

## Getting a face lift



Rhoads Construction of Goodland is remodeling the inside of the old Medical Arts Clinic at 520 Main for offices. Tony Pennington, who works for Marty Electric in Goodland, twisted electrical wires Wednesday afternoon in one of the rooms.

Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

# Board hires new employees

The Goodland School Board hired two employees Monday, a bilingual teacher aide and an elementary school cook, approved two teachers for coaching positions and named a head teacher at the high school.

The board approved hiring Mary Rameriz Lopez as a bilingual aide for the district and Michelle Smith as a 3.5-hour cook at West Elementary School.

A state law that went into effect this summer says if a district hires an employee or teacher who has not lived in

Kansas for 10 consecutive years, their fingerprints must be sent to the KBI and FBI, which will do criminal backgrounds checks.

Employee results will be sent to the school board, while the state Board of Education will review teacher results. Meanwhile, employees and teachers are allowed to work for the district until results come in.

Char Avila, elementary school vocal music teacher, was approved as assistant seventh-grade girl's basketball

coach, and Trenton Douglas, a history teacher at Goodland High School, is now officially an assistant high school football coach, though he's been doing the job since the Cowboys started practice this summer.

Don Smith, a high school math teacher and coach of the high school cross country team, was picked as head teacher at the high school, which means he will assist Principal Harvey Swager and Vice Principal Richard Liess.

# Kids are acquainted with drinking

**Among Kansas teenagers...47 percent have attended an underage drinking party within the past six months, 67 percent report they drink alcohol, 68 percent personally know someone who has been involved in an alcohol-related crash, 68 percent feel their chances of crash injury are low to non-existent and 70 percent think they'll never get caught drinking and driving.**

"Keg parties, beer blasts" - whatever they're called - the dangers are obvious. Underage drinking is a problem in Kansas.

Do you care enough to call if you have any information about underage drinking parties? Who do you call? Call law enforcement, whether it's the county sheriff or the police department. They know what to do. And it's a simple call that may save lives.

Are you prepared to pay the consequences of hosting an underage drinking party?

Serving alcohol to a minor is a class



**cris lovington**

• prevention center

B misdemeanor in Kansas. The penalties include a fine of up to \$1,000 and up to six months in jail. You could also be held responsible in civil court if a minor drives away from your party drunk and causes a crash.

But there is another consequence. If a child to whom you serve alcohol is responsible for causing a crash in which someone is injured or killed, the burden of guilt can last a lifetime.

Do these statistics shock you?

They should. They come from the 1998-1999 Kansas Department of Transportation/DCCA High School Student Survey.

Our children are drinking alcohol

and they are doing most of their drinking at out-of-the-way parties. These parties often lead to serious consequences. And it isn't just the kids doing the drinking who

get hurt. All too often the lives of innocent people are affected when party-goers decide to drive home.

That's why the Kansas Department of Transportation decided to act by creating a statewide campaign to combat underage drinking.

The theme of this important program is: "Care about underage drinking. Call your local law enforcement." The campaign presents a positive solution to preventing underage drinking. A solution that derives from caring. Parents care about their children, friends care about friends and Kansas law enforcement officials care about the community.

# Hundreds oppose new water rules

TOPEKA (AP)—Hundreds of Kansans showed up at a public hearing Wednesday to voice their objections to proposed water quality standards written by the federal Environmental Protection Agency.

Opponents contend the standards are unnecessary, represent an intrusion by the federal government and will end up costing the state millions of dollars to implement.

"Truly, this is big government at its

worst," said Al LeDoux, director of the Kansas Water Office.

About 400 farmers, ranchers and state officials packed a meeting room at the Kansas Museum of History, while a larger crowd sat outside the building and listened to the hearing via speakers.

The EPA has scheduled another hearing Thursday night in Dodge City.

The standards address what the EPA

sees as deficiencies in state standards on designating rivers and lakes for different uses, streams with low flows, stream beds where waste discharges create the only flow and limitations on certain pollutants.

The EPA's regulations also would extend water quality standards to lakes and ponds on private land, such as farms, and that idea has drawn strong objections from state officials and agriculture groups.

# Individual awards reflect team efforts

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iveness of Coaching" and one on first aid.

Winter said there is a certain amount of liability when coaching and you assume responsibility for the well being of the boys. He wanted to be able to help them if something ever happened at sporting events.

"At least you can assist until the ambulance arrives and know what you're doing," he said.

He is an instructor/coordinator, so he can teach emergency medical techni-



Gary Winter



Nina Mersch

and carries a pager. "Most of us carry our pagers with us all the time," he said.

The service has at least five other first responders spread throughout the county.

He said he was nominated by Anderson.

"I'm very flattered," Winter said about his award. "Even though my name is on the plaque, it is a team effort. We have a strong nucleus of training personnel. This award reflects more on the service than it does on me as an individual."

# States push for farmer contract protection

By Ken Thomas

Associated Press Writer

DES MOINES, Iowa — Sixteen states plan to push for expanded protection for farmers who produce livestock or grain under contract with large companies.

Iowa Attorney Tom Miller said Wednesday the states will try to reduce the disparity in bargaining power between farmers and the contractors.

