

# Companies express interest in truck stop

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

Four companies are looking at the old Apple Trail truck stop south of I-70, Economic Development Director Carolyn Applegate told the Sherman County commission Tuesday.

"We continue to work with the New York bank on the truck stop," Applegate said. "We made a presentation and it was hand delivered to Denver for one company, and that is now in Texas for their decision. "The bank apparently has a property in Guymon, Okla., from a sister corporation to the one which had the Goodland truck stop, and they are trying to see if there is interest in a company buying both locations."

Love's Travel Centers is one of the companies looking at the truck stop. Rip Griffins, which has the travel center in Limon, is another.

Applegate said that there is another potential buyer from Colorado, and that Flying J had expressed renewed interest in the facility.

There is no clear time line on when a decision is to be made, she added.

On another matter, Applegate reported that letters of support for the "control city" project to get Goodland on I-70 destination signs have been received from Sherman County, and are expected to come from the city, the Chamber of Commerce and the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The information will be forwarded to the state and with a recommendation from the state will be presented to a subcommittee of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. If the change is recommended by the subcommittee, the association will consider it at their meeting

next year.

The control city designation would mean that as highway signs and maps are updated, Goodland would be listed to indicate to travelers that the city is capable of handling emergency needs. Currently, the control cities along I-70 are Topeka, Salina, Hays, Limon and Denver.

On a related line, Applegate said she is working with Congressman Jerry Moran to see if there is a way to include Goodland's airport in the Essential Air Service legislation. In the past, Goodland was part of the Essential Air Service, and it was through that program that a commuter airline company — Great Lakes — flew routes from Denver to Goodland.

Applegate said the new legislation talks about updating outdated standards, and she hopes to get Moran, who is the head of the sub-

committee, to look at Goodland's situation and try to get it back in the program.

She said a survey was recently done to update the airport information with the help of the Collets of Butterfly Aviation; Evans, Bierly, Hutchison & Associates, the city's engineering consultant; and City Manager Ron Pickman for presentation on an avionics project.

Board member Larry McCants agreed that the airport is an important part of the infrastructure, and that any improvements help keep it active.

He said the best thing to do would be an extension of the runway by 1,000 feet.

Applegate said that it good to get leads on projects from board members, and that it is a strength of the board that they are being approached with ideas.

"Something is always happen-

ing," she said. "We are working on many different projects and are glad to have the suggestions and ideas from the board members."

She said not all the projects they look at work out, and listed a couple of those as examples. Sonic was interested in the old Kentucky Fried Chicken location, but they decided against it. A contact was made with Mossy Oak, a sporting goods company, about locating a store here, but they decided it did not fit their needs.

Justin Bentzinger, interim Chamber manager, told the board he was glad to have the help and support from Applegate, and that he was looking to keeping the Chamber moving forward.

Commission Chairman Dave Daniels said he had talked to Chamber President Tim Rath about working with the Chamber, and that he had said it was good to see the of-

fices working together.

Board member Harlan House said the ag committee has not met because the people are busy with farming.

McCants said the incentives committee, working on a package the city and county would offer new businesses, had details to finalize, and hopes to have a recommendation for the next meeting.

The board approved purchase of an Epson printer from Topside Office for \$149.

Board members present were Steve West, Western State Bank; Daniels and John Garcia, city commissioners; Royal Reid, retired elevator operator; House, farmer; Kim Bohme, Miller's Electronics; Larry Harper, Lincare; and McCants, First National Bank.

The next meeting of the commission will be 5:15 p.m. on Monday, July 21, at Western State Bank.

## Scout group planned

A Goodland couple has planned a meeting to see whether there is enough interest to start Venturing, a program of Boy Scouts of America, in Goodland.

Rick and Amy Breininger are holding a meeting at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the student union at Northwest Kansas Technical College to determine whether there are enough young people between the ages of 14 and 20 and enough adult sponsors to form a unit of the organization.

The co-ed organization can be high adventure, Amy said, including hiking and rock climbing, focused on sports, or can be a service-oriented or religious-oriented organization. It depends on what the group decides.

The kids plan the activities, keep their own records and do their own finances, Amy said, and adults are there as advisors but don't have leadership roles.

Call the couple at 899-2381 for information.

## Roof leads list of projects

**SCHOOL, from Page 1**

on the concession stand garage at the track, and there are several areas that need chain link fence repairs.

