

from our viewpoint...

County needs a real name for road

Sherman County commissioners need to settle on a real name for the road known as “old U.S. 24.”

It’s the county’s main east-west artery, but it doesn’t have a name. It should.

County roads are numbered on a grid, with the low numbers, 1-37, running north and south starting at the Colorado line, and the higher numbers, 50 and up, east and west starting in the south.

Most roads run straight as an arrow up a section line and fit right into this plan, confusing as it is. (Most counties use letters or names for one direction and numbers for the other, but at least we have a plan.)

The “old” highway, the location of U.S. 24 and the main road to Denver before I-70, does not.

West of Goodland, it runs on the section line most of the way to Kanorado and is designated as County Road 64. East of town, where it follows the railroad to Edson and beyond, it starts out as Road 64.5, though it’s not really half a mile from Road 64.

It gets more complicated out east. Near Brewster, the highway runs on Road 65 for the last two miles. Between Edson and Brewster, it takes off on a diagonal that doesn’t fit the county plan at all.

Thomas County solved this problem by marking the route with little blue signs that say “Old U.S. 24” where a highway number usually appears. That makes the common appellation official there, apparently, but it does not solve Sherman County’s problem.

Neither does referring to the route as “County Road 64/64.5,” which aside from being clunky, isn’t really accurate.

No one is going to call it that except a county official.

There’s another problem with calling it “Old U.S. 24.” For most of the way across the county, there are at least two roads that qualify for that title. East of town, Road 64 was U.S. 24 before the state built the current model. You can still find pavement with a white center stripe far out in the east end of the county.

West of town, the highway once ran out on Eighth Street (or Road 65) as far as Caruso, so that’s “Old 24” too. Or it could be.

Maybe the county could hold a contest, now that the sales tax has passed and the road will be rebuilt.

Call it Sunflower Parkway. Goodland Drive. High Plains Boulevard. Sherman’s Ride. Call it 19th Street if you like.

But call it something.

Better yet, get together with Thomas County and rename the entire route from Levant, where it joins the current U.S. 24, to Kanorado.

But give this orphan a name, please.

It’s the main drag out here, and it deserves as much.

— 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@nwkanssas.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@nwkanssas.com

Steve Haynes, President
Tom Betz, Editor
Erica Harlan, Copy Editor
Sharon Corcoran, Society Editor
Pat Schiefen, Reporter
Greg Stover, Sports Editor
Anne Hamilton, Advertising Sales
Sheila Smith, Office Manager

Nor’west Press
Jim Bowker, General Manager
Richard Westfahl, Ron VanLoenen,
Judy McKnight, Betty Morris, Heather Merklin,
Jerry Kirkpatrick, Lana Westfahl, Barbara Lindsley

 **nwkansas.com**
N.T. Betz, Director of Internet Services
(ntbetz@nwkanssas.com)
Evan Barnum, Systems Admin.(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. Advertising questions can be sent to: 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, \$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

Nor’West Newspapers
Haynes Publishing Company

THE SHERMAN COUNTY STAR
Founded by Eric and Roxie Yonkey
1994-2001



Let’s play ball



michael reagan

- making sense

With baseball season just a few weeks away, the media focus is not on the coming season but instead on what a famed major league batting sensation did a long time ago.

Somebody once remarked that we Americans build our monuments to our heroes out of stone so we’ll have something to throw at them when they prove to have feet of clay. The case of Barry Bonds proves the truth of that adage.

A new book, “Game of Shadows,” charges that Bonds was using huge quantities of steroids from 1998 to 2002, yet he has never failed a drug test. And as *USA Today* commented, “Just like everyone else, Bonds should have to flunk a test in order to draw a suspension.”

Forget about the fact that long before he ever used a single strength-enhancing drug he was a stand-out star on the baseball diamond. Wrote *Boston Herald* baseball columnist Tony Massarotti: “Barry Bonds was a Hall of Famer long before the steroids and he is still a Hall of Famer now.”

In my book, that’s what counts. Barry Bonds is a baseball player. If he’s not a really nice guy, that’s another story. What matters in baseball is the ability to play the game well. And you can say what you want about Bonds, as long as you keep in mind that some of the greatest players in the game were a pretty bad lot off the field.

