

from other pens...

One of the ‘fools’ might be President

Wow! We wonder if these people fully understand what they are doing. We figure they don't.

This all stems from an e-mail received Friday called "List of Fools." Recipients were urged to send this e-mail to everyone they know.

Here is the gist of the communication:

"These are the senators who voted to give illegal aliens Social Security benefits. Regardless of political party, these politicians need to be defeated in 2006, 2008 or 2010 whenever they come up for office. Send this to anyone you know in any of the states listed. The entire population of the United States need to know this information. That is unless they do not mind sharing their Social Security with foreign workers when American citizens are being left out."

That's a mouthful.

The "List of Fools" contains mostly Democrats, but there are some Republicans also.

Let's take a closer look at this thing.

Scenario No. 1:

Arizona Sen. John McCain is on this hit list. Let us say that in 2008, he wins the Republican nomination for president. And this is a very real possibility.

Let's say that former Vice President Al Gore (who seems to be awakening from a long sleep), slips in the back door and wins the Democrat nomination. That possibility exists.

If we take the advice of the e-mail, then on election day in 2008 we would, without any thought, mark our ballots for Al Gore. Sure.

Scenario No. 2:

Let's say that Sen. McCain wins the GOP nod and the Democrats pick Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, who is also on the "List of Fools." On election day in 2008 we go to the polls and vote for neither, allowing a third-party candidate to waltz into the White House. Sure.

Scenario No. 3:

Our own Republican Sen. Sam Brownback is on the list, so if he would end up being the compromise candidate to break a deadlock at the convention in 2008, we would have to discard his nomination and vote for the Democrat if the Democrat was not on the "List of Fools" — regardless who it is. Sure.

After reading the e-mail, we have concluded that some people need to get a life, a job — or something.

— Tom Dreiling, The Norton Telegram

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 Unsigned letters will not be published.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>.

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The Sherman
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Founded by Thomas McCants
1935-1989

THE SHERMAN COUNTY
STAR

Founded by Eric and
Roxie Yonkey
1994-2001

Nor'West Newspapers

Haynes Publishing Company



I see serious need for spending controls

To the Editor:

As a longtime home owner and business owner in Sherman County, I see a very serious need for the Taxpayers Bill of Rights, known as TABOR.

Government spending at the state and local level is totally out of control, and we are being tax abused. I will address only local taxes, because they are my favorite ones to pay. I like them the best, because at least some of the money stays in Sherman County.

The cost of local government keeps getting higher and higher, and there are many reasons for the increases. Local government has many options to raise additional money, I will mention three.

- Ask for new taxes, such as the 15 percent increase in sales tax that goes into effect very soon.
 - Raise the mill levy on property tax.
 - Higher valuations on property in the county
- The mill levy has remained somewhat stable, but only because property values have been



from our readers

• to the editor

elevated to levels that generates the necessary income.

I certainly do not have a personal problem with the appraiser over this matter; after all he is only doing his job. The real problem is the growing need for funds at the local government level.

The most recent situation causing me to feel like an abused taxpayer is the abatement of property taxes for the new motel. I just can't imagine that if the business is really needed that it can't be done without taxpayer assistance.

Has anyone talked about year-around motel room occupancy rates in Goodland? Has anyone asked how the other motel owners feel about the local government assisting their

competition? Has anyone asked about how many of the investors in this project live in Sherman County?

A large sum of money had already been invested in the motel project, (Property purchase, demolition work, dirt moving and excavation, site preparation) before this entity came to local government with its hand out. Do you really think that the project would not continue if local officials had said, "No, the taxpayers cannot afford it?"

I certainly don't blame this business or any other that asks local government for a handout, especially with the past track record of local government, and its inability to say "No."

However, the bills have got to be paid, and when some don't have to pay, the rest of us just have to pay more. I will just have to refer people to those establishments that do pay property taxes so that they will have the necessary funds to meet the need.

Harry Bishop
Goodland

Savannah 'jewel of southern hospitality'

"Cities are like people. Some are brash young fellows, lusty and loud, with rawbones jutting and sleeves too short.

Some are callow, shallow hussies, all giggles and flirts and furbelows.

Savannah is a Lady."

Introductory sentences
to *Sojourn in Savannah*
by Anita Raskin

We found these words to be true last week as we enjoyed this jewel of southern hospitality.

Savannah is gracious and beautiful without being snooty. She's a lovely lady who has endured and flourished through good times and bad.

In 1733, James Oglethorpe and 114 colonists sailed up the Savannah River and settled on some bluffs. The English settlers were met by friendly Yamacraw Indians, led by Chief Tomochichi.

Oglethorpe had a plan for a city that would be built around squares of public land. Each square would be surrounded on two sides (north and south) by private dwellings and on two sides (east and west) by public buildings and churches.

This made Savannah one of the first planned cities in the U.S.

Today, there are 24 squares in a grid stretching from the river up the gentle Georgia bluffs to Forsyth Park, about 1 1/2 to two miles south. Today, the squares are shaded by ancient live oaks that spread their branches over the park and streets, flowers, grass and benches.

Many also contain statues or memorials to such notables as John Wesley, founder of Methodism, whose teachings grew in Georgia, but who left for England after clashing with officials; railroad magnate William Washington Gordon, the father of Juliette Gordon Lowe, who started the Girl Scouts in America; and, of course, Oglethorpe himself.

The squares are still bounded by churches



cynthia
haynes

• open season

and public buildings on two sides and homes — both fancy and simple — in various states of restoration, on the other two.

While Savannah suffered from devastating fires in 1796 and 1820, yellow fever epidemics and numerous hurricanes, it escaped the fate of Atlanta and many other cities in the path of Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman and the Union Army.

Sherman was said to have been so taken by the beauty of Savannah that he spared the city and sent this telegram:

Savannah, Ga. Dec. 22, 1864

To His Excellency, President Lincoln:

Dear Sir:

I beg to present you as a Christmas Gift, the city of Savannah with 150 heavy guns and plenty of ammunition and also about 25,000 bales of cotton.

W.T. Sherman
Maj. Genl.

While cotton and slaves made Savannah rich before the Civil War, the city was founded on the precepts of freedom. While Jews were welcome in those early years, several types of undesirables were not — slaves (until 1750), rum (until 1742), lawyers (until 1755) and Papists.

My guidebook didn't say when they let the Catholics in, but the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, organized in 1799, was one of the few historic churches open for tourists and visitors while we were there.



garfield

