

from our viewpoint...

Flatlander lifts spirits, sign of positive mood

The large crowds Saturday were good to see, and the increased number of booths and bike entries were signs of continued growth for the annual Flatlander Fall Festival.

Many of the car owners said they have been coming to the event for years and it is something they enjoy. They said the hospitality of the people, along with the great rod run, make it a pleasure.

It is always nice to hear good things about our city and the people who live here. They are right: It is a great place to live, and the success of the shows Saturday are proof that our resilient spirit is alive and well.

People were talking about the positive things that are happening in the city, including the work being done on the old Mosburg IGA to get it in shape for the Aircraft Seal and Gasket Corp., which will be moving into it in a short six weeks.

There are plans in the works to reopen Ray's Cafe, and another cafe is being planned as part of the renovation at the east exit on I-70, along with the reopening of the old Conoco station.

A clothing store is headed for the Schneider building. The new car wash being built at the old Kentucky Fried Chicken location is moving full steam ahead, and the owner from Burlington expects to have it open soon. The land has been cleared south of Wal-Mart for a new quick lube shop to be built next spring, and the owner is from Sharon Springs.

There are other plans, some are still in the idea stage, but together there is a sense that things are moving in the right direction.

Not everything is rosy, as the dry weather continues to keep the crops down. However, being this dry, we have less of a problem with mosquitoes and therefore less danger from West Nile virus.

Among the plans being talked about is one for downtown revitalization which would bring a new look and new bricks to Main Street and renew our beautiful business area. This would be more than a few bricks and a few cans of paint, and this effort will require help from many parts of the city, including the business owners in the area along and a block either side of Main from Eighth to 17th.

This is a very doable project, and already the plan is being supported by many of the groups and business leaders who would be affected. There was a public meeting at the Elks Lodge on Monday, and there will be another in the next few weeks as the plans are reviewed and updated before they are submitted as part of an application for a Community Development Block Grant. Even if the grant is not approved, the first part of the project will be done with the replacement of the bricks at the intersections of 11th and 12th.

The work to bring the aircraft parts company to Goodland has begun the process of establishing a venture capital program, and many feel this is an important step forward for the city to help bring other businesses to Goodland.

All these positive things are happening because there are people in this county and city who believe there is always a way to overcome adversity, even a drought. — Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

(USPS No. 222-460. ISSN 0893-0562)

Member: Kansas Press Association
Inland Press Association Colorado Press Association
National Newspaper Association
e-mail: star-news@nwkanssas.com

Steve Haynes, President

Tom Betz, Editor

Pat Schiefen, Copy Editor

Sharon Corcoran, Society Editor

Greg E. Stover, Reporter/Sports Editor

Doug Jackson, Advertising coordinator

Bill Wagoner, Phyllis Hadley, Advertising Sales

Sheila Smith, Office Manager

Nor'west Press

Jim Bowker, General Manager

Richard Westfahl Ron VanLoenen Judy McKnight

Betty Morris Mary Jo Tapparo Johanna Knuth Lana Westfahl

 nwkanssas.com

N.T. Betz, Director of Internet Services
(nbetz@nwkanssas.com)

Evan Barnum, Systems Admin. (support@nwkanssas.com)

Published every Tuesday and Friday except the days observed for New Year's Day and Christmas Day, at 1205 Main Ave., 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 Star-News, 1205 Main Ave., Goodland, Kan. 67735.

TELEPHONE: (785) 899-2338. Editorial e-mail: star-news@nwkanssas.com. Advertising questions can be sent to: goodlandads@nwkanssas.com

The Goodland Star-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, \$20; six months, \$38; 12 months, \$72. Out of area, weekly mailing of two issues: three months, \$30; six months, \$45; 12 months, \$80. Mailed individually each day: 12 months, \$115. (All tax included.)

