

from our viewpoint...

## Some good things in health care law

As the Supreme Court debates the finer points of the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare, one of the key sticking points has been whether or not to strike down the act as a whole if they decide to get rid of one part of it.

Last week saw a three-day argument in the case brought by 26-Republican-led states, including Kansas, against the health care reform package.

At the heart of the debate is the mandate that every American purchase health insurance by 2014 or pay an annual penalty. This is the portion of the bill that the Supreme Court is most likely to declare unconstitutional, and although that is far from certain at this stage, the justices debated whether the whole law should be struck down in that case.

Justice Antonin Scalia said that if you "Take the heart out of the statute, the statute is gone."

But it's worth noting that the massive reform package has some things in it that are beneficial enough to warrant keeping in place, even if the mandate is ruled unconstitutional.

One provision already in effect allows children to stay on parents' insurance up to age 26. This has allowed about 2.5 million more to stay on health insurance, rather than have to go off and find their own at a time when private insurance for a single person is prohibitively expensive and high unemployment means fewer people are able to get insurance from employers.

Another is the provision that prevents insurance companies from turning people down based on pre-existing conditions. Many people, including some we know here in Goodland, have had trouble trying to get insured if they have a pre-existing medical condition. While they would under normal circumstances be able to afford coverage, the insurance company won't give it to them, for something that they have no control over. When that happens they have few, if any, alternatives.

That provision will not go on the books until 2014.

There are more worthy provisions as well that cover things like preventive medicine, fraud and prescription drugs that are worth taking a look at.

Back in 2010 when the debate about whether to pass the reform package was at its peak, many of the Kansas candidates we interviewed – including conservatives – said they'd favor some of the provisions. Many said they would prefer an incremental approach, passing small reforms designed to increase coverage and lower costs. Even presidential candidate Mitt Romney has said he would like to keep certain parts of the law intact while repealing other.

We hope that even if the Supreme Court strikes down the insurance mandate, it will consider keeping in some of the provisions that are far more popular with the American public. A panel of lawyers has predicted a good chance that most of the health care law will remain intact, but even if it doesn't, reform is needed. These provisions at the very least should be taken up by Congress and passed into law again.

In any case, the decision won't be handed down from the Supreme Court until the summer, so there's plenty of time left to debate. —Kevin Bottrell



## Exciting time for Jayhawks

Most Jayhawk fans were still jumping up and down Sunday as their team celebrated on the court in St. Louis.

The 'Hawks were going to the Final Four, after all; they were all smiles.

I was more interested in watching Roy Williams, the North Carolina coach who earned his spurs at Kansas. Ol' Roy shook hands and got a pat on the back from his successor, Bill Self. I'm sure he said the right things.

Some in Jayhawk Nation are still mad at Roy for going back to North Carolina. Not me.

If I had any doubts, they were settled when Roy showed up behind the Jayhawks' bench at the 2008 NCAA basketball championship. He'd drawn boos from Kansas fans two nights before. Benedict Williams, they called him for going home.

Sitting there, wearing a Jayhawk sticker pinned to his sweater, Roy was rehabilitated in a lot of people's eyes. He was cheering, as he said in an interview this week, for his "second-favorite" basketball team.

Some North Carolina fans got down on their coach after that night. I suspect the two national championships he's won since then prompted forgiveness. I hope so. Roy said he thought it was kinda unfair at the time.

The man spent 15 years of his life in Lawrence, after all. He took a reputation for greatness in basketball – the first coach was a



**steve haynes**

• along the sappa

guy named Naismith – and built on it. That's something his successor has done as well, but nobody polished that reputation any better – or with more love – than Roy Williams.

Before their game this week, reporters asked both coaches whether they'd ever agree to a home-and-away series between the two schools, both with fabled basketball histories.

"Sure," Self said. "It'll be a great game."

But then, he's the guy who's happy to draw Duke in a tournament final and schedules Michigan or Michigan State, Kentucky and Ohio State for preseason games. He relishes the big game, especially early in the season. He wants his guys to know what it's like.

"No," said Roy Williams. "It'd be too hard on me emotionally."

The last thing he wants to do, it seems, is walk into Allen Fieldhouse as the opposing coach, surrounded by all those memories.

I always felt Williams might have stayed at KU if the university had treated his friends a little better. First, his mentor and friend, Bob

Frederick, retired as athletics director, worn down by the pressures of the job. Frederick was the guy who years before, on the advice of legendary North Carolina coach (and Kansas native, former KU player) Dean Smith, had hired an unknown young assistant coach to lead the Jayhawks. And Roy was eternally grateful.

Then there was the messy, midseason firing of football coach Terry Allen. His record was terrible, and Allen probably needed to go, but he was Roy's golf partner.

Adding insult to injury, the university had hired a guy named Al Bohl as athletics director. I know I couldn't abide being in the same room with him, and I think Roy felt the same way. After Bohl was fired, he reportedly claimed Roy Williams had "crushed" him. If it was true, it may have been the best thing Ol' Roy every did, in my view.

I doubt it, though. Roy Williams is a class act. He speaks the truth.

I know there were a few boos Sunday, but not from me. I love the guy.

I wish he was still at Kansas, but you have to admit, Bill Self is not a bad consolation prize.

