

# Learning bike safety at early age

The Goodland Police Department and Boy Scouts held a bike rodeo Saturday morning in the parking lot behind Bankwest. Kids had their bikes inspected, practiced their riding skills on an obstacle course and learned safety rules and hand signals. Mikail Freeman, 7, (avove) rode his bike through a simulated intersection as Goodland Patrol Officer Cary Amos watched. Garrett Geist, 7, (left) maneuvered around an orange cone on the obstacle course.

> Photos by Janet Craft The Goodland Daily News

## Phone failure downs Internet

for much of the day Saturday until a repairman could be called home from a fishing trip to fix it.

Evan Barnum, systems administrator for the Internet service, said a telephone connection box in Oberlin failed connection between Oberlin and To-

The failure meant that customers in unable to get out on the Internet. Cus- up.

Equipment failure in Southwestern tomers in the rest of the nwkansas.-Bell's phone system disrupted Internet com system couldn't get e-mail, and appreciate the Southwest Bell techniservice to **nwkansas.com** customers some had Internet connectivity probcians getting out on a Saturday to relems, depending on their computer's domain name server settings.

started searching for the source of the ates the service, added that Cozad and disruption Saturday morning, and by mid-afternoon had it narrowed down Saturday morning, shutting down the to Oberlin. After a technician from Colby was called in, he located and repaired the Bell equipment about 4 p.m. Pat Cozad came in to restart the Oberlin, Bird City and Norcatur were system and the phone line came back

"On behalf of our customers, we

store service," Barnum said. Steve Haynes, president of Southwestern Bell technicians Nor'West Newspapers, which oper-Barnum had given up part of their weekend to be sure the system came

> "Several customers called to let us know there was a problem," he said, "but it took a while to fix since is was in telephone company equipment, and on a weekend."

back on line.

## County to appoint Smoky members

The Sherman County commissioners plan to make three appointments to the Smoky Gardens board when they meet Tuesday morning at the courthouse in Goodland.

The three vacancies are for board members whose terms expired April 30. cision on the "cafeteria plan" and short Broadway.

William McKnight, county building term disability insurance with Amerimanager, will talk to the commission- can Fidelity Life Assurance Co. for ers about maintenance work which was county employees. done on the two air conditioning units at the courthouse.

The commissioners are to make a defloor of the courthouse, Eighth and

The commission will meet at 8 a.m. in the commissioner's room on the first

### cop center of real-life murder mystery

LOS ANGELES (AP) — On TV's "Baretta," Robert Blake was the tough and cocky cop who always knew right from wrong.

"I told you, man, nobody kills nobody. That's the rules. I don't know no other way," the detective declared as he busted a killer in an episode of the 1970s drama. Now, with police investigating

whether the 67-year-old Blake had a role in his wife's slaying, the question is how much of a gulf exists between the actor and his Emmy-winning screen image, forever associated with a theme song with the line: "Don't do the crime if you can't do the time."

"He's got a cloud over him," said attorney Harland Braun, who represents Blake. "I mean, isn't that the problem with Hollywood, is what people think you are rather than what you really are? I think he's learning a fast lesson in reality."

Bonny Lee Bakley, 45, married Blake four months ago after a paternity test showed he fathered her 11-monthold daughter. Bakley was shot in Blake's car May 4 at a restaurant where the couple had dined.

Police have said they have not ruled out anyone as a suspect in the slaying, and Braun has acknowledged the actor has come under suspicion. Braun said his client had returned to the resity, he told People magazine in 1995, and did nothing about it."

behind and then found his wife had been shot.

Braun and others have portrayed Bakley as a schemer who tapped lonely men for money through a mail-order business and the sale of nude photos. Friends and relatives have described Bakley as obsessed with celebrity.

But it is Blake who is at the center of the Hollywood murder mystery.

To novelist Harry Crews, who profiled Blake for Esquire magazine in the mid-1970s, it was inevitable that the actor would end up a fallen star.

"Whatever his devils were, they debefore he got into whatever he's into now," said Crews, who has stayed in touch with Blake over the years.

Blake's received accolades for his performance as a killer who goes to the gallows in 1967's "In Cold Blood," and he won a 1975 Emmy for "Baretta," but his career has been stalled for years. When the divorced father of three and Bakley crossed paths at a nightclub, he was no longer a Hollywood player. In interviews during the mid-1990s,

Blake said he took a self-imposed exile to deal with too much "pills and booze" and the therapy-induced realization that he had been a victim of child abuse.

He was eager to regain his popular-

taurant to retrieve a gun he had left and he had a facelift to improve his odds of getting work — a decision he later regretted.

"I survived my whole life by listening to my own drummer," the 5-foot-4 actor told the magazine. "Then all of the sudden I said, 'Gee whiz, all the stars my age look like they belong on "The Donna Reed Show," so I'll do it too. 'I'm sorry I gave in to that (expletive)."

For Blake, however, life's second act proved elusive

"He couldn't get work," Crews said. "He just couldn't get it. And he was hustling and slumming and partying and begging and everything else for stroyed him. They destroyed him long any kind of work within five years after he left 'Baretta' up to now."

> As a child, Blake had stepped easily into the Hollywood limelight. He appeared as Mickey in the "Our Gang" comic shorts of the 1930s and '40s. then as Little Beaver in the "Red Ryder" Westerns. The charming innocence of his early

> roles contrasted sharply with a horrible life at home, Blake said. He was born Michael Gubitosi in Nutley, N.J., to parents he called "committably insane."

"My father was a sadistic, madman alcoholic who killed himself when he was 40-some years old," he said. "My mother was equally bad, if not worse, because she saw what was happening

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#### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Monday, May 14 - Regional Softball Regional Golf Regional Tennis

Tuesday, May 15 - Band Concert - Gulick Park 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 16 - Last Day for Seniors, Commencement Practice Technology Comm. Mtg. 3:45 p.m. Thursday, May 17 - X-Presso Guest Night HS Auditorium 7:00 p.m.

Friday, May 18 - Regional Track State Tennis

Saturday, May 19 - State Tennis Graduation 2:00 p.m.

Monday, May 21 - State Golf

Tuesday, May 22 - 7-12 Spring Vocal Concert 7:00 p.m. HS Auditorium

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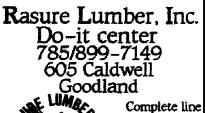
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