The legislation will be introduced in Colorado, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Vermont, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Wyoming, but apparently not in Kansas.

Miller said the measures would "give farmers involved in contracting some basic fundamental rights so we avoid the situation that developed in poultry where farmers in some parts of the country live almost as serfs on the land."

He said there's concern that consolidation in agriculture may lead to anticompetitive practices and hurt the prices paid to farmers for their crops and livestock.

"If this kind of legislation is enacted in a number of states, it gives broader protection to the farmers, but it also eliminates competitive disadvantages that states might have," Miller said.

The legislation would:

- Require contracts to be in plain language and disclose risks.
- Give contract producers a three-day right to review their contracts.
- Prohibit confidentiality in the contracts.
- Offer farmers a first-priority lien for payments due under contract if a company goes out of business.
- Protect producers from having their contracts terminated as a form of retribution if they have already made a sizable capital investment.
- Make it an unfair practice for processors to retaliate against producers who join producer organizations.

Industry analysts say many small producers have fewer options to sell their livestock and are forced to go under contract. As a result, they lose bargaining power.

"Market options for grain and livestock operations are slim," said Lisa Hardaway of the Center for Rural Af-

fairs in Walthill, Neb.

Some of the proposals have already passed in Iowa. Gov. Tom Vilsack signed legislation preventing contracts from remaining secret between farmers and meatpackers last year.

Iowa is the nation's leading hog-producing state, accounting for about 25 percent of hogs grown in the country.

Miller said states need to tighten laws for pork and grain after watching the poultry industry become increasingly controlled by processors.

# Space station has open house

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP)—Space shuttle Atlantis pilot Scott Altman conducted an open house Thursday of the international space station's newest compartment, which he and his crewmates have been busy sprucing up and outfitting.

Altman offered a videotaped tour of the Russian service module Zvezda, which nearly doubled the size of the station when it docked in July. Floating from one end of the 43-foot cabin to the other, Altman showed off the different parts of the station's new living quarters.

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making presentations and program evaluation skills.

Gregory said candidates must have worked with the association in the past. She is a peer review team chairperson. Right now, she said, her team is helping districts in Dodge City and Colby meet the requirements to remain accredited.

Gregory said every five years, a districts' accreditation comes up for renewal and schools must show that they have improved.

The peer review team, she said, helps districts create school profiles and then implement an improvement plan based on the areas that need some sprucing up.

The principal said she saw the ambassador job as the next step in helping to make her school district and other school districts better.

"As you come into the house, one of the first things we have, of course, is a washroom with all the facilities," Altman said.

Well, not quite. Cosmonaut Yuri Malenchenko and astronaut Edward Lu were to install the toilet's tank and connect its various hoses later.

Altman floated around the corner and opened up the station's bedroom, an area not much bigger than an airplane bathroom. Size aside, there's a window offering a sight to beat all lullabies when it's bedtime,

**What is Assisted Living?** Assisted Living is a unique combination of a physical plant promoting home-like private space and independence, with a social model of care, emphasizing resident choices, dignity, individuality, and flexibility for changing needs.

**How much does it cost?** The monthly cost varies with apartment size selected and services needed. The average choice is equal to \$3.22 per hour for twenty-four hour care, and includes meals, utilities, all maintenance, and recreational activities. Staying home and hiring help would certainly cost much more than that.

**Is financial assistance available if I can't afford it?** Yes, the State of Kansas has a program in place for supplementing cost of care in Assisted Living for those who qualify. **Call Don Fiegel, Director of Wheat Ridge Acres today to see if you qualify.**

gory said of the job. "You need to know how to help people learn and grow." She admits it wasn't easy. "There were a lot of times I thought, 'Why did I say I would do this?'" Gregory said, "it was tougher than any orals or comps in college."

But, she said, she's never been afraid of a little hard work. "Things that look like hard work," she said, "are really opportunities in disguise."

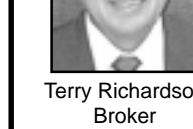
**public notice**  
Dale R. and Stacey A. Hazuka have applied to the City of Goodland for a Home Occupation/Special Use Permit to operate a Home Business at 210 Clark Avenue. The Planning Commission meeting will be held October 17, 2000, at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room, second floor at City Hall, 204 W. 11th Street.

Published in The Goodland Daily News Sept. 14, 2000.

**1410 Arcade...Drastic price reduction/motivated seller. Original list price \$130,000 NOW \$119,900.** Wonderful brick ranch w/1581 sq. ft. on main floor plus unfinished basement. Here's just a few of the recent improvements...new kitchen countertop, double sink, faucet & disposal; new dishwasher & wall oven; Culligan soft water; custom made draperies; new metal soffits; new garage door opener; landscaping including tree removal, sprinkler repair plus professional lawn maintenance! 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, main floor laundry, formal dining room, eat-in kitchen plus lots of extras. Don't delay...if you're thinking of a new home, please look at this one before you decide...you'll be glad you did!

**NEW LISTING...BUILDING LOT...**Rosewood Addition, 100' x 140'. \$15,000.

Homestead Realty, Inc. is an active member of the Goodland Multi List system...so call us with any of your housing needs...we'll be glad to help.



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