

from our viewpoint...

Today voters decide community's future

All the campaigning is over, and Election Day has arrived. If you haven't voted and are reading this before the polls close at 7 p.m. we urge you to go to the Veterans of Foreign Wars hall on Main Ave. and add your voice by voting.

The biggest issue on the ballot is the Goodland School District bond issue for \$14.9 million to renovate North into a K-6 building and remodel the high school into a 7-12 building.

The big question is why is this the right time to approve the bond issue. In looking at the math on the project we do not see any better opportunity than with this proposal. Take a look at the math and see why this is the time to do this project.

It is true there is no free money, and without the subtractions available the school bond will cost property tax payers \$23 million in total over the 20 years.

However, the school district has \$5.4 million in special tax-free construction bonds to reduce the interest cost by about \$3.2 million cutting the total cost back to \$19.8 million. Subtracting state aid for bond and interest will cut another \$3.3 million bringing the total cost down to \$16.5 million.

With those taken off total cost will be about \$1.6 million over 20 years above the \$14.9 million for the total project. This appears to be a one time offer from both the federal government, and the state may be changing their program for the future.

Whether one likes taking federal money or state money the best deal for the school district, the taxpayers and the students is to make the deal and approve the bond issue today.

Building the new K-6 and remodeling the High School to be a 7-12 will be a great way to give this town and the students a wonderful facility to learn in and grow over the next 20 years or more.

It will not solve the current budget problems.

The budget cut backs of \$171,815 from this year and the \$256,365 from next year total \$428,180 and will be tough to swallow.

The bond issue is for the buildings and the district will not have to operate five buildings in the future, and the total cost of operating the two buildings should be quite a bit below what it is today.

Goodland school district has not made a major investment in buildings in 43 years, and looking at the past the efforts were much cheaper than what is being faced today.

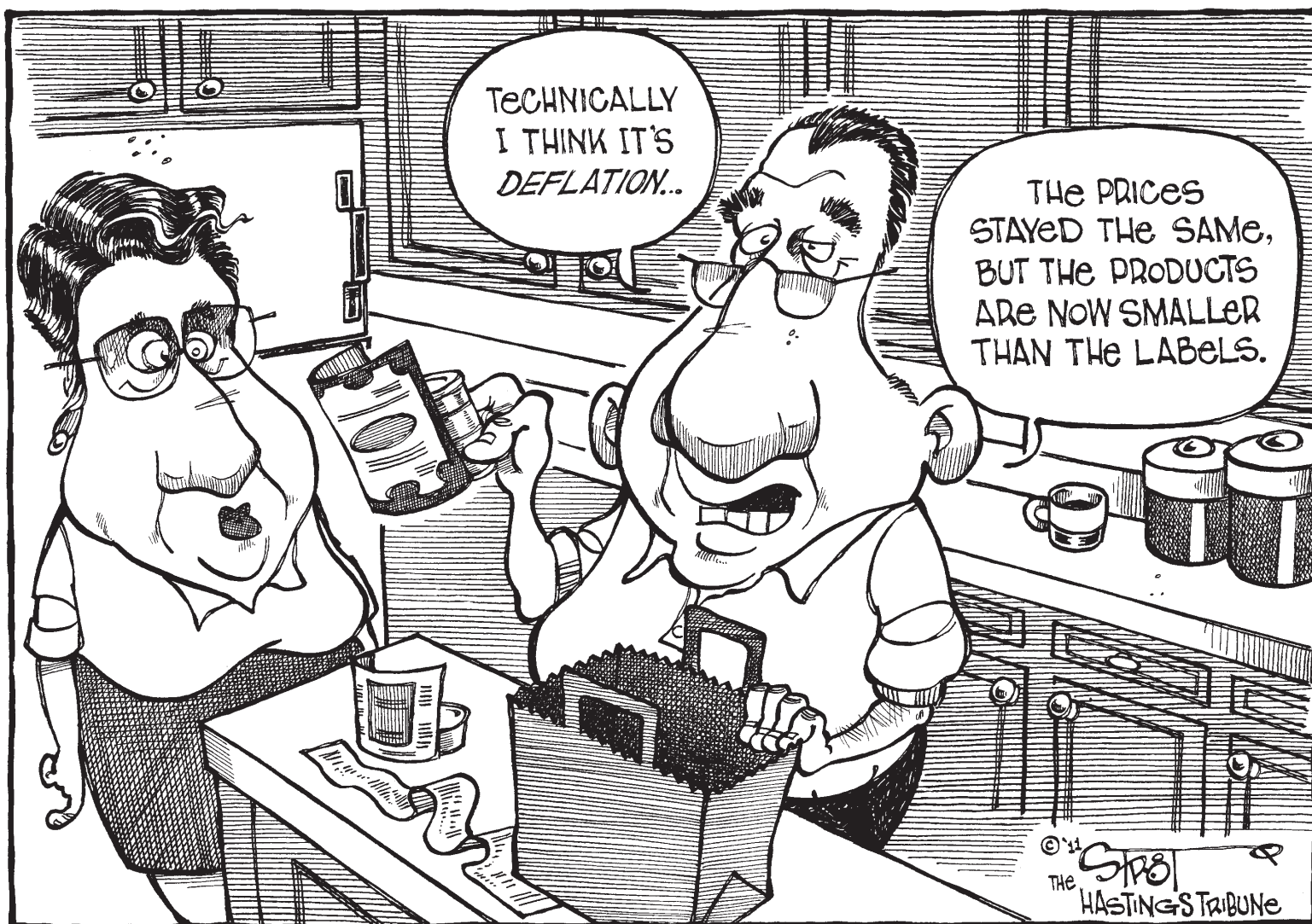
The cost of the renovation and expansion of North and the renovation of the high school will be under \$100 a square foot and a contractor said that is a good price in today's construction market.

