

from our viewpoint...

## Lease decision sets reasonable deadline

Nothing will be more welcome than seeing people going to work in the Ed Wolak building next week when Aircraft Seal and Gasket Corp. is set to begin training employees and finally beginning some actual production. It has been more than a year since the project began, but there are many people who believe this is a good plant that has had a rocky start.

It was reasonable for the city commission to discuss the status of the aircraft parts company at Monday’s meeting. We feel the commissioners were being reasonable when they set a deadline of the first meeting in December to review the city’s lease on the building.

Actions, or the lack of action, by Aircraft Seal and Gasket has been frustrating as promised production dates have slipped by, and the lack of activity became a sore point.

When founder and President Herb Menold first came to Goodland with Roy Dixon last September, they were honest in saying that it would take \$800,000 to bring the company to this city. A plan to pool investments to help raise that money did not materialize, at no fault of Menold, and he had to seek money somewhere else.

As he has struggled to get this operation up and running, he has been working with Sedgwick County as well to open a 15,000-square-foot facility in Wichita. In December, Sedgwick County granted Aircraft Seal and Gasket Corp. a forgivable loan to help open the Wichita facility.

When the firm told Goodland officials last year that the building had to be ready in six weeks, everyone came together to see it was done as quickly as possible. The effort demonstrated the strength of this community to make things happen.

Questions remain about why the project did not move ahead as expected, but all of that will be forgotten if the training, which is being financed n part by \$50,000 from the Kansas Department of Commerce, begins and the plant hires the expected 30 people.

No matter what happens, the experience of the last year should not be lost on the people of Goodland. There are other companies out there looking for a place to relocate to, but they will be asking for incentives to come here.

To be in the game for recruiting small manufacturing companies we need to develop a venture capital group which legally can provide money to help these businesses get up and running.

The plan last year was a bust, but the idea of a venture capital program was right on target. There is no time like the present to begin organizing and developing a plan for this.

Many cities, including Wichita, have such programs and are using them to help both new and existing businesses expand and relocate.

We have the industrial park, now we need a venture capital program to help fill it. — *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*, Sports Editor/Reporter  
*Kathryn Gurfinkel*, Reporter  
*Doug Jackson*, Advertising Coordinator  
*Anne Hamilton*, *Robin Flax*, Adv. Sales  
*Sheila Smith*, Office Manager

### Nor’west Press

*Jim Bowker*, General Manager  
*Richard Westfahl* *Ron VanLoenen* *Judy McKnight* *Betty Morris*  
*Aaron Hickert* *Kris McCool* *Lana Westfahl*

 [nwkanssas.com](http://nwkanssas.com)

*N.T. Betz*, Director of Internet Services  
([ntbetz@nwkanssas.com](mailto:ntbetz@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



## What do you think about the election?

I don’t know about you, but I’m thinking about the vote that is fast approaching.

I consider it a right and a privilege to vote, but I have moments when I consider not voting because I’m truly not as informed as I should be.

Then I wonder if anyone is truly informed enough. It is so hard not to react emotionally to all the mud-slinging.

The Bible seems to say that leaders are picked by God and that we should respect and follow their leading. Somehow that helps me trust the outcome of each American election.

If God is guiding the voters, then the country is in good hands.

But leaders have to listen to God in every decision they make, or God can change His/Her mind.

One good thing about an election is the relief we feel when it’s over.

The campaigning becomes so constant and



**lorna  
gt**

● commentary

degrading that our souls become weary.

Things picked out of context, even facial expressions of the candidates, are interpreted by reporters who are just out for a story — any story. And I hesitate to even mention the costs — both financially and emotionally for the country.

So today I’d like to offer some quotes that might sustain you through these last few weeks before you vote:

“It was absolutely horrible how truth could be rearranged to justify one’s own behavior.” From Isle of Palms by Dorothea Benton Frank.

It is “perverse to imagine that our enemies

can do us more harm than we do to ourselves by hating them, or that by persecuting another (person) we can damage him (or her) more fatally than we damage our own hearts in the process.” From Confessions by St. Augustine. (Parenthesis - mine).

