

from our viewpoint...

Young man's death brings war closer

No matter what you think of the American involvement in Iraq, the war became more personal with the death last Sunday of Army Specialist Derrick Lutters.

The news was a shock to the whole town. People let his father, city Public Works Director Chuck Lutters, know how they felt with visits and condolence throughout the week.

War is a deadly undertaking, but we are caught off guard when someone we know becomes a casualty.

Suddenly, there is the face of the young man we watched in high school, and as he headed off to summer camp with the Kansas National Guard.

He always had a smile and a wonderful sense of fun as he talked about life.

Over the past week, people have been remembering the special things he did, and how he affected the lives of those around him.

There were people lining Main Street on Saturday when the convoy accompanying him home drove up to Koons Funeral Home.

No doubt, Max Jones Fieldhouse will be filled on Thursday morning with mourners come to pay final respects to a young man who touched lives in ways he never knew.

For those who lived through other wars, these scenes are nothing new. Some have seen more of this than they ever wanted.

Families of Sherman County who have sons and daughters in the military today can understand what the Lutters family is dealing with. Those who lost sons in previous wars know the feeling.

The people who knew this young man will have lasting memories of what he did in his short life. While his friends continue down life's path and have families, he will never know the joy or pains of growing old.

Others from this community have been in Iraq, and a few have been wounded in action. However, Lutters became the first death from the county and the surrounding area in this war.

Whatever happens in the future in Iraq, the people of Sherman County will always remember that we lost a young man to a suicide bomber.

The violence of war is not over, and while we say good-bye to one young man let us pray for the safe return of the other sons and daughters facing danger across the globe. —Tom Betz



Cheating is still wrong

When did cheating become OK?

When we were kids, our teachers circled our desks and warned against cheating.

"It'll go on your permanent record," they said, and that was enough to keep us out of trouble.

When we played cards, checkers or Monopoly, if someone cheated, we knew it was wrong. We felt betrayed.

So today, why is cheating by adults ignored?

When scores of professional athletes take drugs, why doesn't anyone call it what it really is?

Cheating.

If someone has the chance to get a leg up with "performance-enhancing" drugs, or steroids, it seems more and more often, the don't turn it down.

Some professional athletes "flop," or pretend they're hurt, in games to get a foul called.

Who could think that's the honorable way to play? I say it's cheating.



kathryn burke

• commentary

Sure games, are not the most important thing in our society, but this attitude leads to a culture of cheating.

If Jose Canseco, my hero, is a cheater, maybe I can be one when I grow up, too.

Is that the kind of ethic we want passed on to our children, future judges, police officers and doctors?

Do you want to be operated on by the doctor who cheated on all of his tests?

Recently, we've seen top business executives and famous homemakers arrested for cheating.

Martha Stewart got a tip that gave her the opportunity to cheat, and she took it.

Her "tip" cost others money, but was nothing compared to the cheating by executives at Enron and other big corporations.

Donald Trump cheats on his debt by filing bankruptcy, sticking his creditors with the bill.

Does it make sense to anyone when one of the richest men in the country files bankruptcy?

Although I believe welfare does more good than bad, lots of people cheat the system to steal benefits from the hard-working majority.

Now we don't even bat an eye when we hear of marriages ending in divorce because of cheating.

When did it become OK to betray your husband or wife?

Cheating is still wrong!

Last month, millions of Americans filed their taxes. How many of them cheated? In an honest society, there would be no need for the Internal Revenue Service agents and tax auditors.

So next time you see a loophole, don't barge through. Stop and remember what your teachers would have said about taking the easy way out.

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@nwkansan.com>.

My cats killed the Easter bunny

One of my cats killed the Easter bunny.

How do I know this?

I found its headless little body in the middle of my sitting room Saturday morning.

This was not the first body that I've attributed to the feline contingent in our house. All the others, however, have been birds. Most of them have been dead, but at least two were alive, and I was able to capture and release them outside.

While the dead birds presented quite a feather-removal problem, the rabbit was worse.

There was blood all over my new tan carpet. I was, shall we say, less than thrilled.

Since I was on my way to work, I removed the body, using some tissues, to the wastebasket and removed the plastic liner to the back porch.

Since then, I've been checking every red spot of lint in the house to see if it's a blood stain. So far, it's only the carpet in the sitting room. I'm not sure how the cat — whichever one it was — got a half-grown rabbit without a head up the newly carpeted stairs without getting any blood on them, but apparently it did.

Steve and I have washed out the evidence using cold water and carpet cleaner, but every time he passes through the sitting room, he chuckles and says something about, "I told you so."

He did warn me. In fact, everyone warned me.

"You put in a cat door," they said, "and you'll have more than cats coming in."

I thought they meant skunks, raccoons or maybe a toy poodle.

I took care of those problems by putting the door up near the rafters in the basement. A cat can easily get up and down, but a skunk or poodle would have trouble. I'm not sure about raccoons. I just didn't think we had too many of those in town.

Of course, as soon as the first dead bird appeared on the kitchen floor, there was laughter and "I-told-you-sos."



cynthia haynes

• open season

Actually, dead things aren't too much of a problem for me. I can deal with dead.

I'm not too fond of living things, however.

Birds I can handle, but I dread the day they bring in a rat, mouse or a bat.

