

# County endorses ‘control city’ request

**By Tom Betz**  
*The Goodland Star-News*

Sherman County commissioners endorsed the effort to have Goodland named a control city for I-70 distance signs at their meeting Friday, and agreed to write a letter of support.

Carolyn Applegate, the county’s economic development director, told the commissioners about the control city effort, saying that this would be an important goal for the city.

Control cities are listed on distance signs across the state. Other towns are listed only on a couple of signs to either side.

“The control city is specially designed to assist motorists as they travel on the Interstate highway sys-

tem,” Applegate said. “The reason to ask for this is that Goodland is the gatekeeper for the highway at the state line, and with the unpredictable weather, it is important as a safety measure.

“Under the program operated through the Association of State Highway Officials, each control city is listed on the highway signs to let the driver know there is a place coming up where there is a place that has a full line of services.

“Goodland is the logical place for a control city between Limon, Colo. and Hays.”

In a letter laying out the reasons for Goodland being named a control city, Applegate lists a number of items including the National Weather Service office, the

Goodland Airport and the emergency medical plane based there that can be airborne within 12 minutes. She mentions that the Department of Transportation and Kansas Highway Patrol coordinate with the Red Cross in an emergency to open public buildings as shelters during blizzards, and that there are towing and repair services available on an as needed basis.

The commissioners agreed that getting Goodland named a control city was important, and said that they would draft a letter of support.

The commissioners talked to Scott Erickson, owner of Neopost, and discussed leasing a new mailing machine at \$368 per month with a chance to upgrade after three years.

County Treasurer Shelby Miller said the existing Pitney Bowes mailing machine is working, but that the cost has risen to \$411 a month for maintenance and supplies. The present machine was purchased by the county for \$20,000, and has been paid for. It is the monthly maintenance fee that would be reduced with the new lease, and the county would get a new upgraded mailing machine worth about \$20,000.

Erickson said he would try to help the county sell the older machine.

The commissioners approved a lease for the mailing machines with Wells Fargo, which will begin once the new machine is delivered in the next week or two.

The one question remaining is

whether the new machine will fit where the old one is. After much checking, it was determined that the room could be remodeled to make room for the new machine.

The commissioners agreed to take an offer of the free year for hosting a web site for Sherman County.

The commissioners approved a request from the Kansas Counties Association to appoint Mary Messamore of Sherman County to a Kansas Public Safety Communications Committee, which will be trying to put together a plan for statewide wireless communications. The committee is expected to take about a year to develop the plan, and will meet monthly.

The cost of Messamore’s partici-

pating in the effort will be paid by Sherman County, and that may be about \$2,000. The commissioners agreed to allow her to take the committee position on the basis she could use the county car to travel to meetings in Topeka when her workload permits.

In other business, the commissioners

- Approved bills for a total of \$91,668.
- Approved an agreement with the city for disposing of the lechate, or runoff, from the transfer station and landfill in the city sewer system.

The commissioners will review the city trash contract at their next meeting at 8 a.m. next Tuesday, in the first-floor meeting room at the courthouse, 813 Broadway.

## Showing off the Hog



Rod Cooper shined up his Harley-Davidson motorcycle and rode it to several locations in the city so Donna Price of the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau could shoot digital photos to submit to the Kansas Film Commission. The state agency is looking for sites for a special motorcycle promotion. Price had help from the city crew, who helped her get a higher angle from the bucket of a front-end loader. Sites that were photographed were the old gas station on Main, the Antique Mall, Carnegie Art Center and the old Southwestern Bell building. Carolyn Applegate of the Sherman Economic Development Council and Justin Bentzinger of the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce also had digital cameras to have a variety of photos to send to Topeka.



Photos by Tom Betz  
The Goodland Star-News

## Turning to the ‘Boss’

**By Tom (TD) Dreiling**  
*Colby Free Press*

Again, the Colby community is going to turn to the Boss. It seems to have worked the last time.

He was called upon late in February to end the drought. Experts agree that a big change has occurred since then. Precipitation reports have the Colby/Thomas County area with a total of 6.32 inches of moisture since the first of the year, far outdistancing the 2002 total to date of 2.76 inches.

Interestingly, 5.92 inches of that 6.32 total came in the months following the first-ever “Northwest Kansas Prayer Rally for Rain” held on Feb. 22 — 1.38 inches in March, 2.24 in April and 2.30 this month. The rally, held in the 4-H Building at the Thomas County Fairgrounds, was organized by Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Kinkade of rural Brewster. It attracted nearly 100 people.

