

Goodland man named to state fair board

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Daily News
Goodland resident Jeff Deeds has been appointed by Gov. Bill Graves to the Kansas State Fair Board, which coordinates the fair held in Hutchinson each summer.

The 13-member board consists of the lieutenant governor, at least one member from each of the five extension districts in Kansas, one member at large appointed by the governor, one appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture and one from the travel and tourism industry.

Deeds said he was selected to finish the term of Dave Huber of Monument, whose term ends in March. Deeds said he hopes to be selected for a new four-year term after that.

A fifth-generation family farmer producing 4,000 acres of crops in Sherman and Thomas counties, Deeds said he serves on the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce board and is a past board chairman of Leadership Sherman County, a program that teaches young adults how to be community leaders.

A 1997 graduate of the Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership program, Deeds is a member of the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers and

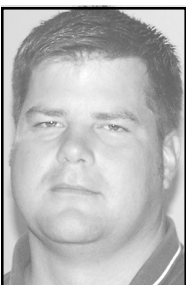
the 21st Century Alliance. He is a graduate of Goodland High School and attended Fort Hays State University.

Deeds said his first project on the board will be helping to figure out how to spend \$26 million approved by the Legislature for fair improvements and \$4 million the governor hopes to raise from private citizens. The money, he said, is to be used to make improvements to fair facilities, bringing them in line with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

He said another main goal of the board this year will be to increase attendance at the state fair, especially from northwest Kansas. Deeds said he expects to have a role in promoting the fair in this area and thinks there will be many entries from this area.

Exhibits and 4-H entries at county fairs selected to go on to the state fair will be marked with a special blue ribbon, he said, which denotes them as state fair entries.

Besides exhibits, Deeds said, there will be rides, food, games, and shows that provide fun for the whole family. He said among the weekend concerts this year will be shows by Styx, Survivor, and the Statler Brothers. The fair will be held during the first two weeks of September.



Jeff Deeds

Is this 2001?



Over 100 vintage cars racing in the History Channel Great Race rolled through Sherman County on Business U.S. 24 Saturday afternoon, on their way to a rest stop in Burlington. The drivers, racing from Atlanta to Pasedena, Calif., stopped in Colby for lunch and made a pit stop in Burlington before staying the night in Littleton, Colo.

Photo by Sheila Smith/The Goodland Daily News

Mother bristles at potential for suspect's freedom

WICHITA (AP) — A woman given probation for taking the law into her own hands after her daughter was molested is angry that the admitted offender might go free on a technicality.

Citing improper jury instructions, the defense and prosecuting attorneys agree that a Sedgwick County judge should toss out Scott Phillips' May 22 conviction for fondling the woman's 8-year-old daughter.

"And what do I tell a 13-year-old who did have faith in the system?" the woman, whose identity has been shielded to protect her daughter, told The Wichita Eagle.

The woman pleaded guilty May 9 in Sedgwick County District Court to abducting Phillips after her daughter told her of his sexual ad-

vances during sleepovers at a friend's house.

Prosecutors said the woman — a former police officer and a professional boxer — went to Phillips' workplace, showed a police badge, put him in a car and drove away at high speed. She then took him to a wooded area and ordered him to strip.

Prosecutors said the woman threatened and intimidated Phillips until he confessed.

The woman received 12 months probation after the judge read a letter written by the daughter pleading for leniency.

On Tuesday, a judge will decide if Phillips can be tried on different criminal charges without violating his constitutional protection against double jeopardy.

Children's theater set for Saturday

A theater production for children called "Frizby's Reading Road Trip" will be held from 11 a.m. to noon Saturday at the Goodland Public Library. The performance will be presented by the Timestep Players, a non-profit, educational children's theater group from Chicago, who are dedicated to motivating children to read.

The production is a family oriented and interactive program that is geared toward children ages 4 to 12. It has been designed to go with the Kansas summer reading theme "Reading Road Trip."

The production shows Frizby and his sister Kristy as they go on a wild, road trip across the country. Along the way, they meet the singing and dancing Boxcar Hobo, a famous Vegas entertainer named the Amazing Harold, and Circus Cindy and Big Top Bob at the county fair.

All children and families are invited to enjoy this performance at the library. The program is partly funded by contributions from the Kiwanis Club, Peoples Natural Gas and the Northwest Kansas Library System.

Workers still out of job

GARDEN CITY (AP) — Six months after a fire that closed down the ConAgra Beef plant and put 2,300 people out of work, the company still hasn't announced whether it will rebuild.

ConAgra spokesman Bret Fox says the company is closer to a decision, but he doesn't know when it will be made.

Meanwhile, Finney County's unemployment rate, below 3 percent a year ago, is now 11.1 percent, and many of those still out of work are unskilled workers with limited fluency in English.

"My savings are gone," said Reyes Hinojos, who has lived in Garden City for 21 years. "We have unemployment and my oldest son is working.

New debate method catching on

HAYS (AP) — The traditional way of debating in high school could be taking a back seat to a new, more fashionable way.

The critique argument style has hit western Kansas, particularly at Fort Hays State University, which is quickly making a name for itself in national college debate circles.

While traditional debating states the way it is, critiquing asks, "Why is it that way?"

Critiquing has served Fort Hays State well the past several years

My girls have found little jobs, too, enough to buy their own clothes and things they need. Soon, I hope I will have a job."

He is taking English classes at Finney County Community Learning Center and studying for a commercial drivers license in hopes of landing a truck driving job, he said.

For Garden City, the waiting is just one more challenge in already troubled times.

"This would have been a tough year anyway, even without this," said Andy Webdell, director of social services for the Garden City Salvation Army. "With the farm economy hurting and gas bills going up, we have so many people who are in trouble."

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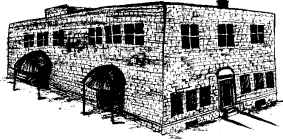
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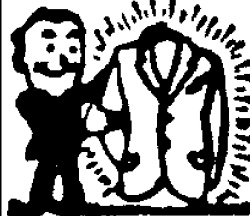
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