

# Hospital joins grant writer program

**By Sharon Corcoran**  
*The Goodland Star-News*  
The Goodland Regional Medical Center board chose a representative and a start date to join the city, county and school board in a grant writing program Monday at its regular meeting.

City, county and school board officials agreed to allow the hospital to join the program, and grant writer Penny Nemechek asked the board for a start date and a representative to the board which supervises her

work.  
Board members voted on starting the program Jan. 1 and selected Administrator Jay Jolly as the hospital's representative.  
Nemechek said County Commissioner Kevin Rasure had approached her about having the hospital added to the program and that she had asked Jolly if the hospital was interested.  
The board decided at its Sept. 22 meeting that the hospital should join the program. Nemechek said she had gotten for-

mal approval from the other three entities in October and has already started a file of foundations that give money for healthcare.  
The grant writer asked hospital officials and board members to give her the names of any foundations that may give the hospital money, so she could contact them.  
"If you know of other facilities that have gotten funding," she said, "it would help me to know the names of those giving them money."  
Some grants are cyclical, she said, and

they come around again.  
The grant writing representatives meet, Nemechek said, at 7 a.m. the first Thursday of each month.  
After some debate over whether Nov. 1 or Jan. 1 would be the best time for the hospital to join the program, the board chose Jan. 1, provided the other three entities approve it.  
In other business:  
•The board reviewed September's financial report, showing a net loss of \$36,321

for the month.  
•Patient Care Services Director Debbie Hickman told the board that a registered nurse had been hired and that Colby Community College nursing students had begun their clinical rotations Oct. 9.  
•Hickman told the board the hospital has been approved to participate in a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services program designed to improve heart care in Kansas.

# Chamber director quits

**By Tom Betz**  
*The Goodland Star-News*  
For the third time in the past 10 months, the Goodland Chamber of Commerce is seeking someone to run its office with the resignation last Monday of interim Director Justin Bentzinger.

Cesar Miller, president of the Chamber board, said he had received a letter of resignation from Bentzinger, and he was looking for someone to fill the position temporarily.  
Bentzinger took the interim position in May after Jo Simmons resigned. Simmons had become the chamber director in January after long-time director Ron Harding left in December to pursue a job at Aten Department Store.

Bentzinger, reached by phone on Friday, said he did not have any comment. The letter said his final day would be last Friday, but he said he was talking to Miller about the transfer.  
Miller said he had been negotiating with Bentzinger to get someone in place to answer the phones and man the office while the search committee continues to look for a full-time director. Bentzinger said Monday he would continue to handle the office through this Friday.  
"I want to get someone to answer the phone," Miller said. "I have some ideas, but not set yet. We want to be able to man the phones and help people when they ask questions about our area, and be able to

refer them to the right person if needed.  
"This is such a dilemma for us, as the dust hasn't settled from the other resignation. We have picked up members in the past four months, and that it the best thing.  
"We are not in a panic, but hope to get things moving."  
Miller said he was not sure how long it will be before the committee and the board are ready to name a director.  
"We need to get our budget for next year set before we can offer anyone a contract," he said. "We are concerned about some of the upcoming events which need someone to organize and coordinate them."

# Council hears good news

**By Tom Betz**  
*The Goodland Star-News*  
Wednesday when the Sherman County Economic Development Council met to select the nominees for the board, they heard about several projects the office has been working on.  
While the ballots were being counted, Director Carolyn Applegate said that Congressman Jerry Moran's recent visit allowed her to talk about a project the council has been working on for nearly a year.  
"We started working on a Veterans Administration Outreach Clinic idea in November," Applegate said,

"when it was first suggested by a council member, Bohme, and worked with Jay Jolly of the Goodland Regional Medical Center. We have been keeping it confidential, but now it is out in the open and Moran is using it as part of his trip around the district.  
"We are excited about this, and officials from the Veterans Administration are planning to come to Goodland in the next few weeks to see the hospital and continue to explore this idea. This is an idea that came from the council, and shows the community is involved."  
Applegate said that at the annual meeting she had asked for help find-

ing anyone who would be interested in buying the Howard Johnson motel.  
"I had a name and phone number that night," she said, "and we have had several conversations with this person from Colorado, and they are coming out to see the property in a few days.  
"Again this is how it is supposed to work. I have had leads from council members who have heard things on the radio or from a brochure they found on a trip that we follow up."  
The next council meeting will be 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 18, in the basement of Western State Bank.

# Bait program showing results

**By Tom Betz**  
*The Goodland Star-News*  
The Sherman County commissioners heard Friday that the prairie dog control program the county began in the summer seems to be working, and nearly all of the afflicted landowners are working to kill the rodents.  
Daryl West, head of the county noxious weed department, who is supervising the prairie dog project, told the commissioners he needs to buy more bait to complete the job.  
He said there is about \$13,000 that has come back from the 25 percent paid by landowners on bait

purchased so far, and that this would allow him to buy about six more pallets of bait to finish the year.  
Commissioner Chuck Thomas asked West if this will be enough to handle the current need.  
"It will be close," West said. "I have calls for two pallets and have about 10 locations I have to finish treating."  
Commissioner Mitch Tiede said it will have to be enough because that is all the money the county set aside for the program.  
Commissioner Kevin Rasure suggested it would be good to meet

with the prairie dog committee to review the program and look at what needs to happen next year. He suggested 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 18, at the beginning of the regular commission meeting.  
The told West to purchase the prairie dog bait.  
West asked for permission to purchase software support for the Weed Wise program on his computer at a cost of \$525. The commissioners approved the purchase.



Dave Daniels (left), Goodland's new Employer Support for the Guard and Reserves unit liaison, was introduced to the troops of Detachment 1, 170th Maintenance Company by Sgt. 1st Class Robert C. Coles Saturday.  
Photo by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News

# Guard soldiers meet new employer liaison

**By Greg Stover**  
*The Goodland Star-News*  
Soldiers of Goodland's National Guard unit got to meet Dave Daniels, their new unit liaison for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves, Saturday at the Goodland Armory.  
Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve was established in 1972 to promote cooperation between reservists and civilian employers.  
One of the agency's tasks is to help resolve, as informally as possible, any conflicts between service members and their employers concerning military commitments.  
Daniels, was introduced at a formation during which Staff Sgt. Chris English, Sgt. Ed Fringer and Pfc. Derrick Lutters received the Kansas National Guard Service Medal.  
The medal is awarded for five continuous years of service with the Guard.  
After lunching on Army chow with the troops, Daniels conducted a briefing for the soldiers about

the program and what it can do for them.  
Although Daniels never served in the military, he said he always had a deep respect for those who do.  
That respect grew last year when he was invited to attend a "Bosslift" in July to San Diego. There he visited two Navy bases, a Coast Guard station and the U.S. Marine Corps Recruit Depot.  
He said Richard Cross, the area chairman for the Kansas program, invited Daniels to become unit liaison for Goodland's unit, Detachment 1, 170th Maintenance Company.  
"I saw this as my chance to show my support for the military and the people who serve," he said.  
Daniels, a Goodland real estate investor, was elected to city commission in April and is the chairman of the Sherman County Economic Development Council.

## corrections

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