

Bethany choir sings chorals at Emmanuel Lutheran church



The Bethany College Choir, Lindsborg, presented their concert tour program Wednesday night to a full house at Goodland's Emmanuel Lutheran Church. Professor Daniel Mahraun conducts the nearly 50-voice choir and chamber choir. The choir's selections include several Latin, German and Swedish choral pieces, as well as modern works such as Hoagy Carmichael's "Skylark" and Traditional favorites: "Keep you lamps!" and "God's gonna buil' up Zion's wall." Church members and local Bethany College alumni housed and provided Thursday morning breakfast to choir members. The choir will join other Lindsborg area musicians during the Holy Week Messiah Festival at the college's Presser Hall. The Oratorio Society annually performs Handel's Messiah on Palm Sunday and Easter, and a Good Friday passion cantata.

Photo by Eric Yonkey
The Goodland Daily News

One death blamed on wintersnowstorm

By The Associated Press
A storm that brought snow, rains, hail and strong winds to western Kansas caused at least one fatality, closed many roads and resulted in several towns losing power.

The storm blew in just shortly after midnight Thursday, said Jerod Frederick, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Dodge City. "We had a gust of about 53 mph," he said. "It started with thunderstorms, which were kind of a pretense to our snow (Thursday) morning. We also had a little bit of hail 11 miles east of Dodge."

Carol J. Nikolai, 70, of Cripple Creek, Colo., died Thursday morning when the motor home her husband was driving on U.S. 400 hit the front of a tractor-trailer just east of Dodge City, the Kansas Highway Patrol said.

She was taken to a hospital where she later died. Both her husband and the other driver were hurt, but officials did not believe that their injuries were life threatening.

No other major accidents were reported by Thursday evening, the patrol said.

Several roads had been closed throughout the day and the patrol discouraged travel in southwest Kansas as snow accumulated on roads and blizzard-like conditions reduced visibility. U.S. 50 was closed from Dodge City to Kinsley, as was the U.S. 50 bypass around Dodge City. Highway 54 north of Liberal was also closed. Roads were snow-packed between Pratt and Dodge City, as well as west of Hays.

By Thursday evening, patrol dispatchers reported that the roads had returned to normal conditions.

Oz park put on hold again

OLATHE (AP) — Opponents of a proposed theme park at an abandoned ammunition plant stalled it again on Thursday, this time for as long as a year.

Backers of the Oz Entertainment Co.'s proposal for a resort and residential complex at the former Sunflower plant near DeSoto had hoped new Johnson County commissioner Susie Wolf would vote with them.

Wolf sided with the opponents on Thursday, though, forcing another 2-2 deadlock and tabling the motion until commissioners vote to bring it back. A fifth commissioner, Gary Anderson,

does not vote on Oz issues because of a potential conflict of interest.

Wolf, who did not announce her intentions before Thursday's meeting, said she did not consider the Oz project to be the best use of the former plant.

After failing for the second time since Nov. 6 to pass or defeat the Oz proposal, commissioners voted to ask lawmakers to extend a July 1 deadline for a final decision on the matter.

That would allow the county to conduct its own feasibility study, which chairman Doug Wood estimated would take six to eight months.

Commission candidates give reasons for filing

BLUME, from Page 1

for him because he feels he can contribute to the betterment of the community and the people who live here and that he can strengthen the business community.

If elected, he said, he wants to review the ordinances that Goodland has. But basically, he said, he has no problems with what the present city commission has been doing.

His goals, if elected, are to establish a program to maintain present businesses, attract new businesses and encourage small businesses to come to the community.

To set up something, Blume said, so that existing local businesses can be maintained and encourage new businesses to come to town.

LUTTERS, from Page 1

tively.

He said he's not in favor of going in debt to bring a risky business to town.

However, Lutters said, the city has fixed up water and electrical lines and other city services, so if businesses come to Goodland, the city is capable of handling them.

"We welcome anything that will do

the community good," he said.

Lutters moved to Goodland to attend the Northwest Kansas Technical School and made his home here.

His wife, Marian, is a second grade teacher at Burlington Elementary School in Burlington, Colo.

The couple has a daughter, Genevieve Gibson, and two sons, Paul and Derrick Lutters, who are all graduates of Goodland High School.

Lutters said his goal for the city commission is to finish up some things that they have started.

"We can't foresee the future," he said, "but we can be ready for businesses that might come to town."

NICHOLS, from Page 1

ing money, not wasting it. While he wants to spend money, he said, he also wants to cut taxes without cutting needed services.

