



Steve West (left), president of the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce, talked with John Garcia, a member of the steering committee trying to start a cooperative grocery in Goodland, on Tuesday about plans for the store. Photo by Rachel Miscal/The Goodland Daily News

# Finding manager spurs project

## GROCERY, from Page 1

formed to find investors and open the cooperative.

After Gouker, who manages a food brokerage which sells to grocery stores, agreed to get on board, West said, the project started sprinting forward.

He said a group from here met Gouker and his wife in Mount Ayr, Iowa, a city similar to Goodland where residents own a successful cooperative grocery.

"We wanted to get an idea if it was working in another community," he said.

West said the cooperative was making a profit despite having competition from another store, which was not in a Wal-Mart.

It was a good comparison, he said, adding that the group returned with a bunch of ideas and confident that a cooperative could work here.

John Garcia, owner of Garcia's Home Furnishings and a steering com-

mittee member, said the grocery, which would open in the old Jubilee building, will offer services and products Wal-Mart doesn't. He said the committee has discussed having a meat market, deli and bakery in the store and offering a carry-out service.

"I'm very excited," he said. "It will be a top-notch grocery store."

West said the first step is seeing if people in Sherman County will feel the same.

That's why the committee is holding meetings on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 7 p.m. at the Goodland High School auditorium, he said, to explain how the cooperative will work, answer questions and find investors.

West said it should be a good deal and a "win-win" situation for investors.

The committee figures \$1.2 million should cover remodeling, inventory and other startup costs, he said, and is looking for 500 families to invest \$2,000 each for a total of \$1 million. He said they will ask companies to in-

vest at a higher level to make up the remaining \$200,000.

The store would be open to everyone, West said, but investors would be considered members and would be refunded part of the money they spent on groceries.

"The more you shop, the more you get," he said, noting that members would also receive a dividend at the end of the year for their investment.

Of course, he said, the store would need to turn a profit before any money was handed out, but he added that the committee doesn't think that will be a problem.

First, he said, Gouker is well-educated, has worked in all jobs in the grocery business and is experienced at running a business. He noted that the committee figures at least 500 families will shop at the store.

Garcia said the grocery survey showed that the average household in the Sherman County area spends \$347 a month on groceries, which equals more than \$4,000 a year. That means

500 families would spend more than \$2 million at the store each year if they did all of their shopping there.

West said the store will do more than give people another place to buy food.

"It will draw more people downtown," he said, noting that the grocery will create 25 to 30 full and part-time jobs for an estimated annual payroll of \$400,000.

The committee has circulated thousands of pamphlets announcing their plans and the meetings, and Garcia said the response has been positive, as several people have stopped by his downtown business to ask questions or say they want to give money.

"We already have a list of people willing to invest," West said.

Garcia said it could lead to other economic development projects in Goodland.

"This could motivate the community into exploring other ventures," he said.

But first things first.

"I think it will work," West said.

# Recycling container cost discussed by commissioners

## CITY, from Page 1

ment just states what the city is doing. There may still be another site, he said, that the county will be responsible for.

But what if the program grows? Who will pay for the additional containers? Probably the city, Commissioner Curtis Hurd said, since they have to buy the containers to start with.

None of the commissioners was

happy about this, but all seemed to agree that recycling is needed in the city and all hoped the solid waste tipping fee would be reduced if the recycling is implemented.

The county recently approved charging the city \$32 per ton as a "tipping fee" for solid waste taken to the landfill. The city commission approved an ordinance Monday to take effective in January passing the cost on

to customers at a rate of \$3.25 per month for residential collection and \$2.10 per container per collection for commercial sites.

The commissioners hoped recycling would reduce the tonnage taken to the landfill and thus reduce the tipping fee.

The items to be recycled will be newspaper, paper, office paper, clear glass, brown glass and aluminum and steel cans.

The proposal was approved on a 3-1 vote with Commissioner Chuck Lutters absent and Mayor Tom Rohr voting against it. The mayor said the city does not have the money budgeted to pay for the cost of the recycling containers.

The proposal calls for the city to supply containers for a minimum of three sites within the city and to be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep

of the sites as well as insurance.

At \$1,062 per container for four containers per site for three sites, \$12,744 must be taken from the city's budget to get the program started. But the program should save both the city and the county money.

Based on the current population of the county, Ray Lariviere, a representative of the Southeast and East Central Recycling Association, said he expects the program to collect 1,200 to 1,400 cubic yards per year.

If that is the case, he said, the program would save the county an estimated \$14,000 to \$18,000 per year, and that some of this savings would be to

the city for less tonnage being taken to the landfill.

The county will be responsible for the costs of the Household Hazardous Waste program and will pay the \$2 per person in the whole county expense for the program to Southeast.

The city and county will share the cost of educating people about recycling.

The program will be operated as part of the recycling association, which has been in business for the past 10 years. Sherman County and the city of Goodland will become members of the Colorado-based association, which is owned by its members.

# China closes Internet bars for failure to block sites

## By Associated Press INTERNATIONAL

SHANGHAI, China — Chinese authorities have shut down more than 17,000 Internet bars for failing to block Web sites considered subversive or pornographic, a state-run newspaper reported.

