

from our viewpoint...

Flag Day honors symbol of freedom

Saturday was a busy day in Goodland, with many events going on simultaneously, and it was good to see over 50 people attend the Elks Flag Day service at Grant Junior High.

The lodge does the Flag Day ceremony each year because the American Flag is tied to the principals of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. June 14 is a day set aside by Congress to honor the flag and its history, dating back 226 years.

Flag Day commemorates June 14, 1777, when the Continental Congress adopted the Stars and Stripes as the national flag. Observance of Flag Day began in 1885 in various cities and states.

Inspired by three decades of state and local celebrations, Flag Day was officially established by the proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson on May 30, 1916. While Flag Day was celebrated for years after Wilson's proclamation, it was not until August 3, 1949, that President Harry S Truman signed a law designating June 14th as National Flag Day.

Today, Flag Day is the start of the 21-day salute to the flag which ends with the celebration on July 4 commemorating American Independence.

Ron Barkley the Goodland Elks Americanism chairman, did a good job of putting the flag ceremony together. Having the Girl Scouts handle the posting and raising of the colors demonstrated the patriotism of the younger generation.

The Elks made sure everyone who attended received a small flag as a token of appreciation for their attendance and to remind them to display the flag.

Three fifth grade students who entered the Elks Americanism Contest — Benjamin Waugh, Allan Alanis and Heidi Lawson — read essays that answered the question "What does freedom mean to me."

Rusty Renner brought a chill to the crowd, not only with the national anthem, but when he sang "I am proud to be an American," which was a rallying cry for the first Persian Gulf War 12 years ago.

"Flag Day once again reminds us of our country's history, determination, and spirit of resolve," said Gov. Kathleen Sebelius. "It is a representation of our independence and unity.

"Throughout our history, our American flag has demonstrated our country's spirit. The Iwo Jima Memorial in Washington exhibits Marines waving the American flag during the World War II victory. The flag has seen the world from the moon. On Sept. 11, 2002, as a way to show our own victory and spirit of resolve, firefighters placed the flag in the rubble of the World Trade Center. In all of these instances, it sent a message to the American people, as well as people around the globe, of unity and freedom.

"Today should be no different. We must show our spirit, our unity, and our independence. We must be proud of our history and our future."

We are approaching the Freedom Fest on July 4 and will celebrate the 227 anniversary of American Independence. Whenever you see a flag displayed in a window, on a car or being waved, we hope it bring home the meaning of freedom and possibly a thrill and a swelling of pride because you live in America. — *Tom Betz*

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@nwkanssas.com

Steve Haynes, President

Tom Betz, Editor

Managing Editor

Pat Schiefen, Copy Editor

Sharon Corcoran, Society Editor

Shannon Marie Davidson Reporter

Bill Wagoner, Phyllis Hadley, 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@nwkanssas.com)

Evan Barnum, Systems Admin. (support@nwkanssas.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. Advertising questions can be sent to: goodlandads@nwkanssas.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**