No matter what you decide is right, the important thing to do is vote today to make your voice heard.

We know the school board candidates, the Kanorado and Goodland city candidates, and Sunflower Extension District candidates would appreciate your vote as well.

And if you haven't voted bring your kids to participate in the Kids Vote Kansas program being sponsored by the Leadership Sherman County class.

We will be voting in favor of our schools. — Tom Betz



Time to give back



your schools, community

• guest column

Citizens of Sherman County Kansas, everyone is probably aware of the conflicts and debates that there are in the community about the school district's problems. Goodland School District (USD 352) through time has proposed and made the community aware of the problems and issues. The main one is the passing of \$14.9 million bond for the remodeling of North School to a kindergarten to six-grade elementary school, and the moving of the Junior High to the High School and the Administration building to Central Elementary.

As a 2010 Goodland High School graduate, I have been aware of this proposition the board has proposed. Through the time, I have been able to be educated in all the buildings the district owns. They have been dealing with the maintenance of buildings, state budget cuts, cutting programs and the cutting of personnel. We should unite as a good community to pass this bond to fix the buildings the children and teenagers are being educated in.

First of all, everyone needs to thank the Goodland Board of Education for trying to keep the school system functioning till this day. The debate against this bond is in how much it is going to cost, and it will add more to the property taxes of this community. This is true with increase of 12.5 mills, but with state financial aid of paying interest, everyone who is part of this county will pay back with interest about \$17 million.

With that said, there are many complaints

and debates about this, and this is good! This brings ideas and debates, and brings things laid out on the table. However, this should not separate us as a community, but unite us to solve the problem and debate as a community by working with each other and taking action in what needs to be changed.

I have read and heard a comment a community citizen said Harvard is educating the most brilliant students in the country, and is educating them in one of the oldest buildings of the country. Harvard is educating the college students in their old buildings, but they made the necessary repairs to keep those building in the shape they are in today.

The question I want to ask, has the community helped the school board with their issues on the budget cuts and the situation the schools are in? As a student and community citizen I believe we have not done to a great extent since the last bond was passed to build the library. Although, I know this community has passed well worth time and money bonds back in the 1930's to build the high school, and in the 1960's to build the Max Jones Fieldhouse, which is one of the best facilities in western Kansas. The community went through a great

amount of sacrifice to pay for those bonds, and these buildings have been an excellent thing for us, in which we are proud of having something like the Max in our community.

As a student and an alumnus of this school district, I would have liked to have a better place to come to school because it was my second home for a long time. As a teacher told me about a school building a student spends more time in school than they do at home; therefore, it is time to make improvements to our facilities.

If we invest today we will not only invest for just 20 years, but for 50 or 60 years in the future like someone said in the February meeting in the auditorium. It is time to invest in this community to strengthen our community's economy. If we do not help businesses and students to stay in our community we will not prosper as we are now. If newcomers want to come live in this community and they find growing businesses and growing schools, it is because they notice that people invest in their community. To have jobs, one has to spend in them and have small competitive businesses, which makes up most of America's work force, other than big corporations.

