

Armory on list to be closed

By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwkansas.com

City officials were notified Dec. 11 that the Goodland National Guard Armory was one of 18 to be closed as part of a cost cutting effort by State Adjutant General Maj. Tod Bunting who said the choice was not easy to make.

Goodland City Manager Doug Gerber said he received a call from the adjutant general's office Friday morning, and the person wanted to speak to the mayor about the announcement of the armory closing.

Mayor Josh Dechant said Friday he had not been called by the state, but had been told by Gerber of the announcement.

"We are disappointed the State of Kansas chose to close the Kansas National Guard Armory, despite their outstanding track record and contributions to the Goodland community," Gerber said. "As more details become available, we hope to work to turn this into something positive for the Goodland community."

The list of closing armories includes: Atchison, Burlington, Chanute, Cherryvale, Council Grove, Fort Scott, Garden City, Garnett, Goodland, Horton, Kingman, Larned, Phillipsburg, Russell, Sabetha, Salina East, Troy and Winfield, said Maj. Bunting.

"This was a difficult decision, but we had little choice as the state budget was reduced and we considered what would be necessary for long term sustainment of armory operations statewide," Bunting said. "We've been operating with much less than the necessary required funding even when the state budget was better, so an analysis of closures had been done. These latest cuts forced us to take action right away. Unfortunately, additional closures and consolidations may be necessary in the future."

The closed facilities will even-

tually revert to the original owners, in most cases — including Goodland — that is the cities.

Sgt. Mark Reasoner, full time soldier at the Goodland armory, said the details are in the works, but the state expects to close the Goodland armory by the end of February. He said the Goodland and Russell units are being combined into the Colby armory.

He said the Goodland unit would meet to try to work out the details about what excess items will be turned in to the state warehouse for disposal, some items will be moved to the Colby armory, and some may be moved to the Mobilization and Training Equipment Site (MATES) at Fort Riley.

Reasoner said he will stay in Goodland until the building is cleared and turned over to the city. He will then start work in Colby, but after numerous requests for deployment he has been approved and may only work in Colby until he is deployed.

"I may only work in Colby until I deploy," he said, "and who knows what state we will be in when I get back."

The criteria for closing facilities included: location and proximity to other armories, historical and projected demographic shifts in population, consolidation of operations, condition of current facilities and the potential to expand to accommodate new mission requirements in the future, required facility upgrades and maintenance costs plus ensuring a National Guard presence in each of the seven Homeland Security Regions.

"Many of the facilities to be closed were built in the 1950s and designed for 100 to 150 soldiers; however, today several of these facilities have only 50 people training there," Bunting said. "This isn't cost effective, it reduces the cohesiveness of our units and it isn't sustainable giv-

en the budget situation we have been facing for several years and which isn't likely to improve in the near future."

The moves will save nearly \$157,000 in the fiscal year that ends June 30, and more than \$260,000 in the following year.

"Even if we were to return to the funding levels we've had in recent years, we cannot continue to sustain viable operations in all 56 armories across the state," Bunting said. "This is a challenging time requiring difficult choices."

The adjutant general's office says the Salina East building will remain open for Guard use, but armory operations will be transferred.

Armory personnel, community leaders, legislators and congressional staff affected by the impacted armories, as well as all Adjutant General Department staff, have been notified of the specific locations affected.

The changes only affect Army National Guard facilities and not any of the Air National Guard locations at McConnell Air Force Base in Wichita, Forbes Field in Topeka or Smoky Hill Air National Guard Range in Salina.

The adjutant general said that it isn't likely any of the armories would be reopened in the coming years as state revenues rebound and that additional closures and consolidations may be required. He gave similar statements to legislators when testifying in October during hearings.

The changes mean 19 full-time National Guard soldiers will be reassigned to other armories, while 678 soldiers will be forced to go to other locations for regular drills. The closures and consolidation of people and equipment is expected to be complete by June 30.

Kansas has closed a handful of armories in the past decade, including the ones in Belleville and Mankato earlier in 2009. Typically the closures have been because of shifting populations and not enough guardsmen in the areas to support having a drill or training location.

"There has never been a large number closed at one time as is occurring now," said spokeswoman Sharon Watson.

Death Notice

Arleene Touslee, 91, died Thursday, Dec. 17, in Colby. Funeral services were held Monday at the United Methodist Church with Rev. Morita Truman officiating. Burial was in the St. Francis Cemetery.

Herald closing dates

The Saint Francis Herald office will be closed on Thursday, Dec. 24, Friday, Dec. 25, Thursday, Dec. 31 and Friday, Jan. 1.

St. John Lutheran Christmas services

St. John Lutheran Church, Bird City Christmas Eve services will be held at 6 p.m. on Thursday and 10 a.m. on Christmas Day. Conducting the services will be David Rossbach.

