

Banner replaced with welcoming flags

By Greg Stover
The Goodland Star-News

The Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau board voted unanimously to ditch a welcome banner proposal and reconsider the idea of welcome flags instead.

David Branda, owner of the Sherman Theatre and an advisory member of the board, had the flags put up along both sides of the 1200 block of Main Avenue to show how they would look.

Donna Price, the bureau's director, told the board April 28 that although the banner and cable to hang

it with were affordable, the trouble was finding something to anchor the cables to. The city will not allow them to be anchored on light poles, she said, and business owners along Main are concerned about potential damage to their buildings and liability.

City Manager Ron Pickman said the city's light pole were not designed to support banners, especially the stress produced by strong winds that could damage the poles and create a hazard to people and property.

Price said she looked into the possibility of putting in poles for the

banner, but the estimated cost was between \$5,000 and \$8,000 per pole, which is beyond what the bureau could afford on its own. She recommended the board not go for the banner this year.

Price asked the board to consider putting a half page ad in the 2005 Kansas Getaway Guide, as it did this year. She said if the bureau orders the ad by June 1, it can save \$200 and the publisher would accept half of the \$3,950 this year and the balance after Jan. 1.

Price said that if the publisher's ad representatives can fill the rest of the page with ads from Goodland

businesses, it will cut the overall cost. The board voted unanimously, with one abstention, to order the ad.

Price told the board about the Kansas Mega Gigantic Get Away Givaway campaign, through which someone could win a Chevrolet Malibu or other prizes by random drawing on Sept. 30.

To enter the drawing, a person must, by Sept. 10, travel at least 100 miles from home and visit one of the attractions or events listed in the 2004 Kansas Getaway Guide. He or she must take a picture of themselves, their family or friends enjoying the place, which must recognize

able in the photo.

Send one of the photos with an official entry form to: Kansas Mega Gigantic Get Away Giveaway, 805 New Hampshire, Lawrence, KS 66044. Entry forms are available online at www.travelKS.com or by mail. Brochures, containing an entry form, describing the giveaway are available at the bureau office, 1206 Main Ave.

In other action, the board:

- Voted to go with Avery Postcards of Pleasant Hill, Mo., for the production and distribution of post cards showing Goodland's Van Gogh painting. Price said the ad-

vantage Avery Postcards had over others being considered was that it already has a distribution system established.

- Heard from Price that a billboard promoting the "Slice of Life" fund-raising golf tournament June 5-6 is up on I-70 about a mile east of Goodland. She also reported that a new billboard promoting Goodland is up about seven miles further east on I-70.

Price said the Goodland billboard on I-70 near the Colorado border has been repaired.

The next meeting will be 9 a.m. Tuesday, May 18.

City goes with mixed rate

Given a choice of three options, city commissioners decided last Monday to go with a "risk management" option which could reduce the city's gas cost under next year's gas contract with Cornerstone Energy.

The price includes the transportation cost through Aquila and a charge for loss and unusable gas (L and U charge).

Pickman said the Cornerstone contract delivers natural gas used by the power plant and the city shop. In the past, the city has gone with a "fixed price" option which allowed them to calculate what the cost of gas was going to be depending on usage. The city rate for last year was 89¢ per "therm," a unit of heat equal to 100,000 British Thermal Units (BTUs).

Pickman said the staff considered the risk management option last year, but there was an administration fee of \$9 per month which they

did not like.

The fixed-rate option for the next year would have been 75¢ per therm, but with the Aquila transportation and L and U charges added, the total price would be close to the 89¢ of last year. The fixed-rate choice protects the city from rising prices, but is not good in a high-priced market because the customer will continue to pay high prices even if the market falls, according to a Cornerstone Energy information handout.

A chart from Cornerstone explaining the options showed the advantage of the risk management option, which last year would have lowered the city gas cost by at least 4¢ per therm because the highest that cost went was 71¢ per therm. This option combines gas bought in a variety of markets to "level out" the overall cost of gas.