I urge everyone to pass this bond because this is the time to give back to our community. Let us show and tell everyone in the world with actions our logo we have for this community, "Welcome to the Good Life."

Ismael O. Garcia
Goodland

Snippets from my readers



tom dreiling

• time out with td

Someone once said, "A fool and his money are soon parted." What I want to know is what can the fool without money be parted from? The best response to that question will be highlighted in my next column. Get those thinking caps on.

Also, many of you have been wondering about the Snippets. Well, today you need wonder no more. I've picked out some that pretty much cover several of my recent columns. If yours is not among those today, don't give up because I hope to continue writing for a long time.

I will be talking in today's column about what I learn from watching daytime television with a Reporter's Notepad on my lap.

The Snippets!

Re: My move to Colorado - "You ought to move back to Kansas now that we have a REAL, as in Republican, governor!"

Re: Obama's spending - "...Seems like Obama is still on a spending spree and is spending money we don't even have.a little fiscal responsibility in the House now after four years, but stymied with a Democrat Senate and vetoing press."

Re: Drugs - "...the fact is they spend more on direct-to-consumer advertising than on research and development. ... And most of the 'new' drugs they bring to market are just old drugs, minimally reformulated..."

Re: Addiction - "I love to listen to C-SPAN Radio, sure beats the other drivel out there, and I learn lots."

Re: Addiction - "To be so fortunate with your addiction; if I could get my 40- something unmarried son off his problem, I'd buy him the biggest television set I could find and let him watch FOX, MSNBC and CNN and all the sports he wants, forever!"

Re: Addiction - "I gave it a try. Doesn't work for me. Might be a case of lazy brain as I'd rather someone else do my thinking. Thank you."

Not contributed to any column - "I still have not seen nor read anything supported by the Republicans that makes me want to change

my vote."

Re: Term Limits - "Term limits would eliminate the process of running for re-election before they even know where the men's room is."

Reminder: Letters to the editor need to be sent to that department at the newspaper, and letters require a signature, etc. When I mentioned that no signature is required for Snippets, some readers thought they could sneak in a letter or two unsigned; doesn't work that way. Send your Snippets (up to four sentences) to my e-mail, which appears at the bottom of this column.

In retirement I do find time to watch television. But I also read and spend considerable time on my computer. All the while I jot down notes of things that catch my eye or ear, and I enter that in my Reporter's Notepad. To wit:

1) A company is now making padded bikini tops for 7-year-old girls. Come on, Moms, where are your voices?

2) A Home Owners Association is trying to shut down a lemonade stand kids are operating to help a project at their school. Rules are rules, even when kids are involved.

3) A sign in a demonstrating crowd read, "God Hates You!" I was unaware that God was in need of a spokesperson.

4) Rutgers will begin allowing guys and gals to share the same dorm rooms. I bet there will be a mad dash of new enrollees!

5) Lindsay Lohan is reportedly dropping her last name. That sounds to me like defeat because that's the way jail personnel refer to their inmates.

6) Someone in Iowa, I believe, won the recent \$319 million Powerball jackpot. Who needs \$319 million? This winner should talk with some past winners and find out how something so big can end up being a terrible

nightmare.

7) If you leave your ground floor bedroom window open (minus a screen) to allow Lunesta to fly in, you just might find something else crawling into that open window. Better to be safe than sorry.

8) Then there's the couple whose car breaks down in what looks like a really remote area of nowhere. He goes to the trunk and low and behold pulls out a new car. The couple jumps in and drives off, leaving their broken down mess blocking the roadway. Nothing like reality, huh?

9) Have you noticed that all the people who get fired by Donald Trump on "The Apprentice," never buckle their seat belt when they are driven off in that beautiful, black long car? An opportunity missed.

10) The newest book is now on the shelves, "Clinton, President of the World." No wonder President Obama feels uncomfortable around him!

That'll do it. Later!

Tom Dreiling is a retired journalist, now living in Aurora, Colo. He edited and published newspaper in Kansas and Wyoming during his 44-year career. E-mail is milehitom@hotmail.com

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e-mail: star.news@nwkansas.com

Steve Haynes, President
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Pat Schiefen, Society Editor



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Gary Meyer, Judy McKnight



nwkansas.com

N.T. Betz, Director of Internet Services

(nt.betz@nwkansas.com)

Evan Barnum, Systems Admin.(support@nwkansas.com)

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