Incorporating:

The Goodland Daily News

1932-2003

The Sherman
County Herald

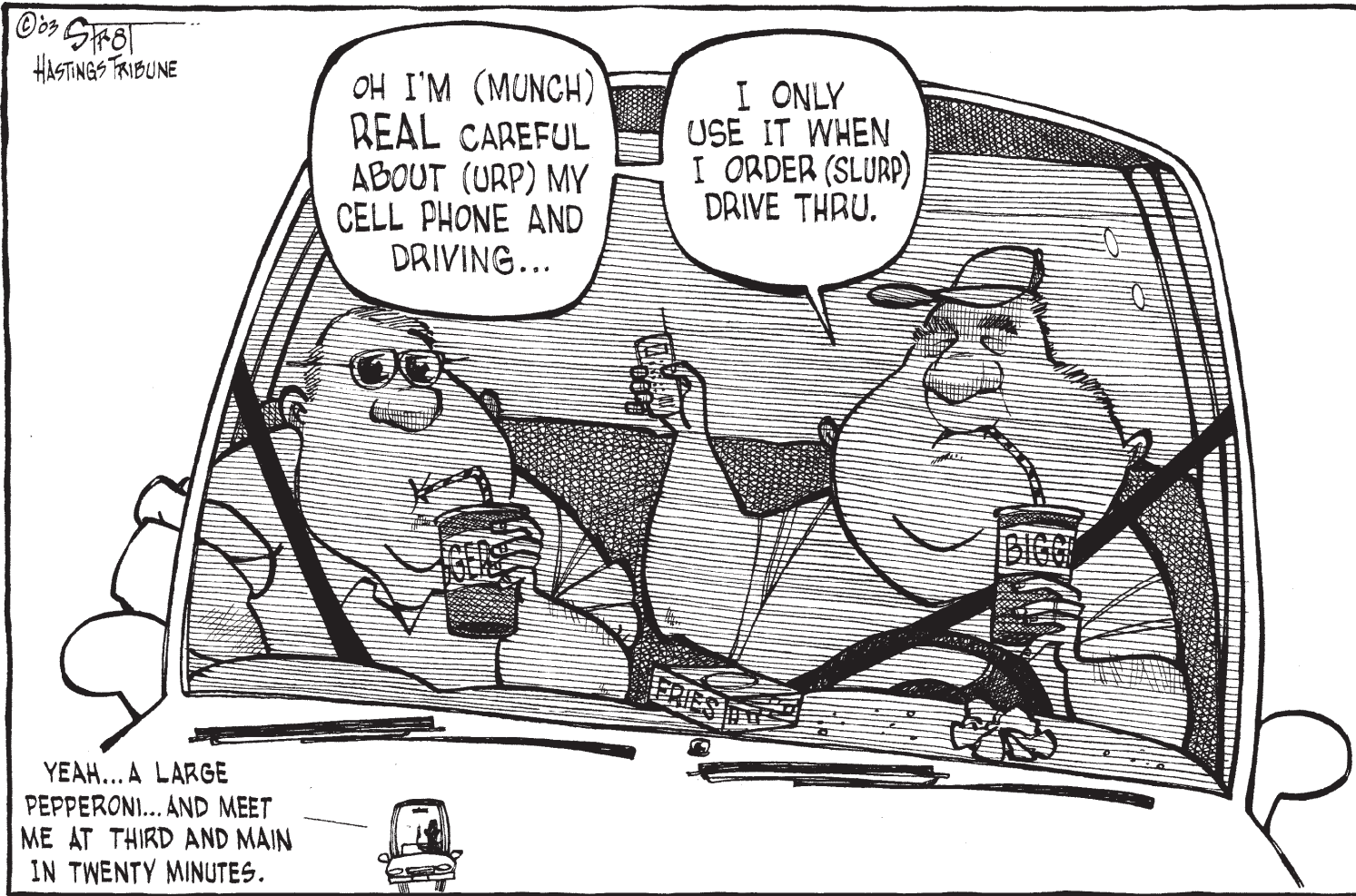
Founded by Thomas McCants
1935-1989

THE SHERMAN COUNTY
STAR

Founded by Eric and
Roxie Yonkey
1994-2001

Nor'West Newspapers

Haynes Publishing Company



Being a teacher means you can't scream

So I'm still trying to figure out what was weirder, watching my balance-impaired wife run down the highway after the spider, or just the fact that we were catching a spider for our daughter.

It was Lindsay who gave us the assignment to catch a tarantula. She said the kids in her junior-high science classes love spiders.

Since she pretty much invented the whole idea of arachnophobia, I found this a little strange.

Her mother said she always thought Lindsay's fear of spiders was more for show than real, but I saw her scream and jump enough as a girl that she had me convinced.

OK, maybe she played it up a little, but she was scared of spiders.

I always think of the summer night we were sitting on the back porch, talking and enjoying the sounds.