The crew will repair and dress up the fire escapes at the junior high, and there are several old boiler parts and water tanks to be removed from the high school.

Emergency pull fire alarm stations will be installed in the technology building as requested by the state fire marshal, and the crew will replace a sidewalk on the north side of Max Jones Fieldhouse.

Selby said there are numerous other little jobs the staffs will be working on during the summer months.

The next school board meeting will be 7 p.m. on Monday at the district office, 1311 Main Avenue.

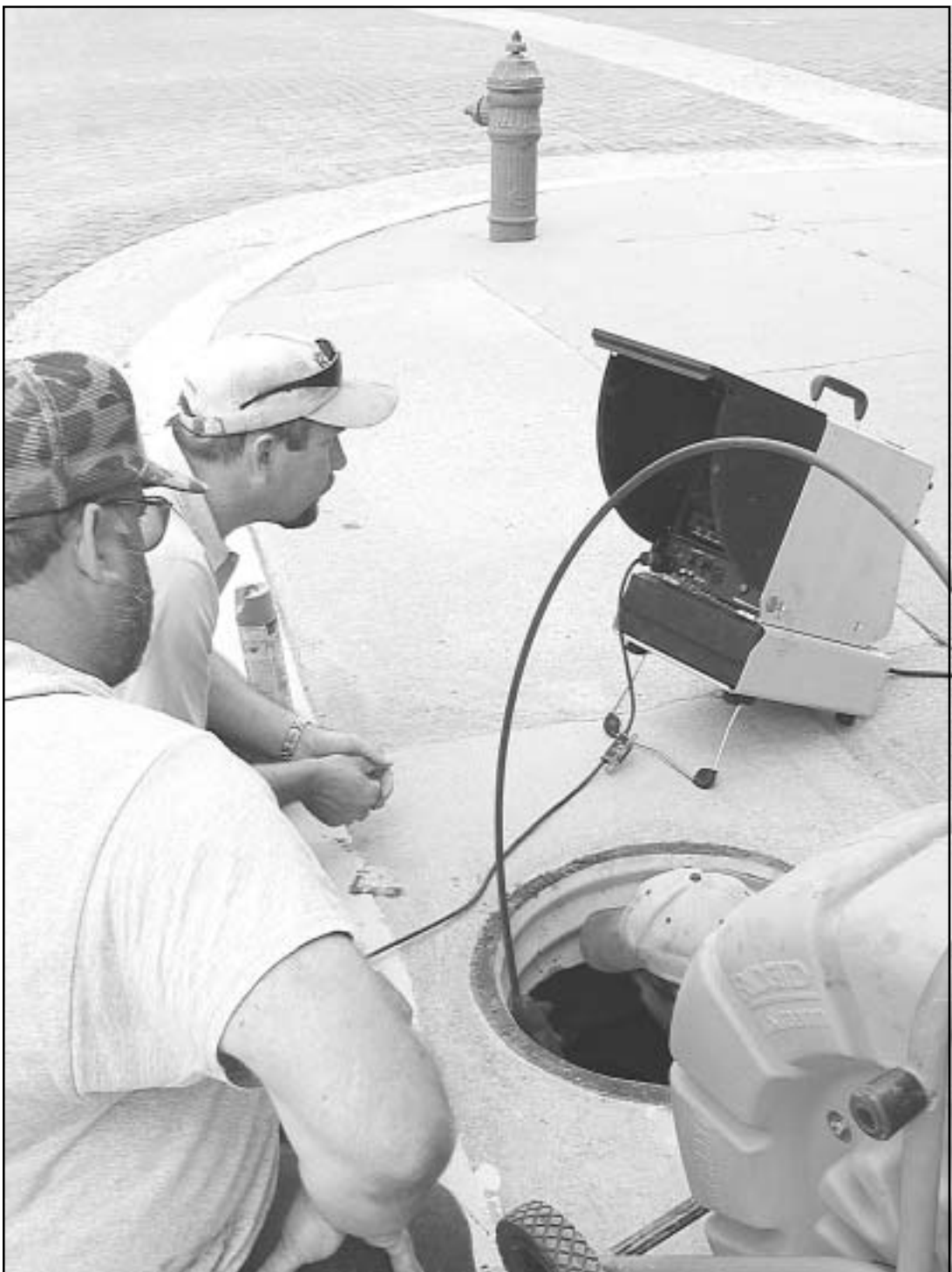
**corrections**

A photo caption in the Friday, June 13, edition of *The Goodland Star-News* should have identified the girl singing as Alyssa Mason. She was singing "The Deaf Old Woman" at the Goodland High School Xpressos Guest Night on May 24.

