

from our viewpoint...

Moran's bill eases unrealistic burdens

First District Congressman Jerry Moran, hardly a supporter of the No Child Left Behind law, has introduced a bill to ease the unrealistic goals attached to what otherwise could have been a pretty good law.

His Practicality in Education Act will use what he calls common-sense ideas to make No Child Left Behind more realistic and more effective. Congress is set to re authorize No Child this year.

Many educators look at the law as an anchor around their necks. They say it leaves little time for teaching, thanks to over regulation by the feds.

"We must not take the joy and passion out of this noble profession by requiring things that are simply not possible," Moran said, adding that his bill would make this federal program more realistic and manageable.

Moran was one of a handful of Republicans who voted against No Child when it became law in 2001. His reason was simple: he feared it would place unnecessary restrictions on Kansas schools and increase costs to the state's taxpayers, without a corresponding improvement in the quality of education students get.

Since its passage, he has had dozens of discussions with students, teachers, administrators, state officials and U.S. Department of Education officials to determine what it will take to fix some of the unintended consequences of President Bush's favorite law.

"It is important the No Child Left Behind legislation be updated to make it more equitable and fair for all children," said Dale Dennis, Kansas interim commissioner of education, "and to reduce the paper shuffling for our teachers and administration."

The Moran bill emphasizes individual student progress and takes a more accurate look at improvements and problem areas in schools. It also allows schools identified as troubled one additional year to improve before being labeled a failing school.

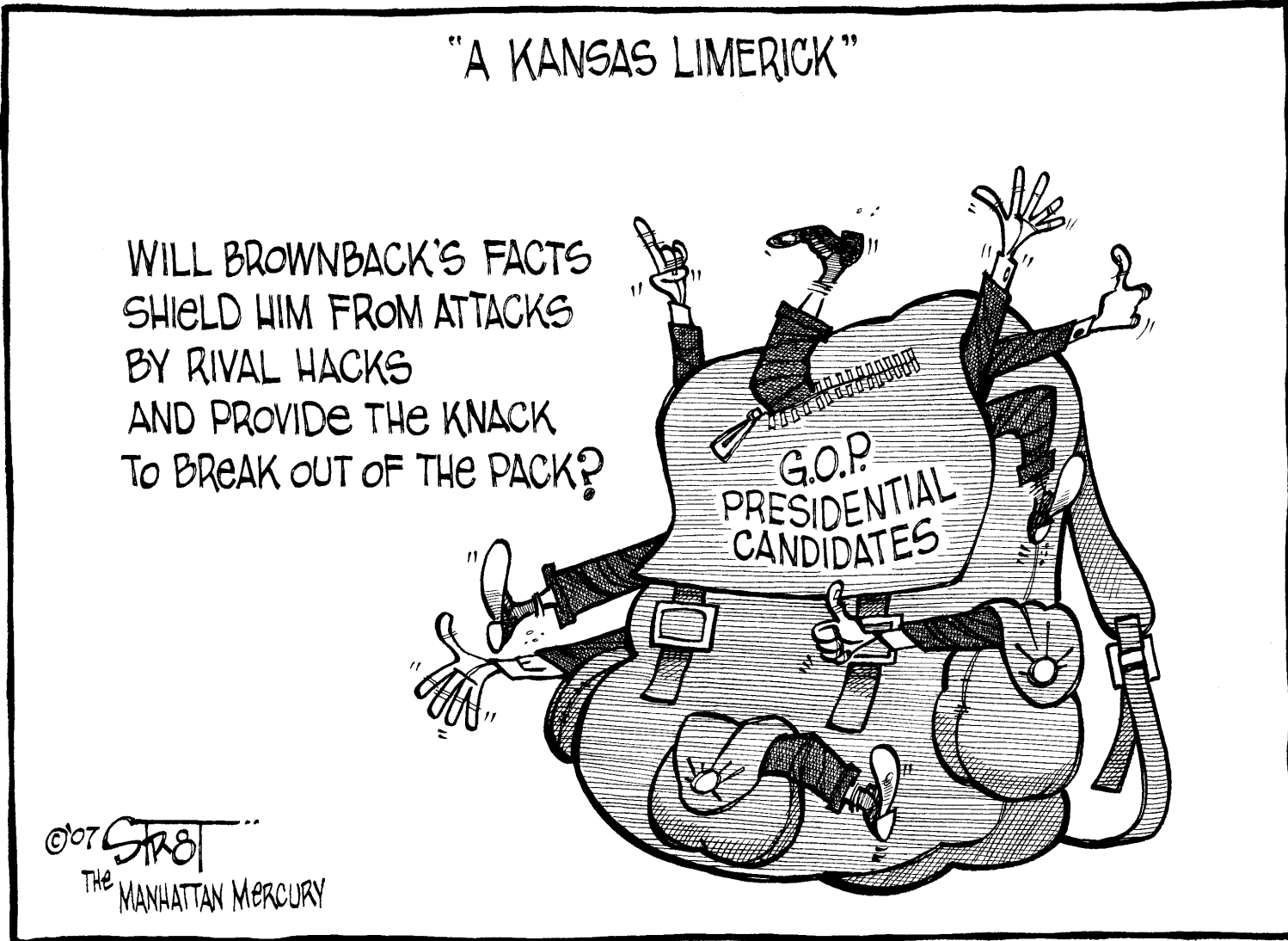
It would give states with the flexibility to consider special education teachers and rural teachers who teach multiple academic subjects as "highly-qualified" in all subject areas if they meet certain requirements. This could be important in rural Kansas, where schools need flexibility in hiring school people who may have to teach several subjects and find it difficult to become certified in all areas.