No sports

Look for St. Francis high school and junior high sports in next week's issue of *The Herald*.

Monday Night Basketball Party

All men are urged to come watch the Kansas State-Texas basketball game on Monday night, Jan. 18, beginning at 8 p.m., at the Cheyenne County Wildlife Gun Club. This event is hosted by the First Christian Church men's ministry. Call Brad Matthies at 785-772-7313 for more information.

Theater closed Friday

The Cheyenne Theater will be closed on Friday so employees can enjoy their families Christmas Day. It will be open on Saturday and Sunday, as usual.

E-Waste pick up

E-Waste pick up will be held Tuesday, Dec. 29, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Recycling Center south of U.S. 36 behind the museum. Bring old electronic equipment, microwaves, television, computers and other such items that cannot be taken to the landfill.

Courthouse/landfill closing dates

The Cheyenne County Courthouse and Landfill will be closed on Thursday, Dec. 24, Friday, Dec. 25, at noon on Thursday, Dec. 31

Weather

Date	High	Low	Prec.
Dec. 15	46	07	
Dec. 16	32	24	
Dec. 17	55	24	
Dec. 18	46	19	
Dec. 19	47	22	
Dec. 20	55	26	
Dec. 21	62	26	

and all day Friday, Jan. 1.

New Year's Eve Party

There will be a New Year's Eve Party, beginning at 6 p.m. on New Year's Eve at the St. Francis Senior Center. Bring finger food but drink and soup will be provided. Christmas Carols and other songs will be sung and taxi services will be available. Attend and enjoy the fun.

St. Francis Public Library

The St. Francis Public Library is now closed on Saturdays.

Library Art Gallery

The St. Francis Public Library Art Gallery is featuring framed photographs belonging to Roxie Yonkey of Goodland. The display is entitled "Capturing Rural America" and will be at the library until Jan. 7.

Recovery Today/Narcotics Anonymous

Recovery Today group of Narcotics Anonymous meets at 8 p.m.

on Sunday nights at the United Methodist Educational Building. Call (785) 332-6542 or 8607 for more information.

Saintry Serenity Seekers/Alcoholics Anonymous

Saintry Serenity Seekers open meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous is held at 7:30 p.m. each Thursday evening at the United Methodist Education Building at 104 W. Webster, St. Francis. Call (785) 332-6542 for more information

Northwest Kansas Family Shelter

Northwest Kansas Family Shelter provides 24-hour-7 day-a-week services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Weekly support groups are available for women and children within the northwest Kansas area. For information or in need of assistance, please call the toll-free number 1-800-794-4624.

Club Clip

Amid tables decorated with Christmas trees and Christmas background music, the Red Hat Mamas relaxed and engaged in conversation Dec. 15 at the McDonald Senior Center.

Appetites soared with anticipation from the aroma filling the air. Today's cuisine was lasagna, ham loaf, cream corn, barbecued green beans, lime Jello and cranberry Jello salads, muffins and fruit cups with lace cookies.

Favors were at each place setting compliments of our queen, Phyllis Wingfield. These favors were: a beaded snowman ornament, marshmallow snowman, "The Candy Cane" story and a snack basket of treats to eat.

The crown was placed on our new queen, Margaret Voorhies' head by Phyllis and a business meeting followed. A beautiful angel atop a Nativity scene music box playing "Away in the

Manger" was presented to Phyllis with thanks for serving as queen.

It was decided to give a donation to the Prairie Development Center in Atwood as our Christmas gesture. Phyllis brought laughter with a couple of humorous readings.

The next meeting will be Jan. 19 to assemble nursing home favors after lunch at Two Lee's.

The meeting adjourned and the dominoes surfaced.

Red Hatters attending were: Florence Antholz, Sandra Antholz, Frieda Black, Bonnie Burr, Linda Carroll, Bethel Golt, Vernetta Haack, Bev Higgins, Diane Kribs, Betty Lewis, Iris McIntosh, Lois Morelock, Connie Rooney, Edna Roesener, Joan Tongish, Margaret Voorhies, LaVina Waters, Phyllis Wingfield and Marlene Young.

SHOWTIME: 7:30 p.m. 1 hr. 31 min.

Planet 51

Closed on Dec. 25 *Action/Adventure, Art/Foreign,*
Dec. 26 & 27 *Comedy, Kids/Family, Science Fiction/*
Fantasy and Animation

PG for mild sci-fi action and some suggestive humor.

