

from our viewpoint...

## 'Tis the season for more good news

The holiday season is upon us, and the feelings of joy and happiness can be seen in the people as they go about their shopping.

Weather was beautiful Saturday for the sixth annual Christmas on Us drawing, and there was a wonderful crowd of people clutching their tickets and hoping the youngsters would pull out their number.

We congratulate the winners, and thank all those people who helped make this a wonderful experience. Our thanks to the Madd Hatter for his sound system and to Keepsake Kreations for providing the Christmas music before the drawing.

The Goodland merchants have reason to thank the people who participated for shopping in their stores, and the large number of tickets received shows that a lot of people do shop in our city.

With each ticket being given out for \$10 of purchase, and an estimated 35,000 tickets turned in, that would mean at least \$350,000 has been spent in the participating merchants in the past 30 days. The Christmas on Us promotion is a way to reward those who shop in the participating stores, and it helps bring people to our community as well as encourage them to stay here and shop for their Christmas gifts.

We know that not all of the Christmas shopping is done in our stores, but we have found that if you are willing to look around a bit, there are very few things you cannot find in a Goodland store.

Sometimes it is right in front of our nose and we just don't see it. Many times, we hear people say they went to Denver or Salina looking for a specific item only to come back to Goodland and find it here.

Good news was reported last week at the Goodland Economic Development Council meeting talking about the number of new businesses that have opened in the past year. Carolyn Applegate, development director, reported a total of 38 businesses have opened, expanded, moved to a new location or have new owners. In that list are 22 new businesses, eight with new locations, seven new owners, three expansions and one renovation.

Eight businesses closed, but two have now reopened with new owners. Four of those that closed did so because the owners retired or closed for health reasons.

This does not mean all the buildings on Main are full, but it shows improvement. We believe the economy is at least stable, and the business openings and changes that continue to happen are an indication the new year will bring a new vitality to the county.

We agree the city's efforts to help bring Aircraft Seal and Gasket Corp. to our county is a big step forward, and know this is another positive indicator. We understand the second batch of equipment is to be delivered in the next week, and that the plant is expected to be in production by mid-January.

Another good economic indicator is in looking at the area sales tax figures for September, which show a 12.5 percent increase for Sherman County over last year. This is compared to an increase of 4 percent for Thomas County for the same period.

There is more good news coming, and with the spirit of the holiday, we wish everyone a Merry Christmas. — *Tom Betz*

## The Goodland Star-News

(USPS No. 222-460. ISSN 0893-0562)

Member: Kansas Press Association  
Inland Press Association Colorado Press Association  
National Newspaper Association  
e-mail: [star-news@nwkanssas.com](mailto:star-news@nwkanssas.com)

**Steve Haynes**, President  
**Tom Betz**, Editor  
**Pat Schiefen**, Copy Editor  
**Sharon Corcoran**, Society Editor  
**Greg E. Stover**, Reporter/Sports Editor  
**Doug Jackson**, Advertising coordinator  
**Bill Wagoner**, **Anne Hamilton**, **Paul Medrano**, Adv. Sales  
**Sheila Smith**, Office Manager

### Nor'west Press

**Jim Bowker**, General Manager  
**Richard Westfahl** **Ron VanLoenen** **Judy McKnight**  
**Betty Morris** **Mary Jo Tapparo** **Johanna Knuth** **Lana Westfahl**  
**nwkansas.com**

**N.T. Betz**, Director of Internet Services  
([nbetz@nwkanssas.com](mailto:nbetz@nwkanssas.com))

**Evan Barnum**, Systems Admin.([support@nwkanssas.com](mailto:support@nwkanssas.com))

Published every Tuesday and Friday except the days observed for New Year's Day and Christmas Day, at 1205 Main Ave., Goodland, Kan. 67735. Periodicals postage paid at Goodland, Kan. 67735; entered at the Goodland, Kan., Post Office under the Act of Congress of March 8, 1878. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Goodland Star-News, 1205 Main Ave., Goodland, Kan. 67735. TELEPHONE: (785) 899-2338. Editorial e-mail: [star-news@nwkanssas.com](mailto:star-news@nwkanssas.com). Advertising questions can be sent to: [goodlandads@nwkanssas.com](mailto:goodlandads@nwkanssas.com)

The Goodland Star-News assumes no liability for mistakes or omissions in advertising or failure to publish beyond the actual cost of the ad. SUBSCRIPTIONS: In Sherman County and adjacent counties: three months, \$20; six months, \$38; 12 months, \$72. Out of area, weekly mailing of two issues: three months, \$30; six months, \$45; 12 months, \$80. Mailed individually each day: 12 months, \$115. (All tax included.)

## Incorporating: The Goodland Daily News

1932-2003

**The Sherman County Herald**  
Founded by Thomas McCants  
1935-1989

THE SHERMAN COUNTY  
**STAR**  
Founded by Eric and Roxie Yonkey  
1994-2001

## Nor'West Newspapers

Haynes Publishing Company



## Cute, fuzzy, cuddly kittens for Christmas

They're cute as the dickens. They're fuzzy, warm, cuddly and lovey. And, they're driving Molly Monster crazy. Ever since we brought the kittens home last week, Molly, who thinks of herself as our chief cat, has had her tail out of joint.

She really doesn't like cats to begin with, and she especially dislikes kittens, which have no fear of her or appreciation for her sense of dignity.

