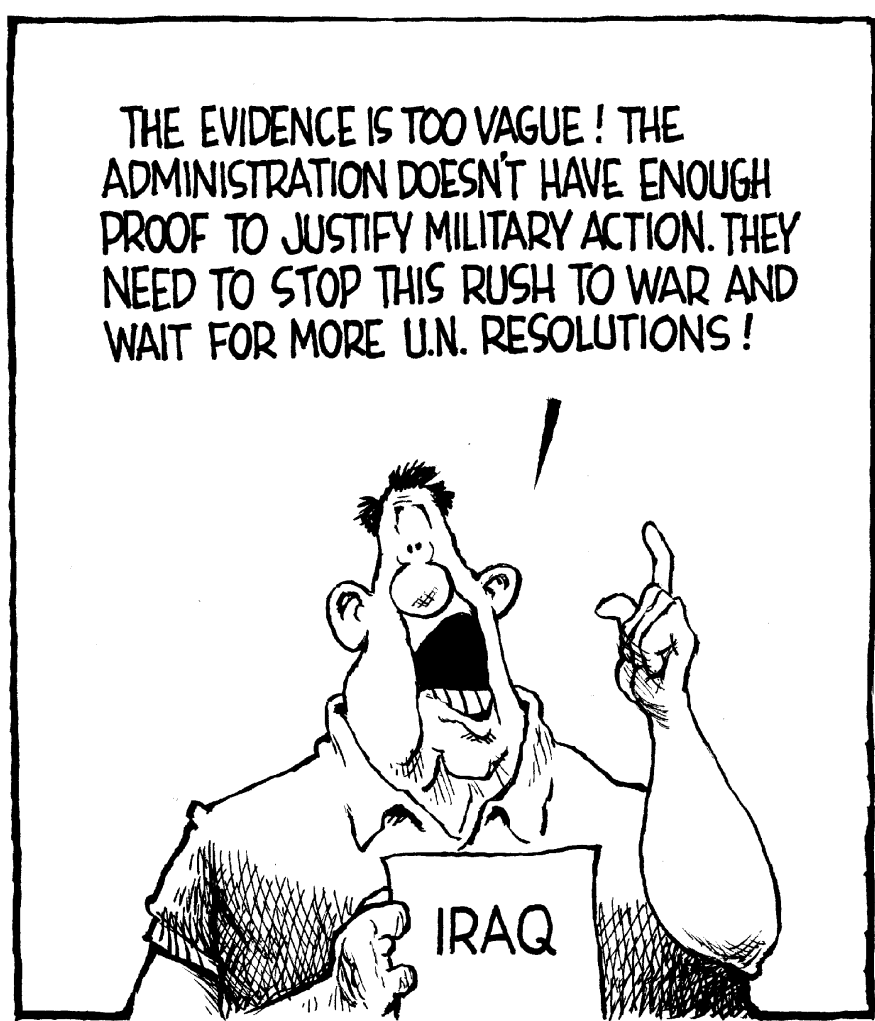
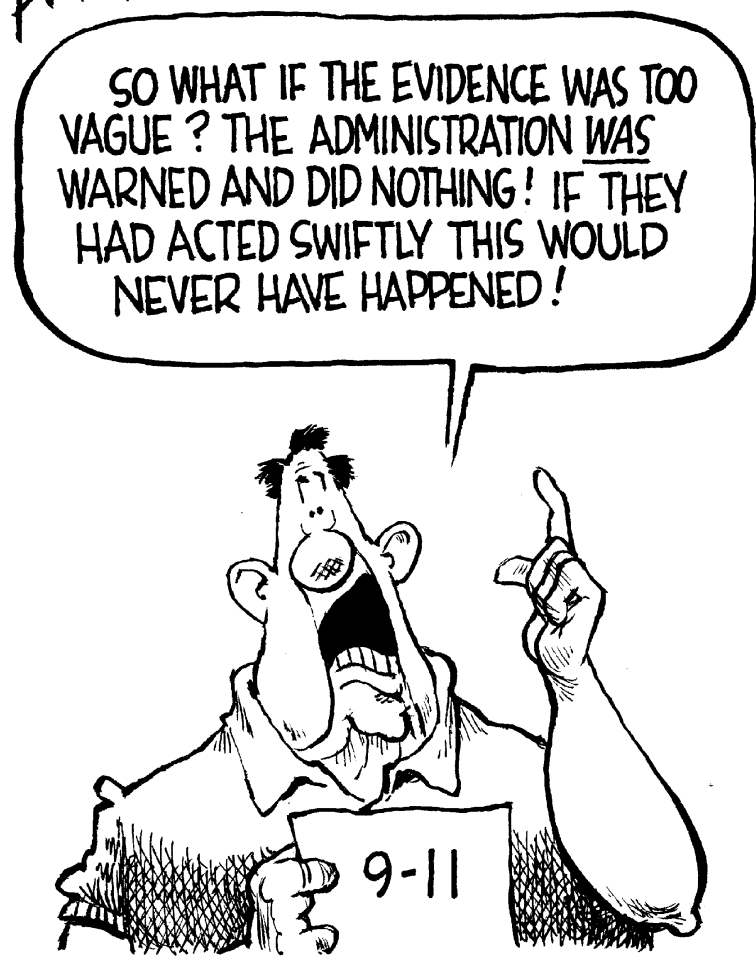
The announcement was not good news for Tim Shallenburger, who suffered another party setback at the hands of moderate Republican Gov. Bill Graves. Although an endorsement finally came, it was not until weeks following the primary election. ... Lt. Gov. Gary Sherrer still refuses to endorse the conservative Shallenburger.

