

from our viewpoint...

Working together moves project ahead

Welcome will wave all along to Goodland’s Main Mile, thanks to the joint efforts of three Sherman County agencies. It is the kind of effort that pulls a community together for progress.

There will be a street full of welcome flags waving to the people who fill Main for the Flatlander Fall Festival in September, thanks to the efforts of Dave Branda, who started the project in the spring. Branda, who owns the Sherman Theater, came up with the idea to use the existing brackets on downtown light poles for welcome flags to upgrade the look of Main during special events.

For months, Branda has been putting sample flags up in the 1200 block of Main to give people a chance to see how they would look. Even when enthusiasm seemed to be lacking for the project, Branda had plenty. He kept plugging away.

Last Tuesday, the Convention and Visitors Board agreed to pay and third, and Branda reported he had found a way to reduce the total cost of the project by \$500. That night, representatives of the Goodland Chamber said they were behind the project and that the flags would be ordered and available before Flatlanders on Sept. 24-26.

The three groups have their own areas of responsibility, but it was good to see them come together to move the project forward.

Having three offices that deal in community promotion may seem like overkill, but the Convention and Visitors Bureau has a different mission from the Economic Development Council or the Chamber of Commerce.

It is true that at times they appear to overlap, and having them cooperate on these things helps keep things on track. When someone makes a contact with one of the offices, and it could be better handled by another, the spirit of working together is what helps get the person the right help.

With the recent rains and cooler summer, there are more smiles on people, and the business openings and continuing efforts to bring more businesses to Sherman County seem to be showing more than promise.

The state has confidence in the future of Aircraft Seal and Gasket, with the approval of a \$50,000 grant for training. President Herb Menold said he has hired some new plant people and is moving into the training stage. The first set of equipment is up and running, and he has an order for 100 rear plane seals for Boeing that will begin production in Goodland by Sept. 1.

The confidence of working together can take this community far into the future, if we keep the cooperation going. — *Tom Betz*

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Husband away; I didn't get a thing done

Well, it happened again. Steve was gone all week and I didn’t get a thing done.

Steve spent last week helping youngest daughter drive to South Carolina, where she will be in graduate school for the next couple of years.

He flew back to Kansas City on Saturday and drove home, getting in about midnight.

I had a whole list of things to do while he was on his cross-country road trip. Since I wouldn’t have to worry about taking care of a husband, I should have more time, right?

The trouble is Steve pretty much takes care of himself. He helps with the laundry, waters the lawn and generally helps around the house.

While he almost never empties the dishwasher, he does help with the cooking and helps put food away and scrape the plates.

When he’s gone, he expects me to do the laundry, water the lawn and take care of the dog.

I took care of the dog and ate out.

I didn’t run out of clothes and had changed the towels and sheets before he left, so I didn’t bother with washing or folding. There were still



cynthia haynes

• open season

a couple of baskets with clothes in them and I just grabbed underwear and socks out of them.

The weather acted as if it were going to rain, so I didn’t get the watering done, either. Then, of course, it didn’t rain.

I did get a couple of two-hour naps, mostly because I turned the police scanner off.

It seems that every time I lie down to take a nap, the scanner goes off. It’s seldom anything of importance.

While we call the squawk box a police scanner, we also pick up the county road crew, train crews, the ambulance and passing trucks.

Steve doesn’t believe in turning off the scanner. Every six months or so it will give us information that we need — a semitrailer of beer turning over near town or the police picking

up our dog, which thinks getting loose is a sport.

But, this week, I turned it off. (The only problem was I forgot to turn it back on before he got home and got a husbandly frown.)

The quiet was wonderful, however.

It’s funny how when a person is gone, you really notice.

Most of the time I go to bed at 11 p.m. and Steve comes dragging in about 1 a.m., long after I’m asleep.

When he’s gone, I feel lonely when I go to bed. The house is too quiet. Even the cats seem to feel that there’s something missing.

And in the morning, what do you do with the other half pot of coffee?

I usually make a four-cup pot. I drink one cup and Steve drinks the rest.

The first day he was gone, I drank it all. The second day I drank my single cup and threw the rest out. The third day, I didn’t bother to make coffee.

Thank goodness he wasn’t gone very long. I’m not ready to give up caffeine yet.

Difficult to justify our government policies

To the Editor:

I write this letter as a Kansan with three years of experience living in the United Kingdom and India during a time when it is increasingly difficult to justify the policies of our government to people who have traditionally been our most steadfast allies.

Conversations with friends abroad have made it clear that people look to the United States for leadership. However, I have felt firsthand how the policies of the Bush administration have changed this long-standing admiration and the outpouring of sympathy after 9/11 into suspicion.

I am surrounded by colleagues and friends that are sympathetic to the complexity of our country’s concerns and have been willing to debate the merits of a unilateralist approach. Yet it is now clear that the arguments for fighting a pre-emptive war were mischaracterizations of intelligence, and that the occupa-



from our readers

• to the editor

tion has disregarded international and American conventions and violated human rights.

I witness daily how Bush’s decisions reinforce a perception of American arrogance making it harder for America to lead in the world and undermining rather than strengthening America’s security goals and the safety of its citizens.

The Bush administration’s short-sighted pursuit of foreign policy objectives with a disregard for the long-term implications for the safety of Americans cannot continue.

The United States should retain the right to defend itself, but the threat of terrorism can-

not be defeated unilaterally.

President Bush was given an extraordinary opportunity to further this goal and wasted it. The damage is not irreparable, but a fundamental change must be made in our nation’s leadership. America must be engaged with its friends and allies and live up to our values if we hope to create security at home and win the struggle against global terrorism.

Christopher Hansen
doctoral student in energy policy
Oxford University
Goodland High, 1993
Kansas State, 1998

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