

from our viewpoint...

## Secretary Gates is a Kansas success story

Everybody knows that Robert M. Gates is Secretary of Defense. He is a holdover from the administration of President George W. Bush. Highly regarded during the time spent as a Bush Cabinet member, he has taken those pluses with him to the Obama Cabinet.

Here is something about Defense Secretary Gates that you probably don't know and should: He is a native Kansan, born Sept. 25, 1943 in Wichita and graduated in 1961 from Wichita East High School.

Yes, from Wichita East High to Secretary of Defense, and several other high ranking government positions in between, the sky really is the limit. He is sixth in line for the presidency should that situation ever present itself.

It was fitting, therefore, that the Kansas Society of Native Sons and Daughters named him "Kansan of the Year," at their annual Kansas Day banquet in Topeka. Secretary Gates was there to accept the honor.

He emotionally described himself as one of those boys who left Kansas but Kansas never left that boy.

Of interest to Goodland and area Boy Scouts — and something they should be awfully proud of during this the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America — is the fact Secretary Gates attained the rank of Eagle Scout and also received the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award from the Boy Scouts of America as an adult. Secretary Gates is also a former president of the National Eagle Scout Association. His boy scout roots are deeply implanted in the soil of our great state.

Before becoming the 22nd Secretary of Defense, Gates was serving as the 22nd President of Texas A&M University, where significant strides were made in student diversity, increasing the size of the faculty, building new academic facilities and enriching undergraduate and graduate education. He has been applauded many times over for these achievements.

Secretary Gates stands as a role model for all of us. His is truly a success story. And as he continues to advise President Barack Obama on all things military, as he did President George W. Bush, we know the president is getting the very best advice from one of our very best fellow Kansans.

And it can't get any better than that. - TD

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## The Goodland Star-News

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

Member: Kansas Press Association  
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National Newspaper Association  
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Published every Tuesday and Friday except the days observed for New Year's Day, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving 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@nwkansas.com](mailto:star-news@nwkansas.com). Advertising questions can be sent to: [goodlandads@nwkansas.com](mailto:goodlandads@nwkansas.com)

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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).

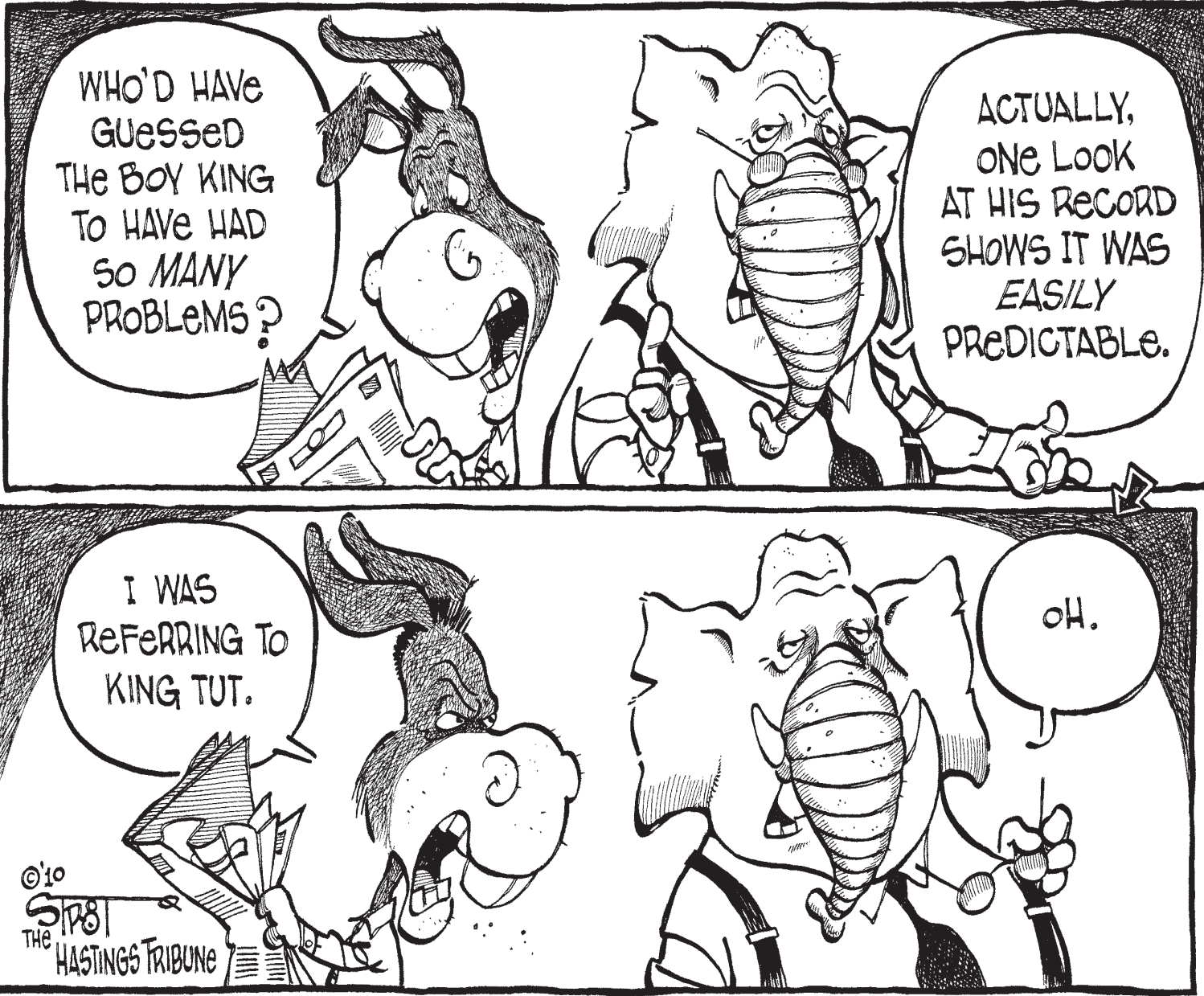
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## Snow removal guys thumbed up again!

