

from our viewpoint...

Progress measures the face of change

Progress: a forward or onward movement (as to an objective or to a goal), gradual betterment. (Webster's Collegiate Dictionary)

It has been a full year since *The Goodland Star-News* published a special edition dedicated to the progress and change in our city. In today's edition, you will find Progress 2003.

We think it is amazing each year to list the changes for the better that have occurred. It is easy to remember the bad things that happen, and the businesses which are no longer operating, but the list of good things usually is longer.

There is no doubt that in putting this special section together, we have overlooked some changes that have happened in the past year, and are sure that once you read through the stories, you will remember some of the ones we did not.

Our objective with this edition is to remind everyone in Sherman County that as dark as the drought years have been, things continue to move. The question is whether we see the glass as half empty or half full.

We have always been optimistic that no matter what is happening, things will work out for the best in the long run. A first sign, we believe, that there is more progress coming in the next year is the bountiful wheat harvest we had this year, and the early spurt of rain that helped bring the crops forth from the seeds planted in the fall.

To many, the farmer is the most optimistic man in the world because he has to have faith every year that, when he takes the seeds and plants them, there will be sufficient help from the skies or from the pumps to bring forth a crop. He prays that the harvest will pay for the costs of planting the seeds and give him enough money to live on until the seeds can be planted again.

This has been quite a year, and reflecting on the changes, there are things moving in the economic development arena that should produce more good news before it is over.

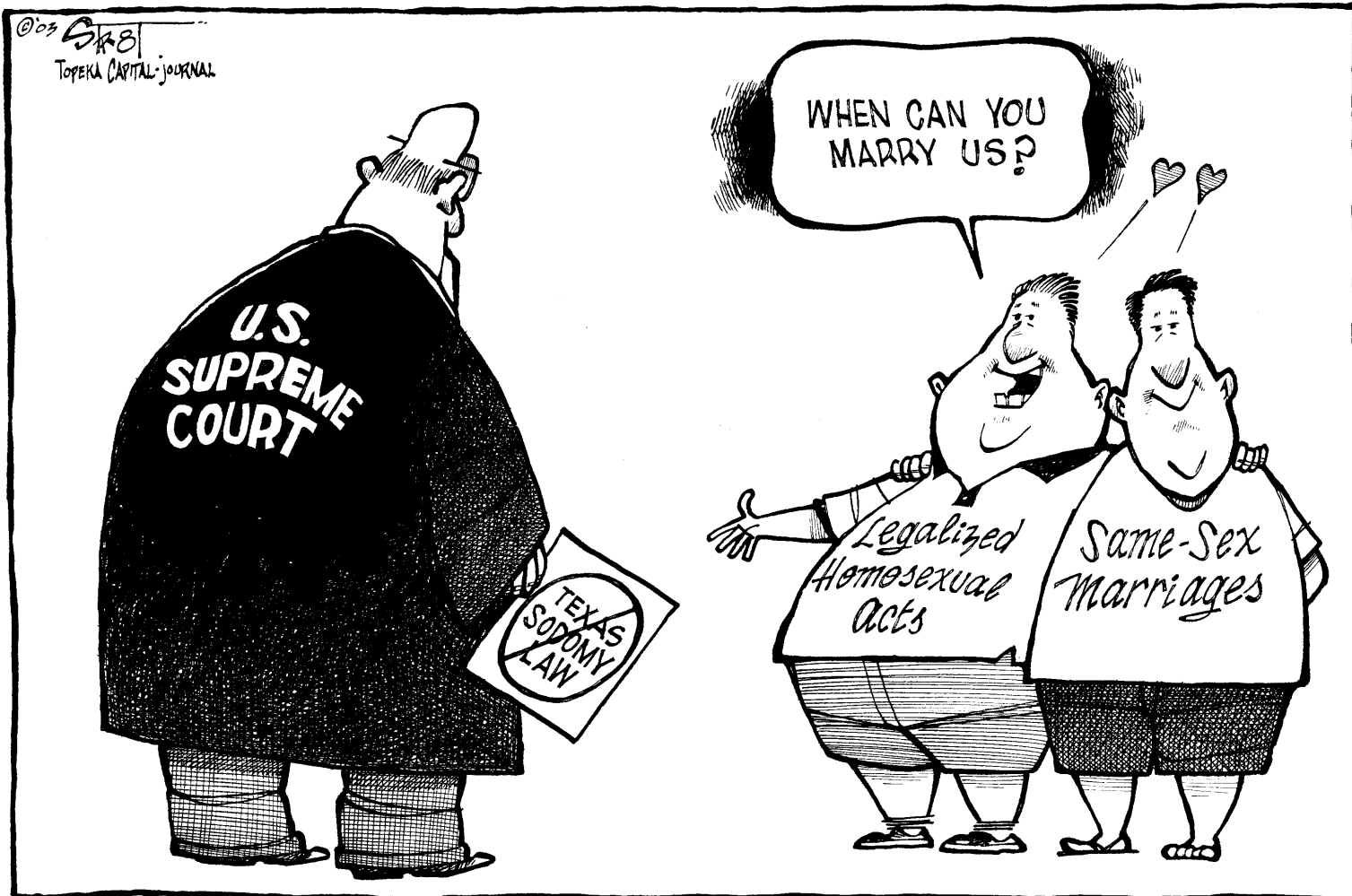
The kind of progress we have chronicled in the special edition today does not consist of big, flashy things that will turn the economy around by themselves. Instead, what we see is a lot of people who are opening small businesses and taking on the optimistic faith, like that of the farmer, that these efforts will provide a good living and possibly some satisfaction at having done a good job.

