

Mexico native finds opportunities

RESTAURANT, from Page 1

knew where they would be living, much different than when he came over as a young teen-ager. His brothers aren't the only relatives working in the restaurants. The three businesses are staffed with nieces, nephews, cousins and cousins-of-cousins. Every employee is related in some way. "We are very family oriented," Diaz said. "We gain support from our family and help each other out. I'm happy we can all work together." Before opening one in Goodland, Diaz ran a restaurant in Colby for five

months, but business wasn't as good as he hoped. The first eight days were busy, he said, but it went downhill from there. Diaz said he used to shop in Goodland, and thought there was more traffic here than in Colby. He also noticed a lot of his Colby customers in Goodland's stores and restaurants. He moved his wife, two children and business here and said he has not regretted the decision. Rather than slowing down after the first week, business has been steadily busy, he said. Customers regularly come in at all hours, even during the late-afternoon hours, traditionally the

slow time for restaurants. The walls of Reynaldo's are decorated with pictures of Francisco "Pancho" Villa and Emiliano Zapata, revolutionaries, sometimes considered bandits, of early 1900s Mexico. The staff is more comfortable with Spanish than with English, and the food is traditionally Mexican, for the most part. One deviation Diaz decided to make was to offer tacos with ground beef. Usually in Mexico, he said, tortillas are filled with chicken, fish, or just cheese to make a taco. "People here weren't sure about those," Diaz said. "So now we offer ground beef."

If Diaz had never left Mexico, he said, he probably would "not be doing much of anything." The region he lived in was mostly an agricultural area, he said, and families had a hard time making a decent wage. "In Mexico it seems that no matter how hard you work, you always have a hard time making ends meet," he said. "Each year the economy seems to go down instead of up. That's what's good about America. If you work hard and take advantage of the opportunities, you can do very well." Diaz said he hopes his restaurant does well so he and his family can stay in Goodland. "We like it here," he said.

County buys third copier for court house

By Tom Betz

The Sherman County commissioners approved buying a copier for the register of deeds office Tuesday. Carol Armstrong, register of deeds, presented her request to purchase a copier from Topside Office at a cost of \$2,095 plus a maintenance contract at \$.0135¢ per copy per month. This is the third copier bought this year, with the county clerk and county treasurer purchasing copiers in August. Armstrong said she was looking for a copier that could handle the larger pages her office uses, and the one from Topside was the best she could find. The commissioners approved the purchase with the monthly maintenance fee coming out of the courthouse general fund. A question was raised about what each office charges for copies. Armstrong said she charges 25¢ per copy. Janet Rumpel, county clerk, said they charge 15¢ a copy, but that there is an additional charge if the request requires a lot of time to research. It was mentioned that the county appraiser's office charges \$2 per page for copies, but this was because of the nature of the documents and maps they are asked to provide. The commissioners asked Armstrong and Rumpel to get the various offices together and see if there is a way to be consistent throughout the courthouse so that people going from one to another for copies will know what to

expect the cost to be. Armstrong said she would adjust her price depending on the actual cost of the copies, and expects to have a new price per copy based on the new copier in the next few days. The commissioners approved the first half of the monthly bills, \$39,566. Review of the new lease with Good Samaritan Center will be handled at the next commissioner meeting, but Tuesday County Attorney Bonnie Selby said she had looked the new document over and did not see any changes, and saw no reason for the commissioners not to sign the lease. Deputy County Clerk Mary Ann Snethen said the utility bills at the fairgrounds have shown a drop since the

new lights were installed in August. The demand charge had been \$592 in May, was \$547 in June and July and dropped to \$406 in August. She said the billing period for August broke in the middle of fair week. She expects to see the Flatlander Festival races on the bill the county receives in November. Commissioner Mitch Tiede said it was good to see the demand charge drop. "Now we need to find the money to change the rest of the lights," he said. "I don't know how we do that, but it would save money." The next commissioner meeting will be 8 a.m. on Thursday, Oct. 31, in the commissioner room on the main floor of the Sherman County courthouse, 813 Broadway Ave.

District to buy 'Palm Pilots' for seventh graders

COMPUTERS, from Page 1

use the machines, she said. "It's already here," Hagerman said, "it's just a matter of do we get to buy into it?" Brett Bahe, a student at Grant, showed the board a handheld computer he owns. He said he can store notes, homework assignments, phone numbers and other information on the machine, and it will even talk to him. Bahe asked the computer to tell him the date

and after a few tries it did. Mull said the computers can be used in science, English, math and other subjects. The Marysville school district uses the machines in its special education program, he said. Member Ron Schilling suggested the district set up a scholarship fund for students who still have their original computer when they graduate. Sharon Gregory, Central Elementary School principal, who brought her Palm Pilot to the meeting, said that might not be a

good idea because the district wants to encourage students to upgrade to a more-advanced model. Mull said administrators will track students' progress to prove whether the little computers can make a big difference. "I hope next year you bring in a student and show what they learned on the thing," Schilling said. Member Mike Campbell asked what will happen if a student loses a computer or it is stolen and then the student

can't fully participate in class because an assignment is based on having the machine. Mull and Hagerman said the students will have to be responsible for their computers and will have to face the consequences if they lose or break them. But Mull added that staff will devise a plan for what to do if a machine is stolen, lost or broken. "We don't have all the answers," he said, "but we do have enthusiasm."

Staking it out



John Morton of Morton Construction hammered in stakes behind the Prints and the Paper at 12th Street and Broadway. The owner of the building, Rod Cooper, is adding storage units to the property. Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

Veterans hospitals slow

OVERLAND PARK (AP)—Veterans hospitals and clinics in Kansas often fail to see patients within the 30-day period mandated by Congress six years ago, according to a House report released Tuesday by U.S. Rep. Dennis Moore. In some cases, the report found, veterans were waiting more than twice

that long for appointments. Moore, D-Lenexa, said he didn't blame the Department of Veterans Affairs. "It's not their fault if Congress isn't giving them the funds they need," he said Tuesday at a news conference outside the American Legion hall in Overland Park.

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