**Thumbs up** to the snow removal crew, out early to clear the snow emergency routes once again. Thanks!-(e-mail); to the three wrestlers, Seth Miller, Nathan Deeds and Jay Cotter, who are representing Goodland at the 3-2-1A state tourney in Hays today and Saturday.-(e-mail); to Les and Alice Watkins, on your 70 years of marriage.-(telephone); to our local Boy Scouts of America, on your 100th anniversary! Good luck with your chili feed Saturday!-(td); to the Cowboy Pep Band, for pepping up the fieldhouse again this winter sports season.-(e-mail/a proud aunt). *Send your thumbs up to [td1@st-tel.net](mailto:td1@st-tel.net), or call 890-2475; no charge. Thanks for your input.*

-td-  
Have you given any thought to the fact we are less than three months away from graduation? Tell me time doesn't fly! Many members of the graduating class probably have their future plans mapped out, while others are still giving thought to available options. And the rest need to step it up a bit before the train leaves the station. Of course I'm biased (aren't we all?), so I'll plug Fort Hays State University (away from home, but not all that far), and then there's our own Northwest Tech (**home** cookin' still available). But whatever your situation, bring it into focus while you are still standing in line awaiting your diploma at graduation. You can never be prepared enough. These are exciting,



### tom dreiling

• time out with td

yet anxious months for the grad — and Mom and Dad!

-td-  
A follow up: A week ago I wrote an editorial opposed to a measure by a Topeka legislator that would waive the marriage license fee for those who couldn't afford to fork over \$69 for the license. Well, low and behold, the Kansas House passed the bill and it now goes to the Kansas Senate; they'll probably pass it too. I think doing this is opening a can of worms. Hmm! Speaking of worms, I wonder if I can get my fishing license waived.

-td-  
Submitted: The economy is so bad that one of the leading oil companies laid off two dozen Congressmen!

-td-  
I might add here that the Fort Hays State University basketball men are also having a great season. Seems like they are being overlooked. FHSU is the only four-year university in all of western Kansas. And needless to say there are a lot of alumni living here in Sherman County

## GOP attempts to recast itself

As America loudly repudiates the leftist agenda of President Barack Obama and his Congressional allies, a group of partisan GOP opportunists is busy promoting a theory of "Republican revisionism."

What does this theory hold?