And Roy Williams is one heck of a guy.

The Jayhawks won Saturday's contest against Ohio State, now it's on to the Championship!

## April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

By James M. Hmurovich  
President & CEO  
Prevent Child Abuse America PCA



from other pens

• commentary

Once again, they're popping up in front yards and at community events, and they're spinning statewide as the country takes a moment during April to recognize Child Abuse Prevention Month. In the Pinwheels for Prevention® campaign, the pinwheel represents efforts to change the way our state thinks about prevention, focusing on community activities and public policies that prioritize healthy child development and ensure that child abuse and neglect never occur. It is part of the national campaign that has seen more than 2.3 million pinwheels displayed since April 2008.

With Child Abuse Prevention Month upon us, we are reminded of what an ancient philosopher once wrote: "There is only one time when it is essential to awaken. That time is now." This is why we want leverage the impact of Pinwheels for Prevention to talk about a larger effort we are part of, and that we hope everyone will participate in – the National Movement for America's Children.

It is the most fundamental obligation of our nation to support the healthy development of each and every child. Now is the time for this commitment to truly become our top national priority. We all know that today's children are America's future leaders, parents and workers. Everyone says that our country's future prosperity depends on the healthy growth and

development of our children. New science is reinforcing this by proving that all of our children, from infants to adolescents, rich or poor, all races and ethnicities, need nurturing relationships and stable environments to grow strong, healthy brains that prepare them for future success as teens and adults. Yet too many of America's children today continue to live in neglectful or abusive environments that are toxic to healthy brain development.

We now know how we can each help prevent child abuse and neglect from ever occurring. And with the

National Movement for America's Children, Americans everywhere, from leaders in government and business to people in communities across the country, are awakening to the role we each can play in ensuring all children have an equal opportunity for growth and development. We are advocating for the expansion of innovative programming such as home visiting services, increased funding for the prevention of shaken baby syndrome,

child-friendly workplaces and comprehensive flex time programs. We are personally promoting the health and wellbeing of every child in our community, donating to child advocacy causes, participating in youth-focused community organizations and supporting family or friends who are under stress. And we are asking all America's to answer the following question:

"How can we ensure that every child has an equal opportunity for healthy growth and development?"

We have awakened to the impact we each can have on our children when we take action – even seemingly small action – that can help all of America's children grow to become healthy, caring and contributing adults. And so we invite you to be part of something bigger than yourself, your community and our state because when we do that, we help drive our entire country's future. Everyone says they care about our nation's children, but it's time for us to awaken to the difference we can make when we do more than just say we care – when we actually take action. There is only one time when it is essential to awaken a movement for America's children. That time is now.

To learn more please visit [www.pinwheels-forprevention.org](http://www.pinwheels-forprevention.org) and [www.movement-forchildren.org](http://www.movement-forchildren.org).

## where to write

**U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts**, 109 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774; E-mail address – <http://roberts.senate.gov/public/index.cfm?p=EmailPat>

**U.S. Sen. Jerry Moran**, Russell Senate Office Building, Courtyard 4, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 224-6521; Fax (202) 228-6966. E-mail address – <http://moran.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/e-mail-jerry>

**U.S. Rep. Tim Huelskamp**, 1st Congressional District, 126 Cannon House Office Building, Washington D.C., 20575-1601. (202-225-2715) E-mail address – <https://huelskamp.house.gov/contact-me/email-me>

**State Rep. Rick Billinger**, Docking State Office Building Rm 724, Topeka, KS 66612. Phone (785) 296-7659, cell (785) 899-4770, home (785) 899-5824. E-mail [rick.billinger@house.ks.gov](mailto:rick.billinger@house.ks.gov).

**State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer**, State Capitol Building, Rm. 225-E, 300 SW 10th, Topeka, Kan. 66612. (785-296-7399; e-mail address – [ostmeyer@senate.state.ks.us](mailto:ostmeyer@senate.state.ks.us))

**Kansas Attorney General**, 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

e-mail: [star.news@nwkansas.com](mailto:star.news@nwkansas.com)

Steve Haynes, President  
Kevin Bottrell, Editor  
Pat Schiefen, Society Editor  
Advertising Department  
Jessica Corbin and Jeff Dreiling  
Sheila Smith, Circulation Manager



### Nor'west Press

Richard Westfahl, General Manager

Jim Bowker, James Jackson,

Lana Westfahl, Kris McCool, Stacy Brashear, Tracy Traxel,

Gary Meyer, Judy McKnight



[nwkansas.com](http://nwkansas.com)

N.T. Betz, Director of Internet Services

([nt.betz@nwkansas.com](mailto:nt.betz@nwkansas.com))

Evan Barnum, Systems Admin. ([support@nwkansas.com](mailto:support@nwkansas.com))

Published every Tuesday and Friday except the days observed for New Year's Day, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving 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@nwkansas.com](mailto:star-news@nwkansas.com). Advertising questions can be sent to: [goodlandads@nwkansas.com](mailto:goodlandads@nwkansas.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

## 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 and letters deemed to be of no public interest or considered offensive will be rejected. 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@nw-kansas.com](mailto:star.news@nw-kansas.com).