So where does all this direct Kansas Republicans? Directly to Sebelius.

While no Kansan wants his taxes raised, Shallenburger's proposals to cut spending to make up the enormous projected revenue shortfall is very scary. ...

People are afraid of the cuts Shallenburger would have to make to do what he says can be done. And because the Legislature will not likely share his slash-and-burn vision, his election would likely give him four years as a lame duck, putting even more pressure on the Legislature.

Sen. Bob Dole may have come out in support of Shallenburger, as did Sen. Pat Roberts. But what those expected endorsements say is far less than what the tardy endorsement from the governor and the non-endorsement from Farm Bureau do.



## Look closely at those computer rebate offers

Dear Attorney General Stovall:

I recently saw an advertisement for \$400 off the price of a computer at a local store. To be eligible for the rebate, the purchaser is required to sign up with a major internet service provider. It sounded like a good way for me to save money on a computer purchase, and I know that I will need an internet provider anyway. However, I have heard that this internet provider often has technical problems that could keep me from connecting on a regular basis. Attorney General Stovall, could you tell me more about this type of rebate program?

Dear Kansas Consumer:

Many companies use this type of rebate offer to get your business. Some will give you a discount right at the checkout counter, while others will tell you to send your proof of purchase to the manufacturer or service provider which will then mail you a rebate check. These rebates appear to be a great bargain, but if you take the bait without reading the fine print the "bargain" can quickly turn into a nightmare.

One risk you run is that many rebates have strings attached, such as the program you reported to my office. To get the \$400 instant rebate on your



carla j. stovall

• consumer corner

computer purchase, you have to agree to pay about \$20 each month for three years for internet access. In other words, you save \$400 at the time of purchase, but over three years you will end up paying \$720.

You may be satisfied with this price for dial-up internet access now, but in two years the price for high-speed internet services such as DSL or internet-over-cable may be comparable to what you pay for dial-up service. In such a circumstance, you would be stuck with a service that doesn't meet your needs. A three-year contract is a long time, and it will seem even longer if you are dissatisfied with the service from the provider.

Should you elect to sign up for the service and then decide to cancel within 30 days you will probably have to return the \$400. After 30 days, the can-

cellation fee is often as much as 70% of the monthly fee for the months remaining on contract. The contract states this amount could actually be higher than the rebate.