It was a dark night, no moon, no light in the back yard.

"Daddy," she said, looking to her left, over the porch rail, "there's something there."

I reached back and flipped on the light. She screamed.

"SPIDER!"

And it was a big one, one of those night spiders that spin webs across openings to catch flying bugs, happily spinning a web just inches from her cheek.



steve
haynes

• along the sappa

The spider didn't seem to mind the attention, but motioned for me to turn the light back off. I didn't argue. It was big.

It was years before I got Lindsay to sit in that porch swing again. Just mention it, and she'd shudder.

But I guess that wouldn't be too cool in front of a couple dozen squirming seventh graders, screaming at a spider, I mean.

When you're the teacher, you have to be cool, calm and collected.

And with junior high boys, there's no telling what you might find in your desk someday.

Couldn't scream. Just have to close the drawer and go on talking, or whatever you're doing.

I saw that happen in class once when I was a kid. Drawer full of frogs, and the guy never let on that he saw them.

I saw him close the drawer, though. Every once in a while, he'd peek in to see if they were still there.

I did not, by the way, put the frogs in his

drawer.

I still find it sort of strange that my daughter went into a line of work where you keep bugs in your room. But apparently, the kids really go for them.

They've had a garden spider this fall, but it laid its eggs and it's about to pass on to wherever spiders pass on to.

She said the kids came in the other day and asked where their big spider had gone.

"That's it in the cage," she told them

"No, Miss Haynes, that's just a little spider."

She pointed to the giant sack of eggs it had laid, and explained where the rest of her had gone.

Since the desert tarantulas migrate in the fall, I thought we could catch one. It was easy, and fun watching Cynthia try to run down the highway. A car came along, and I was afraid it would hit her or squash the spider, but the driver managed to miss them both.

The two of us managed to herd the critter into a box, and after a little start when he jumped around to look at me, we had him. (OK, I jumped, too.)

And now, we've got a big spider for Lindsay's classes. All four inches of him.

I just hope he doesn't get loose and surprise her at her desk, because I'm willing to bet she hasn't lost all those spider reflexes of hers.

I'm impressed by city's enthusiasm

Two days after I arrived in Goodland I got to watch the parade for the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair. I was impressed by the size and enthusiasm of the crowd, and that a community this size could put together a parade that took over 30 minutes for everything to pass one spot.

That parade and the community support for it were factors in my decision to stay in Goodland.

Then almost two months later came the Flatlander Fall Festival. Working for The Goodland Star-News during the weeks leading up to it, I got the impression this was going to be a big event. I wasn't wrong.

Walking to the office Saturday morning from the high school, where I took some pictures of



greg
stover

• greg's gripes

the Benefit Pancake Breakfast Feed, I noticed from a distance that there was a lot of activity on Main Avenue. When I got there and turned the corner I was surprised to see Main almost completely occupied by something, from sidewalk to sidewalk between 10th and 15th Streets, and it wasn't even 8 a.m. yet.

What really impressed me the most was the variety of events available. There seemed to

be several different events geared to specific age groups in addition to those enjoyed by all. This gave everyone, young and old, options on how to spend their weekend, giving each the chance to stick with one event or sample a variety over the course of the festival.

Most people told me this year's festival was the biggest, in turnout and number of events, while a few said there were bigger ones in the past.

Flatlander proved to be exciting to nearly everybody I saw and whether they had a good time or not kept most of them very busy.

I doubt that anyone got to see or take part in every part of the festival, it was that varied. Now I look forward to comparing this year's festival to next year's.

Freedom of religion vs. the ungodly

To the Editor:

Those who desecrate the flag, or refuse to salute it, ought not get a free public education!

Which of the Ten Commandments is a violation of the "Bill of Rights" of the United States Constitution?

Which of the Ten Commandments can ye delete, to improve any society? Example: No. 1 Doth not say "Love Roy Moore's God or the Baptists God (Nor any other churches god) But "Thy God!" If God is not thy Lord, the devil is!

The Ten Commandments and the "Bill of Rights" have made the U.S.A. the greatest nation on earth! If ye object to them: "Show us a



from our
readers

• to the editor

better way!"

"The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God..." Ps. 14:1A.

If ye opt out from "under God:" 9-11 echoes a crises occureth, will the devil help thee?

Frank Sowers
Benkelman, Neb.

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.

garfield

