

from other pens...

## Love, protect them; immunize them

Vaccines are among the 21st Century’s most successful and cost-effective public health tools available for preventing disease and death. They not only prevent a vaccinated individual from developing a potentially serious disease, but vaccines also protect the entire community by reducing the spread of infectious agents.

Immunization coverage among children in the United States is higher today than ever before. In Kansas we are getting closer to attaining the goal of having 90 percent or more of infants receiving the most critical dose of recommended vaccines by age two. These very high immunization levels translate into record or near record low levels of vaccine-preventable diseases. For most of the vaccine-preventable diseases, we have had reductions in death rate of 95 percent or more.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the Kansas State Nurses Association urge parents and healthcare providers to focus on the importance of ensuring that babies are protected against measles and other vaccine-preventable diseases. All infants should begin a series of immunizations beginning at birth. By age 2 years, babies should have received vaccinations to protect them against 11 diseases: diphtheria, tetanus (lockjaw), pertussis (whooping cough), polio, measles, mumps, rubella (German Measles), hepatitis B, chicken pox, Hib meningitis, and pneumonia.

Many people in our country have not seen a case of diphtheria, polio, or measles and may not realize how much damage these diseases can cause. Unfortunately, some believe these diseases are a thing of the past and there is no reason to immunize their children. These diseases are now infrequent because of improved immunization services and the availability of improved vaccines. But, when children aren’t immunized, epidemics can occur. For example, a major cause of the measles epidemic in 1989-1991 was the failure to properly vaccinate children at 12 to 15 months of age. The state of Kansas had 246 diagnosed cases of measles in that time frame.

All parents and caregivers should make the decision to immunize their children based on the facts. Parents/caregivers should review Vaccine Information Statements available from their health care providers, which discuss the benefits and risks of vaccines. Asking questions about immunizations, including the benefits and risks pertinent to their own child, is encouraged. Each health care visit is an opportunity to discuss immunization and to provide any needed vaccinations. Each visit that does not result in a needed vaccination is a missed opportunity for protection — not only for that child but also for the entire community.

If you have any questions about your child’s immunizations, talk to your health care provider. For additional information about the childhood immunization schedule, contact the Kansas State Department of Health and Environment, Bureau of Epidemiology and Disease Prevention, Immunization Program at 785.296.5591. — *Michael Moser, State Health Officer, Kansas Department of Health & Environment*

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Incorporating:

## The Goodland Daily News

1932-2003

**The Sherman  
County Herald**

Founded by Thomas McCants  
1935-1989

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

## Nor’West Newspapers

Haynes Publishing Company



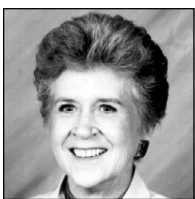
## Smiles can make problems seem lighter

I don’t know about you, but I’ve been thinking about smiles.

It was prompted by the news clip I wrote about last week, I’m sure. I think that smiles can ward off a lot of problems.

They can make you feel better when you haven’t been well or lift the spirits of someone else, as well as diffuse an angry situation.

An unknown author wrote: “A smile costs nothing, but gives much. It enriches those who receive, without making poorer those who give. It takes but a moment, but the memory of it sometimes lasts forever. None is so rich or mighty that they can get along without it, and none is so poor but that they can be made rich by it. A smile creates happiness in the home, fosters good will in business, and is the coun-



**lorna  
gt**

● commentary

tersign of friendship. It brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad, and it is nature’s antidote for trouble. Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed, or stolen, for it is something that is of no value to anyone until it is given away. Some people are too tired to give you a smile. Give them one of yours, as none needs a smile so much as the one who has no more to give.” (Pass it On, from Tea Time with God.)

## State needs to invest in transportation jobs

To the Editor:

Every day the Kansas and national job markets continue to shrink. Yet, our leaders continue to overlook one of the easiest and fastest ways to create new jobs.

For 90 days now, our governor and Legislature have discussed various plans to create work. However, given all of this debate, the simplest solution, funding public works construction, has been ignored.

