

# commentary

from our viewpoint...

## War's horror draws us closer together

The American General William Tecumseh Sherman, for whom the county is named, was quoted as saying "war is hell" during his drive from Atlanta to Savanna during the last year of the Civil War.

Today marks the end of the first week of the war in Iraq, and for some American families there is sadness as they learn of the death of their sons, or that they have been wounded or even taken prisoner.

General Sherman's comment was only part of what he had to say. He said that in war there is only one way to ensure the people who you are fighting surrender, and that is to fight a total war against all the people until they decide it is time to quit.

This was the principal tactic Sherman used as his troops rummaged roughshod over the landscape as they moved through the Georgia countryside. They called it foraging, but for some it was plain stealing and there were instances of rape and pillage. Sherman did not condone that action and when they were brought to him he had the soldiers punished.

After the Civil War Sherman used the same tactic as he fought against the American Indians in the west. He continued to believe that the war against the Indians would be won quicker if you were attacking the whole Indian nation.

Over the generations since General Sherman there have been many wars, and the hell has continued with millions of refugees and deaths of both soldiers and civilians.

With the advances in technology the most recent wars have been fought with the idea of limiting civilian deaths in what is called collateral damage. The effort has not been perfect, but it certainly has changed the picture of war. It is like we are trying to sterilize the fight and separate the people who live in the country we are fighting from those who are shooting at us.

As we watch the bombs drop on Baghdad at night it is strange to watch the cars, trucks and buses driving down the streets in the daylight. The military pride themselves and demonstrate their ability to destroy a building in the middle of the city without damaging the wall nearby.

We have dropped over 23 million leaflets around Iraq telling soldiers to surrender and telling them not to destroy the oil wells and equipment that will be vital to the future of the country.

This is not a war like any other we have seen or read about, and as it unfolds there will be more surprises and more sadness as we witness the pictures of war with the troops which looks more like what General Sherman was seeing over 140 years ago when he said, "war is hell." — *Tom Betz*

### where to write

**U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts**, 302 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510. (202) 224-4774  
**U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback**, 303 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington D.C. 20510. (202) 224-6521  
**U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran**, 1217 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. (202) 225-2715  
**State Rep. Jim Morrison**, State Capitol Building Rm. 174-W, Topeka, KS 66612. (785) 296-7676  
**State Sen. Stan Clark**, State Capitol Building Rm. 449-N, Topeka, KS 66612. (785) 296-7399

## 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  
**Tom Betz**, Editor  
**Managing Editor**  
**Pat Schiefen**, Copy Editor

**Darrel Pattillo**, Reporter  
**Sharon Corcoran**, Society Editor  
**Bill Wagoner**, Advertising Sales  
**Sheila Smith**, Office Manager

### Nor'west Press

**Jim Bowker**, General Manager  
**Richard Westfahl** **Ron VanLoenen** **Judy McKnight**  
**Betty Morris** **Mary Jo Tapparo** **Lana Westfahl**  
**Teneile Lovelace**

**nwkansas.com**  
**N.T. Betz**, Director of Internet Services  
 (nbetz@nwkansas.com)  
**Evan Barnum**, Systems Admin.(support@nwkansas.com)

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](mailto:star-news@nw-kansas.com). Advertising questions can be sent to: [goodlandads@nw-kansas.com](mailto:goodlandads@nw-kansas.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, \$20; six months, \$38; 12 months, \$72. Out of area, weekly mailing of two issues: three months, \$30; six months, \$45; 12 months, \$80. Mailed individually each day: 12 months, \$115. (All tax included.)

**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



## I can't let this opportunity pass

It was inevitable. I'm the type of person who can't let an opportunity like this pass.

I'm talking, of course, about being in a position, as an I-70 commuter, to point out the differences and similarities between the two fine cities of Colby and Goodland.

That sound you just heard was my editor groaning.

Let me explain something to you folks here in Sherman County that the people in Thomas County had to find out the hard way: this is my column, and if left to my own devices, I will write as silly as I can. You see, it's my opinion there's plenty of strife and heartache in the world, and one of my missions in life is to spread silliness. So if sophomoric humor and general silliness isn't for you, then stop reading now.

Here are a few of the differences between Goodland and Colby, as I see them:

The most obvious difference, of course, and coincidentally, the most timely (pun intended) is the difference in time zones. Colby is in the Central time zone. Goodland is in the Mountain time zone.

It's not for me to say whether that should re-



## darrel pattillo

• on the ball

main the case or not, but let me just point out something: I think if a place wants to be in the Mountain time zone, it ought to have a Mountain, which Sherman County does. Mount Sunflower, the highest point in the state of Kansas, qualifies Sherman County for the Mountain time zone. Let's move on.