Molly still hasn't forgiven us for bringing home April Alice more than a year ago. She considers the well-mannered April as an invader. April's five kittens last year drove Molly nuts. She hated each and every one of them, and couldn't wait for them to leave.

About the only animal that Molly tolerates is Annie, the dog. Molly likes Annie and will get into her pen whenever she can. In fact, I think, Molly thinks she's a dog and that's why she doesn't like other cats.

As for the newcomers, they are just beautiful and I really wish I could keep both of them.



**cynthia haynes**  
• open season

They are a matched set—twin sisters. It took me almost a week to tell them apart.

I'm sure their various white, black and brown splotches are not totally the same, but they don't stay still long enough to tell. I tell them apart by their noses, and that's how I call them.

I won't name them, since I'm not keeping them, but I have to differentiate. So they are Brown Nose and White Nose.

Steve claims there is significant differences in the colors on their tails, also, but I haven't bothered to check. All I have to do is check noses and, since I count cat noses every morning and evening anyway to make sure every-

one is here, that's easy.

It took most of a week for April Alice to warm up to the newcomers. The first couple of nights, she slunk under the ottoman in the reading room to get away from the little nuisances. However, since one of the kittens played patty cake with her for almost an hour the second night, she decided they aren't so bad. I think she would bond with one if the other left.

I'm supposed to find them a home together, since they've never been apart. I think I could give away half of the pair, but who knows. The one left here would be fine with April to play with, but the one that was given away could be lost.

I gotta find a home for two beautiful, soft, cuddly almost cats.

They'd be a great Christmas present, but I wouldn't try to put bows on them — putting ribbons, strings and yarn around cats is just asking for trouble.

If someone wants them, I'll throw in a mostly full box of kitty litter. (*Note: Kittens are gone.*)

## A thank you for special holiday dinner

To the Editor:

We just returned home from the nicest Christmas dinner and concert again this year that any community anywhere could ever expect to be treated to.

We are quite certain our sentiments reflect the feelings of all the senior citizens in our community who attended the Holiday Dinner held in the high school gym on Wednesday.

It is our desire to personally thank all those who had any part in making this festive occasion so special.

May we list for you all those who took part, and if by chance we leave anyone out, please forgive us. So much work went into this we could leave someone out we don't even know about.

First of all, the Goodland School Board and Superintendent Marvin Selby, the Family Career and Community Leaders of America and their sponsors, the National Honor Society and sponsors, Girls Athletic Association and sponsors.

Thanks to the cooks, whose meal was delicious, and all of their helpers. To those who provided transportation for some who otherwise would have been unable to attend. To those who delivered meals to those unable to get out. To those who parked our cars, those who took us by the arm from the time we left our cars until we were seated at the table, the young people serving and cleaning up the tables, you all did a great job.

How lucky we are to have Tremon Kizer and Randy Berls. Kizer, your jazz band is great, and then Berls, you bring out the best in musical talent from all those young voices. They love you and it shows.

Let's not forget to thank all the elementary students and their teachers for the place mats and bookmarks, the Production I students for the wooden ornaments and the little loaves of bread made by students in FCCLA, as well as the centerpieces made by the Grant Junior High



**from our readers**  
• to the editor

students. There were door prizes, probably donated by our business community.

Such a huge undertaking can only be coordinated and carried out with such success by our Principal Harvey Swager, Activity Director Steve Raymer and a host of teachers and community leaders.

It was perfect clear to the end, with our young people lined up at the door to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and returning once again to our cars left in the capable hands of the valet parking students.

Every year, we look back in awe at what we have just seen. We must have a lot of great parents out there to have raised so many "super kids."

We want to say Merry Christmas to each one who had a part in such a special day. You are all so special to us. May the Lord bless each home this holiday season.

Dale and Iva Lee Stephens  
Goodland

To the Editor:

Keith and Melissa Horney and family would like to express our sincere gratitude for the more than generous gift of groceries given to our family.

What a blessing it is to receive a gift like this in a time of need.

May we all rejoice in the grace God has shown our community as well as our Call to help others.

Thank you so much and God Bless you for your outpouring of love.

We accept it and thank you for it.

The Keith Horney family  
Edson

To the Editor:

Work at Soldiers Memorial Park, or Smoky Gardens, is off to a good start.

Sediment is being removed by tractor and scraper actually driving into the bottom of the channel, which is possible because of the continued dry weather.

This is the most opportune time in the last 50 years to do this type of excavation. Rain, snow or a rising water table could bring it to a stop.

Our goal is to get as much work done as possible so we are in the position to shut the valve and start refilling at the first sign of moisture. Hopefully any day. Mother Nature will start supplying us with some water.

Depending on the water level, we are on the list for spring stocking of fish and to resume the trout-fishing program next year.

The problem facing the park board is we have exhausted our budget and donations. We are asking the public and organizations to consider making a donation to this project.

We hope moisture is forthcoming soon, and we can take advantage of this opportunity. Hopefully generations to come won't see it this dry again. Soldiers Memorial Park is owned by the county and it the only place of it's kind in the area that's open to the public.

The board is composed of volunteers and any donations of money and/or time would be greatly appreciated.

Donations can be made to Soldiers Memorial Park and left with any board member or the Sherman County treasurer.

The board members are Randy Bellamy, Kenny Sanderson, Cameron Paxton, Gary Barricklow, Jason Artzer, Bob Rohr, Mark Bantam and Bob McClure (caretaker).

Randy Bellamy  
Goodland

### garfield

