

# Goodland could be on TV or provide stars for shows

By Sharon Corcoran

*The Goodland Star-News*  
Could a celebrity make it as the mayor of Goodland?  
Could a Goodland family solve its feud on national television?  
Could Goodland neighbors air their petty grievances in a humorous reality show while competing to force the loser to move?  
With the "reality" craze growing ever stronger on television, these questions may be answered in the near future.

Donna Price, director of the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau, said she has been contacted by the Kansas Film Commission and Turner Broadcasting System about television shows that are casting. One reality show is looking for a small town to hand over its mayor's spot to a celebrity for a few weeks.

A production company in New York is looking for a Midwestern town to host a new reality show called "The Mayor," in which a celebrity would spend several weeks

## Families invited to air grievances

Haven't talked with your sister in years?

Never hear from your kids?

This show might be for you.

For a reality-show style "documentary," the makers of "Wife Swap" plan to take an American family divided by conflict, and over the course of seven days, work with them in an attempt to bring the family back together again.

The family members will be accompanied by a relationship

therapist, who will hopefully help them repair whatever has separated them.

The show will follow the family as they try to resolve their differences, relinquish their grudges and rediscover the relationships that made them a family in the first place.

It's a positive show that aims to resolve major conflicts in a caring and sensitive way with the assistance of a professional mediator, the producers say.

They are looking for a few specific issues: a conflict that is affecting a family-owned business, a family in dispute because of a crisis that they can't handle alone, siblings torn apart by inheritance disputes, relatives who have not spoken in over a year because of a misunderstanding, and similar problems.

They are looking for families that can use some help and for professional mediators who can provide it.

as mayor. Price said she told a producer Goodland might be interested.

That's just one possible route to stardom, though. The whole town can get into the act.

Families can contact Price at 1206 Main or call 890-3515 to ap-

ply for "Families Reunited," a documentary in which family members would be joined by a family relationship therapist who will encourage them to air their issues, mediate any disputes and hopefully help repair a long-standing feud that has separated them. The producers

are looking for both families and professional mediators for the show.

Families can contact Price by Sunday, May 1, to apply to be on "Love Thy Neighbor," a show about neighborhood disputes.

In "The Mayor," a celebrity —

## Feuding neighbors sought for reality show that's part comedy

Producers of a new show to be called "Loser Leaves Town" are looking for families involved in neighbor disputes. Both families must own their own homes, be neighbors and have at least two kids 10-19.

The families should live next door, though the producers may consider across the street. They are ruling out anything more distant.

More than a great feud horror story, the producers say, they are looking for families with a lot of personality who have some issues with the neighbors, however big or

small. They say they are not looking for negativity, animosity or hatred.

It will be a fun, family show, geared towards positive thinking about your neighbors and your community. The families will compete in six episodes of the comedy series.

Despite the name, Producer Craig Brooks said, the show is not mean-spirited in any way. It's unlikely, he said, that the loser will actually leave town; they'll just move to a different neighborhood. But it will bring an end to the situation.

The families will compete against each other in games based on their disputes, Brooks said; it's a reality series focusing on families day-to-day as well as in competition.

There will probably be prizes for the winning family, he said, but the main prize money will be the \$100,000 each family will get for participating. And the winner will get rid of the irritating neighbor.

It's all geared toward two families who do not get along, he said, but it's intended to be fun. The president of TBS said it can't be mean-spirited, Brooks said; it has to go

along with the slogan, "TBS — very funny."

"We don't want families who are at each other's throats," Brooks said, "or where there is any violence or abuse."

There won't be any Jerry Springer-type humor, he said; it will be sit-com style but with nothing scripted.

Many people have fantasies about offending neighbors having to move, Brooks said.

"We're hoping to reach a lot of people," he said. "This has never been dealt with in reality TV."

Among the types of disputes the

actor, musical artist or athlete — would take the reins of the city, barring a disaster, tragedy or the like that happened on his watch, and manage it's day-to-day affairs. The producers want to show what happens when Hollywood invades "real America."

"The Mayor" would need permission to declare holidays, get new uniforms for the high school basketball team, bring in concert attractions and bring guest celebrities for "town hall meetings" or "state dinners" open to the townsfolk.

The producers also want the celebrity mayor to have to handle issues that come about. Do they want to re-zone the town for a giant ice hockey rink? For a miniature "Kansas" sign that copies the big "Hollywood" sign? Can they manage the small details of government, call a meeting to order, come up with ideas on how to increase revenues for the local business district? Can he or she challenge the neighboring town's mayor to a boxing match for charity? Can he

or she get anything done?

The producers, Price said, want it to appear as if the celebrity really has control and are hoping the town will follow along in granting him power, barring a civil emergency.

Anything the mayor does in his weeks in power can be undone when he is gone. The producers are looking for a town with a sense of humor and that has local officials who will object to the celebrity's ideas.

The show's intention is not to poke fun at the town but to make sport of the celebrity, showing him moving at a million miles an hour trying to get ahold of a situation where he is not surrounded by his usual Hollywood crowd of agents, managers and hangers-on.

The show would be shot in town, adding a boon to the economy from staff, hotel bills, meals, travel, shopping and the like. The crew would be on site for three weeks or so of production, plus scouting and pre-production.

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