

from our viewpoint...

## Not always clear when time to act

*During a tournament one day, Latvian chess master Aron Nimzowitsch complained his opponent had laid an unlit cigar on the table beside the board. The tournament director pointed out the man was not in fact smoking. "Yes," replied Nimzowitsch, "but he is threatening to smoke, and any fool knows the threat is more powerful than the execution"*

President George Bush on NBC's *Meet the Press* Sunday talked with Tim Russert about his decision to go to war in Iraq. "I and my team took the intelligence that was available to us and we analyzed it, and it clearly said Saddam Hussein was a threat to America. "He had used weapons. He had manufactured weapons. He had funded suicide bombers into Israel. He had terrorist connections. In other words, all of those ingredients said to me: Threat. "The fundamental question is: Do you deal with the threat once you see it? ... I dealt with the threat by taking the case to the world and said, 'Let's deal with this. We must deal with it now.' "...I strongly believe inaction in Iraq would have emboldened Saddam Hussein. He could have developed a nuclear weapon over time. I'm not saying immediately, but over time, which would then have put us in what position? We would have been in a position of blackmail. "In other words, you can't rely upon a madman, and he was a madman. You can't rely upon him making rational decisions when it comes to war and peace, and it's too late, in my judgment, when a madman who has got terrorist connections is able to act."

It seems clear now the intelligence made available back then was aimed more at giving the president what he wanted, and that was a way to invade Iraq.

No one will disagree Saddam was a danger to the world. The problem is how Bush used the fear of weapons of mass destruction as the central point of his campaign to invade Iraq. Now, he seems willing to admit it was not as accurate as he thought, but like the chess player, he wants us to remember the threat.

On Friday, President Bush appointed a seven-member panel to investigate and review the intelligence system and how it came up with the information used to sway the world to support the invasion of Iraq.

Bush gave the panel until March next year to report its findings, which will give them until five months after the election. He said that is to give them enough time to search for answers and to make recommendations so the next president won't face such a decision without better information.

Hindsight is clearer than what we saw at the time, but how would it have been for Bush to approach the United Nations and the American people saying, "we need to invade Iraq to finish the job my father started."

Maybe it was easier to get us to go along on the fear of Saddam's weapons of mass destruction rather than saying we needed to topple a despot.

Politically, this question will continue to be bandied about by the Democrats. To many, Bush is somewhat vulnerable because of the lack of evidence of a nuclear weapons program in Iraq.

No matter how we got there, we will continue to support our American troops in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

What makes this a great nation is the ability to look at ourselves and criticize while at the same time continuing the fight against terrorism around the world. — *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](mailto: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**, **Anne Hamilton**, **Jennifer Arntt**, Adv. 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](http://nwkanssas.com)

**N.T. Betz**, Director of Internet Services  
([nbetz@nwkanssas.com](mailto:nbetz@nwkanssas.com))  
**Evan Barnum**, Systems Admin.([support@nwkanssas.com](mailto: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](mailto:star-news@nwkanssas.com). Advertising questions can be sent to: [goodlandads@nwkanssas.com](mailto: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.

