



Darin Coash (right) pinned a medal on his grandfather's jacket, while his father, Duane, watched. The two were preparing the jacket which belonged to Russel F. Coash for display at a World War I museum at the former Lowry Air Force Base in Denver. Coash, who died in 1959, served in the U.S. Navy during World War I. Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

Family gathers father's mementos

MEMENTOS, from Page 1

on a ship stationed in France and got blown off it when a German submarine torpedoed it. He woke up on a beach and some French people revived him and took him to a French hospital. Coash was also in the military service. He enlisted in the U.S. Army and served from 1960 to 1963. He served in various posts in the United States, he said, but spent 16 months in Stuttgart, Germany, where

he taught electronics. Since Coash served during peacetime, he said the most exciting thing that happened was the Cuban missile crisis, which occurred while he was in Germany. He said the servicemen were all on red-alert and had their equipment loaded up on ships at Bremerhaven, Germany. Coash has five brothers who all served in the military. Two during World War II and the rest during peacetime. His two sons, Don and Darin,

both spent four years in the U.S. Air Force and are now in the U.S. Air National Guard. Coash said some of his family members deserve credit for giving money or providing items for the display. He said his father's jacket and vest came from his sister-in-law, Donna Coash of Clifton; one photo came from a brother, John Coash of Albuquerque, N.M.; and the majority of the collection came from another brother, Ron Coash in Manhattan, who had a trunk full of their father's memorabilia.

Schooling isn't what makes administrator

RIDENER, from Page 1

ernment for over 30 years. But Ridener says in the end it's not schooling and experience that makes a good administrator, it's knowing how to understand an issue on both a public and political level. An administrator, he said, must make some hard decisions that can upset residents and officials. He said he learned that the hard way. After finishing a 1 1/2 year internship with the Wellington city manager, Ridener took a job as city administrator in Cherryvale, a town with a popu-

lation of about 2,500 in southeast Kansas. He said the city council hired him right before an election that flip-flopped the council's members and goals. Ridener said he was asked to leave after 11 months. "I had to leave," he said, "I could no longer see eye-to-eye with the new council that got elected." He went into retirement for a year, he said, but got sick of part-time jobs and hanging around the house. This time, Ridener said, he's being more selective. He said a Wichita State professor

and other city managers have recommended Goodland as a good place to live and work. Of course, Goodland isn't the only place he's looking. He said he interviewed for a city administrator job a month ago in McCook, Neb., but hasn't heard back. He is also being considered for the position of city administrator in a small Kansas city called Caney. If he's hired here, he said, he'll take it. But, he said, you can't tell if you have it cinched by the interview. "If you have a good set of interviews," he said, "you can never tell."

Editor says job is unique opportunity

BETZ, from Page 1

nity for 17 years." He grew up around newspapers as his father and grandfather owned a paper and has made journalism his lifework, but Betz said he's ready for a new challenge. "For me it's a unique opportunity," he said. "You're trying to create a position that doesn't exist. There is a di-

chotomy of questions that must be worked through. It won't be an easy process." If he does get the job, Betz said he will work with other government entities in Sherman County, improve relations with city officials and find solutions to problems created by declining populations across northwest Kansas. "Most likely census figures will show a decline in population in Sherman County," he said. "That makes the whole process more difficult." Betz said he will focus on the impact new technology could have on the county as a way of improving efficiency and develop a plan on how to

reach the county's long-term goals. He has ideas for change, he said, but noted that for the most part Sherman County is already run well. "By and large," he said, "the county has good facilities and good people." Calling himself "a product of the High Plains," Betz said he has an appreciation for the plains and northwest Kansas and plans to stay here whether he gets the job or not. Betz said even after the interview, he's not sure of his chances. But, he added, him getting the job is not what's most important. "It's not important whether I get it or someone else," he said, "I'm just glad to see that the county is moving in a positive direction."

ConAgra recalls 120 employees for big clean up

GARDEN CITY (AP) — ConAgra Beef Co. has recalled 120 maintenance workers to help clean up the fire-damaged plant while the company considers whether to reopen it. The workers are on call, and are being paid, said Bret Fox, spokesman for ConAgra in Greeley, Colo. They will begin cleaning when an outside firm determines the structure is safe. Fox said it could be several weeks before the company decides whether to rebuild the plant. "In the interim our focus is in taking care of our customers and taking care of our employees ... we certainly don't gain anything by delaying it," he said. ConAgra employed 2,300 workers at its Garden City plant, which suffered major damage from a fire that broke out Christmas Day and took more than 18 hours to bring under control. The plant is one of six beef processing plants in Kansas, which leads the nation with about 8 million head of cattle processed annually.

Plants need different care

The most commonly asked gardening question is "how should I water my plants?" The answer has two parts. How much and how often. How much: This is the easy answer. Always water your plant to total saturation. That means until water moves through and past the root zone. You will not kill any plants by doing this. How often: This is the hard answer and where plant death can occur. There are many factors that influence the "how often" question. Some plants like drier conditions than others. Differences in potting



dana belshe

• ag notebook

medium, seasons and environment influence water needs. The goal is to balance the water and gas levels in the soil. For a 6-inch pot, the top inch of soil should be dry before adding water. For a 10-inch pot, the top two inches of soil

should be dry before adding water. Brown leaves with a yellow margin can indicate too frequent of watering. Will adding a layer of gravel to the bottom of your pot improve drainage? No. Because gravel and the potting mix are different, water doesn't like to move from one surface to the other. Therefore, the water will actually backup instead of moving to the gravel.

