

# Director says office not busy

**HARVEST, from Page 1**

Avila worked at the Department of Human Resources' job service office in Goodland, and said when she heard about the harvest position, she immediately thought of Helwig.

"I knew she would be good," Avila said. "She knew a lot of farmers around here."

Before moving to Florida, Helwig lived in Sherman County for 30 years, running an irrigation company with her late husband.

Helwig liked returning to Goodland to run the harvest office, Avila said, because it gave her a chance to visit old friends. Last year, Helwig stayed at Avila's home.

In January, Avila said, Helwig called her to ask if she could stay with her again.

"She said 'Do I still have a room?'" she recalled.

Helwig died shortly after that at the age of 70. Avila said it was a shock.

"It's really a big loss," she said, adding that when Helwig was here last harvest, she seemed to be in fine health.

"She was so active," Avila said. "She was always doing something."

She said Frontier Equity employees tell her that Helwig usually had her

hands full trying to match custom cutters with farmers as quickly as possible.

"She would work from 7 a.m. to 7 or 8 at night," Avila said, adding that this year she's only kept the office open until 5 p.m. because there's no work to do.

Joyce Heiman, director of the harvest program in Topeka, said it's been the same story at all of the temporary offices.

She said a few of the offices only stayed open 6 days this harvest, and all will be closed by the end of this week. Avila said the office here will close Wednesday and harvest will wind down this week.

"This was a very fast harvest," Heiman said. "In your area sometimes the offices stay open until mid-July. That's not happening this year."

Heiman, who has been involved with the program for 15 years, said she remembers one harvest that went as fast as this one. But, she noted, the wheat crop was in better shape that year and farmers needed custom cutters.

"With the condition of the wheat crop this year," she said, "not as many farmers are calling in to get their wheat cut."

Avila, who retired from the job ser-



After taking a sample of a load of wheat, Tom Stewart, Mueller Grain elevator manager, emptied the grain into a funnel at the elevator Monday afternoon. Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

vice in 2000 and now works as a teacher's aide during the school year, said even though the office was slow

this year, she'll be back next harvest. "I'm hoping to be really busy," she said. "It's no fun just sitting here."

# County commissioners extend burn ban

The Sherman County commissioners extended the county burn ban today to Tuesday, July 9, and will review it during their meeting that day.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said commissioners Kevin Rasure and Mitch Tiede met this morning to review the existing drought conditions and approved the extension of the burn ban.

During the meeting, City Manager Ron Pickman called to discuss some

confusion about whether the city was included in the burn ban.

Rumpel said Goodland was excluded because the city has home rule powers.

Pickman said later that he thought the burn ban was a good idea, and did not realize it did not include the city. He said he would suggest to Fire Chief Dean Jensen that the city hold off any burning while the county ban is in effect. There was at least one controlled

burn in the city this morning.

"It is very dry and I think it would be better not to allow any city burning permits to be issued at this time," Pickman said. "And we don't need to be wasting water putting out fires."

The county burn ban does not specifically exclude fireworks, but Rural Fire Chief Kenneth Griffith is asking people to be very careful if they are setting off fireworks.

"It is a real tinderbox out there," he

said.

The National Weather Service office in Goodland said there is a chance of isolated thundershowers through Friday. The temperatures will remain in the high 90s and winds will be 10-20 m.p.h.

Citizens are reminded that if a fire starts and there is property damage, the person starting the fire may be charged with arson and could receive a bill for the cost of putting out the fire.

# City not able to subsidize fairgrounds' electricity

**By Tom Betz**

*The Goodland Daily News*

Holding stock car races at the Sherman County Fairgrounds has become more and more expensive, with the cost of lighting the arena and track climbing from \$40 to over \$665 each month.

The Sherman County commissioners on Friday discussed the lighting costs with Ed Wolak, city public works director, Trent Blythe, B and B Electric, and Neil Normandin of the racing association.

Wolak said it's more expensive this year because the city has subsidized the electric costs in the past, but can't do it any more.

The lights are on a demand meter, which peaks when all the lights are turned on, and the peak demand is the basis for the electrical charges from the city, Wolak said. The demand meter has been in place for a number of years,

he said, but the city had a government rate which lowered the cost. The government rate disappeared this year, Wolak said, and the existing demand rates are now in effect for everyone.