The closures came during a nationwide sweep of China's 94,000 Internet bars that was launched in April, the Shanghai-based Wen Hui Bao reported Tuesday.

Called "wang ba" in Mandarin Chinese, most Internet bars here are nothing more than dimly lit one-room shops with a dozen personal computers.

They are now found in almost every Chinese city and even large villages.

Almost 27 million of China's 1.3 billion people now log on, up from 4 million just two years ago, according to government figures.

Of current users, about 4.5 million rely on Internet bars, the Wen Hui Bao said.

Only about half the nation's Internet bars have installed all the necessary software to block restricted Web sites and keep record of user activities, the report said.

In addition to the 17,488 Internet bars shut down, another 28,000 were ordered to install monitoring software soon, it said. The software was required as part of regulations issued by Beijing last year aimed at controlling the Internet's use.

## ap news capsules

meet to choose a new monarch. In three previous cases where the king has died in office, including Salahuddin's father in 1960, the No. 2 has been elected as the new king.

Terengganu state's sultan, Mizan Zainal Abidin, has been acting king since Salahuddin was hospitalized in early October for heart surgery.

**NATIONAL**

PORTLAND, Ore. — The nation's only physician-assisted suicide law will remain in effect while Oregon battles the federal Justice Department over the future of the law, a judge has ruled.

After a four-hour court hearing Tuesday, U.S. District Judge Robert Jones extended his Nov. 8 temporary restraining order preventing Attorney General John Ashcroft from dismantling the Oregon law.

The ruling extends the restraining order for up to five months while attorneys prepare arguments in Oregon's case against the Justice Department.

The state has asked Jones to permanently block an order by Ashcroft, issued Nov. 6, prohibiting doctors from prescribing lethal doses of federally controlled drugs to terminally ill patients.

Steve Bushong, an Oregon assistant attorney general, argued that Ashcroft went far beyond interpreting federal drug law when he issued the order.

of class-action lawsuits filed by individuals who allege Microsoft abused its monopoly power in the software market and overcharged millions of computer buyers. The lawsuits are separate from antitrust suits brought by states and the federal government.

The proposed settlement would pay for teacher training, technical support, refurbished computers and copies of Microsoft's most popular software, such as Windows and Office. The money would be disbursed over five years to the schools, which serve about 7 million children, company spokesman Matt Pilla said.

"It's pathetic and a sweetheart deal for Microsoft," said Daniel Furniss, lead counsel for plaintiffs in California.

Microsoft would admit no wrongdoing under the settlement, which must be approved by U.S. District Judge J. Frederick Motz in Baltimore. A hearing was scheduled for Nov. 27.

we've talked about, a prescription drug benefit for seniors, the high cost of health care. Security is tops on the list," he said.

Boozman will serve the remaining 13 months of Hutchinson's term. Hutchinson resigned this summer to head the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

**WASHINGTON**

WASHINGTON — After a week of dramatic military gains in Afghanistan, President Bush is again preaching patience, cautioning that the fight against terrorism will take time.

"We have made a good start in Afghanistan, yet there is still much more to be done," Bush was to tell troops at Fort Campbell in Kentucky today.

"The most difficult steps in this mission still lie ahead."

As the nation entered the Thanksgiving holiday, Bush was to express his gratitude to troops at home and abroad in a speech to more than 10,000 soldiers. Fort Campbell is home to the 101st Airborne Division, a rapid-deployment air assault division. No deployment orders for the division have been announced, but the installation has been on high alert since Sept. 11.

Bush was to have a traditional Thanksgiving meal with the troops and their families, and then offer a progress report on the military campaign. Later he was to head to the Camp David presidential retreat in Maryland for the weekend.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld was traveling to Fort Bragg, N.C., home of the Army Special Operations Command, today to receive a briefing on special operations.

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KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — King Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah, who was elected under Malaysia's unusual royal rotation system, died today after weeks of complications following heart surgery. He was 75.

Salahuddin died in Kuala Lumpur's Gleneagles private hospital at 11:57 a.m., Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said.

The king in Malaysia holds mostly ceremonial powers, and Salahuddin's death does not affect the functioning of the government.

Salahuddin assumed the throne in 1999 under a rotation system that chooses the constitutional monarch by secret ballot among the sultans of Malaysia's nine states. Salahuddin was also sultan of Malaysia's Selangor state. Each sultan takes a five-year turn as monarch of this Southeast Asian nation.

If a monarch dies in office, the deputy king steps in until the sultans

SEATTLE — In a deal one critic derided as "pathetic," Microsoft Corp. will give more than 12,500 of the nation's poorest schools \$1 billion in computer services and cash to settle private antitrust lawsuits against the software giant.

The proposed settlement announced Tuesday would bring an end to dozens

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Republicans easily held on to a congressional seat in a GOP stronghold as an optometrist with little political experience defeated a 28-year-old state legislator to fill a slot opened when Asa Hutchinson became the nation's drug czar.

The unofficial tally showed a light voter turnout in the rare holiday-week election Tuesday, with Republican John Boozman taking 56 percent of the vote, or 52,894 votes. His nearest challenger, Democrat Mike Hathorn, had 42 percent, or 40,137 votes.

"We're anxious to get to Washington to support President Bush," Boozman, 50, said in his victory speech Tuesday night.

"We're going to work on issues

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