"I want to find ways to save money," Nichols said, "but I don't want to short anyone. I don't want to cut wages, but programs that aren't needed."

Of course, he said, he won't be able to properly research the city's programs until he is elected, and he'll be willing to compromise with the other commissioners.

"I won't know until I get there,"

Nichols said. "If I get there."

If he does get there, he said, he'll consider the whole picture before making a decision. Nichols said he wants to help as many people as he can, and do what's best for the majority.

"What a few people want," he said, "may not be what a majority of the people want. Someone on the commission must think about that, especially when spending taxpayers' money."

Nichols has lived in Goodland since 1974. He and his wife Diana have four grown children.

McCANTS, from Page 1

treated," said McCants, director of patient relations and volunteer services at Goodland Regional Medical Center. "I want us to enhance what our visitors do see."

But that's not the only reason why she's running. McCants, a 48-year-old mother of four, said she feels morally obligated.

"If you're going to have comments on how the city is run," she said. "You need to be willing to participate."

McCants said she wants to resolve Goodland's water issues, secure grants for the city, develop a good relationship with county officials and find a solution for the city's parking regulation problems. She said she'll work with fellow commissioners and residents.

"I'm a team player," McCants said. "I'm fair, open-minded and I really do have people's interests at heart."

She will attend training sessions to learn more about improving Goodland, she said, and talk with the public. McCants, the only woman running, said people should vote for her because she's the most qualified.

"People should consider my ability," she said, "not my gender."

McCants and her husband Larry have four children, Christina, 17; Jon, 13; Harrison, 15; and Ryan, 19. She was precinct chair in 1999 and is a member of the Kansas Film Commission and secretary of the Friends of Cedar Crest Association.

BILLINGER, from Page 1

Since being on the commission, Billinger said, he has served as mayor for two years.

He said he doesn't know if there are any policies or ordinances to change, but he feels the city commissioners need to do something about the three contaminated water wells that are out of service.

"We are working on ideas to change that," he said.

When asked why people should vote for him, Billinger said he thinks people know that he's not afraid to stick up for their best interest.

"I look at the city finances, just like my own," he said. "I don't believe in wasting money."

He said he feels the commissioners should be prudent in how they spend the city's money, which is taxpayers' money.

"I don't like spending money we don't have," he said.

Billinger said he likes to save money to buy new equipment, avoiding debt, and has worked to do that when possible.

He said the main goal he has if he gets re-elected is to repair Goodland's aging streets.

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Goodland Accidents

March 1 — At 10 a.m., Jason Bock, driving an '88 Honda, entered a parking lot in the 1300 block of Eustis. Bock's vehicle slid on some ice and hit a parked '89 Ford pickup, owned by Maxx L. Hanna.

Sunday — At 9:23 a.m., Inez P. DePlata, driving a '94 Buick, failed to yield the right-of-way to a '96 GMC truck, driven by William M. Linin, and hit Linin's vehicle in the rear at Sixth and Center.

Sherman County Traffic

March 5 — Bradley R. Johnson, 19,

Buena Vista, Colo., speeding 97/70, \$105.

Dallas Zielke, 19, Scott City, speeding 58/40, \$80.

David Phillips, 39, Goodland, speeding 76/65, \$64.

Nichelle C. Jones, 18, Denver, speeding 90/70, \$84.

March 6 — Michael John McCarthy, 21, Goodland, speeding 39/30, \$64.

Lana June Felzien, 29, Brewster, speeding 79/55, \$96.

Pedro S. Reyes, 29, Phoenix, speeding 98/70, \$108.

Teen found guilty in school plot case

HOLTON (AP) — One of three teens charged in what authorities call a Columbine-style plot against their high school was found guilty by a judge as part of a plea agreement.

The 15-minute hearing before Magistrate Judge Dennis Reiling ended the possibility of James R. Lopez, 16, being tried as an adult on five felony charges.

"The court enters a finding of guilty" to one charge of criminal use of explosives and criminal threat, the judge said.

Lopez was charged last month with conspiracy to commit aggravated arson. The state filed additional charges of solicitation to commit aggravated arson, two counts of criminal use of explosives, aggravated intimidation of a witness and criminal threat.

As part of the agreement, the other charges were dropped and the judge dismissed the state's request to have Lopez tried as an adult, keeping the matter in the juvenile justice system.

During the hearing, Lopez sat next to White at the defense table. He stood to answer, "Yes, your honor" when asked if he agreed to the stipulation and understood the proceedings.

The judge set an April 12 sentencing hearing, and White said he would ask that Lopez be given probation.

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