"This demand thing seems to be a problem," Blythe said. "There should be a different way to do this. We are chasing business away."

"We have to have the power there when you want it," Wolak said, "and there is a cost to everyone to make that happen."

Blythe agreed the lights at the arena and track are probably the most inefficient lighting, and that when turning them on there is a large demand peak. He said the cost could be reduced by replacing the lights with more efficient ones.

Wolak said part of the change in rates was due to that in the past there was an on-peak rate and off-peak rate, but now there is only one rate based on the high-

est demand.

"This is not a new thing," Wolak said. "We have had demand meters for a long time. We have to recapture that cost, and the city has to look at all the costs as they effect all the citizens."

Normandin said the racing association is facing a real problem as they are not making money at all the races, and this may cause them to close down soon. He said they would talk to the city at Monday's meeting.

"We have been having trouble in the last year," Normandin said. "We lost money on one race night, but managed to make some at the last one to get us close to a break-even point, but we cannot afford this type of electrical cost."

Mary Ann Sneath, deputy county clerk, told the commissioners that the agreement with the racing association says they will pay the utility costs. She said the electric charge went from

about \$40 a month last year to over \$665 in May. She said the demand charge was \$500 and the \$165 was the electric charge.

Blythe said it would cost the county about \$3,500-\$4,000 to replace the arena and track lights to reduce the demand cost. He said the cost would be about a third of what it now is with the new lights. He said there are currently 52 fixtures on the track, which are 1500 watt bulbs and that is a 141,000 watt load.

The commissioners asked about the effect this may have on the fair this year, but most of the other lights are not on a demand meter system, and are charged a monthly base rate.

Roberta Normandin discussed the situation with the city commission on behalf of the racing commission Monday evening, and while the commissioners said they understood the problem they did not take any action.

# Three people appointed to Goodland hospital board

The Sherman County commissioners appointed three people to three-year terms on the Goodland Regional Medical Center Board Friday.

The commissioners agreed to reappoint Steve Evert, and then appointed Jennifer House and Kim Duell.

Going off the board will be Dr. Robert McCullough and Dennis Shank.

In a related matter, Phil Samuelson, new director of Good Samaritan Center, told the commissioners he met with the nursing home's advisory board and

there is a need for at least three new members.

He said Curtis Hurd, Doris Craft and Jasmin Bair were up in January, but nothing has been done about replacing them. He added there are also a couple of board members who have not been attending the meetings.

Samuelson said the advisory board members who were at the recent meeting had come up with a list of possible people to fill the vacancies.

The commissioners suggested he

contact the current members to see if they are interested in continuing, and to talk to the potential board members to see who may be interested in serving.

Samuelson said he would come back with a recommended list from the advisory committee in the next few weeks.

He reported the state Fire Marshal had been out to inspect the center, and had found four minor problems, which have been taken care of.

# Accident takes life of Tech student

**ACCIDENT, from Page 1**

during a dust storm that cut driving visibility to almost nothing.

He was a first-year electronics technology student.

"It's just a real tragedy," Clouse said, adding that Black would have graduated in December.

Ness County Sheriff Bryan Whipple said Black, a Bazine native, had come home for the weekend.

He said Black and three other young men were driving south from Ransom to Bazine at 10:45 p.m. Saturday on a county road, when the driver, Brett Corsair, 17, swerved to miss a deer and

lost control of the car.

The 1999 Oldsmobile Cutlass rolled into the ditch, Whipple said, throwing Black, who wasn't wearing his seatbelt, from the car.

Black died Sunday at the Grisell Memorial Hospital in Ransom.

Whipple said Corsair and the other passengers, Trent Witthuhn, 15, and Dustin Bain, 16, were wearing their seatbelts and had only minor injuries. He said they are all from Bazine.

Clouse said the deaths have hit students and faculty hard.

"Everybody pulls together," he said. "It makes everybody stop and think."

# Motel owner fined for having cougar

**COUGAR, from Page 1**

animals can be held in certain facilities.

Harsh said the cougar was in the care of an Oakley animal refuge and was in Goodland to be taken to Dr. Gary Smith at Prairieland Animal Clinic.

In an affidavit in his court file, Harsh said Smith "knows more about exotic animals than other vets."

