

from our viewpoint...

## City voters asked to pass tax for roads

Fixing the main arteries into Goodland and across Sherman County is the focus of a joint effort between the city and county commissioners.

Wednesday, the two boards agreed the best way to get the joint road project moving is to ask Goodland voters to pass a one-cent sales tax next month.

Original plans were to go to the state Legislature and get approval to ask for a countywide tax. Construction of the new power, ethanol and biodiesel plants west of the city makes getting the sales tax in place now more sensible than waiting for the Legislature and then a vote of the people, which could take a year.

County commissioners agreed it would be better to use the city sales tax because it can begin in January if the city voters approve the issue Oct. 18. The city then would then be the lead agency to rebuild the roads both inside and outside the city. The effect would be the same as a new countywide tax, or nearly so.

That will leave the burden of the decision on the city voters, but all county citizens will help pay the tax and enjoy the benefits of better roads.

The benefits of the new power plant and the increased population will mean an increase in sales tax collections next year, and with that type of increase, the road project, which is estimated to be about \$11 million, could be paid off in less than 10 years.

Exact wording of the ballot has to be worked out, but it probably will say the sales tax will end when the road projects are paid for.

A plan to ask the state for a \$2 million economic development grant to rebuild the main road north of the Northern Sun plant could reduce the cost of the overall joint road project. However, that money has not been approved. The city would have to come up with about \$500,000 for a 25 percent match if the grant is approved. A decision on the grant would not be made before the sales tax election in October.

There are lots of agreements to be worked out between the city and county, but setting the date for a special election is a giant step to get the road repairs moving.

Today there is optimism about Sherman County's future with the new plants going in to the west and the success of Adronics/Elrob, which expanded from Hays less than six months ago.

There are smiles on many faces. Business and the job market look to be good. Getting the roads repaired to handle increased traffic from new plants and new residents is vital.

Over the next six weeks people will hear more about the details of the sales tax election and the city and county will hold another open meeting to give voters the details and let them ask questions.

We feel the citizens of Goodland are being given a tremendous opportunity to enhance the city and county with the approval of the sales tax. — *Tom Betz*

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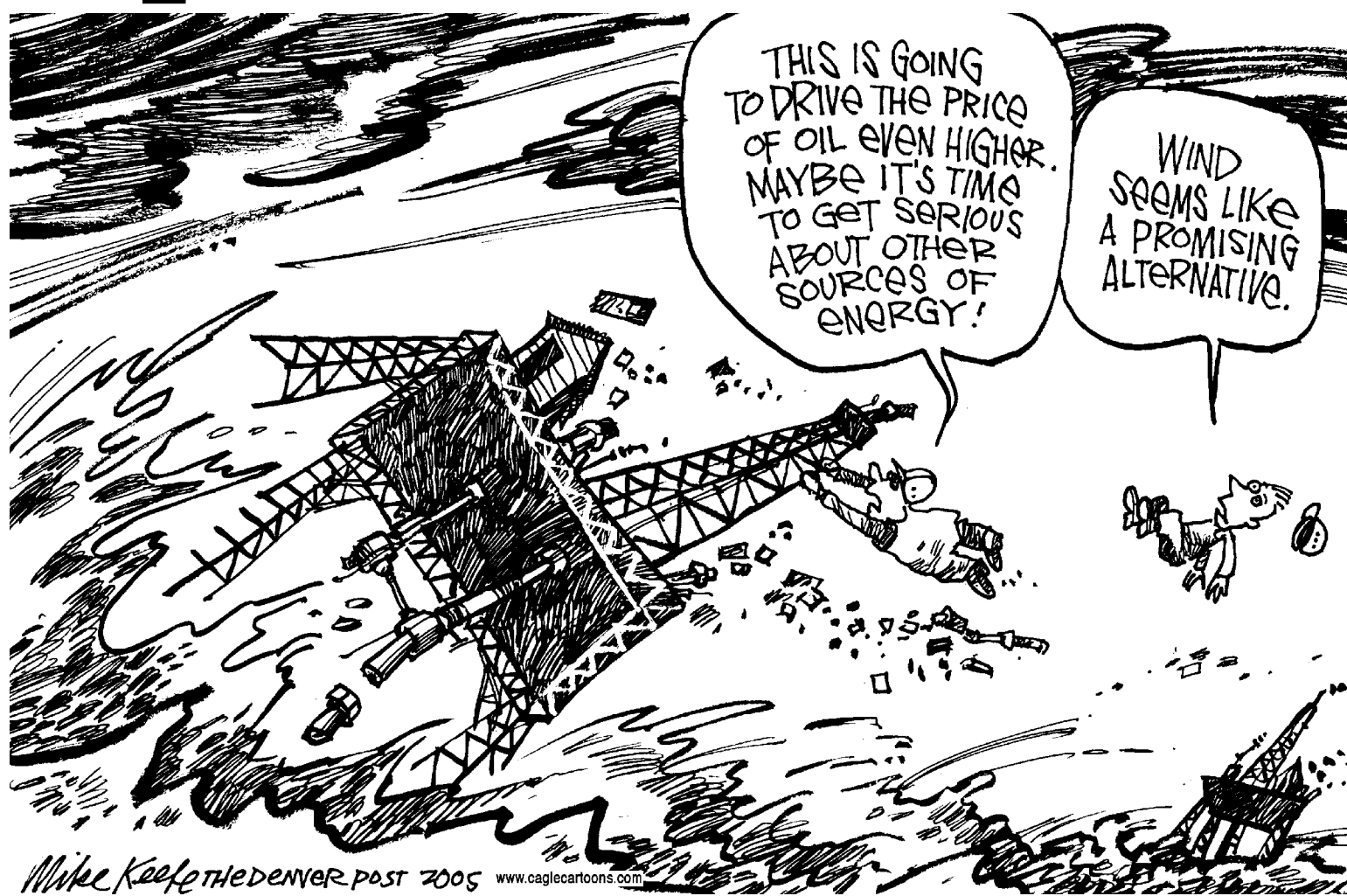
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## I hate the hot weather of summer