☆☆☆☆☆

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

## Playing detective



Kenny Studer and Richard Simon of the city street crew watched the monitor as Brian Rippe of B and K Pumping pushed a cable down the storm sewer in front of the Sherman Theatre on 12th and Main on Friday. The city is trying to discover the source of an odor that has been present at the intersection for several years. The city is planning to rebuild the intersection and the one at 13 and Main in the next two years, and will include a rebuild of the storm sewer if the problem can be located.

Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Star-News

## Everything's 'go' for prayer rally

**By Tom Dreiling**  
*Colby Free Press*

Everything's "Go!" for the "Prayer Rally for the Local Medical Community at 7 p.m. on Tuesday in the Little Theater in the Colby Community Building.

Todd Stramel, Colby, contact person for the event, said everyone

is invited to join in the cause, emphasized that the event will be "non-political" and "non-partisan."

This is Colby's second rally in which prayer is being used to help with a situation.

Back in February, a "Northwest Kansas Rally for Rain" was held in the 4-H Building at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. It attracted in

the neighborhood of 100 people from within and out of the area. Leonard Kinkade of rural Brewster spearheaded that effort.

Two meetings were held to plan and organize Tuesday's rally. The first took place on June 5 and the second was Wednesday night.

The format for the rally will include prayer, music and readings.

## Oberlin man faces drug charges

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

An Oberlin man appeared in the Thomas County District Court on Wednesday, charged with four offenses relating to a one-car accident Friday afternoon on Range Avenue north of Walnut in Colby.

Jeremey Edward Stoney, 26, is being held in the county jail in lieu of a \$100,000 bond after being charged with manufacturing of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia and anhydrous ammonia in an unapproved container, along with a second offense for driving under the influence, said Gary Shull, investigator with the Colby Police Department.

Authorities believed Stoney was having an epileptic seizure at the time of the crash at 4:45 p.m. when his 1993 GMC pickup went out of control and got jammed between two trees, but not before crashing through four fences on Range and West Cherry.

Rescue workers from the Thomas County Emergency Medical Services tried to reach the cab of the pickup through the truck bed and in doing so discovered the alleged methamphetamine lab in the back

of the truck.

After taking Stoney to Citizens Medical Center to make sure he was uninjured, he was then taken to the jail, Shull said.

Some in Colby might recall Stoney from the incident in October 2001 when 11-year-old Christopher Brittain, a sixth-grade student at Colby Middle School, saved both Stoney, his 5-year-old brother, 1-year-old sister and himself from what could have been a disastrous ordeal.

The incident occurred when Stoney had an epileptic seizure while taking the boys to school. If it wasn't for Brittain's quick thinking and quick reactions in maneuvering the car to safety, the vehicle might have crashed.

Not many 11-year-olds can maneuver a car at 60 plus miles per hour through rush-hour morning traffic — and do it from the passenger seat.

At that time, Stoney was driving a yellow 1992 Firebird Formula. After the car was safely parked at Deep Rock Cafe, he was taken to the hospital and later released. The three children in the car all came through the incident uninjured.

## Former hospital sold to corporation

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

The former St. Thomas Hospital on Range Avenue in Colby was sold last Thursday to a medical corporation led by a doctor who has been barred from practice at Citizens Medical Center.

Medical Arts Inc., which includes Drs. Victor H. Hildyard, LaDonna Regier and Raymond Ketting, purchased the 44,000-plus-square-foot building last week from Peoples State Bank with the cost undisclosed on the corporation deed.

The building has had a diverse history, beginning as a hospital with the first open house held during the Thomas County Free Fair in 1941. By 1947, the hospital

doubled in size to a 100-bed capacity and housed a polio ward — the first of its kind in the county.

As the years went by and federal and state regulations dictated improvements and changes, there was an effort to build a private hospital, known today as Citizens Medical Center.

In 1982, after the new hospital facility was completed, the Thomas County commissioners agreed to sell the old St. Thomas Hospital for \$1 to the Colby School District.

It remained the property of the school district until the fall of 2000, when Jon Pope, president of Peoples State, approached the board and asked to buy the land and building as the location for a new facility.

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