Also in the file was a license obtained in Thomas County for Shirley Sheridan Harsh of the Prairie Cat Zoological Park in Oakley.

Harsh filed a copy of the city ordinance that prohibits exotic animals. The law says the prohibition does not apply to bona fide pet shops, zoos, circuses and carnivals that are properly maintained.

The cougar, or mountain lion, is now at the Lee Richardson Zoo in Garden City. The zoo's veterinarian, Franklin Vincezi, said the cat was very tiny when he arrived at the zoo and had a terrible bout of pneumonia two days later.

"He was here just long enough for everyone to fall in love with him," Vincezi said, "and we thought we were going to lose him."

But, he said, the cat is doing well now.

"He is doing wonderful," Vincezi said. "He's a big, handsome, strong young man."

Vincezi said the cat joined the female mountain lion the zoo already had, and the two get along really well. The female cat did not like people, he said, but the newcomer has brought her out of her shell.

Things turned out okay, but the animal's former owner still had to answer to the law.

After trying unsuccessfully to get the charges dropped, getting Judge Jack Burr recused on his third try, asserting his right to a jury trial and claiming he had a right to have the cougar, Harsh went before Administrative Judge William B. Elliott from Graham County and a jury.

Representing himself, Harsh filed a motion asking that the charges be dropped for lack of jurisdiction. He gave judicial notice of laws stating the whole record must be reviewed in determining jurisdiction and that the burden of proving jurisdiction rests on the party asserting it. The motion was de-

nied.

He also filed a motion to have Burr removed as judge asserting that the judge showed personal interest or bias. When that motion was denied, Harsh said Burr had sworn an oath as a grandmaster of the Masons, which is in direct opposition to his oath as a judge.

Harsh said books written by former high-ranking Masons say they take an oath as Masons promising to conceal crimes of other Masons and to lie if called as a witness against another Mason.

In his motion, Harsh said the Masons take an oath to "prevaricate; don't tell the truth" when called to testify against a Mason.

Harsh also asserted that Masons take an oath stating, "Of all vows, obligations, oaths or anathemas we have vowed, sworn or bound ourselves to, we repent. They shall not be binding."

This motion was also denied. But that did not stop Harsh from having Burr removed as judge. He claimed police officers violated his rights in seizing the cougar when they searched for evidence of a meth lab.

He said he would call Burr as a material witness since he signed the search warrant and could also testify about the right of the police to search the motel and the extent of the search.

Burr could not serve as judge on the same trial he was testifying in, so Elliott was assigned to the case.

Prairieand Animal Clinic had filed a motion asking that the city be responsible for half of the nearly \$2,000 bill for care of the cat if Harsh prevailed. Since Harsh was found guilty, he will be responsible for the whole bill.

## public notice

VIGNERY & MASON L.L.C.  
214 E. 10th, P. O. Box 767  
Goodland, Kansas 67735  
Telephone: 785-899-6588

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF SHERMAN COUNTY, KANSAS FILED PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 59 OF THE KANSAS STATUTES ANNOTATED

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF HAROLD F. WISE, Deceased. Case No. 02P11

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FINAL SETTLEMENT The State of Kansas to All Persons Concerned:

You are hereby notified that a petition has been filed on the day 28 of June, 2002, in said Court by Arthur T. Nelson, executor of the Will of Harold F. Wise, deceased, praying for a final settlement of the estate, approval of his acts, proceedings and accounts as executor, allowance for attorneys' fees and expenses, determination of the heirs, devisees and legatees entitled to the estate and assignment to them in accordance with the Will of Harold F. Wise, deceased. You are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before the 24 day of July, 2002, at 10:30 o'clock a.m., on said day, in said Court, in the City of Goodland, in Sherman County, at which time and place said cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course and upon said petition.

Arthur T. Nelson, Executor  
VIGNERY & MASON L.L.C.  
214 E. 10th, P. O. Box 767  
Goodland, Kansas 67735  
Telephone: 785-899-6588  
Attorneys for Petitioners

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Sherman County & Brewster Businesses

A SALUTE TO PROGRESS

The Goodland Daily News will publish our annual progress issue in July. All businesses are welcome to submit two brief paragraphs about changes in their business this past year.

Send it to:  
The Goodland Daily News  
1205 Main  
Goodland, KS 67735

Deadline is July 11th

A LOOK AHEAD