

OPINION



Green space would be nice

We’re not sure why the City of Valley Center wants to keep its hands in the land development business. But we’re starting to understand why some city council members see this move a little differently.

The city council this week approved the purchase of three empty lots on Main Street for potential development. The city says a building could be constructed on the land for a mix of commercial and residential use.

If that’s the case, though, why is the city involved? That type of development is usually best left in the hands of the private sector. The land has been empty and for sale for several years. Many have kicked the tires, but there have been no takers. What is different now?

Still, we’re encouraged by what some council members and the mayor have said about it. They said this week that the city council wants to have a say in how the land is developed and many agreed that it should be used as some sort of community gathering space, stopping short of calling it a future park.

That seems reasonable.

The land is privately held. However, the owner has allowed the city and other organizations to use the property for community events over the years.

Most notably, the Valley Center Chamber of Commerce uses it for the annual Fall Festival. It’s where several rides are set up each year.

In addition, Main Street Valley Center uses the land for farmers markets, outdoor movies and other events, and the local Lions Club uses it for its wildly popular car show.

So much could be done to enhance the property as a community gathering space, but just having an influence over what happens to it makes sense. We see green space as an important component in the health of a community. The more a community gets together on common ground, the more that community thrives.

A vibrant and historic downtown sets Valley Center apart from almost every other small city in the Wichita metro area. We’re glad some on the council want to make sure Main Street remains a community treasure.

— The Ark Valley News

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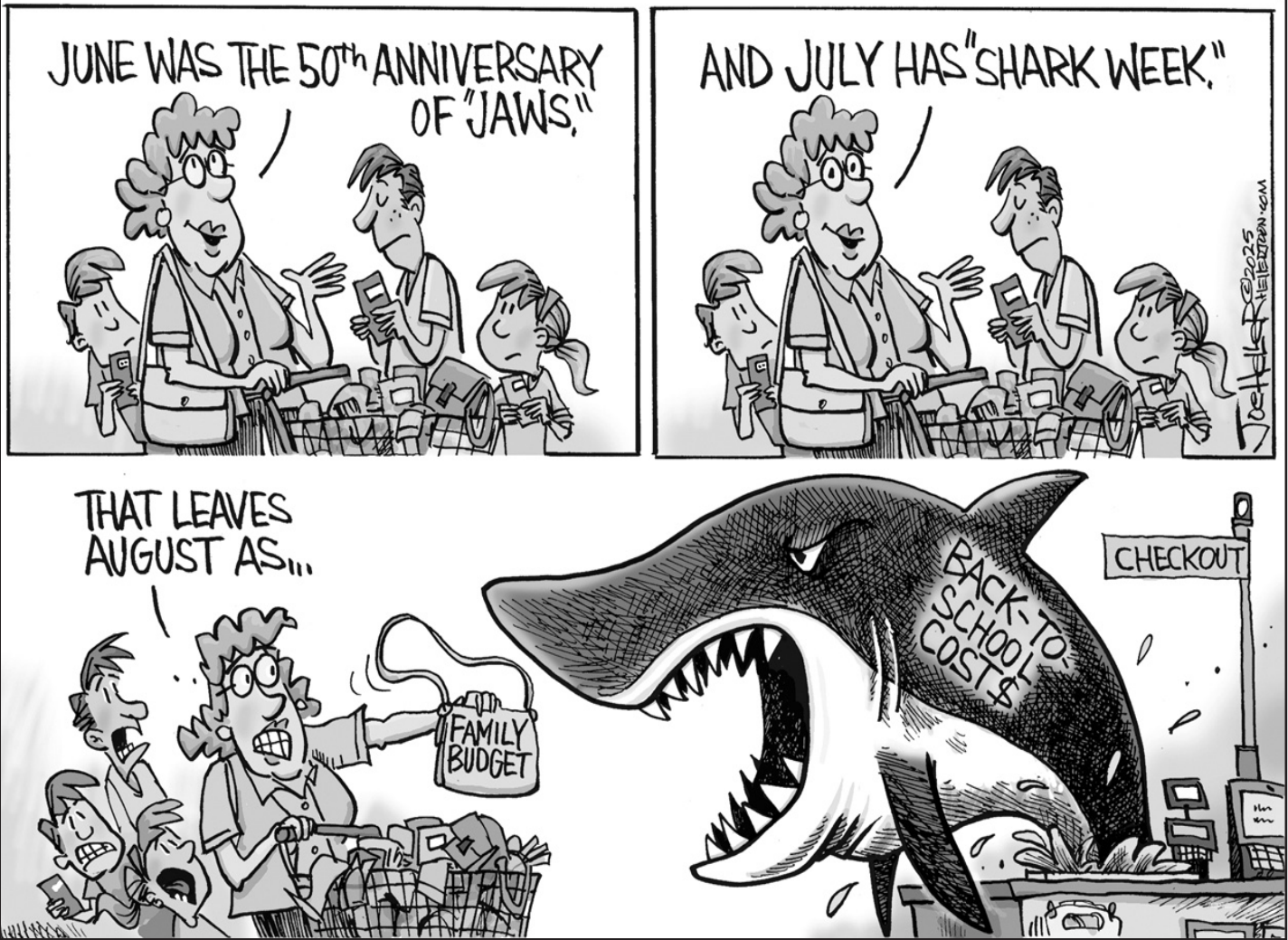
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It’s time to set those alarm clocks