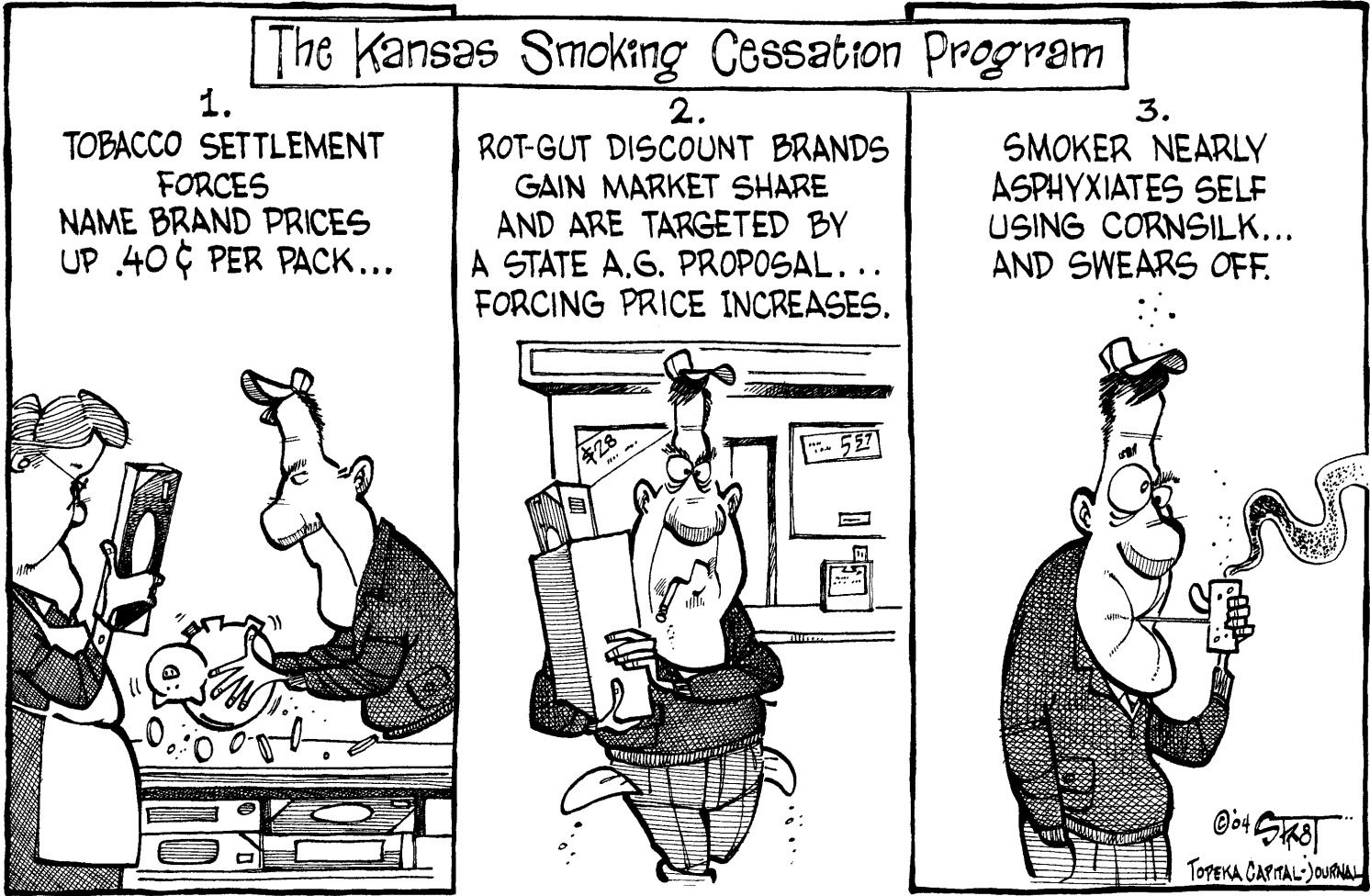
SUBSCRIPTIONS: In Sherman County and adjacent counties: three months, \$20; six months, \$38; 12 months, \$72. Out of area, weekly mailing of two issues: three months, \$30; six months, \$45; 12 months, \$80. Mailed individually each day: 12 months, \$115. (All tax included.)

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



## Truck becoming our prairie taxi

When my grandmother was a little girl, she and her sister rode to school on a horse each day. As soon as they arrived, they would let the horse go and it would return home.

A little while before school was out, my great-grandmother would give the horse a thump on the rump and it would head off across the Kansas grassland to pick up the girls at school — sort of a hairy prairie taxi.

Like that horse knew the way to school, Steve's truck is beginning to know the way to Denver. I think a few more trips and, a thump on the bumper, it would head west.

As I write this, the truck is on its third trip to Denver in less than two weeks.

The first was to a meeting of the National Newspaper Association's convention committee. The September convention is to be in Denver, and the committee was inspecting the hotel and looking at places to entertain people from around the country. We decided on the Museum of Nature and Science, which has a back porch overlooking City Park, with its lake



**cynthia haynes**  
• open season

and old-fashioned boathouse, and one of the best views of the Rocky Mountains to be had in the city.

If the museum doesn't get them, with its rock and mineral displays, IMAX theater and space travel exhibits, the mountains will snow them. (Oops, sorry about that.)

After the meeting, I took Steve and our friend Bob Sweeney and put them on a plane for Washington. That was the first leg of their week-long adventure in Tunisia, but I'll let Steve tell that story over the next couple of weeks.

Then I slipped a tape in the player and headed east for a quiet week of just me, the dog and the cats.

Then just a little over a week later, I headed

## Closing rural offices is not the answer

Throughout the past year, several of you have contacted me regarding the closing of, or at least the rumor of the potential closing, of state offices in rural Kansas.

Those most frequently mentioned were Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services offices, but there is a real threat and attempt to consolidate magistrate judge positions and others.

