

from our viewpoint...

Today is your day to have your say!

You’ve heard it a million times. Let’s make it a million and one. V-O-T-E!

Today is Election Day. Today is your day to have your say. So say it loud and say it clear.

In Sherman County, the big race is for District 1 county commissioner among incumbent Chuck Thomas, write-in challenger Darin Neufeld or independent Conrad Pettijohn.

- Let’s do our part to get a record turn out at the polls.
- But this is where all of us figure in:
- Should Congressman Jerry Moran should be returned to Capitol Hill? Or should challengers John Doll or Sylvester Cain be given a chance to serve?
 - Are you satisfied with the way Gov. Kathleen Sebelius has run the show these past four years? Or should her Republican challenger, Sen. Jim Barnett, move in to take control? Or should you maybe choose minority-party candidates Richard Lee Ranzau or Carl Kramer ?
 - Does Ron Thornburgh win your vote for another term as secretary of state? Or should you maybe give thought to Democrat David Haley, Rod Hodgkinson or Joseph L. Martin?
 - Do you think Attorney General Phill Kline has done a good enough job to warrant another term? Or should challenger Paul Morrison, Republican-turned-Democrat district attorney, get a chance to deal with the issues of that office?
 - Has Lynn Jenkins served the way you would have wanted her to serve as state treasurer? Or should Democrat Larry Wilson be given an opportunity to demonstrate his expertise?
 - Does Sandy Praeger deserve another stay in the office of insurance commissioner? Or should you give thought to sending either Democrat Bonnie Sharp or Patrick Wilbur to do the job?
 - Has Rep. Jim Morrison lived up to your expectations for the 121st District? Or should Libertarian Dannis Robison or Reform Party candidate Art R. Richmond get a shot at the office?
 - Does Sally Cauble fall in line with your thinking as a member of the state Board of Education from District 5? Or would Tim Cruz best serve your interests in that post?

These are the contested races awaiting your decision.

The polls at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, 824 Main, will be open until 7 p.m.

Let’s see how may Sherman County citizens we can get out to VOTE!

— *Tom Betz*

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
- 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

The Goodland Star-News

(USPS No. 222-460. ISSN 0893-0562)

Member: Kansas Press Association

Inland Press Association Colorado Press Association

National Newspaper Association

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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@nw-kansas.com. Advertising questions can be sent to: goodlandads@nwkan-sas.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, \$29; six months, \$46; 12 months, \$81. Out of area, weekly mailing of two issues: three months, \$39; six months, \$54; 12 months, \$89 (All tax included). Mailed individually each day: (call for a price).

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



We have passed a milestone of sorts

Cynthia and I passed a milestone of sorts this fall, 13 years in one house.

That’s a record for us, not that we’ve moved a lot by today’s standards. Just a lot more than we ever wanted to.

We both grew up in families that never moved, not once they put down roots.

My folks married while dad was in law school in Lawrence after the war, and I was born there. They moved to Emporia in 1951 and lived in an apartment until they could build a house.

We lived at 1623 Dover Road for nearly 30 years. The four of us played in the woods across the street, learned to ride a sled and a bike on the hill out front, knew all the neighbors, left for college and became adults.

Mom eventually sold the house and moved into a condo, something she and dad always planned on “when the kids were gone.” She only moved half a mile down the road.

Cynthia’s folks married after the war, too, moving back to his home town of Concordia. They lived in town, then moved to a farm for a while — Cynthia remembers that she hated living in the country, and won’t consider it even today — but by the time she started school, they’d settled in a house in town.

Her mom lived there until the steps got to be too much for her a couple of years ago. She moved into an apartment, then to assisted living.



steve haynes

- along the sappa

It was painful to both of us, I think, to see our childhood homes sold. That’s the kind of stability we always hoped to give our kids.

But we stayed longer in Kansas City than we planned, bought a nice old house and started to fix it up. We were there more than nine years, had three kids and found that we were missing something: call it community, I guess.

City life got to be too much, with us working nights all or part of the time, the kids starting school, my company being sold. We wanted out.

So we sold that house and moved to the mountains of Colorado. I thought then that, as William Allen White wrote when he moved to Emporia, that we’d be there “until the new editor became the old editor.”

Five years later, the mine closed and our prosperous little town began to decline. We jumped on a chance to buy into the larger paper down the road, merging ours into a group that totaled six, later grew to seven.

We couldn’t sell the house in Creede, where the kids grew up, so we rented it and bought one in the Valley. It had a big yard, two-car

garage, shed and trees, views and a wood stove. We loved it.

Then six or seven years down the road, opportunity — or disaster, you’re never sure which — knocked. A chain bought our competitor and made an offer on our papers. We didn’t want to leave, but our partners didn’t want to fight. Eventually we sold both the papers and the house.

And since I was out of a job (Cynthia was running a pharmacy for Dillon’s), we had nothing better to do than look for a paper. I remember our son cried when we told him we’d be moving again, but he and his sister joined the search for a new home after 13 years in Colorado.

That’s how we got to Oberlin 13 short years ago.

No, we don’t have any plans to move. It may be a long time for us, but it hasn’t been long enough. Life is pretty good here, business is OK, people are nice and we’ve got more than enough to do.

We still own that house in the mountains, the one with all the memories from the years we went out on our own with three kids and a bunch of dreams. That’s probably one more house than we need right now anyway. Two’s enough, though at one point we owned three — two in Colorado and one in Oberlin.

I don’t know about Cynthia, but I don’t think I want to try that again.

The outing game



michael reagan

- making sense

accepted as such by the liberal media.

They are not. The majority of gays want nothing to do with Rogers and his fellow professional homosexuals.

I know a lot of gays who live in California. Most of them don’t support gay marriage. Most gays don’t support the radical gay agenda of punishing the Boy Scouts because they won’t allow homosexuals to be scoutmasters.

These are the issues that the activists are pushing. Most gays are embarrassed by the gay activists, but they can’t say anything since they will be ostracized within their own community, just as a black who is conservative can be ostracized within the black community.

If a gay speaks out against the radical gay agenda, he will be driven out of the gay community, and that includes speaking out against the professional homosexuals who pretend to represent the entire gay community and are accepted as such by the lame-stream media.

We are now seeing the outrageous practice

of liberal radio talk show hosts allowing radical gays to go on their shows and broadcast their slimy messages, identifying as closet gays conservative Republicans who will not kowtow to them and their demands that they support what Rogers and his ilk claim is the only legitimate agenda for homosexuals.

Rogers may claim his aim is to advance his cause, but it is nothing more than his method of punishing those who disagree with him. He’s telling his targets, “Do what I demand or I’ll expose you to ridicule.”

I don’t care if a Republican politician is gay. What I care about is his agenda. Is it a conservative agenda or a liberal agenda? I vote for those who support my conservative views.

Liberals take it as an article of faith that conservatives hate gays. That’s absolutely untrue. What we don’t support is the radical gay agenda. We are utterly opposed to gay marriage, homosexual scoutmasters or promoting the gay lifestyle in our schools.

And, as I said, most gays agree with me and not with Rogers on these issues.

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