The hardest part about school starting again is setting that alarm.

My alarm has been broken since, oh, about May 23, so snapping back into this school routine again is a gut punch.

One of my kids has always been an early riser, the other, not so much. She (and I) need alarms. Multiple alarms. I wonder who she takes after?

Just this week, I snoozed my alarm for one hour. Don’t judge me. I know this intermittent sleep is less than beneficial for me. Those sweet 15 minutes I continually pressed snoozed for really played mind games with me. I felt like I was getting a few solid naps in until I realized the time. With a swift kick of adrenaline waking me to make my move, I got up and ready in record time.

I’m constantly rushing



**Invest in the Nest**  
By Erika Birk

around every morning and more times than not, I don’t plan accordingly. There’s always “one more thing” I can do. Really, there’s not. The “one more thing” I should be doing is walking out to my car and driving away. Mornings have never been my jam. Try as I might, I’m more of a night owl.

The thought of waking these kids up earlier than they have been all summer stresses me out. We’ve had zero preparation for this. Now we have eight days to get it together.

Summer evenings keep us out of the house with the incessantly biting mosqui-

toes only to return when the sun goes down. Summer days are gone. Just gone.

As the school emails filter in, filling up my evening schedule, I’m already panicking to stay organized. I know sports practices, schedules, birthdays and all other events will make it to the calendar. It fills up so fast. How can moms out there stay ahead?

Preparing for mid-August each year sends me for a ride on the crazy train (bye, Ozzy!). For once, I purchased all school supplies before Aug. 1. I was so proud of myself! I’ve written down all the important school dates and upcoming soccer and baseball practices and games. Now, I’m attempting to get back into the school year mindset and having the hardest time. I can’t be the only mom out there feeling this way.

Overcoming the transition from summer to school starting is really hard this year. I’m not entirely sure why.

All I know is that I can prepare and hope for the best. Easy enough.

I’ve got my planner packed full of my beloved sticky notes so I can keep track of my life.

As we shift our nightly bedtimes to a more reasonable hour, just know there are more parents out there struggling to get in the back-to-school mode.

Every year, August comes around and I’m just as confused as the last. How did we get here so fast?

Buckle up, parents and teachers, school is upon us. Set those alarms now.

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And now you know their name

Lester “Roadhog” Moran and his Cadillac Cowboys burst on the country music scene in 1974 after just a few weeks of rehearsals. Their first album sold hundreds of copies and cemented the group as truly forgettable in the annals of Nashville history. Backed by the fiddle of Buddy Spicher and Bob Moore on bass, their cover of “Why Baby Why” became part of Music City lore.

