

from our viewpoint...

Voter ID plan not good for Kansas

It's disappointing to see Sen. Sam Brownback, the Republican candidate for governor, jump in and endorse calls for a "voter ID" law in Kansas.

The senator, in a press release Monday with the party's candidate for secretary of state, Kris Kobach, pledged they would work together to pass such a law.

And while this writer generally leans Republican, we see this as foolish. There is no evidence Kansas has a vote fraud problem. Under long-time Republican Secretary of State Ron Thornburg, Kansas has had clean elections for years. That has not changed.

Kobach, a law professor and anti-immigration activist, is way out in right field on this issue. He tries to scare voters with the specter of illegal immigrants somehow tainting Kansas elections.

But this is a solution looking for a problem. With no evidence of voter fraud or of illegals trying to vote, we think Kobach is just trying to scare us. That's wrong, and it's wrong for Sen. Brownback to get involved.

We know the senator, as leader of the Republican ticket and an apparent shoo-in candidate, needs to do what he can for the entire ticket. But Kobach is a one-issue candidate – illegal immigration – running for an office that has nothing to do with immigration.

Kansas has plenty of problems, starting with a budget that has ballooned under the influence of government "mandates" and pressure from schools and public employees. We can't pay for the demands of schools, prisons, roads and other programs. Taxes are high and rising; the property tax is out of control.

All these are things we will look to Gov. Brownback to find solutions for. The state needs leadership that will bring big government under control and provide a fertile climate for small business and job growth.

We need lower spending, a lid on taxes and leaders who will interpret the role of government as something less than all-encompassing. We have not had that for the last seven years.

Instead, we've seen the budget grow, taxes increased at the city, county, school district and state level. We've seen nothing to indicate the governor's office even cared about those issues.

Here, however, we have two Republicans pushing a big-government bill to tighten the noose of security-apparatus control around all Kansans' necks. That's not something those who love freedom should applaud.

It's not something Mr. Brownback should give credence to.

And it's not something Kansas needs.
Give it a rest, gentlemen. — *Steve Haynes*

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@nwkansas.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
Pat Schiefen, Society Editor



Jessica Corbin, *Josh Harenberg*, *Anne Selfridge*
Advertising Department

Sheila Smith, Office Manager

Nor'west Press

Richard Westfahl, General Manager
Jim Bowker, *Betty Morris*, *James Jackson*,
Lana Westfahl, *Kris McCool*, *Stacy Brashear*, *Tracy Traxel*,
Gary Meyer, *Judy McKnight*



nwkansas.com

N.T. Betz, Director of Internet Services
(nt.betz@nwkansas.com)

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

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. Advertising questions can be sent to: goodlandads@nwkansas.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