Additionally, this bill includes special considerations for students who need help with English and special education students.

Rep. Moran is as passionate about "fixing" the No Child law as advocates are that the act is doing what its authors intended.

We side in with Congressman Moran on this one.

—Tom Dreiling, *The Norton Telegram*



Pretty Thing is back in the pound

Pretty Thing is back in Norton, living at the pound.

Our experiment in taming her failed miserably and I ended up trapping her and taking her back to Sherry, the animal control officer in Norton. Sherry guaranteed me that she would find a new home for her.

Pretty Thing was a beautiful little part Siamese kitten I brought home a couple of months ago. She was a little wild, but Sherry and I thought that she was tame enough to go home with me.

We were both wrong. Pretty Thing didn't even have a name for the first month. She hid in the basement and we never saw her. Finally, I moved the cat food upstairs. If she wanted to eat, she had to come upstairs.

She did but her visits were hit and run. She hid under the desk until she was sure we were a long way away and wouldn't come near.

We could see her and talk to her, saying soothing things like, "Hi pretty thing, want some supper?"

After a couple of weeks, I decided that that



cynthia haynes

• open season

was her name. She was officially Pretty Thing, but we still couldn't get near her.

I thought we were making progress until one day I started down the stairs and Steve was in the kitchen. Soon Pretty Thing realized that I was blocking her avenue of escape. She went berserk. She ran into the kitchen, bounced off a chair and headed for the basement stairs where I was. When she saw me, she made a U-turn in midair and headed back up the stairs, where she spotted Steve. She careened off a leg of the desk and headed back downstairs. Seeing me again, she hit the wall and headed back up, finally making her escape into the dining room. All these figure-8 maneuvers took about five seconds.

Pretty Thing wasn't going to become a house

cat, at least not our house cat.

I brought in the small animal trap Sherry had lent me in case I couldn't tame her. I set it up in the kitchen and put the food bowl inside. I left it there for most of a week so all the cats had to go into the trap to eat.

They didn't like it, but they all four got used to it.

Then one night, we caught Molly Monster, April Alice and Jezebel and tossed them outside, took the food bowl out of the trap and left some inside.

We set the trap. It didn't take 15 minutes and we heard the door slam. Pretty Thing was in the box. The next day, I took her back.

Sherry says she has a farmer who wants a good cat.

Pretty Thing is a good cat and she should be happy on a farm where there are no kitchens and no traps.

Steve is right.

I need to let the cats come to me and not go looking for them. They always seem to find me when the time is right.

Money raised for infant death awareness

To the Editor:

All with of these businesses and employees of the Goodland businesses, we were able to raise more than \$783 for the Spring Sudden Infant Death Syndrome awareness day on Friday, April 20.

What a great community Goodland is!

The Shaw family was thrilled with the response. What a great way to remember their daughter Katilina Rose Shaw.

The director, Betty McIntyre said we were also a first- the Goodland Rotary Club invited Teresa Sieck and Kendra Shaw to be their guests at their weekly meeting and share with them some information about the Spring for



from our readers

• to the editor

SIDS awareness day.

McIntyre put together a very informative presentation, and she is going to include it in the material for next year's Spring for SIDS awareness day.