Pickman explained that Cornerstone purchases gas on the open

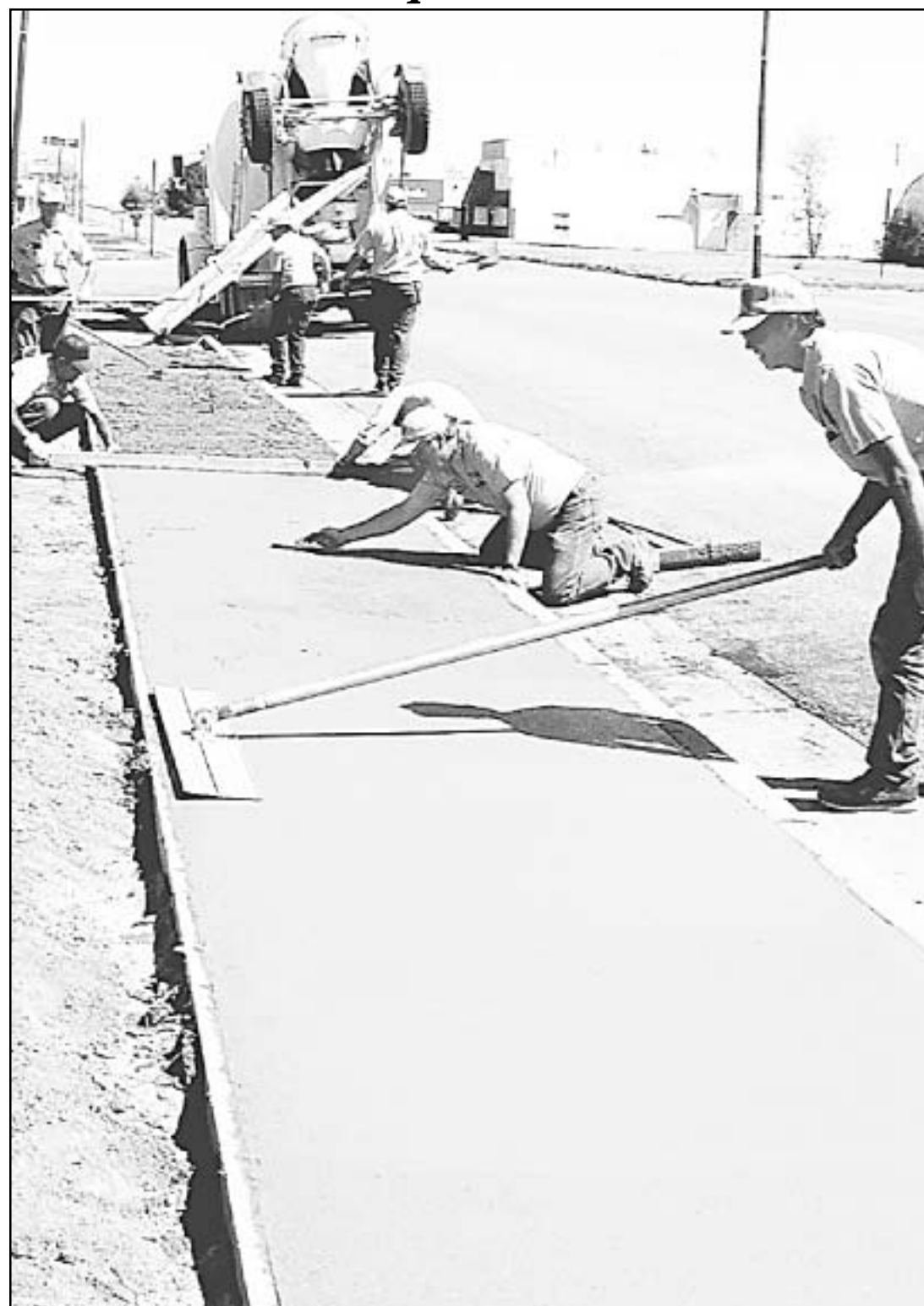
market in the summer and stores it for use when the rates spike. This allows them to blend the lower-cost gas with the higher-cost gas, thus averaging out the price.

The third option was an "index price" option, which charges according to the rise and fall of monthly market prices for gas. Though this option is good in a falling market, there is no protection against rising prices, and budgeting is difficult because of the fluctuating rates, according to the handout.

Although the risk management option also means monthly fluctuating costs, the combination of gas costs cushions the consumer from the highs and lows of the index price option, but provides potential cost-saving flexibility if the market falls.

The commission approved going with the risk management option on the basis it might save the city some money over the next year. The new rate will take effect in June.

New sidewalk for park



City street crew members began pouring the new sidewalk at Gulick Park last Tuesday, with the east 247 feet done first. The south side has been poured and Monday the crew was pouring sections of the north side. Phil Erickson (on knees with trowel) said they were pouring the straight sections first, and will come back to do the corners. The mix is being delivered by Schlosser Concrete.
Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Star-News

Students vote on quarter

By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Star-News

Kansas high school students are playing an influential role in selecting the long-awaited design for the state's quarter.

Students voted last week on the design of the commemorative state quarter to be released in August 2005, and if it was up to Goodland High School, the quarter would have a sunflower in the middle and wheat along the sides.

Design No. 3 got the top vote in Goodland with 118 of the 268 votes cast, registrar Deb Winter said, followed by Ad Astra (design 1) with 84, the buffalo (design 2) with 56 and a sunflower by itself (design 4) with 10.

A public opinion poll, which will not help choose the design, was taken on the state's official web site at http://www.ks.gov/governor/workgroups_quarter.html.