I have visited with people on the governor's staff and a number of other legislators from both political parties who really care about the future of rural Kansas; among them Reps. Jim Morrison, Ralph Ostmeyer and John Faber from the immediate area and Dennis McKinney, the Democrat leader in the Kansas House of Representatives from Greensburg.

We have done our best to change the direction Social and Rehabilitation Services and other state agencies are heading. Dennis has met a number of times with the governor and her staff and reports back; we establish the next step and keep each other informed.

Recently I met with Candace Shively, deputy director of Integrated and Service Delivery within Social Services, and at another time with Jeremy Anderson, director of governmental affairs for the governor's office. In each meeting, I pointed out one of the best ways the administration can truly demonstrate their sincerity in your efforts towards rural economic development is to maintain and expand the number of state government employees in rural Kansas.

Using the internet and "800" numbers with the automated phone systems is a two-way street. People from the city many times are thought to be more technologically advanced and, if we accept that theory, can therefore access these government services more readily than rural citizens contacting the city for these services. I point out locating the jobs in rural Kansas helps stabilize the enrollment in our schools because the state employee's children



**stan clark**  
• newsletter

will also become part of the community, their salary will help maintain the rural businesses and health care facilities, they will become active in the community service organizations and help maintain our way of life, and purchasing a home will help maintain the real estate market. Additionally, I tell them that the state employees could become ambassadors for the rural way of life and encourage more agencies to locate here.

They say every current employee can continue with their present job, but they will be driving farther. I respond that may be true for the short term, but the reality is their replacement will live in Hays or Garden City or wherever the office is, and those communities have enough other employment opportunities.

Truly, wouldn't it be better for the state to locate these offices in rural Kansas? They do not disagree with my reasoning. I hand them the listing of all of the state government offices from the Feist phone books. These books list numerous offices in Hays and Garden City and quite a few in Dodge City. I ask which of these

### where to write

**U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts**, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774; web address — [roberts.senate.gov](http://roberts.senate.gov)

**U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback**, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510. (202) 224-6521; web e-mail address — [brownback.senate.gov/CMEmail.me](mailto:brownback.senate.gov/CMEmail.me)

**U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran**, 1519 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C.

back to Denver to pick the boys up at the airport. It was a little after midnight when I got them at the pickup area for United passengers.

They were beat and so was I. We spent the night at Bob's before heading back to Kansas.

We got home about 4 p.m. Monday and Steve immediately started washing socks and underwear. By 3:30 Tuesday afternoon, he was repacked and we were on our way west again headed for the airport.

I think this is why so many car manufacturers name their vehicles after horses — Pinto, Bronco, Mustang. Giddy-up, truck, we got a plane to catch.

Too bad, I can't just let it drive itself home like my grandmother's horse. That would save a bundle in parking fees. Of course, we would need Mom at the other end of the line to get it out of the garage and send it west again.

Oh well. I know I'll be happy to see our faithful steed sitting out in the parking lot when we get back from our vacation.

What kind of a horse is an Explorer, anyway?

offices really have to be located in these communities? I continue by asking which services and backroom paperwork (or computer systems) that are currently handled in Topeka or Salina or Wichita or Kansas City really don't make much difference where they are located?

They start listing the services: collections, legal, administration of countless departments. I ask, "Why not locate some of these in rural Kansas?" They hesitate and hesitate some more. They don't say it, but if I am reading their thoughts correctly, the answer is they, themselves really don't want to move to rural Kansas.

I point out, "You have a wonderful opportunity to keep the SRS office open in some of the communities in my legislative district because the lease continues for another two years. Why not move jobs from the city to a rural community and begin to truly demonstrate this administration's commitment to rural Kansas?"

How can we clear this hurdle? How can we get some momentum on this type of proposal? I need your thoughts and ideas.

*Please feel free to contact me on this or any issue. I can be reached by writing to Senator Stan Clark, State Capitol-Room 449-N, Topeka, KS 66612; by calling 1-800-432-3924 or 785-296-7399; by FAX at 801-457-9064; or by e-mail at [sclark@ink.org](mailto:sclark@ink.org).*

20510. (202) 225-2715; e-mail address — [jerry.moran@mail.house.gov](mailto:jerry.moran@mail.house.gov)

**State Rep. Jim Morrison**, State Capitol Building Rm. 174-W, Topeka, KS 66612. (785) 296-7676; e-mail address — [morrison@house.state.ks.us](mailto:morrison@house.state.ks.us)

**Kansas Attorney General Phil Kline**, 301 S.W. 10th, Lower Level, Topeka, KS 66612-1597 (785) 296-3751 Fax (785) 291-3699 TTY: (785) 291-3767

### garfield