Before you decide to make this purchase, I encourage you to carefully read the entire contract. If you agree to participate in the rebate program, follow the instructions on the rebate form, enclose all the required documentation in the envelope, and make a copy of all your paperwork. If any problems do arise, this copy will provide verification of the transaction and the contract terms that apply.

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 your call will be returned promptly.

## Daddy seems to be in trouble this week

"Daddy, you are in so much trouble."  
Any conversation that opens up this way can't end well, I thought.  
"Uh, what'd I do this time?"  
"It's your column."  
"What column?"  
"What did you write about last week?"  
She had me there. Once typed, they kind of float off into the ether.  
"Beats me," I said.  
"More correctly, what didn't you write about? What did you write about last week?"  
"Oh, the wedding."  
"Yes, whose wedding?"  
"Rachel's?"  
"Not your daughter's?"  
Oh, I get it now.  
The explanation wasn't going anywhere, either.  
"Your mother wrote about your wedding. I couldn't. That's the rule. We can't write about the same thing the same week."  
"That doesn't make any difference," she said.  
"You wrote about a wedding, and it wasn't your daughter's."  
By then I figured I was had, but good. She got around to mentioning that there might just be a way I could buy my way out of this predicament. Some-



steve haynes

• along the sappa

thing about \$3,500 for tickets to Italy, which had been part of our bargain all along.

"I've got to pay for the tickets next week," she said, "so be a good Daddy, and send me the money."

Gee, I would have done that without the guilt trip. There really is a rule, and her mother really did beat me to the punch on the wedding column. Now, I guess, I've got an excuse to revisit the subject.

She had a small wedding. She and Nik wanted it that way: parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters. And the judge.

Nothing fancy except the place and the dinner.

She booked the rooftop terrace at a grand old resort hotel overlooking her adopted hometown of Augusta, Ga. It has a gorgeous view, but she worried, because it had been raining all week, that they'd have to move the ceremony inside. But there wasn't much we could do about it.

Come time for the wedding, though, the skies

parted, the sun came out and the hotel sent a porter to change out all the chairs so we'd have something dry to sit on.

She got married, resplendent in her off-white dress against the dark green canopy of Augusta, just the way she had planned it. The judge was a soft-spoken Southern gentleman, but we had no trouble hearing him.

My job, and Greg's, as fathers, was to hold the rings. The deck was covered in 2-by-6's, with nice wide cracks between them, and all I could think about was that, if you dropped a ring, it'd be sure to go in a crack. We held on tight.

Pictures were taken, and then we went back inside for dinner. The sky opened up, and it poured.

It was a beautiful wedding, and she said she'd rather spend the money on a cool trip than on bridesmaids' dresses and all that wedding stuff. Just keep it simple, and she did.

Later, we were talking about her children, the one's she'll have some day. She said the girls will call Nik "Daddy" all the time, because that's the way it is in the South. She said she only calls me "Daddy" when she wants something, but I'd already figured that out.

OK, Honey. Here you go. I said I'd buy the tickets. You're worth it.

## A thank you for supporting the new foundation

To the Editor:

I wanted to send out a message thanking each and every one of the local leaders for their support of projects I have presented to each of the government entities. It is reassuring to know that our leadership is dedicated to bringing about positive change, and is willing to "roll the dice" for new initiatives designed to assist our community as a whole.

We have received notice that our first grant application has been denied, but as is common with grant writing, we will probably have more applications rejected than approved. That has nothing to do with the competency or ability of Penny Nemechek, it is just a matter of fact. The percentage for accepted applications is typically very low, so we must remain stalwart in our dedication to this program, as I am sure, with Penny, we will be successful beyond our expectations. As with anything, success comes with being able to get up from a defeat one more time than your competition. This imminent success will be a direct result of your votes to support the Sherman County Grant Writer Program.

The Sherman County Economic Development Council has now hired their director. Carolyn Applegate's track record speaks volumes, and we should all expect the potential energy stored in our community to be released in the form of new business development. Even though they are still a fledgling organization, and economic development can be a long, frustrating process, their fu-



from our readers

• to the editor

ture results will be a result of your votes as well.

