



Lions Club celebrates 45 years

The Goodland Lions Club celebrated its 45th anniversary last week and Cecil Schneider, a charter member, was honored at the afternoon event April 1 at the United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Lions Schneider (above left) and Lowell Guyer looked at some of the club pins Schneider had collected over his 50 years. Schneider (left) and his wife Wanda looked at a knife with a Lions emblem on it that he received as a gift.

Photos by Janet Craft
The Goodland Daily News

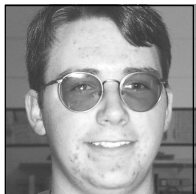
4-H program good way to motivate

The 4-H program is an excellent way to encourage the development of youth.

Recognition and awards have always been an important part of 4-H and we have realized that the wise use of recognition helps motivate youth. Recognition has several purposes. It can motivate young people to excel and take risks. Recognition encourages young people, increases their interest and helps them learn. It can teach self-appraisal skills so there is no need for external rewards.

The national 4-H program provides five ways for participants to receive recognition.

The first is for participation. For some young people, regularly attend-



tim franklin

- 4-h forum

ing meetings or participating in an educational experience is an accomplishment worthy of being recognized.

The second, goal setting, is for the youth that is challenged by setting their own personal goals and then working to achieve them.

The third type is standards of excellence. For this recognition the 4-H'er knows what the standards are at the beginning of the activity and what has

to be done in order to be recognized.

The fourth type of recognition is strictly a competition and the best competitor wins.

Lastly is cooperation in which groups of young people cooperate to learn or is it learn to cooperate.

We can encourage and support the efforts of 4-H'ers as they take on individualized learning and competition or cooperation. 4-H teaches us to accept harder challenges.

If you have any other questions about the 4-H program, please call the Sherman County 4-H Extension Office at (785) 899-4880.

Owner hopes to avoid abandoning tracks

HUTCHINSON (AP) — The new owner of a short-line railroad in western Kansas says it wants to avoid abandoning any track.

"Our goal is to abandon nothing," said Ed McKechnie, a spokesman for Watco Companies and a former Kansas legislator.

Pittsburg-based Watco agreed last week to buy 900 miles of track from Central Kansas Railway. Much of the track was in danger of abandonment.

Watco also owns the Southeast Kansas Railroad, South Kansas & Okla-

homa Railroads. It plans to begin operating the Central Kansas Railway track June 1.

At that point, Watco will control track west to Towner, Colo., north to Osborne, southwest to Protection, southeast to Columbus and south through Tulsa and Oklahoma City. The combination of the three former railroad properties will be called the Kansas & Oklahoma Railroad.

The company also owns track in Texas, Louisiana, Oregon, Washington and Idaho.

Watco plans to spend \$55 million in the next 10 years to restore the Kansas lines, plus regular maintenance, McKechnie said. Some of the track, notably the lines between Salina and Osborne, are too lightweight to meet current industry standards, he said.

State budget on a cycle of crisis

BUDGET, from Page 1

state revenue were revised upward.

It was an election year, and legislators passed the governor's plan quickly. But they did so over a cautionary note from Dave Kerr, now Senate president and then chairman of its Ways and Means Committee.

"It presents risks we don't need to take," Kerr, R-Hutchinson, said at the time.

Kerr didn't need the gift of prophesy to see the problem coming. A senator since 1985, he'd been through the cycle several times.

In January 1987, shortly after Hayden, a Republican, took office, the Legislature approved his proposal to cut the budget 3.8 percent to deal with an expected decline in revenue collections.

The next year, the Legislature's big debate was about tax relief, how to "return" part of the fiscal "windfall" to the state from the tightening of the federal tax code.

In 1989, in an effort to impose restraint, the Legislature enacted a law requiring each new budget to leave a balance in the state general fund equal to 7.5 percent of the planned spending. Requiring that amount precludes using it to make up the anticipated \$185 million shortfall.

But while the law helped the state avoid some cash flow problems, it

didn't stop the boom-and-bust cycle.

In 1991, when Finney, a Democrat, took office, legislators began the session talking about cutting the existing budget by as much as \$100 million.

In September 1995, after eight months in office, Graves, a Republican, told some state agencies to cut their spending 1.5 percent and their staffs by 2 percent because of fiscal problems.

What followed were three years of tax cuts, fueled by revenue estimates that seemed to be continually revised upward.

Even as he asserts now that the tax cuts were too deep, Hensley has to acknowledge he and fellow Democrats voted for them. He notes that the package included sales and income tax relief for poor and working class families that his party championed.

At the same time the state cut taxes, spending continued to increase, especially because legislators decreased the state's property tax levy for schools and replaced the lost revenue with general fund revenues.

Spending from the general fund increased by 7.4 percent in fiscal 1998 and by 10.4 percent in fiscal 1999.

"In nine years, I have not seen the institution have the ability to discipline itself in spending," said House Appropriations Chairman Kenny Wilk, R-Lansing.

The reasons aren't hard to under-

stand.

If balances build up in the treasury, many lawmakers and interest groups wonder why the money isn't being put to use to improve schools and social services.

Conservatives wonder why the revenue is being taken from Kansans' pockets and collected in the first place.

Tax cuts are, of course, good politics. And saying no to spending results in letters like the handwritten one Rep. Melvin Neufeld received recently. Each time the writer addressed him as "Mel," he included a disparaging vulgarity.

"Every time a legislator votes for spending money on somebody's pet project, you get a lot of pats on the back," said Neufeld, R-Ingalls, a member of the House Appropriations Committee.