Progress, as the dictionary says, is a gradual betterment, and those who have chosen to come to Goodland and opened businesses are a sign of the constant change and the gradual effort to better the place where we live.

The positive psychological impact of a good wheat harvest and the positive impact of the changes listed in today's edition are evidence that there is strength in the base of this community.

We will persevere as long as the gradual betterment continues.

— Tom Betz
"There is nothing more constant than change." Robert Louis Stevenson said, "To be what we are, and to become what we are capable of becoming, is the only end of life."



Do you consider yourself successful?

I don't know about you, but I don't consider myself successful — at least by the society's standards.

But that's okay. I am content; maybe I am therefore successful after all.

I hope you too are successful. Consider these thoughts by an insightful author:

"Some say success means accepting yourself for who you are; Jesus says success means celebrating who you are, celebrating the person God has made you.

"Some say success means knowing all the ways in which you are already a winner; Jesus says success means that sometimes an illness, a cancer, a rejection puts you in touch with gifts and graces you didn't know were yours.

"Some say success is being able to lose your career without losing yourself; Jesus says success is being willing to lose yourself to find yourself.



lorna gt

• commentary

"Some say success is taking good care of yourself; Jesus says success is giving yourself away to others, to your community, and especially the lonely, sick, homeless, poor and hungry.

"Some say success is putting balance in your life; Jesus says success is putting God in first place in your life.

"Some say success is controlling your own finances; Jesus says success remembers that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

"Some say success is trusting the process; Jesus says success is trusting the Spirit!
"Some say success means knowing that ev-

erything has a price and knowing how much you would pay for it; Jesus says success is taking up your cross each day and doing whatever is necessary to serve in humble love." (-Thanks to Wesley Taylor, Tualatin United Methodist Church, Tualatin, Oregon.)

It seems to me that we spend way too much time trying to be climb ladders, worrying about what other people think of us, having enough money to buy every new thing.

God assures that all we need will be provided. God's way doesn't have nearly the stress involved.

Why do we fight God so hard?
I read somewhere: "God accepts you right where you are, but God loves you too much to let you stay right where you are."

In other words, God will fight the battles with us and make us better. Isn't that a comfort to know?

Life experiences don't come at the best times

We were back east last weekend, visiting a daughter who has been ailing, and feeding her brother, who as a college boy, is more or less a bottomless pit.

On the way back, we promised to stop off and see my sister, who lives near Emporia. She has a new colt of which she is exceedingly proud.

We left Lawrence after lunch, and when we got to Emporia, we called her place to see if they were home.

Her husband didn't sound too cheery.

"You didn't pick such a good time," he said. "We've been up all night with a sick horse. We're going to have put her down.

"But you might as well come on out."
We got there just a little ahead of the vet, who turned out to be the brother of an old high school classmate of mine.

The horse, a pretty little yearling filly, was obviously in pain. Her sister, slightly younger, tired to follow her everywhere. Sis said they'd grown up together and never really been apart. "She's going to take this hard."

The sick one had taken ill the night before. When a horse gets colic, there's not much to do but keep it walking and hope. No real treatment. Either the twisted intestine will straighten out, or it won't.

And if it won't, the choices are not much. You can take the horse to a fancy hospital, like the one at the K-State veterinary school, and they'll do surgery. Success rates are less than 50 percent, Sis said, and if the intestine has ruptured, less than that. You still get a bill for \$5,000 or more.

Or you can walk the horse and pray.

So after a night of treatment, calls and advice, trips to the clinic, walking the sick horse to keep her from rolling, there was not much left to do but decide where to take her so the rendering truck could get to her Monday morning.

Darryl kept walking her. Her sister kept following, trying to stay close. My sister's two vizula dogs, and a rescue dog that's staying with them, were underfoot.

Darryl and the vet led her out back, behind



steve haynes

• along the sappa

the barn. Barb said she didn't want to leave her out by the road.

There's not much to putting a horse down, not physically at least. Takes one person to hold the horse for the vet, and a syringe about as big as your forearm. It's like in surgery, no time to count to 10, and she down.

That's not much for the time, the work, the love, the sleepless nights, the dollars and the

heartache that go into raising a baby.

Life serves up experiences that you never expect. I guess this is one.

Sis always loved horses. When she moved back to Emporia, she gave up her job as a city planning director and found a place in the country where she could raise horses, where her dogs could run and her kid could be free.

She says she loves it. She says her stress level is down even though she's busier than ever. Most days, I believe her.

She walked out of the corral and sat down beside a tree.

"You sure picked a good time to stop by," she said, looking up from seat in the dirt. It gave us something to do besides sit down and cry."

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