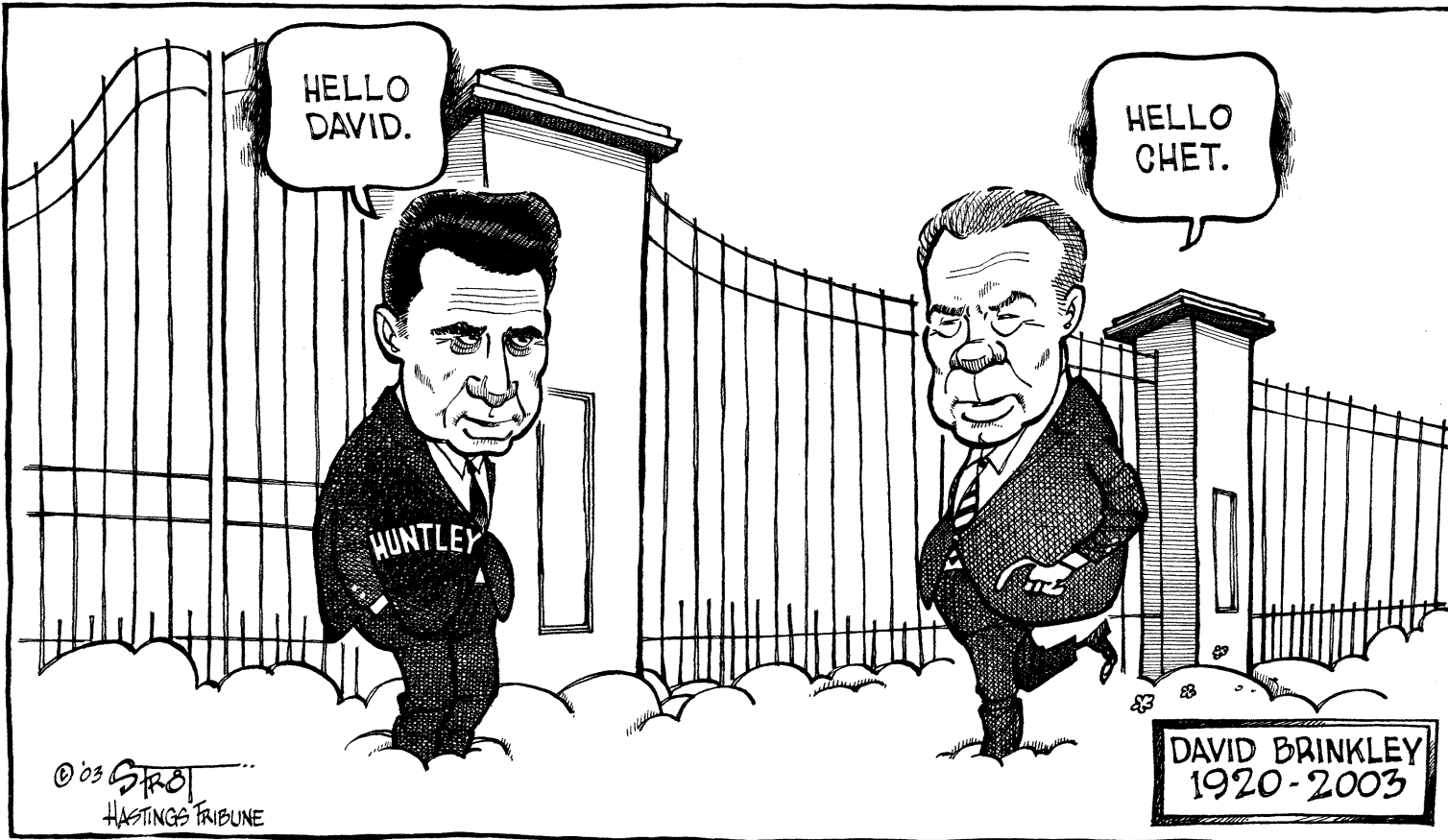
Founded by Thomas McCants
1935-1989

THE SHERMAN COUNTY
STAR

Founded by Eric and
Roxie Yonkey
1994-2001

Nor'West Newspapers

Haynes Publishing Company



Why are we exporting natural gas to Mexico?

To the Editor:

I cannot understand why we are exporting natural gas to Mexico. No. 1: Mexico has plenty of natural gas in their own country. Why doesn't the United States export pinto beans to Mexico in exchange for natural gas? Apparently, as expressed in the newspaper article, the United States has a shortage of natural gas — hence the high prices and going even higher. I truly believe that this country needs to consider the people who reside here, instead of sending our resources elsewhere.

Iraq, Iran and many other such countries that harbor terrorists have the good ole U.S.A. to thank for their technology to drill for oil and to export oil. Why the U.S.A. is not refining and using oil from our own state of Alaska, I will never know.

Why the CEOs of large companies like Enron are not being required to reimburse the money back and then serve a prison sentence, I will never understand either. Clinton is now being hailed as a president of peace — HA! What a joke, although I'm not laughing. have Many people in this country forgotten why we are in the Middle East — we are there to promote peace and try to establish governments where terrorists and leaders of TORTURE



from our readers

- to the editor

AND DEATH DO NOT RULE! Why we should rebuild these countries is a big mystery as well. Did Japan rebuild for us all the planes and ships that they destroyed at Pearl Harbor? This DOES NOT include all the lives that were lost there as well.

How quickly we have forgotten the horrific saga of two lost towers in New York and the Pentagon as well, not to mention all the bodies falling to the ground with a large thud. Weapons of mass destruction — YES, OUR OWN AIRPLANES — with pilots who worship a god of death. No thanks, I'm not giving this country to them and moving over there where they do not even grow their own food. They could be BUSY digging up ancient artifacts from the sand and selling those at a fat-cat price to rich collectors, and in turn pay for food as well as the mess they have made over here.

Personally, I try to be a conservative, and I pinch pennies until they squeak. I can't and I

How do we know the Bible is from God?

Though many people believe the Bible is from God, some don't and others wonder how we can be sure it is. The Bible's content is what shows it to be from God, rather than men. How so?