“Every passing minute is a chance to turn it all around.” From Vanilla Sky — a movie.

“Time doesn’t mitigate an injury; it only allows one to overlook it.” From Da — a movie.

“The friend of my enemy, he is my enemy; The enemy of my friend, he is my enemy;

But the enemy of my enemy, he is my friend.” Old Azeri Proverb — From Echo Platoon by Richard Marcinko & John Weisman.

Don’t forget to vote.

God can guide your hand as you mark the ballot.

Hopefully, the winners will be gracious, the losers cooperative, and we can all get back to being friends again.

## Rhetoric about draft is not being realistic

Both the Democrat and Republican presidential camapigns are using the fear of a military draft to influence the 18 to 24-year old vote, which is just another exercise in meaningless political rhetoric.

The Democrats claim re-electing President George Bush will create a “great potential of a draft,” while Bush is telling people the best way to avoid a military draft is to vote for him.

The bottom line is the President, whoever that might be in the future, cannot promise he or she will not authorize a draft. The world situation is simply too uncertain to make such a promise.

The fear the two parties seem to be catering to is that a draft will be initiated and six months from now thousands of the nation’s youth will end up as targets in Iraq while politicians in Washington dictate the rules of engagement.

People should realize this will not happen. Even though a draft implementation plan exists, it would take at least a six months for the



**greg  
stover**

● as i see it

details to be worked out, like what age group to call up, will it include women, what branch of the service will they go into and what will the exemptions be.

It would take another six months or more to put the system in place, including the all important bureaucracy. The military would need that time to prepare the military enlistment processing stations around the country for the increased workload in testing, physicals and administrative requirements.

It would be at least a year before a young person gets his or her “greeting” from the President and then, at the earliest, three to four

weeks before he or she has to report.

Those who are accepted for service, even if they ship out immediately, will take between four and 12 months to get through their initial training, depending on the job skill they are assigned. If after training they are assigned straight into a theater of operations, it will take at least an extra month of preparation before they “board the plane.”

The bottom line is that it will be at least 18 months after the president calls for a draft before any real military strength is added to the armed forces.

Hopefully, by that time the situations in both Iraq and Afganistan will have become non-hostile.

If a draft is authorized, it means the national leadership expects the country to be involved in hostilities somewhere in the world two years from then.

That is something no Presidential candidate is going to tell the voters.

## Election important to determine future

To the Editor:

The presidential election this coming Nov. 2 will be by far the most important endeavor we can become part of for the future of our nation. The outcome of this election will decide whether our country will follow and trod along the same path in which it has stumbled for the past 3 1/2 years, or return to a set of core domestic and foreign policy values that have been at the heart of what has made this country great.

Now more than ever, we, the people of America, will have to make cool judgments, not influenced by habits of the past. Expert opinions show that we tend to vote as our parents did or as we “always have.” We remained loyal to party labels. This is a time when we must break from the past to move on into the future because we cannot afford that luxury in the election of 2004. The America that I love



**from our  
readers**

● to the editor

— that you love — is being taken apart piece by piece by a small group of extreme ideologies in the White House.

Many people are concerned about our precious individual freedoms, our privacy, the basis of our democracy, and justly so. Of course, we must fight terrorism, but have we gone overboard in doing so? We can only wonder.

The Republican leaders of today are not solely accountable for American jobs being lost, but they encourage it because of their tax codes, which are heading us on the path of a

future being labeled either very rich or very poor.

I am convinced John Kerry appeals to a broad crosssection of America. He has the right mix of government experience and has stood in the jungles of Vietnam. He knows what it means. He gets it. He has a balanced approach to jobs, national defense, the environment, health care and more. He is intelligent, articulate and sincere.

Sen. Kerry, in whom I am willing to place my trust, has shown that he is courageous, sober, competent and concerned with fighting the dangers associated with the widening socioeconomic gap in this country. I will vote for him enthusiastically.

Lacy Carson  
Goodland

### garfield