Now, the pressing need seems to be for divine intervention in a situation that has split the community — the medical controversy. An organizational meeting to explore the possibility of a “Prayer Rally for the Local Medical Community” has been scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday at the 4-H Building.

“If you are interested in helping, please attend,” said Colby lawyer Todd Stramel, a coordinator of what would be Thomas County’s first-ever general prayerfest to seek a solution to the struggle among the hospital, its board and one of the town’s doctors. You can signal your interest by calling Mr. Stramel at 462-3222.

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## Wheat crop better this year

**By Patty Decker**  
*Colby Free Press*

The good news is the wheat crop is a lot better than last year, said Roger Stockton, crop and soil extension specialist with Kansas State University, but the hotter temperatures last week were not so good.

“Wheat is a cool season crop,” he said, “and so far this year we have had a pattern of cooler temperatures.”

While it would be better if the hot weather would stay away, Stockton said, it probably won’t hurt too much if this spell only lasts a few days. Harvest usually starts in late June or the first of July; however, if the temperatures had continued above 90 degrees, the harvest might 10 days earlier, he said.

The recent moisture has been good for the wheat.

“The moisture has been frequent enough to keep the crop in good shape,” Stockton said.

Although the crop looks good, he said, there is no excess moisture and rain would sure help.

Stockton has been touring wheat fields in 14 counties across the state, and one thing he said he has noticed is stripe rust, which is a fungus-type disease.

“Stripe rust is rare, but we have seen it in northwest Kansas and southwest Nebraska two out of the last three years,” he said.

Prior to this recent outbreak, which he said is affecting 25 to 30 percent of the crop in those areas, producers hadn’t seen stripe rust for 50 years. He said the 2137 variety seems to be the more susceptible to stripe rust and the Jagger variety is doing very well this year.

As part of the annual wheat tour, Stockton said there are 20 to 30 variety plots in many counties across the state which will give producers a chance to see side-by-side which varieties offer the best yield.

Stockton did not make predictions as to yields yet, but did reiterate that if the moisture continues as it has and the cooler temperatures return, it will be good news for wheat farmers.



**Janice Wilkinson**

Lifetime Sherman and Cheyenne Counties resident Janice (Schermerhorn) Wilkinson, 63, died Thursday, May 29, 2003, at her home in Goodland.

She was born April 2, 1940, in Goodland, the daughter of Dorothy (Meireis) and Nelson Schermerhorn. She graduated from high school in Goodland.

On February 4, 1956, she and Vertie Bolyard were married. To this union, four children were born—Virginia, Doug, Kathy and Cindie.

On April 13, 1975, she and Lloyd “Bud” Wilkinson were married at the First Christian Church in Goodland. They were blessed with twenty-eight years together.

For thirty-eight years, she greeted her customers with a smile as a cashier at Anderson’s Market in Bird City and, in Goodland, the packing plant, at the IGA grocery store, Grass Roots and Dollar General.

Her memberships included the First Christian Church. Her hobbies included fishing, gardening and her flowers. But she most enjoyed family cookouts, holiday gatherings, and working as a cashier and seeing all the people in the community. And from this she gained many close friends.

Preceding her in death were her parents, one brother Robert Schermerhorn and one nephew Robert Schermerhorn.

Surviving family members include her husband Bud Wilkinson of the home in Goodland; four children Virginia of Amarillo, Texas; Doug Bolyard and Tami of Wilson, Texas; Kathy Weis and her husband Glenn of Goodland; Cindie Yarger and her husband Mike of Goodland; five grandchildren Crystal Bolyard, Dustin Nemecek, Angie Nemecek; Casey Bolyard, and Tiffany Fixsen; one brother Jim Schermerhorn of Phoenix, Arizona; their dog BV and their cat Shorty, and many other extended family and friends.

The funeral was Monday, June 2 at 10 a.m. MT at the Koons Chapel in Goodland with Loren Strait officiating. Burial followed in the Goodland Cemetery.

Friends paid their respects at Koons Chapel on Sunday from 3 to 7 p.m. MT and on Monday from 8 a.m. MT until the service.

Memorials may be designated to Hospice of Sherman County or to Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter, and may be left at or mailed to Koons Funeral Home, 211 North Main, Goodland, Kan. 67735-1555.