Recently, I have removed myself from many of the organizations for which I was either a member or a board member. I decided I needed to focus all my attention and efforts towards developing the Sherman County Community Foundation. I have now asked each of the three government entities as well as the four banks to give financial assistance to the foundation. Every one of them put their money on the table in hopes that this organization will join the ranks of the others that are dedicated to building for a better future in our community. These funds will cover the entire cost of incorporation, the cost to receive the non-profit 501(c)(3) determination from the Internal Revenue Service, and other associated startup costs. We now have a board of directors in place, and will soon have our incorporation documents to make us an official organization.

I know that after my brief presentations to the different groups around town, many questions persist. I am hoping to resolve this by holding a series of public meetings in which anybody in our community (Sherman County) can attend, listen to the presentation, and have an opportunity to have their

questions answered, concerns expressed, and suggestions received. I am expecting these public meetings to begin sometime during November.

In the meanwhile, I once again thank you for your consistent dedication to the positive development of our community, and your faith in the possibility of success. We cannot afford to live vicariously through the efforts and results of past generations, thus becoming lackadaisical, but instead must prod ever forward with specific intent and focus. With leaders such as we have, and unrelenting dedication to hard work, I am sure our goals on the horizon are within our grasp.

Schyler Goodwin  
Goodland

### Letter Policy

The Goodland Daily News encourages and welcomes letters from readers. Letters should be typewritten, and must include a telephone number and 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@nwkansan.com>.

## The Goodland Daily News

(USPS No. 222-460. ISSN 0893-0562)  
Member: Kansas Press Association  
The Associated Press

Inland Press Association Colorado Press Association  
National Newspaper Association  
e-mail: [daily@nwkansan.com](mailto:daily@nwkansan.com)



Steve Haynes, President  
Tom Betz, Editor/Editorial Page  
Rachel Hixson, Managing Editor  
Pat Schiefen, Copy Editor  
Doug Stephens, Sports Editor  
Sharon Corcoran, Society Editor  
Eric Yonkey, Bill Wagoner, Advertising Sales  
Skilar Boland, Adv. Production Sheila Smith, Office Manager



### Nor'west Press

Jim Bowker, General Manager

Richard Westfahl Ron VanLoenen Judy McKnight  
Betty Morris Mary Jo Tapparo Lana Westfahl  
Teneile Lovelace John Lapka

[nwkansan.com](http://nwkansan.com)

N.T. Betz, Director of Internet Services ([nbetz@nwkansan.com](mailto:nbetz@nwkansan.com))  
Evan Barnum, Systems Admin. ([support@nwkansan.com](mailto:support@nwkansan.com))

Published daily except Saturday and Sunday and the day observed for New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day, at 1205 Main St., Goodland, Kan. 67735.

Periodicals postage paid at Goodland, Kan. 67735; entered at the Goodland, Kan., Post Office under the Act of Congress of March 8, 1878.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Goodland Daily News, 1205 Main St., Goodland, Kan. 67735.

TELEPHONE: (785) 899-2338. Editorial e-mail: [daily@nwkansan.com](mailto:daily@nwkansan.com). Advertising questions can be sent to: [gdnadv@nwkansan.com](mailto:gdnadv@nwkansan.com)

The Goodland Daily News assumes no liability for mistakes or omissions in advertising or failure to publish beyond the actual cost of the ad.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: In Sherman County and adjacent counties: three months, \$25; six months, \$42; 12 months, \$79. Out of area, weekly mailing of five issues: three months, \$30; six months, \$45; 12 months, \$80. By mail daily in Kansas, Colorado: 12 months, \$115. (All tax included.)

Incorporating:  
**The Sherman County Herald**  
Founded by Thomas McCants  
1935-1989

THE **STAR**  
Founded by Eric and Roxie Yonkey  
1994-2001

**Nor'West Newspapers**  
Haynes Publishing Company