

County gets glass

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the plaque and said the county would have a second one made to hang in the courthouse.

At the beginning of the meeting, Dixie Chatfield appeared to show the commissioners stained glass work she has done to be placed in the curved areas over courthouse doors. Chatfield said the stained glass should be ready to be installed in the next few weeks.

Davis said the county will contact Tom Rohr of Dependable Glass to install the glass sections.

A plan to allow citizens to pay their property taxes with credit cards was delayed until County Treasurer Shelby Miller investigated.

Miller had information which indicated the county could offer the credit card service at no charge to the county, but when she did further checking, found there is a "convenience fee," which would be charged on each transaction.

"Most of the cost for using a credit card would be paid by the citizen," Miller said. "I am not interested in doing this since I found out it would cost both the county and the customer."

Miller said she found that the fee to the customer would be based on a percentage of the amount being paid, and that in one example it would have been a fee of \$64 to the card holder.

"I don't think our customers would be interested in that," Frankenfeld said.

In other business, the commissioners: • Approved and signed a \$14,000 contract with the Goodland Public Library for next year.

• Approved paying utilities for the houses at Smoky Gardens and the Sherman County Fairgrounds for the next year.

The next regular commission meeting will be 8 a.m., Tuesday, Nov. 14.

Getting a new look



Steve Goalden of Linden Construction in Colby spread a layer of stucco Monday afternoon on the outside of the Goodland Activities Center. The work is being done as part of the remodeling that has been going on at the center. An open house will be held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Friday to view the renovations.

Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

Education trains students to leave

CENSUS, from Page 1

youths to stay in the community.

"Most of our education trains students to leave the area," he said, adding that the district wants to develop programs to help students get jobs here.

Schools are suffering from a decrease in the population of children. In the 0-4-year-old age group, the county's population dropped 84 kids, from 540 in 1990 to 456 in 1999.

In the 5-17 age group, the county saw a drop of 78 kids from 1,306 in 1990 to 1,228 in 1999.

Selby said there isn't much the schools can do to retain students, and the district is planning to down-size as the population continues to drop.

The school board, he said, is considering putting the junior high and high school in the same building. He said the fourth and fifth grade classes are still fairly large, at about 90 to 95 students each, but the numbers are dropping in the second grade and younger classes.

The district expects a 7 to 8 percent drop every year, he said.

Selby said he didn't think staff would have to be cut because teachers could be transferred and retire-

ment would help trim the budget. Selby said as teachers retire, the school district won't hire new staff to take their place.

Only two groups in Sherman County showed an increase in population from 1990 to 1999.

The 45-64 age group increased by 91 people in the last 10 years, the Census Bureau reported. In 1990 the population was 1,497 and that increased 6 percent to 1,588 in 1999.

Sherman County's largest population group, when people are divided into individual ages, is women who are 85 years old. There are 124 of them in Sherman County.

The reported Hispanic population increased 37 percent from 1990's 474 to 653 in 1999, for an increase of 179 people. The total Hispanic population equals about 12 percent of the county's population.

Selby said the school district is working with Maggie Hernandez, migrant coordinator for the district, to help make the newcomers feel at home.

Hernandez visits the homes of new Hispanics, he said, and translates for the families during enrollment if necessary. The district sends out information in Spanish for the Spanish-

speaking families, he said.

Pickman said the city has no plans to target any individual group for retention or for increasing the population.

"We want a well-rounded community," he said, "with all ages and races."

The new pool, said the city manager, is one project the city is working on in hopes of increasing the population and helping to keep people in Goodland. He said another project the city invested in is rebuilding the highways.

"Hopefully, the repaired highways will encourage businesses to come to the area," said Pickman, "and the new businesses will encourage growth and bring new jobs to the area which will bring more people."

Selby said he doesn't think the population will be able to increase until a major change in business happens.

"In my experience," he said, "the population will continue to decrease unless an agriculturally-related business decides to move into the area."

Figures for the 1999 population were released from the Population Estimates Program of the Census Bureau in late August.

Couple finds Goodland friendly place to visit

ARGENTINA, from Page 1

fertile and their city doesn't want houses on land where farmers could be planting crops.

The couple really enjoyed seeing fall here, said Imelda, as it is spring in Argentina now.

They also enjoyed seeing kids dressed up for Halloween, which isn't

a holiday in most Latin and Spanish counties.

The couple agreed the most important thing they will take back to their home with them is memories of the beautiful area and the very friendly people.

"We would like to say thanks to all the people in Goodland," said Imelda. "Everyone was very friendly."

Lawsuit seeks release of government report

WICHITA (AP) — A Wichita company has gone to court to force the federal government to release its investigative report of the DeBruce Grain elevator explosion in 1998 that killed seven workers.

Industrial Maintenance Inc. filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court in Wichita, charging that the government is illegally withholding the results of the investigation by the Occupational Health and Safety Administration.

The company, which performed some maintenance work in the elevator prior to the explosion, has been sued by DeBruce and by families of killed and injured workers.

Industrial Maintenance lawyers want the report to defend the company.

"We want to get that to prove their lack of responsibility in causing the

explosion," Wichita lawyer Alan Rupe said.

OSHA denied the company's request, filed under the Freedom of Information Act, on March 31. An administrative appeal was rejected July 19.

In rejecting the requests, OSHA contends that the report is part of ongoing civil proceedings against DeBruce and cannot be released until the case is closed.

OSHA has proposed a \$1.7 million fine against DeBruce, which the company is appealing. The agency has twice delayed a hearing on the fine while negotiations with DeBruce continue.

OSHA said it found dust-collection equipment that did not work at the elevator, piles of grain dust and safety equipment and alarms that were broken or missing. Grain dust

is highly explosive when suspended in air.

DeBruce hired Industrial Maintenance to repair some of the dust-removal equipment. Industrial Maintenance said DeBruce ignored recommendations to do additional work on the dust system.

Federal prosecutors in Wichita decided in March not to bring criminal charges against DeBruce or any of its officials.

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Dawgs from left are: (front) - Andrej Kraus, Sean Swanson, Jacob Falcon, Tyson Dixon, Travis Dixon, Brett Arnberger, John Luckert, Quentin Bear, Jarrett Carpenter; (back) coach Dick Martoglio, Jesse Crumrine, coach Larry O'Conner, J.R. Baird, Shalon Miller, Justin Jamison, Jay Reid, Clint Horinek, Nick Juenemann and P.J. Crumbaker.

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Goodland High School Music Department

Guys & Dolls

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or call **899-5656** to get your reserved tickets.

Any tickets left will be sold the night of each show, Nov. 10 & 11.

Parents of show participants may reserve seats Nov. 1 & 2.

GAC OPEN HOUSE

The Board of Directors cordially invites you to attend the Open House of the Goodland Activities Center, proudly displaying our new renovations. Your participation was appreciated and your attendance is anticipated.

Friday, Nov. 3
 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Goodland Activities Center

8th and Main
 Refreshments will be served.

The **Goodland Daily News**

Covering Goodland And Sherman County

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