The public's vote was similar to Goodland's with design 3 earning 45.5 percent of the 18,738 votes cast as compared to its 44 percent of Goodland's vote. Design 2 earned 30.2 percent of the public poll and 20.9 percent of Goodland's vote. Design 1 earned 20.6 percent of the public poll and 31.34 percent of Goodland's vote, and design 4 earned 3.7 percent of the votes in poll and in Goodland's vote.

The vote was taken Tuesday, April 27, during seminar, Winter said, but students who were absent were able to vote the following day. The votes were submitted to the state on a web site, she said.

Goodland students' votes will be tallied along with votes from other students across Kansas to select the design to be submitted to the Secretary of the Treasury for final approval.

The secretary of state's office expected all totals from the official vote to be submitted by April 30, the web site says.

A state canvass by the governor, attorney general, and secretary of state is planned for the week following the election to certify the vote totals. The totals will then be presented to the Kansas Coin Commission.

The results of the high school students' vote and of a mock vote by students in kindergarten through eighth grades will be announced at a press conference, the state's web site says.

The student vote is part of Stage 8 in a nine-stage design selection by the U.S. Mint. In stage 1, the mint contacted Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, and the governor appointed a person to serve as the state's liaison to the mint.

selection process in stage 2 and provided the mint concepts or themes emblematic of the state. There were to be three to five concepts, and Kansas has five. The concepts are in the form of narratives that explain why the concept is emblematic of the state.

The concepts are:
Wheat: Kansas is known by the nicknames "Wheat State" and "Breadbasket." Throughout much of the 20th century, this state has produced more wheat than many countries.

Sufficient rainfall, plentiful sunshine and generally moderate temperatures enable Kansas farmers to plant more than 31 million acres in wheat each year. A normal harvest of several hundred million bushels of wheat adds more than a billion dollars to the Kansas economy.

Bison: At one time, the bison, or buffalo, was the most abundant grazing animal in North America. Millions of bison lived in the Great Plains.

Plains Indians depended upon the bison for food, clothing and shelter. The sight of vast herds of bison overwhelmed 19th-century explorers, but by the late 1800s, the number of bison in North America had dropped from 30 million to about 1,000. The bison was chosen as the state animal of Kansas in 1955.

Sunflower: Kansas is known as "The Sunflower State." The wild prairie sunflower became the state flower in 1903. Legislators believed the sunflower symbolized "frontier days, winding trails and pathless prairie."

They saw in the sunflower the life and glory of the past, the pride of the present and the majesty of the fu-

ture. The wisdom of their decision is evident in the early yellow blooms of July and the vast fields of yellow in September.

Ad Astra Per Aspera: The state motto of Kansas means "To the stars through difficulties." Early settlers struggled to make Kansas a state. Their wish came true on Jan. 29, 1861, when Kansas became the thirty-fourth state.

A 34th star was added to our nation's flag, and the state motto was adopted a few months later.

Ad Astra: In October 2002, something new was added to the top of the state capitol, a bronze sculpture. The statue, Ad Astra, is designed to look like a Kansa tribe warrior who, with his bow, is aiming an arrow toward the North Star.

In stage 3, the U.S. Mint produced artwork concepts based on the narratives. In stage 4, the Mint contacted the state to collaborate on the artwork. The state appointed a historian or other expert to ensure accuracy.

In stage 5, the Citizens Commemorative Coin Advisory Committee and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts reviewed the candidate designs and made recommendations.

In stage 6, the Mint presented the candidates to the secretary of the Treasury for review and approval.

In stage 7, the Mint returned the candidate designs to the state.

In stage 8, the state was to recommend the final design through a process determined by the state. Gov. Sebelius chose to have high school students vote.

In stage 9, the Mint will present the design the students recommend to the secretary for final approval.

corrections

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surround. Full finished basement has large living room, two more bedrooms, bathroom and utility room. Priced to sell at \$45,000. For more information, contact listing agent Cynthia Butts or visit my website at www.cynthiabutts.com.

Please take a look at some of my other great listing:

1515 Cattletail...3 brm/2 bth...\$16,000	1308 Cherry...4 brm/1 bth.....\$45,000
1101 Walnut...2 brm/1 bth.....\$22,000	1228 Colorado...3 brm/1 bth....\$48,000
624 W. 13th...2 brm/1bth.....\$25,000	323 Grand...4 brm/2 bth.....\$62,500
908 Walnut...3 brm/1bth.....\$34,000	619 Broadway...3 brm/2 bth.....\$65,000
1011 W. 9th...4 brm/1 bth.....\$39,500	202 Main...3 brm/2 bth.....\$68,000
508 E. 11th...4brm/2bth.....\$40,000	915 Cherry...2 brm/2 bth.....\$69,500
517 Walnut, Kanorado...3 brm/2.5 bth....\$45,000	1006 Arcade...3 brm/3 bth.....\$75,000

Cynthia Butts, 899-3944; Donna Moore 899-6159.

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