

Who gives a hoot?



A Great Horned Owl spent the afternoon watching from a tree on the west side of the Student Union on the Northwest Kansas Technical College campus. The large owl did not seem to mind the attention of the people who stopped to stare at him. The horned owl roams most of North America, Central America and down into South America, and is easily recognized by the tufts of feathers that appear to be "horns" which are sometimes referred to as "ear tufts" but have nothing to do with hearing at all. The owl was spotted by Clark Jordan who was working on a nearby building at the college and gave the newspaper office a call Wednesday afternoon.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

# School to talk about league

By Pat Schiefen  
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Activities Director Don Smith asked if the Goodland School Board wanted him to continue to attend meetings where they are talking about changing the leagues that students compete in. The Board agreed that he should continue to talk but that the board will make any decisions about whether the Goodland School District would leave the Northwest Kansas League.

Any changes if they are made would be two years down the line. Concerns about declining enrollments and inability of some schools to field three teams, varsity, junior varsity and C team, in the sports of football, basketball, softball and baseball.

The towns in the league that are having the most number problems

are St. Francis, Hoxie and Atwood. St. Francis and Hoxie said they would continue to play Goodland as long as they could still field a team.

"There were eight schools in the discussion," said Smith. "The only other one from the Northwest Kansas League was Colby."

"Most of the schools that Goodland could possibly play they have played except for Cimarron," he said. Some of the schools might be Lakin, Holcomb, Ulysses, and Hugoton. Goodland has belonged to the Northwest Kansas League for a long time.

The other thing the group talked about was having varsity, junior varsity and C team games on the same day so the amount of traveling would be cut down, he said. "We already do that with Hays."

Board member Amy Sederstrom said that the junior varsity plays in one town and the varsity in another and that makes it hard for parents to decide which game to go to.

Smith said another consideration is how far the towns are and with the rising fuel prices. He thought the amount of miles traveled would increase. With having all the teams play at one time could help the number.

He said that he was going to look at the other vehicles carrying the cheerleaders and other groups and see if that could be changed.

Smith said he had met with all of the head coaches except one. The wrestling coach, Joe Sramek, was not interested because at the present time the league in wrestling is very strong. The softball coach, Tess Smith, said wow he said. In

softball almost all of their games do not count except for the regional game because they do not play the teams in their region because they are all in the more central part of the state.

Smith said at the present the championship in Northwest Kansas League doesn't mean much in some sports. That would change in a different league.

Playing time for younger athletes is important for their development, Smith said. Freshman and seniors are completely different in their competition levels.

Board member Chuck Wilkens agreed that playing time for younger athletes is very important to having a competitive varsity team.

"This is the most challenging project I have been involved in," Smith said.

# Striping delayed on old U.S. 24

By Tom Betz  
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Flooding in Nebraska has delayed the striping of old U.S. 24 across Sherman County, but the company hopes to be here next week to do the painting, commissioners were told Tuesday.

Curt Way, public works manager, said Casey Clausen of Straight Line of Grand Island, Neb., said his company is running behind because of the flooding in Nebraska, but should be here in the next week or two.

Straight Line was awarded the striping contract back in April with an estimated cost of \$19,000 for both the yellow "skip" line, no-passing lines and the white edge lines.

Way said the state transportation people came out and helped mark the no-passing zones.

Citizens asked the county to paint the stripes last fall after the road had been resurfaced last summer. Commissioners said they liked the idea if the job did not cost too much and the lines would last three to five years.

Clausen said in April there are a lot of variables as to how long the paint will last, but the biggest problems are winter weather and snow plowing. He said he would expect the job to last from one to three years depending on the traffic

and the weather.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said the cost would come out of the special city-county road sales tax.

In other business the commissioners

- Approved putting the No. 11 bridge on the highway department's five-year plan. Way said the bridge is on Road 80 on the Cheyenne County line, and is an east-west 63-foot span they have been having some trouble with.