One thing both towns have in common: no one in either town really thinks it's funny when I wear my Kansas City Chiefs sweatshirt with my Denver Broncos hat. The most common comment: "What the ...?"

Colby has a middle school; Goodland has a junior high school.

Goodland has an 18-hole golf course, while Colby's is a nine-hole. Oddly enough, I stink equally on both courses.

It seems like it takes a lot longer to get from

## Thanks for opportunity to vote on time

To the Editor

Thank you for the opportunity to vote our wishes on the change to Central Time.

Some residents of Goodland are only thinking in terms of their own personal reasons to change to Central Time.

Should we disregard the people in other counties on Central Time that would prefer we stay on Mountain Time, so that they may have an extra hour to do business here?

Let us not shoot ourselves in the foot.

Betty Harden  
 Goodland

To the Editor:

The Sherman County commission would like to take this opportunity to notify the citizens of Sherman County that we are aware of the time change issue that is being discussed in the community and to officially inform the citizens that the Board of County Commissioners is neutral on the issue.

We would strongly encourage all citizens to express their opinions regarding this matter by participating in the straw poll that will be held on April 1, 2003, in the lobby of the Sherman County Courthouse. The straw poll will allow any Sherman County resident, who is 18 years of age or older, to express their opinion on this matter.

Board of County Commissioners  
 Kevin Rasure  
 Mitch Tiede  
 Chuck Thomas

To the Editor:

"Time for a Change" has been discussed and kicked around by most of the us in our county since the proposal was suggested a few weeks ago. Some of us feel strongly that it would benefit economic development within our County,



## from our readers

• to the editor

while some feel that for other reasons it would do just the opposite. Thank goodness we all have the right to our opinions as to the benefits or negatives it would bring to Sherman County.

On April 1, a straw poll will be conducted at the Sherman County courthouse in conjunction with the city and school board elections being held at the Veterans of Foreign Wars hall.

The straw poll will give us all the opportunity to let our preference be known if we prefer to move to Central Time or stay on Mountain Time. We encourage all residents to stop by the courthouse and vote your preference.

The thrust of the movement to change from Mountain Time to Central Time is to encourage the economic growth of Sherman County. Some of the points that justify the change in our time zone are:

1. Our schools and college deal with schedules for activities that are for the most part with other schools and college that are on Central Time. This creates untold lost hours in the classrooms because of the hour difference from our time.

2. Merchants, business people, professionals and families loose valuable time when phoning any place in Kansas other than the four counties that are on Mountain Time. We would be on Kansas time and gain the ability to do business, without the problem of calculating the difference in time zones.

3. Tourists and other visitors to our County would be on time to do business within the county. How many times have we experienced

Goodland to Colby than from Colby to Goodland. This may have something to do with going to work versus going home from work.

Goodland has a Technical college; Colby has a Community college. Neither has a football team.

The streets in Goodland are, for the most part, much wider than the streets in Colby. At the same time, Goodland has more dips than Colby.

Neither radio station plays anywhere near enough classic rock.

Colby has a daily newspaper; Goodland used to, but now publishes twice-weekly. I've worked at both now, and believe it or not, I think it's harder to do the twice-a-week deal than the daily.

Colby is closer to Hays; Goodland is closer to Denver. I can't afford to go to either one very often.

Both communities have been subjected to the wit and wisdom of a goofball journalist. Both seem no worse for the experience.

*Darrel Pattillo is on assignment from the Colby Free Press. His column appears once a week.*

an appointment with someone coming in from Central Time and end up being an hour early or an hour late because of the confusion they experienced with Mountain Time?

4. With just four counties in Kansas on Mountain Time, we wonder why? The logic doesn't make sense. The border of Kansas and Colorado is where the time should change. The Tourist Center and motel operators will see a lot less confusion and we will experience more tourist stopping in Goodland for an overnight stay. Presently, when tourists stop at the Tourist Center going east and find out they are still in Mountain Time, most choose to go on to the east to lose the hour rather than wait until the next morning when they continue east. The additional overnight tourists will help with our economy by spending their dollars within our county.

We encourage you to give the above points your consideration and thoughts and support the proposal for moving to Central Time. Let your preference be known on April 1 at the Sherman County courthouse by voting.

J B. McClure and Larry Keirms  
 Goodland

### 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 phone numbers, by e-mail to: [<star-news@nwkansas.com>](mailto:<star-news@nwkansas.com>).

### garfield

