



The new tourist and travel center on Interstate 70 about 10 miles west of town is scheduled to open the first week of April. Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

Center promotes Kansas

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economy by letting travelers know of places and activities in Kansas. Anything a tourist buys has local and state sales tax attached to it, she said.

"They may not spend their money in the Goodland area," Crotinger said, "but money spent anywhere in the state does help us. There are a lot of benefits of tourism people don't see."

The lobby of the new center will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week, Crotinger said, and the information section will be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the tourist season and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. the rest of the year. The only days the center will close, Crotinger said, are holidays.

The center will be a busy place, she said. The first week of May is National

Tourism Week, and the Northwest Kansas Travel Council will set up a popcorn machine at the center for travelers. Even rattlesnakes may become an attraction.

"Sometimes the folks from the Rattlesnake Roundup (in Sharon Springs) bring in some snakes," Crotinger said, shivering for a second. "That's not my favorite, but they do it."

The center will boast a gift shop, but it won't open with the center.

"We're not sure yet who is going to run the shop," Crotinger said. "There are federal laws regulating retail sales on Interstates, and we still have some red tape to work through."

Beside the normal magnets and T-shirts, she said she hopes the shop will sell Kansas-made products.

"We hope to help Kansas-based

businesses," Crotinger said.

The center is almost ready to open. A few counter tops have to be replaced, travel brochures have to be unboxed and displayed, and there is some landscaping around the building which needs finished, Crotinger said.

"Every time the landscapers decided to work," she said, "the weather got nasty."

All the center has to do is wait for the Department of Transportation to finish grounds work on the rest stop, which should take a couple of weeks, she said.

A formal grand opening will probably be held at the end of April, she said, adding that she is ready to get into her new building.

"It's been a good year of mess," she said. "I don't know that I'd go through it again, but it should be worth it."

Contaminated trash a problem for city, county

At their hastily called meeting at noon Tuesday, city commissioners discussed the county's refusal to let city crews dump two loaded trash trucks.

"There is no system that is going to give (the county) what they want," Commissioner Curtis Hurd said. "It's up to us to decide what we are going to do."

"Trash is trash," Commissioner Chuck Lutters said. "If they want to be sticklers, there's no way we can guarantee a load."

The board discussed the possibility of hauling the city's trash to another landfill, or of opening a landfill of their own.

"Who's to say even if we dump and sort, if (county supervisor Margaret Russell) will still accept the loads," Hurd said.

"Maybe in the long run, it'll be cheaper to take loads to Garden City and not use our county dump," Commissioner Rick Billinger said.

"Rather than spending thousands of dollars on this problem, the city should take the initiative and find another way to get rid of our trash," Hurd said. "No other towns have this BS we have to put up with."

"What makes me mad," Commissioner Dean Blume said, "is the citizens of Goodland have a lot of money

in the landfill, and there are so many restrictions we can't use it."

City Manager Ron Pickman said his biggest concern with boycotting the county landfill is that the taxpayers of Goodland have put a lot of money into the new dump, including a \$150-a-year payment on their property tax.

"We have paid for that dump, we should be able to use it," he said.

"I think the people of Goodland should pay that \$150 a year under protest," Hurd said. "This whole thing has gotten out of hand."

One alternative for the city would be not pick up trash at all, Hurd said.

"I don't think we want to go that far," Lutters said. "It is tempting, though, isn't it?"

Pickman said the city was in a dilemma, and needed to make a decision right away to do something with the loaded trucks.

"If they're not going to let us dump here," Rohr said, "we have to dump somewhere."

Lutters suggested calling around and seeing if another landfill would accept the trash for a couple days. Pickman sent Ed Wolak, city director of public works, to call Thomas and other counties.

Wolak reported that some counties were going to call him back, but that

Thomas County required loads to be separated.

The commissioners decided to try to set up a meeting with the county.

"Let's have another meeting with the county commissioners," Hurd said. "Let's waste some more time."

Pickman said that was a good idea.

"We are at the mercy of the county," he said. "We have full trucks and no where to dump them."

Lutters said the county was making the trash issues more difficult than it had to be.

"I don't feel like the county is serving the public," Lutters said. "They want their paycheck, and that's it."

"The staff is extremely frustrated," Pickman said. "We have tried everything. We're out of options, other than revamping our whole system."

"It's a shame. As taxpayers, we own the landfill, and we can't use it."

Pickman said it looks like the only solution might be to go to individual containers and rear-loading trucks, which he said would involve a lot of start-up costs would use a lot of manpower. Rates would probably have to be raised again.

The commissioners passed the motion to suspend trash service and they adjourned until they could meet with the county.

City, county agree to sort loads, keep bad stuff out of the landfill

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shouldn't go in the landfill but said the city hasn't had enough time to educate people about what can go in their trash.

"We have not had an accommodation or adjustment period," Blume said.

City Commissioner Chuck Lutters said he knows there has been some contamination, but wanted to know why the loads were rejected with no warning.

"This did not just happen overnight," County Commissioner Chuck Frankenfeld replied. "We have all known for a while what the landfill will accept."