- Commissioner Mitch Tiede asked if the county could change the project if they decided not to do that bridge. Way said the county could change the project in the next year or two if something else comes up. He said the bridge drains about 88 square miles along Little Beaver Creek.

- Approved drafting a letter to J.C. Penney officials asking them to reconsider their decision to close the Goodland store in September. The commissioners read a letter from Ron Tomsic of Topside Office Products asking the commissioner to write the letters to J.C. Penney's. All three commissioners agreed it was a good idea, and expressed support for efforts to keep the store open.

J.C. Penney's had announced last week the Goodland store would

close in September, and efforts are being development with the city, county and the Sherman County Economic Development Council to try to convince Penney's to keep the store open.

- Questioned a job to do dirt work that was done by Tiede without coming to the commissioners before the work started. Commissioner Kevin Rasure said the project cost about \$10,000, and felt it should have been discussed with the commissioners rather than having Tiede do it on an hourly rate. "I think it should have come up because of the size of the project, and that you are a commissioner," Rasure said. Tiede said he did not think of it because Way had asked him about the project last fall. Commissioner Chuck Thomas said he did not know about the dirt work until it was being done.

- Rasure said it should have come up in a meeting, and Tiede said in the future if there is something like that he would be sure it was brought up before any work was done.

"I like to use a local contractor," Rasure said, "but I think it should be discussed."

- Approved two neighborhood revitalization projects. Frontier Ag was approved for a project to build offices in the upstairs of their building, and Brian Coon and Anne

Madorin were approved for a project to put a modular home on their property out in the county.

- Heard that the county attorney is still waiting on some of the tax sale paperwork from the Sherman County Abstract office, 214 E. 10th. Thomas said he had talked to County Attorney Bonnie Selby and she said she was waiting on the abstracts and that was holding up the tax sale.

Commissioner Rasure said he would ask Jeff Mason what was holding the paperwork up.

Selby had told the commissioners in May she was planning to hold a tax sale in July.

- Approved mid-month bills totaling \$49,552, and gave Tiede to review those that may come in by Friday.

The next commission meeting will be 8 a.m. on Tuesday in the commission room on the main floor of the courthouse, 813 Broadway.

## corrections

In the other business portion of the city story continued on Page 8 of Tuesday, June 10, edition of *The Goodland Star-News* it was incorrectly reported that Dave Weigers was reappointed to the airport board. Richard Weigand was the person reappointed to the airport board for a three-year term. This was a reporting error.

☆☆☆☆  
*The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call (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*

# If you find an empty green spray paint can, call police

If you find an empty green spray paint can laying around, don't pick it up — call the Goodland police who are investigating a series of vandalism over the weekend.

Chief Ray Smees said Monday his officers are investigating a series of 18 different reports of criminal damage that happened Saturday or early Sunday morning in the area of 16th

and Arcade to 16th and Walnut on the south and 10th and Arcade and 10th and Walnut on the north.

He said green paint was sprayed on cars, driveways, dumpsters and the backside of the Max Jones Fieldhouse.

At least three cars were broken into and a couple of garages.

Smees said money and tools were

taken, and officers found some of what was stolen from one place at another location.

"We are looking for green spray paint cans," Smees said. "If you see one around this area please give us a call.

"We have gone door to door to see if anyone heard anything, and if anyone remembers hearing any-

thing late on Saturday please call. We want to identify these people and bring them to justice."

The police can be called at 890-4570 if you have any information or call the Goodland Area Crime Stoppers "Look Line" at 899-5665. Your call will be confidential and you will not be asked your name. If the information results in the arrest

and/or conviction of those involved, you could be eligible for a reward of up to \$1,000.

Goodland Area Crime Stoppers is a nonprofit organization formed by citizens against crime.

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Thank You.

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My family and I have shared your hopes, dreams and struggles for the past 86 years. Rest assured we will be here long after the election—for this truly is our home.

I am proud of Sherman County and that won't change with the results of the election. Vote for the best candidate—not the best politician. "Experience should matter". Vote Scott Showalter for District Judge on August 5th.

Paid for by Scott Showalter

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