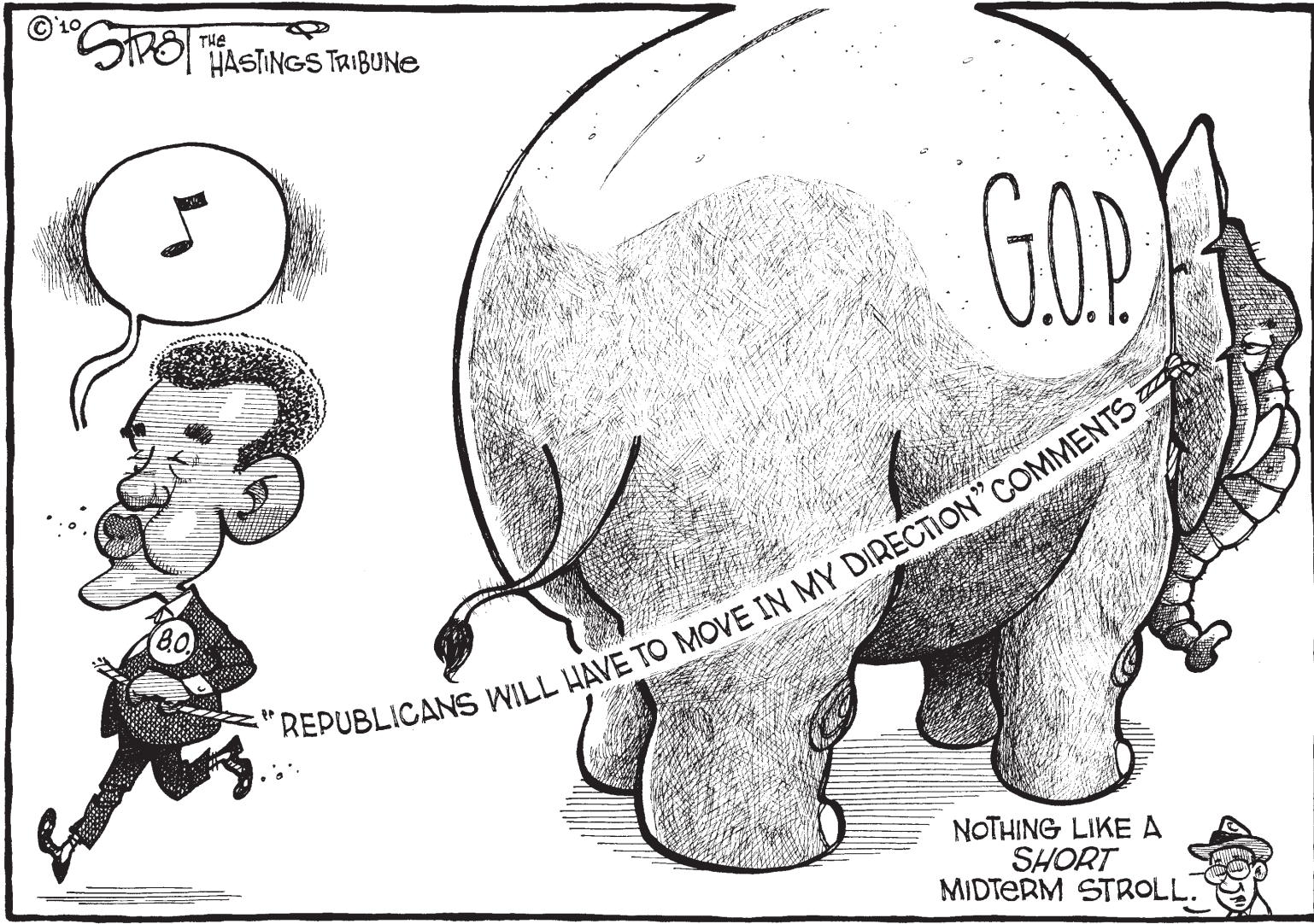
Founded by Thomas McCants
1935-1989

THE SHERMAN COUNTY STAR

Founded by Eric and
Roxie Yonkey
1994-2001

Nor'West Newspapers

Haynes Publishing Company



‘Perfect television mom’ dies at 94

June Cleaver died earlier this week at the age of 94.

To be more correct, Barbara Billingsley, the actress who played the perfect television mother on *Leave it to Beaver*, died following a long illness.

Which is sad, of course, but she made many women ill long ago.

She was so perfect. Her hair was always perfect. Her clothes were never torn, dirty or unironed. She always seemed to have a vacuum cleaner or dust rag close at hand. And, she always said and did the right thing.

What was not to hate when you're a working mother who's torn between house, husband, kids and work, and feeling like you're on the edge of failing at something almost all the time.

I remember as a child back in the late '50s and early '60s wondering why my mother didn't keep a perfect house, why we had to do all



cynthia haynes

• open season

those chores and why Mom seemed so tired at night.

Well, of course, my mother was a teacher. She got up, fixed breakfast, got my sister, Dad and I off to school and work, then headed for a classroom that in those days could include eight grades and 30 or more students.

And I couldn't figure out why she seemed so tired every night when it was time to make supper, see that we did our homework and deal with grading papers.

Geez, June Cleaver never seemed so out of sorts.

My mother didn't do the vacuuming and

Think safety always



Insight this week

• john schlageck

with four huge draft horses pulling a wagon within five feet and candy in the street?

"Why would a father put his young son in a stall with four miniature mares and foals at a sale, latch the door and walk away to chat with friends? The mares had been kicking and biting each other as horses do, jockeying for position. It would have been very easy for the child to get caught in the middle."

Higgins went on to say she witnessed both incidents during the last month.

"I have no doubt both parents dearly love their children," Higgins, a mother of two, emphasizes. "I don't believe they made a conscious decision to consider the risk and potential danger involved. I think they, like a lot of people, just don't think about safety at all."

So how do we deal with such questions? How do we ensure such behavior is eliminated in the future?

Education and awareness are the key ingredients to help make the farm a safer place for children to play, Higgins suggests. Brushing up on some of the potential hazards can also make it safer for parents.

Animals – even friendly ones – can be unpredictable. Have your children stay away from large ones. Emphasize they stay away from animals with newborn or young. Tell them to remain calm, speak

dusting every day. On Saturdays, the whole family pitched in, some of us less willing than others, and cleaned house.

Mother made breakfast and supper every day, but it was up to the kids to do the dishes. I thought we should get a dish washer like my cousins in Kansas City had. Dad said that he had a dishwasher. If fact, he and Mom had two of them, and we'd better get started 'cause we had homework to do, too.

And then I turned into a working mother trying to juggle work, house, husband and children, and I became my mother. The children did the dishes and laundry and we all pitched in, some of us less willing than others, to clean house on Saturdays.

So while I'm sorry that Ms. Billingsley is gone – I'm sure she was a lovely person – she sure was a tough act to follow.

quietly and move slowly when around animals.

While barns, grain handling facilities and big buildings can be fun to play in, falls can occur or children may be exposed to harmful substances like chemicals and electricity.

Wide-open spaces also provide children with ideal playgrounds. This isolation may also lead to difficulty finding help in the event of an emergency.

Explain the dangers associated with stored grain. Stress the principles that grain can entrap a person almost immediately. Children should never play around or in grain that is stored in bins, trucks or wagons. Emphasize that it is difficult or can be impossible to pull even a child out of grain if he/she becomes trapped.

Remember, it is important that youngsters have a safe place to play. Ask them to identify safe play areas. Talk about areas away from farm machinery, animals, manure pits, silos, etc. Carefully define safe boundaries. Let them know where they can and cannot play.

John Schlageck of the Kansas Farm Bureau has been writing about farming and ranching in Kansas for more than 25 years. He is the managing editor of "Kansas Living," a quarterly magazine dedicated to agriculture and rural life in Kansas.

