

# Building nears completion

By Tom Betz  
*The Goodland Star-News*

The renovation of the old IGA into a plant for Aircraft Seal and Gasket Corp. is moving into the final stages, and the building should be ready for the first of the firm's equipment after Thanksgiving.

The original deadline was Nov. 15, but with some changes in delivery dates and being able to continue some manufacturing in California, the plan was extended.

"It is looking good," production manager Chuck Lutters said last week. "I think we will be able to begin bringing in the equipment after Thanksgiving, and that will give the (concrete) floor time to cure a bit."

Lutters is leaving his position as maintenance supervisor with the Goodland school district to manage the plant.

He said the city has replaced several parts of the floor to handle the weight of the manufacturing equipment, including a calender for making gaskets which weighs 55,000 pounds.

"I have been pleased with the cooperative effort in getting the building ready," Lutters said.

"It will be a great place for our employees to work," said owner Herb Menold. "The city and everyone had been wonderful to work with, and it seems like this is a project that was destined to happen."

"At every point when we thought it might be done, someone has stepped up to help overcome the

problem. The state has been very interested in this, and continue to call and make sure everything is going well.

"I think the building will make a good place for my workers, and I paint all my equipment white to give it a clean appearance. My workers help keep it clean, and that is important when one of the federal or airplane inspectors come to visit.

"The first impression is very important, and if the plant is neat and clean, they have a good feeling about how the products are produced."

Menold was in Goodland last Tuesday to see the progress on the building and to participate in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Veterans Day service.

Roy Dixon, consultant for Aircraft Seal and Gasket, said Tuesday that the project is moving ahead very well, and that he and Menold were headed to Wichita on Wednesday to talk to vendors and customers.

Menold said he is trying to buy as much as possible in Kansas, and that he has placed an order with the foundry in Norton for molds.

Ed Wolak, city public works director, said the building work is going well, and that at times it looks like a beehive with all the workers swarming over the place.

The finishing touches were being installed last week on the new front doors and windows, the windows on the south and a new outside steel skin on the north end.



Andy Pottorf and Lowell Lambrecht, who work for Dennis Malson, owner of Malsolm Welding and Repair Service, cut the final moul-

ding Tuesday afternoon for one of the windows on the south end of the new home of Aircraft Seal and Gasket.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

# Student numbers better than expected

Superintendent Marvin Selby told the Goodland School Board last Monday that a Kansas Department of Education audit had increased the district's student count for budgeting purposes that could result in \$49,000 in additional state money for the district.

The Department of Education conducts an audit annually, about one month into the school year, to verify the budget data submitted by the district. The audit verifies the number enrolled, the addresses of students using school transportation, in-service expenditures and ensuring each student enrolled in special education has an individualized education plan.

The audit increased the student count from 1,021 to 1,032 because the district did not count the part-

time students at the adult learning center. This adjusted the drop in student enrollment since last year from 41 to 31.

Once the audited figures are verified, said Selby, the district's budget will be republished. Selby said the extra money will be held as an emergency fund in case of higher than expected utility costs this winter.

Selby said that 14 applications have been submitted for the job of maintenance supervisor, vacated by Chuck Lutters, and that they would be discussed during a closed-door session.

On Friday, Kenny Studer, maintenance director for the city, accepted the district's offer for the position effective on or about Jan. 1. Studer wanted time to finish

projects currently in progress before leaving for his new position.

He said the high school's roof only had a few things left to complete, mostly the drains.

He reported that the steel crew for the old gym had some personnel problems but was expected to be working later in the week removing the old shingles in preparation for installation of the steel roofing material. Selby said he expected a full work crew to be on the job Monday.

In other business, the board:

- Voted to hire Terry Daise, a science teacher at Grant Junior High, as coach of the high school girls basketball team and Mary Kratky, a physical education teacher and athletic director at Grant, as his assistant.
- Hired were Ruth Ontiveroz as a

3.5 hour-a-day cook at West Elementary, Manuel Hernandez as a bus driver and Maria Lazo as a night custodian at Grant Junior High.

• Voted to accept the resignation of Jodi Koza, a paraprofessional at North Elementary, effective today and Jennifer Armtt, night custodian at Grant, effective Wednesday.

• Heard a report from board member Ron Schilling about the Community Grant Writing Committee, that the hospital participation will begin Jan. 1. He recommended that a committee be formed with a person from each of the district's buildings to develop ideas for the grant writer to pursue.

• The meeting adjourned about 9:20 p.m. The next meeting will be Monday, Nov. 24, at the district office, 1312 Main Ave.

## corrections

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# School board honors athletes from four sports

By Greg Stover  
*The Goodland Star-News*

High school student-athletes from four sports were honored by the Goodland School Board during last Monday's meeting.

Board President Dick Short presented certificates to Cowboys and Cowgirls who qualified for this year's Class 4A state championships in volleyball, cross country, tennis and golf.

Among those honored was senior Speedy Aguilar, who qualified for the state cross country meet, finishing eighth. Senior golfer Jessica Osborn was honored for finishing

sixth at the state tournament. Senior tennis players Megan McCall and Jennifer Mentzer were honored for qualifying as a doubles team for the state tournament. They finished in a tie for 11th place.

The 11 members of the state champion volleyball team each received a certificate from the board and each was invited by Short to say a few words about their season and what it meant to them.

After the presentations, tennis coach Wallace Hansen thanked the board for their support of his program and especially for the board's role in getting the new tennis courts

built.

Steve Raymer, high school athletic director and assistant principal, updated the board about the proposal to expand the Northwest Kansas League by admitting Scott City, Thomas More-Marian and Ulysses high schools as members. He said that with these schools, the league could be divided into two divisions, one for larger schools and one for smaller.

Raymer said, though, that it requires a unanimous vote by the league's members to admit new schools and that some members

oppose the proposal. Board member Mike Campbell then asked why.

The reasons Raymer gave were that some of the schools did not want to increase their travel for away games, that the smaller schools have the majority of votes in the league and they did not want to lose that control, and that there is some lingering resentment toward Scott City because of perceived unsportsmanlike behavior in the past.

Raymer asked for and received the board's approval to continue the discussions.

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