The Bible's accuracy is one thing that shows it to be from God. For example, when events are recorded in the Bible, the time of day is often mentioned along with the date and place of the event and specific names of people involved.

Luke 3:1, 2 is one example: "In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, in the high-priesthood of Anna and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness."

The exact time period is mentioned and the names of people involved, unlike myths or stories passed down from generation to generation. Consider too that Luke was not present for these events and wrote his gospel nearly 60 years after these happened.

Can you remember who was the president of the United States 60 years ago? the governor of Kansas? the city manager of Goodland? Such facts are not easy to remember, and sometimes names and dates are not even kept straight in records. The accuracy of Luke's gospel is just one of many cases of accuracy and detail in the Bible and shows that the Bible is not just a good story.

And other evidence shows it had to have come from God. Job 26:7 says that God is "hanging the earth upon nothing."

How did Job know that? He couldn't take his space shuttle out for a cruise and look at the earth. Many people in centuries more recent than Job's believed the earth was held up by large elephants. But God could see the earth; he even created it; and he would have known



sharon corcoran

- use it or lose it

it was "hanging upon nothing."

This detail has been proven scientifically accurate, and many of the people, places and dates in the Bible have been confirmed by archeological findings. When all of the accurate details in the Bible are considered together, it defies the likelihood that the men who recorded those events just happened to know all those details, even when they recorded events they did not witness, and that they remembered and recorded them accurately. A perfect, Almighty God overseeing the project could, however, ensure its accuracy.

Another evidence that the Bible is from God is its harmony. Though written by 40 different people over a period of 1,600 years, it is a unified production. Throughout its 66 books, the Bible promotes worship of one God whose characteristics never change.

Throughout the Bible, God's qualities are described, and examples of his works are recorded that give evidence of those qualities. He interacted with mankind and at times even communicated with people directly.

Job 37:23 says, "The Almighty — we cannot find him; he is great in power and justice, and abundant righteousness he will not violate."

God has used his unlimited power to create the heavens and earth, to destroy enemies of his people and to protect righteous ones. Most people are familiar with the Bible account in Exodus 12-14 describing how God delivered the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt, even parting the Red Sea so they could walk across it.

As the Egyptians followed, God used the pillar of fire and the pillar of cloud to lead and

don't get a paycheck raise every year. Bureaucrats and politicians automatically receive those. ME, well I depend on crops that are eaten by bugs and pastures that prairie dogs dig up and survive on with a vengeance. We can't control those "white combines" (hail) and years of drought that we contend with as well.

As for President Bush, well he has to establish peace in countries who have fought for years., and who seem to delight in the smell of death and the smell of blood on their hands. Those fighters are going to have seven virgins waiting with open arms when they arrive in heaven? This is another joke which I am not laughing at.

I cannot believe what this world has become. A mass of people gathering together to all have their pictures taken in the NUDE — honestly! There seems to be practically NO censorship on television. We once had a few shows to pattern our lives with, shows that would teach justice, morals and values. Maybe that was back when the West was won. Or was it?? Gangs, dope, killings, rapes, kidnappings and terrorists still go on daily.

WWJD?

Ruth Nichols

Kanorado

protect his people and then used the Red Sea to destroy the Egyptians. What a display of his power!

God's justice is shown, among other ways, in the laws he gave to the Israelites through Moses. Deuteronomy 24:17-21 shows that he commanded his people to care for, rather than to take advantage of, weak ones, like widows and orphans.

And Deuteronomy 10:17 says he "treats none with partiality nor accepts a bribe."

Romans 11:33 reminds us of another of God's qualities described in the scriptures: "O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!"

And John 3:16 tells us: "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

The Bible depicts in word and deed an all-powerful, loving, wise and just God. Why?

Isaiah 41:8 says, "Israel my servant, Jacob, whom I have chosen, the offspring of Abraham, my friend."

God called Abraham his friend, and he wants us, too, to be his friends. How could we possibly be his friends without knowing him? He had the Bible recorded with harmonious information, revealing his personality to us, so we could learn to trust in him, to do what is right and to worship only him.

This coherent description of God's qualities did not come from numerous different men; they had help from God, inspiration. And we can use that information to draw close to God and develop a friendship with him as Abraham did.

Besides the Bible's accuracy and detail and its internal harmony in revealing God's personality, its divine wisdom and the fact that the Bible has survived despite opposition show it to be from God. Details of the Bible's survival and divine wisdom will be the topic of my next column.

garfield

