

from our viewpoint...

U.S. 36 association seeks piece of the pie

The main goal of the U.S. 36 Highway Association is to get an expressway west from St. Joseph, not just to draw off some of the traffic which burdens I-80 and I-70, but to bring economic development to a poor and underserved part of Kansas.

That will require some doing, since the state has no plans to widen the road any time soon. Highway people usually want to put the roads where the traffic is today, not where someone wants it.

But the “build-it-and-they-will-come” approach is just what we in northern Kansas need. Our Road of Dreams might just bring back some of the traffic the state took away from us when it built the Interstate system 40 years ago.

If you look along U.S. 36, you’ll find mostly motels built half a century ago, not the flashy new franchise outfits they have along I-70. There are few truck stops, fewer still fast food franchises and other highway-oriented businesses.

I-70 is choking in services, while we have few. Why? Traffic count, that’s why. The traffic down on I-70 is four to 10 times more than traffic on U.S. 36, because people just gravitate to those double lines on the map.

Most people will take a freeway wherever they are going, even if it is out of their way. They figure it’ll be faster and easier than the two-lane, even though that’s often not true.

The freeway towns get the lion’s share of new investment. They get the McDonald’s and the Holiday Inn Express, but also the jobs that go with them.

In the pre-Interstate era, traffic was more spread out. All the east-west roads in Kansas had their share. That changed when I-70 went in. Just compare the traffic — and the roadside businesses — today.

The U.S. 36 group wants to do something about that. It has declared it’s main goal and purpose to be to get the road widened west from St. Joseph. The hope is to see four lanes to Belleville in the next 20 year, and beyond that as it’s possible.

There may not be a freeway through Oberlin or St. Francis in our lifetime, but as I-70 and particularly, I-80 through Nebraska, fill up with big trucks, the overflow will have to go somewhere.

We don’t really want all the traffic here anyway. A freeway brings not just money, but crime and other problems.

We just want enough traffic to spur some development and let the people along U.S. 36 get a share of the pie.

The state has committed to the first few miles of expressway to Wathena, but beyond there, nothing but two-lane. It will take some persuading to change things and get U.S. 36 into the state’s highway plans. That’s what the association intends to do in the next decade, though, with the support of people across northern Kansas.

To join in, just join the U.S. 36 Association. It’s a small investment to make in our future. — *Steve Haynes.*

where to write

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

U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran, 1519 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 225-2715

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New generation ‘becoming their own bosses’

I don’t know about you, but I have been thinking about the generation of our society just reaching adulthood.

They’ve been driving cars for several years, but they are just “becoming their own bosses.” (Whatever that means.) Turning 21, fully accountable by and to the law, I guess.

My oldest granddaughter will soon be 21 — oh not until November, but the way time passes for me, that’s soon.

She is a lovely, dependable, independent young woman who has what used to be said “the world at her feet.”

Right now she is in London on a college-related, work project to gain knowledge and experience in her field of endeavor.

Two whole months in London! She’s having a marvelous time — spreading her wings, seeing God’s world, meeting a variety of people, reveling in London’s “Broadway” area and living in Kensington, having much fun and hopefully working too. It is a great opportunity for her; we are proud of her.

lorna gt
● commentary

there were other things in the world, even then, that I might do as well or in addition to.

However my life has been a happy one. I used to think I’d like to live it all over — without changing anything.

I don’t feel that way now; I can’t imagine I could have done much better unless I could take today’s wisdom back with me. I’m content to be a senior citizen with periods of jealousy and a few regrets that the time passed by so quickly.

Today the world is different from when I was a girl. At times, it is scary to me, but it doesn’t seem to be for the younger ones.

That’s good. Let them have this wonderful time in their lives. Let them explore their options and dream up new ones.

It is a joy to watch their choices even if some of them bewilder me.

I pray that all their decisions be made with God’s will and other people’s welfare in mind.

When they come to their senior citizen years, they too will realize that’s all that really matters anyhow.

Exchange students thank hosts, community

To the Editor:

We would like to present ourselves to the people who don’t still know us. We are AFS students this year in Goodland. We came here in August and we will leave in July. Our names are Nim from Thailand and Ben from Belgium, we are both 18 and were in the Senior Class of 2003.

from our readers
● to the editor

We would like first to thank the all community of Goodland for opened their doors to two kids that you didn’t even know, from a total different country. We really enjoyed to see all those people interested in a different culture and ready to teach their own to an exchange student from AFS. We are so glad to be in here, in Goodland, a town where there is not too much to do. Anyway, we liked to be in a place different from our original place, big cities.

The biggest challenge for Nim was learning English because there is a lot of new sounds, and also being involved in activities with her friends. The biggest challenge for Ben was to know how to be with his little brother Dane, and now we get really along with each other.

Now, we would like to thank all our friends, AFS, the school but more especially: Mary Porterfield and Elaine Felver for helping us during the two first months and supporting us for the rest of the year, but also for being so much involved in AFS. Thanks to the AFS school Club, they are really active, they taught us a lot of stuff about the American culture.

We would like to thank also our host families because they did the most important part in that program: HOST. Personal message from Nim: I really enjoyed being with the Hurst’s. They are a nice family, really different from the one in Thailand. I want to thank them for showing me Denver and The Rocky Mountains. But also, thanks for being interested in my culture and let me go to the Buddhist temple in Denver. Thanks a lot

Personal message from Ben: I know that you

will remember me by my personality, my actions or by my funny accent. It is thanks to the Frazier’s that I could express myself, showing what a Belgian can do. You should give them a round of applause for supporting me this year, I can assure you I was a real pain. I was a so much pain that Connie Livengood wanted to adopt me for the rest of my life. Fortunately, it won’t happen. Actually, I am sure that the Frazier’s had a good time with me, they are a good family with good values like taking care of kids, being involved in their education, in school activities like sports, letting them hanging out with friends... In summary, the Frazier’s are an excellent host family. Merci Beaucoup.

An exchange student is nothing without an host family. If you would like to host an AFS student, don’t wait, call Mary Porterfield right now for more details. Thanks a lot.

Nim Pholpho and Ben Kluyskens.

To the Editor:

On Saturday, June 14, Goodland hosted a very successful Northwest Kansas League swim meet at the new pool.

It had been over four years since the Northwest Kansas League had competed in Goodland. The meet drew over 300 swimmers from more than 10 communities and everyone was impressed with the wonderful facility you had to offer.

A great amount of work goes into each and every swim meet, and the Goodland Swim Club, with the assistance of the city, is to be commended on such an organized and well run

meet.

As the league referee, I know I am looking forward to future swim meets in Goodland.

Katherine Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer Colby

To the Editor:

I just want to say thank you to all the wonderful people that came to our rescue when Windi Meek and I rolled our truck and horse trailer on May 18. I am so thankful your sheriff saw the whole thing happen. When I got back to the horse trailer, he was there. He already had all the rescue people on their way.

You were all so helpful and kind. You all worked so hard to get our horses out of the trailer so fast.

I wish I would have gotten all of your names so I could thank you, but you all know who you are! From the sheriff, to Justin who brought the trailer to haul our horses to the vet, to Dr. Smith, to the guys who cut the hole in the trailer so we could the horses out: You are all my heros!

I know God had his hand on us that day, and he knew the people of your town would take good care of us!

May God bless you all!

Kim Schulze
Elbert, Colo.

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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>.

garfield