What results is a cycle in which the state builds up the balances in its general fund, then eats into them for several years as spending exceeds revenues.

Eventually, the state is forced to balance spending and revenues, and the cycle starts again.

"It's very much boom or bust," said Rep. Rocky Nichols of Topeka, the ranking Democrat on the Appropriations Committee. "In good times, you spend all the money, and in bad times, you hunker down and wonder why you have no money."

Peru's election headed for runoff

By the Associated Press
INTERNATIONAL

LIMA, Peru — Alejandro Toledo finished first in Peru's presidential election, but the U.S.-trained economist and self-styled "Indian with a cause" failed to gain a majority needed to avoid a runoff, according to preliminary results.

He will likely face former President Alan Garcia, a left-leaning populist, in a second round in late May or early June.

Toledo, 55, who boycotted last year's fraudulent contest against disgraced former President Alberto Fujimori, is still a favorite to win in a runoff vote.

But the showing by Garcia in Sunday's election was seen as a stunning political comeback for the left-leaning firebrand who ended his five-year term in 1990 amid rampant corruption, 7,650 percent inflation and surging guerrilla violence.

Early official returns representing 20 percent of all districts gave Toledo 36.44 percent Sunday, compared to 25.88 percent for Garcia and 23.65 percent for veteran politician Lourdes Flores, election officials said.

JERUSALEM — A Palestinian was killed overnight during an exchange of fire near the West Bank city of Ramallah that came as the Israeli army

bombarded Palestinian targets in the northern Gaza Strip.

The Israeli strike, which came in retaliation for a Palestinian mortar shell attack, plunged a town into darkness and injured four people moderately, including a 10-year-old boy.

On the outskirts of Ramallah, the body of Palestinian Tayseer el-Omolee was found with three bullet wounds early today.

Omolee, 45, was apparently caught in the crossfire when Palestinians shot from security offices on Sunday night toward an Israeli army base at Ofra and soldiers returned fire, Palestinian witnesses said. The Israeli army did not immediately comment on the incident.

Israeli security forces were on high alert today for possible bomb attacks during the weeklong Passover holiday that began Saturday evening.

NATIONAL

LOS ANGELES — Gov. Gray Davis and Pacific Gas & Electric executives traded acrimonious barbs — but no solutions — as the state's largest utility headed into bankruptcy court claiming \$9 billion in debts.

On Sunday, Davis appeared on two nationally televised news programs to berate PG&E for awarding an estimated \$50 million in bonuses and raises to about 6,000 midlevel managers and support staff on the eve of its

filing for bankruptcy protection Friday.

"Management at PG&E is just focused upon padding their own pockets, not in discharging their duty to serve their many customers in California," Davis said on ABC's "World News Tonight."

In response, PG&E defended their employee bonus package and took a swipe at the governor.

"Instead of focusing all his attention on solving the state's yearlong and ever-worsening energy crisis, the governor has launched a campaign-style attack on our company," a PG&E statement read.

The rancor came at the start of a hectic week. A San Francisco bankruptcy judge was to hold PG&E's first bankruptcy hearing today or Tuesday to determine, among other priorities, which creditors will be paid and in what order.

MINNEAPOLIS — Northwest Airlines and its mechanics reached a tentative agreement early today, ending a 4 1/2-year stalemate just days before a board of professional arbitrators was to recommend settlement terms.

County budget on agenda

COUNTY, from Page 1

Broadway.

They will discuss setting up the budget session with county department heads. During budget reviews over the past two months, it was suggested that the commissioners and department heads, including the elected officials, meet quarterly to review the budget.


Dorendo Harrel of the county health department will ask the commission-

ers to sign a contract for Meals on Wheels.

Dale Neill will meet with the commissioners to discuss a drainage problem behind the KOA Campground.

William McKnight, building maintenance supervisor, will present bids for tree removal, weeders and a dethatcher.

Charlotte Linsner will meet with the commissioners to ask support for the 24-Hour Relay.



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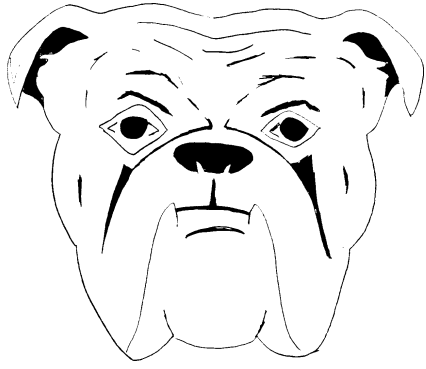


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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Mon., April 9 - 7:30 p.m. BOE Meeting
Tues., April 10 - 10:30 a.m. HS TR @ Colby
Wed., April 11 - State Music Large Groups
April 13-15 - Easter Break
Tues., April 17 - 10:30 a.m. HS Track at Scott City;
3 p.m. JH Track at St. Francis.



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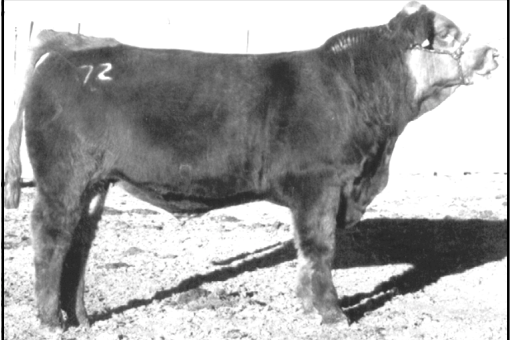
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