Pickman said the city has done everything to control what goes in dumpsters short of no longer picking up trash.

"Let's all give this education thing a chance to work," Hurd said. "It'll never work, but let's give it a chance."

Rasure said the county would be willing to allow the city to place an employee at the station to sort trash. County Commissioner Mitch Tiede said it wouldn't solve any problems.

"People will know the trash is being sorted," Tiede said, "and they'll

just keep contaminating the loads."

The city commissioners agreed to put a second person on the city trucks to help sort trash.

"We'll try it for awhile," Pickman said, "and see what happens."

Tiede told the city commissioners that the county wasn't trying to make it hard for the city.

"Today was hard on us," Pickman said. "It took us by surprise."

"We know it's stringent," Way said. "We don't like it any more than you do."

Pickman asked that the next time there was a problem with a load on a city truck, the county commissioners call the city and let them know what was going on, and try to work the problem out, rather than just refusing the load.

"To just have one person say, 'Take it away,'" Pickman said, "That's not good."

Both sets of commissioners ended the meeting by saying they will try to work together better in the future.

The county commissioners met before the joint meeting to decide what their stand was going to be.

"I don't see any reason to change our position," Tiede said. "Nothing has changed. These rules have to be

followed."

The rest of the commission agreed.

"I haven't changed my opinion. (The city is) having problems with their customers," Frankenfeld said. "They need to educate them. That's what we are doing here, educating our customer."

"I don't know what the answer is," Tiede said. "It is the city's customers causing the problems."

At the county meeting, Way said he has talked to other county administrators, and they liked the county's "zero tolerance" policy on mixed waste.

"They can understand why we want to do that," Way said, "and they think it is a good idea."

Way said part of the problem may be that the city doesn't understand the severity of fines the county could face if they are inspected and found to be violating state regulations.

"They think we're overboard on our regulations, that we're being spiteful," he said. "That's just not the case. Most of our rules are handed down from the federal and state governments."

Way said, though, that he could see why the city was getting upset.

"They are getting it at both ends," he said.

First National Bank acquires Bird City unit

BANK, from Page 1

St. Francis in April 1994, the First National Bank of Quinter in December 1998, the Kirk State Bank of Kirk in April 2000 and Commercial Federal of Oberlin in June 2001. First National opened a branch in Colby in May 1995.

The Security State Bank was established on November 1, 1929, with E.L. Bacon as president-cashier. The first employees included his wife, Oma Bacon and his cousin, Edgar Robert-

son.

Robertson, who eventually became the bank's major shareholder, died last year after working at the bank for 72 years and developing a good reputation as a banker.

When Security State open its doors in 1929, it had 75 checking accounts with \$20,000 in capital and \$2,000 surplus. When Robertson died, the bank's assets were around \$18 million.

The bank survived the Depression years and a major robbery. In 1931, a

lone bandit crawled through the bank's window during the night. When the bank opened the next morning, the bandit tied up each of the employees.

Pointing a gun at Robertson, the robber ordered him to open the vault and safe. The bandit stuck a package of

money in his shirt and grabbed two bags of silver, taking about \$1,400.

Employees were forced into the vault and the door was locked. Later that day, the robber and an accomplice were found plowing a field of corn stalks north of Bird City.

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SPECIALTY CLINIC CALENDAR

Allergy		
Dr. Rumblyrt	April 18	8:30 - 2:00
Anesthesiology		
Gary Kliever, CRNA-ARNP		
Audiology		
L. Young, CCC-A	April 10	8:30 - 12:00
Cardiology		
Dr. Godfrey	April 3	8:30 - 4:30
	April 18	2:00 - 4:30
Dermatology		
Dr. Kornfeld	April 26	11:00 - 6:00
Ear/Nose/Throat		
Dr. Barron	April 10	8:30 - 12:00
Gastroenterology		
Dr. Jones	April 18	8:45 - 4:00
Dr. Roller	April 2	8:30 - 4:00
General Surgery		
Dr. Robinson	April 10	8:30 - 12:00
Dr. Frankum	April 16	8:30 -
Neurology		
Dr. Mazowiecki	April 3	9:00 - 4:00
	April 17	9:00 - 4:00
OB/GYN		
Dr. Womack	April 24	8:30 - 2:00
Oncology		
Dr. Rubinowitz	April 3	11:30 - 6:00
Orthopedic		
Bob Allen PA-C	Will see her post ops & revisits and new patients if requested.	
	April 10	8:30 - 12:00
Dr. Leo	Will not not be in Burlington April, May or June.	
Dr. Reiss	April 18	1:00 - 4:30
Dr. Frierhood	April 24	8:30 - 2:00
Pathologist		
monthly		
Podiatry		
Dr. Ouderkirk	April 25	8:30 - 2:00
Pulmonary Medicine		
Dr. Weisiger	April 2	8:30 - 4:00
	April 11	8:30 - 3:30
	April 24	8:30 - 2:00
Radiologist		
weekly		
Urologist		
Dr. Abernathy	April 25	8:30 - 12:00

ACTIVE MEDICAL STAFF

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