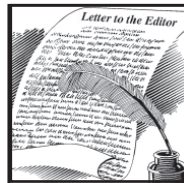
Namely, that the GOP wasn't "all that bad" — and certainly not as bad as the socialist hordes who have ostensibly pushed America to the brink of financial ruin over the last year. In advancing this theory, the GOP is looking to recast itself as a party that can be trusted with your tax dollars — while simultaneously attempting to reframe the legacy of the President (and dozens of other GOP politicians) who couldn't be trusted with your tax dollars.

This effort is most clearly visible in the GOP's recent attempts to co-opt the Tea Party movement. It can be seen within the opportunistic machinations of former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, who has been pushing a new "Contract with America" in spite of his obvious betrayal — and subsequent scuttling — of the original movement 15 years ago.

The GOP's new revisionist message was summed up in a billboard that appeared recently on Interstate 35 in the city of Wyoming, Minnesota.

"Miss me yet?" a smiling picture of former President Bush asks passing motorists.

In a word? "No."



### from other pens

• commentary

What this theory of "Republican revisionism" lacks is even a tangential basis in fact. That's because Republicans — at least prior to the election of a Democratic Congress in 2006 and a Democratic President in 2008 — were engaged in precisely the same policies they now spend all of their time railing against.

Honestly — why do you think they were booted out of power in the first place?

Republicans are no strangers to massive government overreaching.

For example, President Bush responded to the September 11 terrorist attacks by creating a huge new government bureaucracy, implementing an Orwellian domestic wiretapping capability and engaging our military in two costly foreign wars with no defined objectives and no exit strategy.

Bush and his cronies loved pork barrel spending, too. In 2005 — over the strenuous objections of taxpayer advocates — he signed a massive \$286 billion transportation bill that included 6,371 pet projects inserted by Republican and Democratic lawmakers. The bill was

and a lot of our kids are currently attending the university. As I was putting this column together on Wednesday, the Tigers were 20-5 overall and 14-4 in the MIAA conference. Also, they are ranked 13th nationally. One win in their final two games of the regular season coming up this week will assure the Tigers a berth in the NCAA Division II Tournament. Their final two foes are Pittsburg State (8-17, 2-16) and Emporia State (12-13, 8-10). Go get 'em, Tigers!

-td-  
While the recent talk was all about closing a school here in our community, I must admit no matter which one it would be, it would impact my two sons who attended all five schools. When we lived on Walnut Street, Todd and Lance attended Central School; on Washington Street, they attended North School; on Wyoming Street they attended West School; and then it was onto junior high and high school. I don't know how many kids did that. Both boys (now 36 and 38) often say, with a chuckle, that on their arrivals at junior high none of the kids were strangers, they had gone to school with all of them, at one location or other.

-td-  
Have a good evening! And remember, stranger or not, you are always welcome in the house of worship of your choice.

a pork-fest that dwarfed previous Democratic transportation boondoggles.

Why did a Republican President sign such a monstrosity?

"The president has to work with the Congress," a Bush spokesman said at the time.

In case anyone forgot, Republicans controlled both the U.S. House and Senate in 2005.

Bush and his GOP allies fought to create new entitlement spending — including a prescription drug benefit to Medicaid that has cost taxpayers hundreds of billions of dollars. They federalized education with No Child Left Behind, although erasing the "soft bigotry of low expectations" has done nothing to bridge America's achievement and innovation gap with the rest of the world.

Perhaps most revealing, for the vast majority of his administration, the "conservative" Bush kept his veto pen in his pocket — refusing to wield the one potent weapon (other than the bully pulpit) that could have been employed on behalf of American taxpayers.

As a result of Bush's fiscal recklessness, budget surpluses turned into deficits and a \$5.7 trillion national debt soared to \$10 trillion. Republicans are quick to forget that Bush is on the hook for a considerable portion of the unsustainable spending that is currently driving our debt even further into the stratosphere.

Indeed, Bush cemented his anti-free market legacy in late 2008 with the passage of the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) and tens of billions of dollars worth of automotive bailouts — additional examples of his kneejerk tendency to resolve every crisis faced by the nation with an unprecedented expansion of government power and taxpayer debt.

The simple, unavoidable truth is that Bush and his GOP allies were fiscal liberals, and no amount of "Republican revisionism" can erase that fact.

Howard Rich, chairman of Americans for Limited Government, is a Liberty Features Syndicated writer.