At the same time, Jim Stafford wrote and recorded “My Girl Bill” for MGM Records. He also wrote “Spiders & Snakes” as well as “Wildwood Weed” but it was “My Girl Bill” that went to No. 12 and sent short-tempered crazies on rants for the ages. A 10-year veteran of Branson, Stafford managed to stay above the fray during his entire tenure.

Another Branson alum from the country side of the stage was Moe Bandy, a longtime sheet metal worker from east Texas. In 1975, he took Lefty Frizzell’s “Bandy The Rodeo Clown” to No. 7 on the Billboard charts, and they both made enough to pay my rent and yours. To this day, I can’t attend a rodeo without looking to see what’s hidden behind chute No. 1!

And speaking of Branson, just a few years later, Conway Twitty had a good thing going until he didn’t. The good



**A likely story**  
By Roger Ryberg

thing was one of several duets he recorded with Loretta Lynn, written by L.E. White and Lola Jean Dillon for the Epic label, called “You’re The Reason Our Kids Are Ugly.”

Ed Bruce didn’t do Branson, but he was a member of the Grand Old Opry. Best known for writing and recording “Mamas Don’t Let Your Babies Grow Up To Be Cowboys,” he wrote dozens of songs for that many other singers. My favorite was his 1980 hit “Girls, Women, And Ladies” because it was the song of my life in the ‘80s.

Grand Old Opry star Brad Paisley had a slew of No. 1 hits from 2000 to 2003, including “He Didn’t Have To Be” and “Me Neither” and “We Danced” and “Whiskey Lullaby” (with Alison Kraus). The best one for me was the hit “I’m Gonna Miss Her,” also known as the fishing song. Paisley also gets the writing credits, courtesy of Arista Records, so his yacht payments are still safe.

Webb Pierce was, of

course, one of the giants of classic country music who brought us monster hits like “In The Jailhouse Now” and “I Ain’t Never” and “There Stands The Glass.” But my favorite song of Pierce, written by M-M-Mel T-T-Tillis, was “Your Dog Don’t Bite Nobody But Me,” which also says something about my history.

And speaking of country music violence, who can forget Miranda Lambert’s “Kerosene” or “Crazy Ex-Girlfriend” and my favorite, “Mama’s Broken Heart,” where she wails about what she’ll do with a steak knife. Written by her friend Kacey Musgraves, this 2011 hit celebrates revenge, arson and depression in the form of poetic justice.

Let me close with what I started, which was the short but explosive tour of Lester “Roadhog” Moran and his Cadillac Cowboys. Their tour bus was a bread truck, the music was barely tolerable and the Cowboy’s only album on the Mercury label was “Alive At The Johnny Mack Brown High School.”

But they had something the rest of us could only dream about. That would be a 50-year headstart on fame and fortune because in reality Roadhog Moran was Don Reid and their lead guitar player named “Wichita” was

actually Reid’s own brother, Harold. Together with Lew Dewitt and Phil Balsley, this fearsome foursome was, in fact, the Statler Brothers.

*Roger Ryberg is a Valley Center resident. After 40 years of interstate trucking, he’s too old for a paper route, too young to retire and too tired to have an affair. You can reach him at [roger-clark437@gmail.com](mailto:roger-clark437@gmail.com).*

**Letter to the editor**

**Prizes needed**

Wanted: BINGO prizes! The senior citizens play BINGO every month at the VC Community Building. If you have crafts, jewelry, knick-knacks, small items, decorations, puzzles, etc. that are in good shape and you think the seniors would like, please place them in a box just outside the library. (The box is marked “Senior BINGO Items” on the right side of the doors.)

We thank everyone who has donated in the past. Your gifts have been great and the seniors really enjoy them. Thank you.

— Nancy Anderson, Valley Center

What’s on your mind?

Write a letter and drop it off at 210 W. Main, Valley Center, or email comments to [news@arkvalleynews.com](mailto:news@arkvalleynews.com)