

# commentary

from our viewpoint...

## Tall trees help make it a grand entrance

The city plans to move forward this summer with basic construction on Pioneer Park and landscaping around the “new” entrance to downtown Goodland on Cherry Avenue south of the railroad.

While the park won’t have all the features once planned for it, at least not yet, it will be a relief to see some green coming into town.

One real need for this area is to plant some trees to compliment the grass and shrubs in the plans. These should include tall, arching shade trees along the street, not just ornamentals.

A grand entrance into town needs to be guarded by grand trees, elms, hackberries, oaks, ash, whatever will grow and thrive in our climate.

And since it takes a generation to grow trees like that, this is the time to start.

The other entrances to town, at least the north and west ones, are fairly green and attractive. Even 17th street, following along the rail yards and elevators, has some shade. But the new Cherry entrance has been guarded only by paint-peeling signs left over from long-gone businesses.

This area can be made attractive, though, and the city has good plans for the park, the area around the giant sunflower painting and the hike-bike trail leading to Chambers Park.

It may not have enough money to plant all the trees the area needs, though, and if that is the case, civic groups might think about joining in.

In some quarters, shade trees are seen as passé. But when you travel around the plains, it’s the towns with big trees that are the most attractive, the most comfortable and the most livable.

Shaded lanes beat the heck out of wide open spaces when it comes to looking for a place to live. People like trees, and if you don’t believe that, just look around: We plant them around our homes wherever we put down roots.

Short ornamentals and other exotic species won’t do the job. They’re nice in their place, but there’s nothing better than big trees.

The trees we have today, shading our neighborhoods, lining our streets, are a gift from our forebears. We owe it to our grandchildren to leave more of the same to them.

There are plenty of species that will grow here and produce real shade in a generation, including disease-resistant American elms, and native species like hackberry and locust.

It takes money to buy them, muscle to plant and water them — and vision to see where they need to go. — *Steve Haynes*

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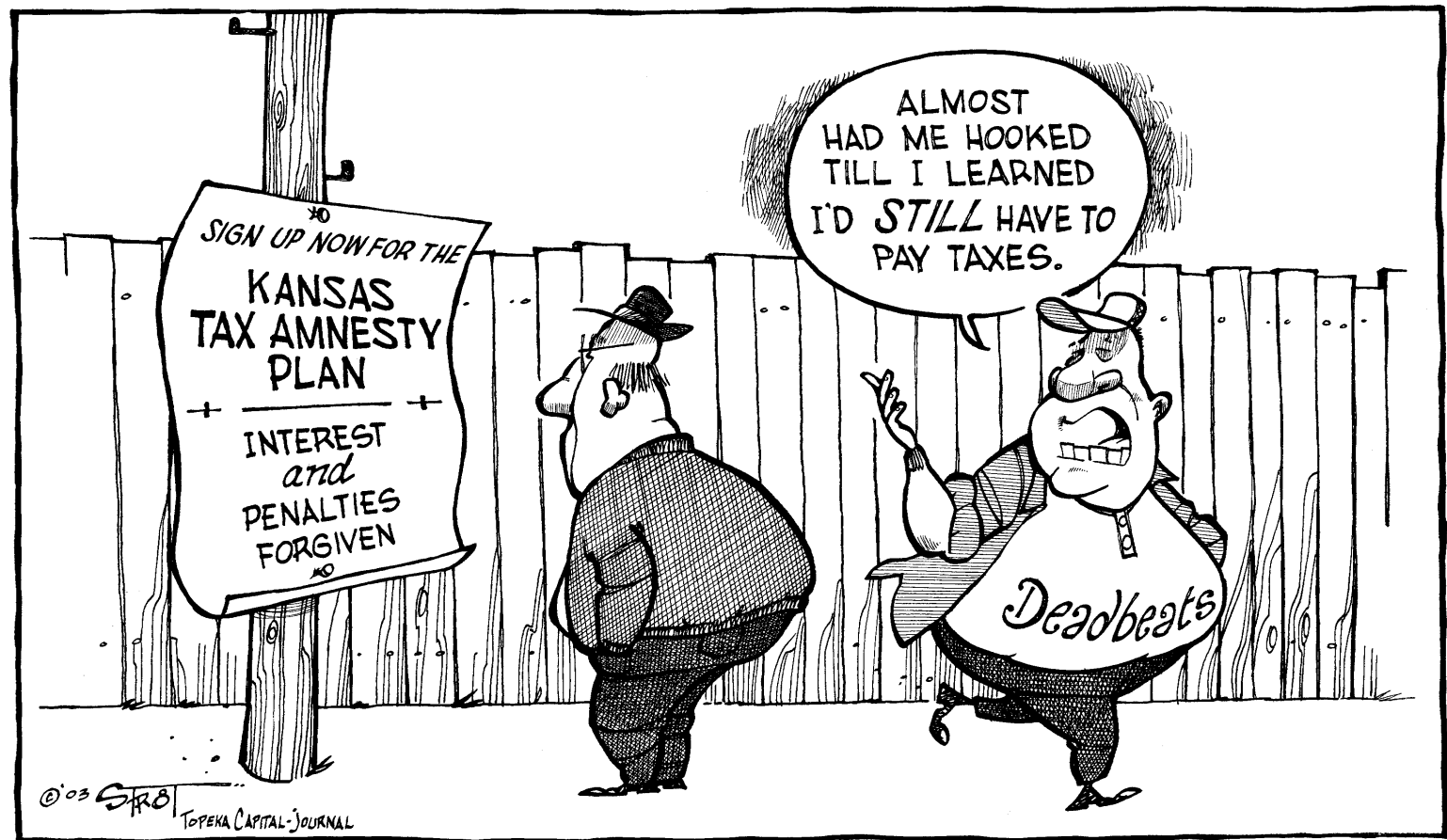
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## Vegas night part of special week’s events