The cats have caught and killed several bats over the past few years, and the last one they left on the back porch hissed at Steve when he

walked past.

I don't do bats.

Neither am I crazy about live mice or rats.

I had a cat that brought a live rat into the house once, about 30 years ago. I screamed. The cat looked up and dropped the rat, which immediately ran under a bookcase.

Needless to say, it was a long night. In the end, the cat and rat were both put out.

I'm not looking for a repeat of that process, but since I'm the one who has to change the cat box — and with the cat door, there's a lot less to change — I still like that cat door.

I just wish they'd keep them off the new carpet, please.

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@nwkansan.com

Steve Haynes, President

Tom Betz, Editor

Pat Schiefel, Copy Editor

Sharon Corcoran, Society Editor

Kathryn Burke, Reporter

Doug Jackson, Advertising Coordinator

Mona Carver, Advertising Sales

Sheila Smith, Office Manager



Nor'west Press

Jim Bowker, General Manager

Richard Westfahl Ron VanLoenen Judy McKnight Betty Morris

Aaron Hickert Kris McCool Jerry Kirkpatrick Lana Westfahl

nwkansas.com

N.T. Betz, Director of Internet Services

(ntbetz@nwkansan.com)

Evan Barnum, Systems Admin.(support@nwkansan.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@nwkansan.com. Advertising questions can be sent to: goodlandads@nwkansan.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, \$24; six months, \$42; 12 months, \$76. Out of area, weekly mailing of two issues: three months, \$34; six months, \$49; 12 months, \$84. Mailed individually each day: 12 months, \$119. (All tax included.)

Incorporating: The Goodland Daily News

1932-2003

The Sherman County Herald

Founded by Thomas McCants

1935-1989

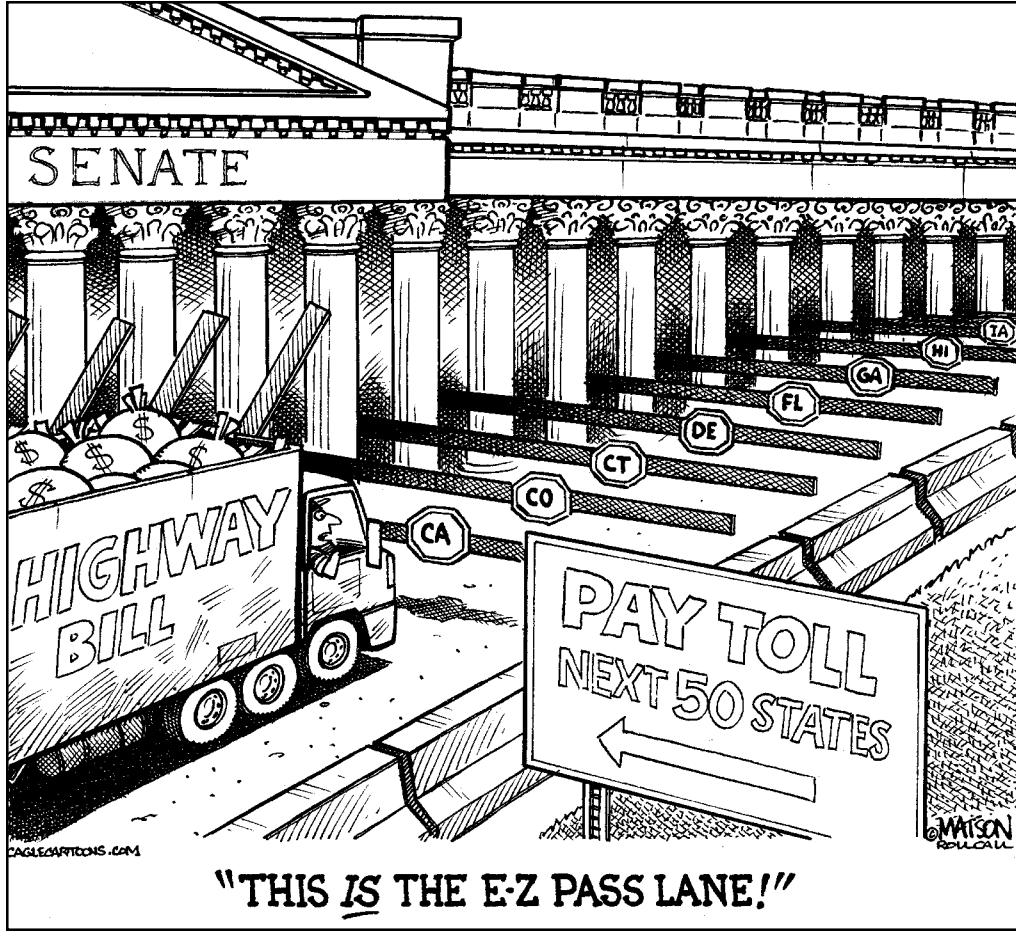
THE SHERMAN COUNTY STAR

Founded by Eric and Roxie Yonkey

1994-2001

Nor'West Newspapers

Haynes Publishing Company



"THIS IS THE E-Z PASS LANE!"

garfield



BAD DATE, GARFIELD

WE WENT TO A PETTING ZOO...

AND A GOAT ATE MY PANTS

NICE TEDDY BEAR BOXERS

Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

JIM DAVIS 5-10