I hate hot.

I know there is a point in the dog days of summer where everyone agrees with me, but I'm not your average hot hater.

I don't need a week full of 100-degree days to decide hot weather is bad.

I understand the days are turning bad the minute the sun intensifies its rays over Goodland.

It starts slowly with a few nice days. It's a trick to get you interested in summer. You think, "No more snow!" or "This is great!"

The lie continues, adding a few degrees at a time towards hot weather.

The first day it breaks the 80s, I mourn the passing of good times. It's hard to part with my cozy sweaters, wool socks and winter coat.

Next the mercury rises into the 90s and finally the 100s.

When I hit the first wall of the warm, stagnant air of summer, I have a nearly physical reaction. I recoil immediately and sulk back into air conditioning.

Winter can't come soon enough.

I would rather freeze than sweat any day.



**kathryn burke**

• commentary

It doesn't matter how many articles of clothing you take off, it's never enough. And if you're hot and naked, there's not much else you can do.

A pile of blankets and a cup of hot cocoa always cures the cold.

I know, I lived in North Dakota. You would think a year full of -20 degrees would have me yearning for tropical temperatures.

Not me. On particularly cold days up north, the air would fill with amazing tiny sparkles that were actually drops of moisture suspended in the frozen air.

The smell of the first lit fireplace of winter warms my soul.

I could watch snow fall for hours.

While you get to swim in the summertime — one of my favorite pastimes — winter is packed

with exciting activities: Sledding, ice skating, ice fishing and skiing fill the winter days with fun.

Plus, I love a winter hat, a long scarf and warm gloves.

So when hot comes around, I prepare. No figure on my electric bill is too much to make me give up air conditioning — even if it is bad for my wallet and the environment.

I set up camp in the basement of my house, enjoying the dark, frigid atmosphere.

The only saving grace is that in Goodland, the temperature almost always drops at night and I can climb out of my cave.

The day finally comes where I give it up and pull out the box that stores all of my winter clothes. I pack them with care and forget them for a whole summer.

I trade my favorite season in for short sleeves and cropped pants. Yuck.

I take comfort in knowing that soon, the tables will turn and cold haters will pine for summer. September turns into October and then November and happy days are here again.

While summer has the upper hand today, my good times lie close ahead.

## Bush costing American lives, builds deficits

To the Editor:

Bush the "Red Ink war wimp" conservative — what a joke! The bullhead costing thousands of lives, both foreign and domestic!

In six years, the wimp and Congress have from Social Security spent \$906 billion compared to \$706 billion in 31 years.

There was a \$125 billion surplus when wimp took office, now we have billions in deficit. What a world disaster he is for America and the world! Billions of subsidies for him and his pals in gas and oil industry! and Cheney,

In 1980, wheat was \$4.05, corn \$3.25 and fuel \$1.15.

Robert Russell  
Goodland



from our readers

• to the editor

departments. We would like to thank the Kansas Highway Patrol for trying to catch our son before he left Kansas.

Last, but surly not least, we would like to thank the Goodland Police officers, Sherman

County Sheriff's Department and the Thomas County Sheriff's Department for getting us home.

Our son called before we arrived home, he had been to Denver and to his home south of Byers before discovering he had our keys. He had gotten home before we did and we only had 35 miles to travel.

It's nice to live in Kansas, where the people are so helpful.

Bill and Pat Turrell  
Colby

To the Editor:

I am writing this letter to say thank you to all the people who helped us on Friday, Aug. 19. After a very enjoyable weekend with our grandchildren, we met our son in Goodland to give the children back to their parents. Our son used our car keys to unload our car and reload his with all the children's things. We told them goodbye and they headed for Byers, Colo.

My husband asked if I had the car keys. I did not, and neither did he. I said no problem, I will just call him on the cell phone and he can bring them back. It became a problem when we found his phone was dead. Getting car keys and getting home became our next concern.

We would like to thank the Herl Chevrolet parts man for trying to make a new key that evening. He was unable to make the key Sunday but did tape our windows to keep out rainwater and pick up the car Tuesday after making a new key.

We would like to thank the people who own the Radio Shack and the Avalanche for their help in calling the police and sheriffs



## garfield