The Technical College is pleased to celebrate Career and Technical Education week, February 10-15.

There are activities each day at Northwest Kansas Technical College with the key activities being recognition of retirees, high school senior visitation day, senior citizen luncheon and tour, student senate Vegas night and the Endowment scholarship event. The entire faculty, staff and student body will be involved in this week of celebration.

Although state funding for higher education has become extremely frugal this year the technical college continues to be the crown jewel of western Kansas. The college continues to boast 13 programs of instruction with 3 new programs on the drawing board.

The first of the new programs is Computer Graphics Technology slated to begin in the Fall 2003 with a capacity for 18 students. Two other programs planned to begin in 2004 are Respiratory Therapy and Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning/Refrigeration.

The Area Board of Control for the college believes these new programs will fulfill employment needs in the region and will interest many individuals within the college’s 19 county service area.

*These articles are written by members of the technical college staff as part of the celebration of Career and Technical Education Week.*

### Choosing the right career most important step

By Paul Chaffin  
 Technical College counselor

Choosing a career is one of the most important decisions an individual makes. The process of selecting a career involve several elements which should be considered as a person is making their career selection

Having a high interest in a career field is a good place to start when considering different occupations. Higher job satisfaction is more likely to occur when an individual is performing a job that is of high interest to them. Interest inventories are available to help determine the types of jobs matched to the interest of the individual.

Aptitude is also important in career selection, as every job requires specific skills that must be completed. Having the manual dexterity and eye coordination, mental ability and ability to work



## kenneth clouse

- college notes

with people. Aptitude tests are used to determine strength and weaknesses that can be helpful in career selection. Other aptitudes can determine the types of jobs that should be considered.

The courses that are taken while attending high school or college can help an individual identify what types of careers that should be selected. Courses that are enjoyed, and students find success in, can increase the interest in an occupation related to this area of study. Likewise courses that are more difficult can be indicators of careers to avoid.

Work itself, both part time and full time, can be of benefit in selecting types of careers to choose. After performing a certain job for a period of time, it can be determined if this or a related occupation is appropriate to bring satisfaction to the individual. Certainly after working at a job a person can determine this is definitely not the right occupation for them.

There is lots of material and help available to assist in selecting a career. Career counselors can provide career information, do testing and help in the process of selecting an appropriate career. High schools and colleges have career counseling centers and provide help in career selection. Public libraries also have information about careers available.

### Students can get financial help to attend technical college

Let me introduce myself, I am Jackie Schmidt, and I play a dual role at Northwest Kansas Technical College. I serve in the capacity of Financial Aid Administrator and Placement Coordinator at the college. In these roles, I assist the student with the financial aid to allow them to attend Northwest Kansas Technical College in the career field of their choice. On the flip side of this, I help them find a job within their field of study to enable them to repay their student loans.

