

Publisher takes national office

Steve Haynes, president of Nor'West Newspapers and publisher of *The Goodland Star-News* was elected vice president of the National Newspaper Association at the group's annual meeting in Oklahoma City.

Haynes, who has served as treasurer for the past year and as a district director for five, will be president of the group in 2007-'08. Jerry Tidwell of Granbury, Texas, is president this year.



Haynes

"Because so many papers are mailed, postal rates and service are important to publishers," Haynes said. "This summer, the association held a 'postal summit' in Washington, meeting with the postmaster general and his top aides to try and head off some problems."

Haynes is publisher of *The Oberlin Herald* with his wife Cynthia. They own Nor'West, which operates *The Star-News* and newspapers in Oberlin, Colby, St. Francis, Bird City and Norton, plus *The Country Advocate* and the *Telegram Extra*, free regional publications.

In 37 years in the newspaper business, he has been an editor, reporter and owner of newspapers in three states. He graduated from the University of Kansas with a degree in journalism, then worked for *The Kansas City Times* for 11 years.

The Hayneses bought *The Mineral County Miner* in Creede, Colo., in 1980 and expanded their operation there to include seven newspapers. After selling, they bought the Oberlin, St. Francis and Bird City papers in 1993. Since then, the company has acquired *The Norton Telegram*, the *Colby Free Press* and *The Star-News*.

Haynes served as president of the Colorado Press Association in 1988 and of the Kansas Press Association in 1998. The couple has three children, Felicia, 32, a manager with Morris Digital Works, and Lindsay, 29, a librarian at the Medical College of Georgia, both in Augusta, Ga., and Lacy, 26, who works in Lawrence.

The association, with nearly 3,000 member papers, is the largest newspaper group in the nation. It serves community newspapers, mostly weeklies and smaller dailies in rural America, but members range in size from the *Bird City Times* in Kansas to *The Washington Post*.

"NNA represents community newspapers on the national stage," Mr Haynes said. "We focus on federal legislation affecting newspaper, on postal issues and on First Amendment and open government freedoms, which are important to all Americans."

The group has offices in Columbia, at the University of Missouri, and in suburban Washington.

"It's a great honor to be chosen to represent fellow publishers across the country," said Haynes. "It's already been a great opportunity for Cynthia and I to meet people and see places we'd otherwise not have seen."

The job involves travel to Washington and other cities, including some foreign travel, he said. The association is involved in a battle over postal rates now, trying to limit increases for next year.

Owner of paper wins writing award

Steve Haynes, president and publisher of *The Goodland Star-News*, won the first-place award for editorial writing in the Better Newspapers Contest sponsored by the National Newspaper Association for the second straight year.

The award was announced at the group's annual convention in Oklahoma City Oct. 13. *The Herald* competes in the class for weekly newspapers under 3,000 circulation.

The winning editorial (reprinted on page 4) decried a bill in the Kansas Legislature which would have levied a tax on pornography. Haynes questioned why people who supposedly oppose pornography would want Kansas schools to

depend on it for money. In effect, he said, schools would depend on the success of pornographers.

"Should the state have a vested interest in the porn business?" the editorial asked.

"No."

"It's not exactly clean money, is it?"

Cynthia Haynes of Oberlin won an honorable mention award for *The Norton Telegram* for a photo feature on the Fourth of July celebration last year. She was publisher of the paper at the time.

The Hayneses own Nor'West Newspapers, which operates *The Star-News*, *Telegram* and newspapers in Colby, Oberlin, St. Francis and Bird City.

Installing new sign



The weather turned cold Wednesday, but a crew hoisted a new digital marquee for the Sherman Theatre into place and hooked it up. Owner Dave Branda (left) held on to one side while Brian Freeman of the Goodland Grind and Gallery held the other and

gave directions to Kevin Rasure of Rasure Lumber, who was operating the forklift.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

County accepts land, leases building

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Sherman County is now the proud owner of about 12.3 acres south of the fairgrounds, and will be paying about \$88,000 for a storage building and workshop to be leased to the home-owned carnival.

The agreement signed last Tuesday gives the land to the county, and in return the county will help build a 60 x 150 building with space for carnival storage and new handicapped-accessible restrooms for the fair.

Brad Schields, president of the Sherman County Community Services, and Brad Schick and Dick Hayden from the carnival equipment maintenance committee, were at the commission meeting to sign the contract and lease.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked Schields if the changes the county made to the contract were acceptable. Schields said he did not see anything wrong.

"It has grown a little," Schields

said. "I think everything looks fine and that change to the paragraph about the annual review looked good."

One change was to require annual renewal of the lease. Rasure said state law requires some form of review.

"We can't have a contract in perpetuity," he said.

Schields asked who would handle paying for the building, which will be built by Malsom Welding. County Clerk Janet Rumpel said the county would pay Malsom when he submits a bill.

Rasure asked if the carnival would pay Malsom with \$27,000 in tax credit money to be used to pay for part of the building.

"Yes," Schields said. "We will pay that immediately to have a down payment on the building."

Rasure made a motion to approve the contract and lease. Commissioner Mitch Tiede seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Tiede said the building site is

ready. He said he, Dennis Malsom and Schields had spent several hours staking out where the building will go.

"The building site is ready," he said. "I scraped the land and dug a hole to get some fill to build it up. The dirt work is a donation from Tiede Terracing."

While the papers were being signed, Rasure noted that the restrooms on the north end of the new building would be open during summer events, but would be closed during the winter.

Schields agreed that was his understanding. He said the workshop area will be insulated and heated, and there would be a restroom in the workshop.

"I think it is a good thing for both the carnival and the county," he

said, thanking the commissioners for their help and cooperation.

Rasure said he thought it would be a good addition for the county, and provide more parking for the fairgrounds.

Tiede asked Darin Neufeld, engineer from Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, about the entrances to the parking area. Neufeld said the entrances could be improved when the city does the Caldwell paving project in the spring.

Neufeld was at the commission meeting because he is running as a write-in candidate for 1st District county commissioner. Neufeld ran against Thomas in the primary, but lost by 14 votes. Conrad Pettijohn, owner of P.J.'s Home Improvement, is running as an independent for the seat.

correction

The birthday announcement for Margie Albers the Friday, Oct. 20, edition of *The Goodland Star-News* should have said the party was Saturday, not Sunday. This was a reporting error.

□□□□□
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