Railroad crossing under repair

The railroad crossing at Cattle Trail Street will be closed for a few hours this afternoon for repairs. City manager Ron Pickman said the crossing will be closed so Kyle Railroad Co. can repair the track. He said the tracks should open later today. Jerry DeWitt, a supervisor with the main Kyle Railroad office in Phillipsburg, said it is probably some

minor repairs that will keep the crossing closed for a few hours. He said there are plans in 2002 to renovate the crossing at Cattle Trail like the one on Cherry Avenue, which was redone this year. That includes replacing the wooden planks with metal planks and pouring a concrete approach on either side. Pickman said he hadn't been con-

tacted about the project yet, so he wasn't sure when that would be done. "I hope they do," he said, "it would be nice to have that crossing as smooth as the one at Cherry." The Cherry Street project was done as a combination of the state and the railroad, said Pickman, and he wasn't sure who, if anyone, would be doing it at Cattle Trail.

Elevator problem will be solved soon

COUNTY, from Page 1

that way when we put it in," McKnight said. McKnight said the man could hook it up next month, if they wanted him to. Rasure said he would like to see if they got any action from the architects first. County Attorney Bonnie Selby said she wrote a letter to Blaine Davis of Architecture Plus about the elevator problem.

The commissioners said they received a response from Davis which said he had written the elevator company and told them they needed to get out and fix the elevator. Selby said to let the installation company fix it before letting the Dover representative do anything. Darrel Schrader of Goodland, who mowed the right-of-ways in the county this past summer, thanked the commissioners for giving him the job. "I thought you did a good job," Frankenfeld said. Schrader said he thought the mowing went well. He said they had knocked down two signs while mowing, but had reported it to Way. Schrader said he had used three mowers, but would like to add at least two more. Frankenfeld asked him if he would mow again this year and Schrader agreed. "I appreciate the job you did and the way you worked with the county boys," Frankenfeld said. In other business, Eric Yonkey, an ad representative from *The Goodland Daily News*, talked with the commissioners about buying an ad in a travel and tourism guide that is being put out

by the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau. He showed a sample of a guide from another county. Yonkey said the guide will be produced by Roxie Yonkey and printed by Consolidated Printing in Salina. It will have full color on the front and back and in the center section. The other pages will be black and white, except for some spot color. He said the bureau would have 15,000 copies printed and was using money from the bed tax to pay for 7,500 copies. The others would be paid for from ad sales. The guides would be given out at tourist information centers around Kansas and besides ads, would contain articles about attractions in the county. He suggested the county might want to advertise Smokey Gardens or other county attractions or write a letter welcoming people to the county. He suggested they advertise in the center section. Yonkey said a half page full color ad in the center section would cost \$560 and a half page black and white ad on an inside page would cost \$460.

Yonkey said he would need to know by Jan. 8 if they wanted to place an ad and the commissioners could pay for it in either this fiscal year or the next. Selby said she spent a summer going through magazines like this and some communities had put forth information that can't normally be found elsewhere. Yonkey said the guide would probably be 24 pages this year and would be 50 percent ads and 50 percent articles. "Well, we'll kick it around and let you know," Frankenfeld said. The commissioners also met with Sheriff Doug Whitson to get an update on replacing two toilets at the Sherman County Bastille. They accepted a bid for \$5,344 from McClure Plumbing and Heating of Goodland to replace the toilets. The toilets cost \$2,072 each and the additional \$1,200 would be for the labor to install them. The toilets would be the same as the old ones, so no concrete work would have to be done as originally thought might be needed.

Snow is good for wheat

GARDEN CITY (AP) — While the snow blanketing much of Kansas has inconvenienced some people, the state's wheat farmers may be asking for more. "You'll almost never lose wheat to winter kill if you have a layer of snow on the ground," said Merle Witt of the Southwest Kansas Research Extension Center. "It's like putting on a jacket." That's because snow acts as an insu-

lator. In extremely cold conditions, the snow is valuable for protecting wheat, Witt said. "The cold wind in this area has the potential to really affect wheat, but with a steady layer of snow cover, the cold is moderated greatly," Witt said. If the snow is like putting on a jacket, wheat could be warmly dressed this winter, according to weather forecasters.

AgraSafe Program Farm Safety Demonstration

"First on the Scene"

Sherman County 4-H Building
Tuesday, January 16, 2001, 5:00-8:30 p.m.



Contact Person: Dana Belshe, K-State Research and Extension/Sherman County (785) 899-4880
Valarie Kaup, Sherman County Farm Bureau, County Coordinator (785) 899-2378

Meal is Provided: RSVP by January 11, 2001

When an accident occurs, do you know... when, how and who to call for help? when and how to give first aid treatment? whether to move the victim or not?

This program is ideal for farm families and farm employees.


Information will be shared concerning:

- Machinery Entanglements
- Machinery Overturns
- Chemical and Grain Bin Emergencies
- Reporting Farm Emergencies

This program is provided by Hays Medical Center as a community health service. Funding for this project was partially provided by The Office of Rural Health Policy.

2 for \$2

Big Mac
or
Quarter Pounder w/Cheese



Goodland 2325 Enterprise Burlington 440 S. Lincoln