As Massarotti put it: “Mickey Mantle was an alcoholic. Ty Cobb was a scoundrel. Even the lovable [late] Kirby Puckett has had allegations against him of spousal and domestic abuse, and rest assured that the list of tainted superstars

goes on and on.

“Bonds was and is a baseball player, like Mantle and Cobb and Puckett and McGwire. None of them was really anything more.”

In 1999, before any alleged steroid use began, Bonds had already hit more than 400 home runs and stolen 400 bases. Massarotti notes that he had also won three Most Valuable Player awards.

That’s what counts in the game. This whole steroid use business has been grossly overplayed and is a distraction from the purpose of the game, which as far as the team owners are concerned is to attract large numbers of fans to pay the bills and the monstrous salaries the baseball heroes pull down. Fans demand home-run heroes and lots of home runs. Historically, the owners have managed to overlook such trifles as steroid use or the less-than-sterling character of some of the baseball giants.

Last February, I wrote that after the ruinous players’ strike a few years ago, the owners needed to get people back to the ballpark. What they did to make the game more exciting was build stadiums that had shorter outfields, they juiced up the ball by winding it much, much

tighter; and they went to harder maple bats — all because they wanted to have more home runs and wanted to have records broken.

Thus all the players did was take baseball’s lead. They reasoned that if baseball could juice up the ball, why shouldn’t they juice up themselves — make themselves stronger, bigger and better — to allow them to get those home runs that baseball wanted them to hit. And to create excitement, baseball wanted to stir up increased public interest by staging competition over which home-run records would be broken by which players.

Baseball has known about the use of steroids by players for a long time, but the owners chose to turn a blind eye to it — they needed those home run heroes to keep the fans juiced up. With the home runs and the records being broken, the fans were coming back to the ballpark, and that was the game baseball needed to win.

And all those sportswriters who are now running around wringing their hands and taking pot shots at Barry Bonds either knew about the players’ use of steroids or just weren’t paying attention. Now with this new book they are shocked, shocked to discover that Bonds was shooting up a few years ago.

C’mon, it’s time to stop throwing stones and throw baseballs instead. Let’s play ball!

Mike Reagan, the eldest son of the late President Ronald Reagan, is heard on talk radio stations nationally E-mail Comments to mereagan@hotmail.com.

Early years shape children’s development

To the Editor,

There are more than 35 million children from birth through age 8 in this country. Today we know more than ever before the importance of children’s earliest years in shaping their learning and development.

The early years are an important time for their growth and development, and a time when we help children prepare for success in school and in life. Yet, never before have the needs of young children and their families been more pressing.

Most mothers with children under 18 work, and working families rely on child care providers while they work. Young children and their families need quality education and care, which can help children get a great start, and bring lasting benefits for our society as a whole.

April 2-8 is Week of the Young Child, a time to recognize the needs of young children, and thank the adults who teach and take care of them. Parents, teachers, care givers and other adults play important roles in the lives of young children. The week is celebrated across the country by hundreds of organizations working to improve opportunities for all young children.

The Week of the Young Child is a time to recognize that children’s opportunities are our responsibilities, and to recommit ourselves to ensuring that each and every child experiences the type of early environment at home, at child care, at school, and in the community, that will



from our readers

- to the editor

promote early learning. Early education programs — including child care, Head Start, preschools and elementary schools — provide crucial experiences for many young children. Supporting these programs is the right choice for children.

As a member of the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the largest organization of early childhood educators and

others dedicated to improving the quality of early education programs for children through age 8, I encourage you to become involved and support high-quality early childhood education.

Every adult has the chance to make a difference, from volunteering at a program to supporting efforts that help more young children benefit from quality early education. The Week of the Young Child is a time for all of us to recognize the needs of children, acknowledge the importance of the early years and work together to build a better future for all children.

Cris Riebel
Joyful Noise Preschool
Goodland

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

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

U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran, 2443 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. (202) 225-2715; Fax (202) 225-5124 e-mail address — jerry.moran@mail.house.gov

State Rep. Jim Morrison, State Capitol Building Rm. 124-N, Topeka, KS 66612. (785) 296-7676; e-mail address — jmorrison@ink.org

State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer, State Capitol Building, Rm. 128-S, 300 SW 10th, Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785) 296-7399; e-mail address — ostmeyer@senate.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