So what are our Kansas leaders doing about it? Nothing.

This is a far cry from the days of Roosevelt or Eisenhower, when leaders had the vision and courage to pursue job creating public works programs.

Yes, folks that is correct, despite the fact that the governor and Legislature have more money to spend this year than last, and despite the fact they are spending \$10.2 billion on all sorts of things, they cannot find \$156 million to provide you a job or maintain our excellent transportation system.

This is equivalent to spending \$150 out of \$10,000 or approximately 1.5 percent of all spending, and most economists estimate over 6,000 high paying jobs would be created. According to the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, these jobs would then create another 16,320 in support services. Not a bad return, especially in these times.

No other form of public spending will yield greater returns faster than public infrastructure. And long-term benefits are also received from completed projects in terms of greater safety, fewer accidents and reduced transportation costs.

Overall, this would appear to be a win – win to all, but our leaders in Topeka, unlike great visionaries of the past, have chosen to get caught up in the finger pointing game of each blaming the other for our current woes.

From the days of the Santa Fe Trail, to the Chisholm Trail, to the Santa Fe Railway, to the Air Capital, Kansas’ future has been inextricably linked to transportation. So, do you want jobs? Contact your legislator today.

Lets put Kansas back to work by insisting out leaders be responsibly and fully fund our Com-



**from our  
readers**

● to the editor

prehensive Transportation Program. Now!!

Edward R. Moses, managing director  
Kansas Aggregate Producers Association  
Topeka

To the Editor:

We are writing to you to express our disappointment in the article published in the Tuesday edition of your paper entitled “County agrees on loan.” The article contained inaccuracies in the dollar amounts that were listed. The loan to the business was actually for \$10,000. There will be a payment of \$5,000 that will go to the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission for administration fees (which is a portion of the fees for administering the entire \$100,000 grant) .

There were other inaccuracies related to the section discussing the applications.

Our biggest concern was the fact the confidentiality of the business owner was not maintained and this was something that we specifically asked the reporter to respect. We believe that when the names of specific businesses are released to the general public the future success of the micro loan program is jeopardized. There are individuals who could qualify for the loans but they may not apply for the loan be-

Of course there are times when a smile is probably inappropriate — especially if you’re patronizing someone.

And there are times when they are better registered inside your soul instead of on your face — like when your teenager is convinced he/she is going to die due to a huge facial zit on prom night. But by and large, smiles are appropriate and well-received.

Why not forget yourself and your problems today and smile just for the sake of those around you? I’m willing to guess that you will feel better about yourself by the end of the day. And maybe your more positive attitude might even solve some of those problems that seemed so huge this morning.

cause they don’t want their personal business advertised on the front page of the newspaper for the whole community to see.

The purpose of the micro loan program is to help promote business. We would hope your newspaper would help promote the micro loan program instead of discouraging businesses from using it for fear their business information will be plastered on the front page of the newspaper every time the documents related to the loan goes before the County Commission for their signatures.

While there are many records that are open public record, it doesn’t mean that the individuals involved shouldn’t be shown courtesy and respect and a degree of privacy. If anyone is interested in the information they can request it under the open record act (provided the information is not exempt from the act).

Kevin Rasure  
Mitch Tiede  
Chuck Thomas  
Sherman County Commissioners

### Letter Policy

The Goodland Star-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 address and phone numbers, by e-mail to: [<star-news@nwkansas.com>](mailto:<star-news@nwkansas.com>).

## where to write

**U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts**, 302 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774

**U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback**, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510. (202) 224-6521

**U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran**, 1217 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 225-2715

**State Rep. Jim Morrison**, State Capitol Building Rm. 174-W, Topeka, KS 66612. (785) 296-7676

**State Sen. Stan Clark**, State Capitol Building Rm. 449-N, Topeka, KS 66612. (785) 296-7399

**Kansas Attorney General Phil Kline**, 301 S.W. 10th, Lower Level, Topeka, KS 66612-1597 (785) 296-3751 Fax (785) 291-3699 TTY: (785) 291-3767

## garfield