CHEYENNE THEATER St. Francis, KS
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Children 12 & Under: \$3 All Others: \$5

Movie Review

Planet 51

American astronaut Captain Charles "Chuck" Baker, lands on Planet 51 thinking he's the first person to step foot on it. To his surprise, he finds that this planet is inhabited by little green people who are happily living in a white picket fence world reminiscent of a cheerfully innocent 1950s America, and whose only fear is that it

will be overrun by alien invaders-like Chuck! With the help of his robot companion "Rover" and his new friend Lem, Chuck must navigate his way through the dazzling, but bewildering, landscape of Planet 51 in order to escape becoming a permanent part of the Planet 51 Alien Invaders Space Museum.



Republican Valley Veterinary Clinic

Wishes all our clients a Very Happy Holiday Season!

Our clinic will be closed Dec. 24 through Dec. 27.

We will be open regular business hours on December 28 and until Noon on Dec. 31

We will be open until Noon on Jan. 2, 2010.

We will be back to our regular business hours on Jan. 4, 2010.

8 a.m. until 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. until 5 p.m. Weekdays 8 a.m. until Noon on Saturdays

As always, our telephone 785-332-2262 is always answered for emergencies.

We wish you a safe and Merry Christmas

2005 F150 Crew King Ranch, 4x4, 80K, #T8116M	\$22,000
1993 GMC Sierra, R/C, 2x4, AT, #T6520	\$3,500
1997 F250 S/C XLT, 4x2, AT, V-8 Gas, 248K, #T7748D	\$4,250
2006 Freestyle SEL w/Leather, FWD, 45K, #T2434A	\$13,750
2004 Grand Marquis Ultimate, Loaded, 71K, #62526A	\$10,995
2008 Edge SEL w/Cloth, AWD, AT, 37K, #T5567	\$23,500
1999 Crown Victoria LX, Cloth, AT, 74K, #53870B	\$7,000
2007 Escape XLT, Cloth w/Sunroof, 4x4, AT, #5929	\$20,700
2008 F250 Crew, XLT, L. Box, 6.8L, 4x4, AT, #T1860A	\$27,500
2007 Taurus SE, FWD, V-6, AT, 27K, #22770	\$10,250
2006 Merc. Mariner Prem. Leather, 4x4, AT, 26K, #T0997	\$19,500
2008 Lincoln MKX Elite, Nav., sunroof, 20K, #T1748A	\$36,500
2008 F150 Crew, King Ranch, 4x4, 16K, #T6827A	\$33,500
1999 Dodge Caravan, FWD, AT, 148K, #T87720	\$3,000
2008 F250 S/C, XLT, 4x4, AT, 34K, #T0694A	\$26,500
1995 F150 R/C, XLT, Man., #T9938B	\$3,500
2004 Crown Vic LX, Leather, 4.6L, 85K, #08630A	\$9,500
2005 Five Hundred SEL, AWD, V6, AT, 145K, #T8182A	\$9,500
1980 F350 R/C, 4x4, 177K, #T9939B	\$2,500
1993 Chevy S/C 3500, 6.5L, w/haybed, AT, 4x4, #T3721C	\$3,500
1999 F250 S/C Lariat, 4x2, 5.4L, 111K, #T80009B	\$8,500
2000 Buick LeSabre Limited, FWD, AT, 75K, #7012A	\$7,500
2007 Explorer, XLT, 4x4, 3K, #T6407	\$31,500
2009 Ford Expedition, E. Bauer, 4x4, #T4600	\$41,250
2007 F150 Crew Lariat, 4x4, #T1611	\$31,500
2009 Taurus SEL, FWD, #22370	\$22,500
2007 Mercury Milan, 43K, #06176	\$13,975
2002 F250 S/C, XLT, 7.3L, 4x4, #T5678A	\$13,500
2006 F250 S/C, XLT, 6.0L, 4x4, #T8116A	\$25,000
2000 F150 S/C XL, 4x4, AT, #T1925A	\$5,500
1978 F100 R/C, 4x2, AT, #T5999E	\$1,000
2001 Chevy, S/C, 4x2, AT, #26815B	\$7,500

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Quote of the Week:
Why don't you ever see the headline 'Psychic wins Lottery'?

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January Calendar

Dr. Frankum	Jan. 6, 20
Dr. Reeves	Jan. 13
Dr. Rubinowitz	Jan. 5
Dr. Rainwater	Jan. 13
Dr. Saba	Jan. 15
Dr. Curtis	Jan. 28
Dr. White	Jan. 5
Dexascan	Jan. 13
Mammogram	Jan. 5

Ultra sound and CTs offered daily

For more information or to schedule an appointment call 785-332-2104

Check your renewal dates

— Current Rates —

The Saint Francis Herald
Area - \$38 KS - \$42
Out-of-State - \$48

Bird City Times
Area - \$33 KS - \$36
Out-of-State - \$40

American Profile

Celebrating Hometown Life

See American Profile magazine in this week's issue of

The Saint Francis Herald

(available in local area only)

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