Northwest Kansas Technical College is a Title IV participating school. By this, we are able to offer the same types of financial aid as any post secondary educational facility,

## Our cats now outnumber kids

We went to Lawrence last weekend to visit the cats and kids.

It’s not that we have more cats in this family than we know what to do with. It’s just that they seem to outnumber us.

At last count, the immediate family had 10 felines (not counting Tigger, who lives at *The Oberlin Herald* office).

We have our trio — Mollie Monster, the cat that steals marbles and goes for walks; April Alice, the mother cat we adopted a year ago; and Kubla Khan, the laid-back Siamese that tries to stay out from between the other two, who fight like, well like cats.

Daughter Felicia and husband Nik also have three cats — Sabine, the old lady of the crew that Felicia has had since college; Marcell, a long-haired black ball of meanness that fights with both the others; and Louie, or Baby Cat, the newest arrival — a real sweetheart. He loves to purr.

Luckily, that crew lives in Augusta, Ga., along with a monster dog called Chauncey and



## cynthia haynes

- open season

a pair of birds, which look like lunch to the rest of the crew and act like birdbrains.

Back in Kansas, youngest daughter Lindsay lives in Lawrence with Jezebel, a nice but timid feline, and Rupert, another lap lover with a super purr.

Across town, her brother Lacy and his roommate Chris harbor a pair of illegals. The apartment doesn’t allow pets, although they claim that the other residents keep St. Bernards and Great Danes hidden in their spaces, and even the resident manager has a pooch.

Hiding out at their place are April’s children, Frank and Jules. Frank is the tom, and he is big and brash. He loves to play and is a great favorite of all the girls, who come to visit. His

whether it is a 2-year, 4 year, or other technical school or college. The filing process for financial aid is a standard procedure beginning with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid form. This must be filled out to see if the student qualifies for Pell Grants, Supplement Grants or Work-Study, and begins the groundwork for their student loans.

By participating in Title IV programs, we are able to offer grants, work-study and the Stafford Student Loan program. Northwest Kansas Technical College also offers scholarships through our Endowment program. Of 503 students officially enrolled at Northwest Kansas Technical College, over 90 percent of these students receive financial aid of some type.

The Financial Aid office at Northwest Kansas Technical College disbursed \$2,656,705 in financial aid during the 2001-2002 fiscal school year that ended on June 30.

These dollars impact our local economy. Students use these funds to pay rent and utilities, buy groceries, pay transportation costs and use funds for general living expenses. A lot of these financial aid dollars are spent locally and boost the economy of Goodland.

The placement department at the college is here to assist all current students and any past graduate of any program of Northwest Kansas Technical College. Our office is set up to assist students find a job in their field of study anywhere the student would be interested in going.

Over the years many employers have contacted us to hire students in all of our 13 programs. We have compiled a massive database of over 2,500 contacts in many different areas of employment and different areas of the U.S. Our placement rate for the past year was 92 percent.

Our office strives to continually update and add to our list of employers. Time is spent each day trying to make new contacts and establish potential employers for our students. Employers contact our office to post job openings within their businesses and companies and our office will pass this information on to current students and to past graduates.

Our office is here to help. If you have financial aid concerns or questions, or if you are a past graduate looking for help to find a job, please contact our office at 785-899-3641 or 800-316-4127.

sister Jules started out life as July. She then became Jewell and finally Jules. She is shy, with big eyes and soft fur.

The kittens belong to Lacy, but both he and Chris and all their girl friends take care of them. This includes defleaing them.

When Lacy talks about his little flea bags, he isn’t kidding. The kittens had to go to a friends home for a couple of weeks while repairs were made to the boys’ apartment. During the repairs, the cats needed to be scarce to keep from being bounced.

When they returned home, they came back with a few “pets” of their own.

The kids tried to use a flea bath on the kittens. That was a mess, I’m told, and didn’t do a real good job of getting rid of the pests. In fact, the fleas were not eradicated until Lacy and the kittens came home for Thanksgiving.

At that point, I put some flea remover on them and gave son some to take back. I’ve got enough pets as is. Besides, if son thinks I’m going to bathe a pair of cats, he’s as crazy as they are.

### garfield