Those business and people who participated in the special day included JMC Engineering, Goodland Energy Cen-

ter, Wal-Mart Supercenter, First National Bank, Mann's Jewelry, Goodland Public Library, Teeters Abstract, Goodland Carnegie Arts Center, Kansas Travel Information Center, Goodland School District Administration Office, KLOE/KKCI/KWGB, Western State Bank, Bankwest of Kansas, Renewable Energy Resources, Mitchek Farms, Prairie Rose Floral, L&L Engine, *The Goodland Star News*, Miller's Electronics, Shear Dimensions, Kear's Quality Liquor, Foust Law Office, Sherman County Head Start, Trachsel A&B, LLC and Goodland Family Health Clinic.

Teresa Sieck
Goodland

Journalists, readers struggle with ethics

By Christine Tatum

Society of Professional Journalists
In the public's eyes, just about the only folks struggling with believability issues more than the Bush administration are journalists.

And journalists largely have themselves to thank for that.

Since the mid-1980s, Americans have been increasingly skeptical of the information they receive from the news media, and no major news outlet has escaped the trend, according to the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press.

Last year, only 19 percent of people surveyed by the Project for Excellence in Journalism said they believed "all or most" of what they read in their daily newspaper, a drop of 10 points in eight years. Another 40 percent believed only "a good deal" of what they read in the paper.

The loss of public trust should come as no surprise. Journalists have been caught making up stories (Jayson Blair, formerly of *The New York Times*, and others); rushing stories into the public domain ("Al Gore is our next president. No, make that George Bush. No, make that..."); accepting payment from the government in exchange for news coverage (three journalists formerly at *El Nuevo Herald* in Miami, and others); plagiarizing (too many culprits to name here); and juicing their stories with loaded language and sensational imagery (again, we don't have enough space).

Business agendas are getting in the way of good journalism. What else would explain an ABC reporter's "story" about a medical procedure that just happened to play a starring role in the episode of *Grey's Anatomy* that aired right before the newscast? What happens to



from other pens

• commentary

local news coverage when hundreds of reporting positions are cut to satisfy investors' expectations, or a single corporation owns hundreds of news outlets?

Good journalism is at the heart of our democracy. A free press — warts and all — is what creates an informed citizenry that can hold business, government and the institutions that affect our lives accountable. This nation is great because it has a free — if noisy and messy — news media.

The easy thing for a cynical public to do is watch passively as journalism reels from its self-inflicted wounds, or bash the news media until they deliver nothing of substance or value.

The media most certainly need to win back the public trust they've lost. That trust starts with a commitment to ethical news production, which is, above all, accurate, fair and independent of special interests. Many news organizations publicize their ethics policies online. The Society of Professional Journalists' code is widely considered the gold standard of the industry and can be found at spj.org. SPJ members routinely debate journalism ethics online and encourage the general public to join their conversations.

Rather than tune out, readers, listeners and viewers should hold news organizations and the companies that own them accountable for their news coverage and the business decisions

that undermine responsible journalism. Write letters, send e-mail, make phone calls or blog. We'll all be better for it.

Christine Tatum is national president of the Society of Professional Journalists, the nation's largest journalism advocacy organization, and an assistant business editor at *The Denver Post*.

□□□□□

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

This policy has been in effect at your newspaper for many years. We do depend on readers to point out our errors, so please call. — *The editors*

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@nw-kansas.com>.

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@nwkansas.com

Steve Haynes, President

Tom Betz, Editor

Erica Harlan, Copy Editor

Sharon Corcoran, Society Editor

Pat Schiefen, Reporter

Sports Editor



Jordie Mann, Advertising Sales

Sheila Smith, Office Manager

Nor'west Press

Jim Bowker, General Manager

Richard Westfahl, DeLisa Allen, Betty Morris,

James Jackson, Lana Westfahl, Dana Huthansel,

David Erickson, Wendy Huthansel



nwkansas.com

N.T. Betz, Director of Internet Services

(ntbetz@nwkansas.com)

Evan Barnum, Systems Admin.(support@nwkansas.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@nw-kansas.com. Advertising questions can be sent to: goodlandads@nw-kansas.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, \$29; six months, \$46; 12 months, \$81. Out of area, weekly mailing of two issues: three months, \$39; six months, \$54; 12 months, \$89 (All tax included). Mailed individually each day: (call for a price).

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