

from our viewpoint...

## July 4th celebration showcases progress

Wednesday we celebrate the 231st birthday of the United States of America, and for many of us, it will be a day off of work to enjoy with friends and family.

Wednesday night, the county fairgrounds will be hopping with music, carnival rides and the largest fireworks show between Hays and Denver.

Freedom Fest showcases the cooperative efforts of the people in this community at their best. These people and organizations helped raise the money to produce the Fourth of July show. Behind the scenes, the volunteers of the homeowned carnival continue to add to this great family fun night.

While we celebrate the birth of our nation with the Declaration of Independence, we should reflect that it was about 120 years ago when the Rock Island railroad arrived in the Goodland area and a town was born.

The early settlers began a progressive building effort that continues to today. We chronicle the annual steps of in the Progress section published in Friday's *Goodland Star-News*.

As the days and months fly by, sometimes it's hard to stop and think about what progress there has been in the past year. Publishing the stories from the businesses that participated gives a cross section of things that have changed and improvements made over the past year.

Some of those are not finished yet, but the physical progress is proof that it is moving ahead. The opening of new businesses and the clean up efforts are a way to move the town together toward a unified goal.

At times, the cost of progress seems high as we try to maneuver around the summer cone zones, but the results will be wonderful.

Over the past year, there have been some trying times — especially in the depths of the winter snow storms — but the abundant wheat harvest in full swing is the payback for surviving those long, cold nights.

The Shine On Sherman County process is about a year old, and the action teams have been working to get some things done to show progress on their goals.

With the help of the city electric crew, one of those goals should be visible on Main this week as half of the Welcome flags are replaced with new American flags bought with donations.

Tomorrow night, a group of young people who enjoy skateboarding plan to show their talents as part of an effort to raise money to build a skating park.

As we celebrate our nation's birthday with friends and family, we should revel in the display of volunteer and cooperative spirit in Goodland and Sherman County. — *Tom Betz*

### Letter Policy

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## I try not to do lawns

I don't do lawns — at least not when I can avoid it.

Steve cuts the grass. He's good at it and says he enjoys the exercise.

I think the last time I cut the grass was when we moved from Monte Vista, Colo., to Oberlin.

Steve and the children were living in Oberlin and I was going back and forth working at a pharmacy in Colorado on long weekends and living in Oberlin during the week. We hadn't sold the house out there and I had to mow the lawn each week after getting off from work.

It was a big lawn, but reasonably flat, so mowing was a chore but not a terrible one.

In nice, flat Kansas our lawn is on two levels and everything seems to be uphill. Still, I've avoided pushing the green monster for almost 15 years.

However, last week Steve was out of town, out of state, out of the country and mostly out



**cynthia haynes**

• open season

of his mind.

It rained. It was hot. The grass grew and grew.

I had to either mow it or wait a few days and take a machete to the jungle.

I opted to mow. In fact, since he was gone over two weekends, I mowed it twice.

Steve is a perfectionist with the lawn. He doesn't mow in squares, he mows in diamonds.

He loves baseball and has always admired the way the grass is mowed on the fields at professional parks. He wants his lawn to look like Coors Field.

This isn't going to happen, but he keeps trying.

I tried the first week to cut pretty little diagonals. Halfway through I was doing squares and feeling virtuous for getting the job done.

On the second week, I was muttering and mowing anything higher than a grasshopper no matter what direction it was in.

A few years ago, while watching the Red Sox in the World Series, Steve noticed that the groundskeeper at Fenway Park had cut a pair of socks into the grass. He's always wanted to do something like that.

Personally, I don't care that they cut pretty patterns into baseball fields or that Fenway has a pair of socks on the outfield.

I'm not surprised that there are socks out there — after all, baseball players are men, and they always leave their socks all over the place.

My only surprise, having done the laundry around here for years, is that it's a pair.

## Don't just pick a champion, stand with him

Conservative Republicans have suddenly discovered that while they weren't looking the Rockefeller wing of the GOP they thought they'd crushed in the Goldwater and Reagan revolutions is still very much alive and powerful.

That has been never more evident than it is now in the White House campaign for an immigration reform bill that seems to elevate illegal immigration to the exalted status of a civil rights movement.

Conservatives are stunned when they see the president they have staunchly supported through thick and through thin not only surrender to the liberal internationalist crowd, but get out in front and lead them in what amounts to an assault on America's national sovereignty.

Peggy Noonan was right when she wrote last week in *The Wall Street Journal* that "... conservatives and Republicans must recognize ... that the White House has broken with them."

Moreover, Noonan recognizes that, as she wrote, "the people in the administration don't even much like the [conservative] base ... This White House thinks its base is stupid and that its heart is in the wrong place."

Bush supporters, she wrote, "have felt like sufferers of battered wife syndrome. You don't like endless gushing spending, the kind that assumes a high and unstoppable affluence will always exist, and the tax receipts will always flow in? Too bad! You don't like expanding governmental authority and power? Too bad. You think the war was wrong or is wrong? Too bad. But on immigration it has changed from 'Too bad' to 'You're bad.'"

Peggy, however, stops short of recognizing that the old Eastern internationalist wing of the GOP — run by the Rockefeller Republicans — is pretty much in charge of things. That's not surprising. After all, *The Wall Street Journal* she writes for is the house organ of that wing of the GOP.

For more years than I care to remember, that bunch looked down their noses at the conservative base of the party and sneered that they had to obey their betters up their in the corporate suites and fall in line because they had no place else to go.

If you look carefully you'll see that same old big-money Eastern



**michael reagan**

• making sense

fat-cat crowd that loves big government and bloated budgets and anything that makes life easier for multinational corporations — such as having a steady supply of imported coolie labor — maneuvering behind the scenes at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. just as they did when the Rockefeller wing was pretty much in charge of the GOP's power centers.

The reason why this has been allowed to happen is the failure of conservative Republicans to stay in the ball game once they've chosen a new manager. Once he's in the dugout trying to run things they head for the showers instead of staying in the stands and cheering him on.

We pick a conservative candidate, back him

all the way to the White House, and then go about our business, leaving it up to him to do what we want done.

Having picked a champion like my father, Ronald Reagan, conservatives' only option when he left office was to go searching for another man like him to carry their banner. But while he has been in office they have wandered off and left him to fight their battles.

Meanwhile the Rockefeller Republicans never go to sleep, never stop, they are always charging forward. As a result, conservatives always find they're left out of the ball game because they are too busy to play.

If conservatives want to stay on top and in charge, they must be vigilant and never go to sleep as they have in recent years. By their inactivity, they've made it easy for the ever-active GOP left to move in and fill the void.

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