

State may create state tourism agency

By Sharon Corcoran

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A Goodland woman testified in January in favor of a bill that would create an independent state agency to promote tourism in Kansas.

The bill was endorsed by a Senate committee, minus a provision giving the agency money from casinos, and the Senate voted 33-7 to send the bill to the House.

Donna Price, director of the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau and immediate past president of the Northwest Kansas Travel Council, said she testified Wednesday, Jan. 30, before a joint hearing of the Senate Commerce and House Economic Development and Tourism committees.

After hearing testimony from 11 members of travel organizations, owners of travel-related businesses and residents from across the state and reading testimony sent by 19 others, members debated the merits of the measure and ultimately removed part of the proposed funding before sending it on to the Senate. Some were concerned that provision would prevent the bill from being passed and others thought passing the bill with it could allow it to be used as an excuse to allow

more casinos in Kansas.

An article in the Feb. 22 issue of *The Hutchinson News* reported on the panel's debate, and an article in the Friday, Feb. 29, issue of the *Topeka Capitol-Journal* reported on the Senate vote.

Price said she testified for Senate Bill 501, called the Kansas Tourism Initiative, which would create a Kansas Tourism Corp., pulling money raised for tourism out of the Department of Commerce budget and having it controlled instead by a board of 13 directors.

The law would establish a travel and tourism development fund and specify that it can only be used for promoting travel and tourism, effective in October.

Money for the initiative would include \$4.1 million from the state budget, money from sales tax collected in "tourism companies" and tax credits.

Proponents also wanted about \$4 million of the state's share of casino profits. One committee member, Sen. Susan Wagle, R-Wichita, said she opposed that because the law authorizing the casinos has yet to be upheld, the Hutchinson paper reported.

The article said Wagle, a gambling opponent,

said she worried that the bill could reopen the state's gambling debate.

Sedgwick County residents voted against slot machines at a racetrack in Valley Center, but some gambling proponents have talked about passing a bill to allow another vote.

Wagle said she feared the tourism legislation could be used to push these efforts if it included the proposals to use gambling money.

Sen. Jean Schodorf, R-Wichita, said she thought the proposal could be successful and she doesn't want the bill to die because of concerns about gambling. Sen. Nick Jordan, R-Shawnee, said, though, that he didn't want to take an option for funding tourism off the table.

Sen. Karin Brownlee, R-Olathe, asked that gambling dollars be removed, and the committee adopted her request. She said they could revisit that option if the courts uphold the casino law.

The *Capitol-Journal* said those who voted against the amended bill worried about expanding state government.

"I'm caught between conversations we have regularly about shrinking government," said Sen. Laura Kelly, D-Topeka, "and the debates we have about enlarging it."

Barbershoppers present 1950s doo-wop concert

The Doo-Wop music of the 1950s returns to center stage on Saturday, March 29, at the Colby High School Auditorium when the Tumbleweed Chorus presents its annual barbershop show.

The chorus, an affiliate of the Barbershop Harmony Society, invites everyone to join them at 1:30 p.m. and again at 6:30 p.m. (Mountain Time) for an evening featuring the a capella sound of barbershop.

The group has conscripted the Prairie Statesmen of McCook, Neb., for the show. The combined choruses have polished such favorites as "Goodnight Sweetheart" and Billy Joel's "The Longest Time" to revive the vocal sound of the post-World War II era.

John Collett of Butterfly Aviation in Goodland is a member of the Tumbleweed group.

"Ignition" a special guest quartet from Denver, will perform after the local groups. The 2005 Rocky Mountain District champions bring the smooth sound of barbershop competition to the stage.

"Cabaret," a headline quartet of Sweet Adelines International will highlight the evening with an award-winning performance. The group placed eighth at the 2008 Sweet Adelines International contest.

Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door from any chorus member, or call (785) 462-2474 or (800) 279-8208. The show will be presented again in McCook on Saturday, April 12.

State accepting hay applications

The Kansas Department of Transportation is looking for farmers to harvest hay on highway rights of way.

Applications, available from department offices, are good for one year or one haying season.

Farmers with land adjacent to the right of way will be given priority until March 31. After then,

permits will be issued in the order received.

Anyone wanting to mow or bale hay on state right of way will need to submit an application to the district office in Norton, (785) 877-3315.

For information, call the Norton office or the Bureau of Construction and Maintenance in Topeka at (785) 296-3576.

Last, but not least! Only two more available...



AKC registered, 2 females left!

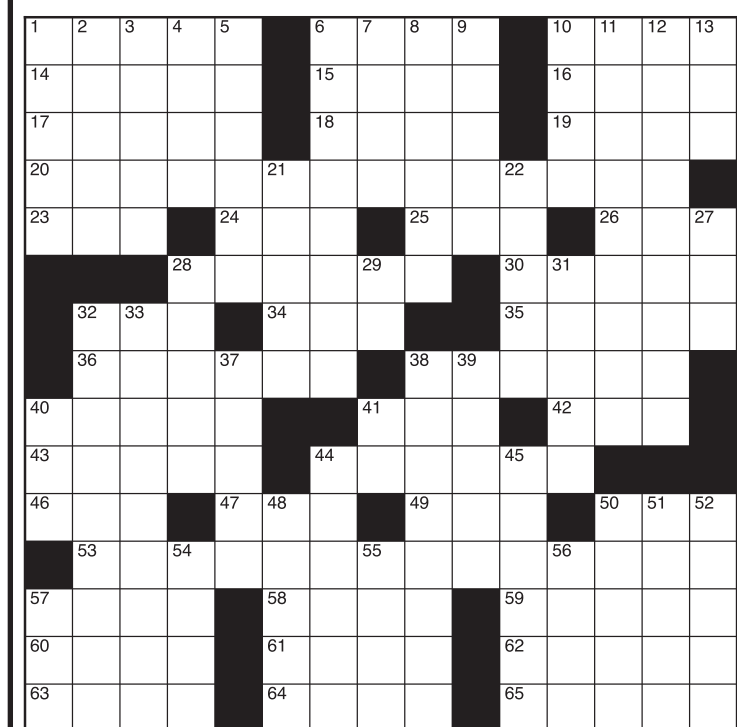


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Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

