

from our viewpoint...

Graduation finish to eventful week

Temperatures soared to 95 on Friday, tying the old record for May 19, 1934. The heat made one wonder how hot the Goodland High School graduation was going to be Saturday afternoon at Max Jones Fieldhouse, which is not air-conditioned.

Those who attended the ceremony found it surprisingly cooler than expected as the 63 graduates filed in to hear the speakers and pick up their diplomas.

The school district had anticipated the heat and arranged for two Porta-Coolers, plus about a half dozen extra large fans to move the air and keep most of the building cool. With a nearly packed auditorium, it was not possible to keep the whole building cool, and there were people fanning themselves along the upper rows.

The graduation went smoothly, and the speech by Nyla (Wilson) Milleson, a 1980 Goodland graduate who coaches the Drury University Lady Panther basketball team was good, something to remember. Her description of the coaching she has done, and the time she spent in Junction City during Operation Desert Storm was heartening. Milleson said she found out that turning a losing team around is not as important as the team building and individual support that comes with being a good person.

Saturday evening cooled down nicely, and a light thunderstorm dropped a trace of rain to help keep it cool as the graduates celebrated at the Elks Lodge. This is the 20th year for Project Graduation, a program created by the parents of the students in each junior class to give the kids a way to celebrate this special day without worrying about partying and accidents that might cut a young life short.

The rain was not enough to save the wheat crop, but the thunderstorms popped up again on Sunday, dropping rain and some hail north, east and south of town. The lightening in the storm to the south was dramatic.

The rain marked the end to a good week for Sherman County, which included the arrival of the wind generation towers and blades at the Goodland Energy Center. Everyone will be waiting to see where they are going to be planted.

Tuesday, the Sherman County commissioners were asked to help pay the education costs for Eric Gray, a Goodland High School graduate and a Colby Community College nursing graduate, to become a nurse anesthetist. It is not a cheap goal, but he has agreed to come back to Goodland to work for at least five years once he has graduated from the University of Kansas School of Allied Health at the medical center.

Being able to help young people meet their career goals, especially in the medical field, is a goal worth supporting. It is one of the purposes of the special one-quarter cent sales tax the citizens approved over 10 years ago. Having the county take a bigger bite of this program will allow the hospital and foundation to use their money for other worthwhile projects.

Gray begins his classes next week, and it will be three years before the investment can pay off.

One of the Goodland High School graduates Saturday might become a doctor who could come back to the community. We wondered what is in store for them as they shook hands and reached out for those diplomas. — *Tom Betz*



Hard for me to sell one of my cars

It's hard to sell my Sebring.

Not hard because nobody wants it. I've had several people ask about it and a couple have taken it for a spin.

It's hard because I have trouble giving up my cars.

Eldest daughter had an old brown station wagon as her first car because I sold it to her. She didn't particularly want an old brown station wagon. She would have preferred a nice shiny, red Porsche or Mustang.

Her pocketbook, however, was more in the brown-station wagon mode, so she bought it and complained for years until she was able to upgrade to a nice sporty Cavalier. At that point, she sold my old station wagon — back to me.

I got a red Probe for my birthday in 1990. I drove it until 1999, when my son borrowed it one afternoon when he was in high school and I was out of town. He ran it through a barbed-wire fence.

He wasn't hurt, but he was walking most of his senior year. His father didn't take kindly to him "borrowing" Mom's car without permission.



cynthia haynes
● open season

I had two choices at that point — take the insurance money and get a new car or fix up the Probe. Steve pointed out that the Probe, while it was my baby, was a nine-year old car with almost 150,000 miles on it.

When he put it that way, I went car shopping. I needed a vehicle and I needed one now! I ended up getting the Sebring, and it's been a good car, but I never connected with it like I did my station wagon or that Probe.

In fact, I ended up buying the Probe back from the insurance company. For \$1,000, I got a not-too-fancy repaint and repair job and I use it as a spare when my car is getting serviced or is in the shop.

Steve started talking to me about getting a new car almost a year ago. I dragged my feet. Even though I've never "connected" to the

Sebring — probably because my kids called it an "old lady's car" when they heard it had automatic transmission and power windows — I wasn't ready to make a break.

Steve, however, is persistent. He would bring the subject up every couple of months and drive me by the car lots, pointing out the advantages of various models. He almost had me sold on a sporty little two-seater, but I decided I liked my "old lady" automatic transmission and power windows and wasn't ready to go back to a standard (what the kids call stick) transmission.

I finally found a Solara and now I have to part with one of my cars. We only have a two-car garage and there already isn't any place to keep the Probe. I can't have three cars. That's a few too many spares.

But, gee, I hate to give up the Sebring. I just learned how to spell the name — I've been calling it a Seabring for the last six years and I still don't have a clue what a Sebring is.

Come to think of it, I don't know what a Solara is either, but it's cute.

Watch out for those bogus e-mails

Don't believe everything you read, especially on the Internet.

The "from" address read, "Internal Revenue Security Service."

The e-mail return address was "service@IRS.gov."

The content was attractive:

"After the last annual calculations of your fiscal activity, we have determined that you are eligible to receive a tax refund of **\$63.80**. Please submit the tax refund request and allow us 6-9 days in order to process it."

The e-mail has a link to and official-looking IRS web site address. Only, when I hold my mouse pointer over the address, my e-mail program shows a warning: the address is fake.

Click here, it says, and you'll get instructions on how to get your refund.



steve haynes
● along the sappa

out of some God-forsaken country. All my newfound friends need is my bank account number or a check from me for some four-figure sum. I'll make millions.

That's pretty common, huh?

The most common scams ask for bank account or bank card numbers, instant access to your accounts.

Wells Fargo Staff, Citigroup, Dresdner Bank, JPMorgan Chase and Co., Chase Online Banking, Chase Bank password security, Bank of America, Regions Bank, Visa/Mastercard Lottery. The latest twist asks for access to your

PayPal or eBay accounts.

Good thing I don't have any of those, or I might bite.

The scammers, of course, don't know what accounts you have. They just send out millions of messages and figure that a few gullible types will reply.

They don't need very many suckers to make a living, I guess. They must be doing OK, because they keep sending out their pleas.

"Please update your information by checking the link below:"

Right.

My advice is, don't ever click an e-mail link unless you know, and I mean know, that the sender is legit. Just clicking on a web site may compromise your computer.

Unless, of course, you just want to be scammed.

Hey, \$63.80 from the IRS. Sweet.

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