1. Pants
6. Lucretia C. _____, Am. advocate
10. Seuss character _____ Am
14. One who has attained enlightenment
15. Flushing Meadows stadium
16. Pre-collegiate school
17. City in N. Zambia
18. Chinese dynasty from 557 - 589
19. River in Florence
20. Dracula in "Love At First Bite"
23. Airborne (abbr.)
24. Before
25. Cologne
26. Chinese cooking pan
28. Shipping boxes
30. Chili con _____, Mexican dish
32. Used to be U _____
34. 1/100 yen
35. Bitter compound from aloe
36. _____ and Ladders: game
38. Negative of can
40. Come down violently
41. Provide with clothes
42. Shoshonean people
43. Knife used with fruits or vegetables
44. Loves intensely
46. One point east of due south
47. Mined metal-bearing mineral
49. People related by blood or marriage
50. Helps little firms
53. "The View" creator & star
57. Sunrise (Spanish)
58. Festive occasion
59. Yellow-fever mosquitoes
60. Live Aid rocker Bob _____ of

61. Essential oil obtained from flowers
62. Showing lack of skill
63. Lyric poems
64. Dried up (esp. of vegetation)
65. Designers Charles & Ray

CLUES DOWN

1. Rural Croatian singing
2. Egyptian dry measure
3. Shoe (pl., archaic)
4. Precision approach and landing radar (abbr.)
5. "Life in Biblical Israel" author Lawrence
6. Large heavy knives
7. Federal job safety law
8. Unifying ideas in literary work
9. Narrow headband
10. Petty quarrel
11. Cooking thickener
12. Annabaptist
13. Corporation's first offer to sell stock to the public
21. Rub out
22. Pharsalia poet
27. Barbie's boyfriend
28. Small earthenware jar
29. 14th letter
31. Alder genus
32. Covered with sparse vegetation
33. OK to portion out
37. Pulsate
38. Pots & pans
39. Of agriculture
40. Hz
41. End zone score
44. Expose to fresh air
45. Entwine
48. Hindu melodies
50. Fleshy leaved perennial
51. Norwegian footballer Hangeland
52. Donkeys
54. Radioactivity units
55. Axillary
56. Biu-Mandara
57. In the past

The crossword puzzle brought to you by:

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A Family Face

Chapter Four - by Kay Hively

On Saturday morning, Scotty hurried downtown. Walking all around the courthouse, he found the spot where Mr. Truman had stood in 1939.

Checking to be sure no one was watching, Scotty stood straight and tall just as Mr. Truman had done more than 60 years before. As he stood there, Scotty wondered if he might grow up to be President of the United States. Then he took a mental photograph of himself standing in front of the courthouse door.

When Scotty got back home, he was surprised to find Grandfather Edwards sitting in the porch swing. Grandfather was one of Scotty's best friends. He was full of stories, and he liked to go out to the park to watch the boys play.

Scotty plopped down beside Grandfather and they began pushing the swing as hard as they could. Grandfather was as much of a kid as Scotty, and the two often got into trouble together. Riding too high in the porch swing usually got them in trouble.

Scotty and his grandfather talked about important things when they sat in the swing. On this day, Scotty asked Grandfather if he remembered when Harry Truman was president.

Grandfather smiled and said he did, indeed, remember him. In fact, Grandfather said, he once spent part of a day with President Truman.

Scotty could hardly believe his ears. His own grandfather had spent time with the President of the United States!

Pushing gently on the swing, Grandfather told Scotty about the day he spent guarding Mr. Truman when the President was on Wake Island talking with a famous general. Grandfather said he was a young soldier in the United States Army at the time.

It was a big surprise to get such duty, Grandfather said. It was something he would never forget. And, as the years passed, Grandfather read the newspapers every day to see what President Truman was doing.

Grandfather said that one of the greatest things Mr. Truman did was to establish the Berlin Airlift. And one of the hardest things Mr. Truman did, Grandfather said, was to order the explosion of the first atomic bomb.

Grandfather said the bomb was a powerful weapon. It was so powerful that it ended a long and bloody war. Grandfather stopped for a moment and then told Scotty that if the war had continued millions of people around the world would have died in the fighting and famine.

Scotty had never heard of the Berlin Airlift, and he wasn't sure what the atomic bomb was. But he didn't ask any more questions. He knew he could learn about them in the books.

That afternoon, after Grandfather Edwards left, Scotty hurried to his room and pulled out the books on President Truman. He had a lot to learn.

Author Kay Hively and Illustrator Billie Goforth-Stewart are both of Neosho, Missouri. Truman photo by Harry Barth. Produced by the Missouri Press Foundation. Copyright 2007.

Things to Think About and Do

- A. Using a map, find Wake Island. Find the name of the famous general who had a meeting with President Truman on Wake Island. All Presidents have a military title. What is that title?
- B. Scotty's grandfather said he read newspapers every day to see what President Truman was doing. Every day for a week, look at a newspaper and circle every article that talks about the President of the United States. Make a list of five different things the President is doing in the articles.
- C. Research the Berlin Airlift and learn more about the reason for this military action ordered by President Truman.

Visit the Truman Presidential Museum & Library at www.trumanlibrary.org

Next Week: Chapter Five - Jimmy and the wooden bat