

# Lottery theft sixth top story of the year

The past year has been a busy one, and more so when looking back to see what the top stories of the year have been.

Members of The Goodland Star-News staff were asked to rank the top 10 stories from a selection of more than 20 pulled from the papers over the past year.

The first five stories were in the Tuesday, Dec. 29, edition of *The Goodland Star-News*.

The Top 10 as ranked by the staff were No. 1 the school board discussion about closing a school building; No. 2 the Technical College's 'green' house rehabilitation project; No. 3 the search and arrest of a couple for running a cock fighting operation; No. 4 District judge rules commission expansion election invalid; No. 5 Guardsmen return from Iraq, armory to close.

No. 6 Local business owner involved in apparent lottery theft; No. 7 Model T's stop on cross-country journey; No. 8 Hail fells trees, breaks windows in July; No. 9 Adronics closes plant in February; and 10 City gets stimulus money for water collection and treatment project.

Many other stories did not make the top list including the H1N1 flu pandemic, new city manager, Sherman County tax sale, street and curb and gutter work, and Goodland kids and couple who attended the Obama Inauguration in Washington.

## No. 6 local business owner involved in apparent lottery theft

An undercover sting led to felony charges of attempted theft and computer crime against five people including one from Goodland who tried to fraudulently redeem Kansas Lottery tickets valued at more than \$5,000 to \$25,000 apiece, state officials said Monday.

The attorney general's office filed charges against Cheryl Krentz, 49 of Goodland owner of Cowboy Loop; Justin Bright, 27 of Hutchinson; Reza Ahmed, 29 of Bel Aire; Daniel Kerr, 26 of Wichita; and Baldhir Sood, 52 of Shawnee. The remaining suspect is from Liberal.

Lottery executive director Van Petten said the investigation included 196 retailers, and was the broadest in the state agency's history. There are 1,800 retailers associated with the Kansas Lottery.

Three of the six suspected of wrongdoing were store owners, and their state lottery contracts were terminated, Van Petten said.

The sting began when agents presented unsigned winning lottery tickets to retailers. The clerks are required to advise customers they had won a prize and instruct each they had to redeem winnings at lottery headquarters. In six instances, the clerks withheld information about the winning ticket, but later tried to redeem the prize personally or with help of an accomplice.

Van Petten said by trying to collect on the tickets the suspects of this fraud delivered themselves and evidence of their misconduct to investigators.

"We are pleased the vast majority of retailers and clerks did the right thing," Van Petten said. "We again remind our players to always sign the back of their tickets after purchase."

Sherman County District Court records show the complaint and warrant were filed on Monday, Nov. 16, and served on Krentz on Tuesday, Nov. 17. She is free on \$2,500 bond with first appearance scheduled for 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 15.

Krentz is charged with computer crime, which is a level 8 nonperson felony and attempted theft by deception a level 9 nonperson felony.

In the complaint the agent from the state lottery Paul Schliffke allegedly presented a winning ticket to Krentz on Tuesday, Oct. 13, and she told him it was not a winner. The record shows it was for a prize of \$25,000 or greater, but under \$100,000.

## No. 7 Model T's reenact race

Over 50 Ford Model T's stopped in Goodland on Saturday, June 27, on their way to Seattle as part of a reenactment of the Ocean to Ocean Endurance Contest in 1909 that was part of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition.

The trip started on Sunday, June

14, at White Plains, N.Y., and was expected to take about 30 days with a celebration in Seattle on Tuesday, July 14.

There were antique cars representing most of the 50 states, Canada, South Africa, Sweden and a couple from England.

A replica of the Number 2 Ford that won the original race was there as well as touring cars, pickups, and delivery vehicles.

A plaque was placed on the building at 1011 Main by the reenactment where the original race cars from 1909 had stopped. The building has a historical plaque put up by the historical society about it being the Kolacny Tailor building.

In June 1909 two Ford Model T racing cars stopped in Goodland on their way to Seattle as part of the Ocean to Ocean Endurance Contest as part of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition.

When the cars stopped in Goodland in 1909 they stopped in front of Kolacny Tailors at 1011 Main and Hargraves garage next door. Hargraves serviced the two Fords, and helped hose the mud off on Jack Scott, one of the drivers.

Hargraves was an early auto mechanic, and was included in a photo in 1959 when Ford Motor Company commemorated the 50th anniversary of the endurance contest traveling across the same route with an original Model T and the 50 millionth Ford a 1959 sedan.

The original race started on June 1, 1909, with President William Howard Taft pressing a telegraph key in Washington and New York City Mayor McClellan firing a shot in front of City Hall to start the contest. Twenty-three days later the Ford Model T was the first to cross the finish line at Drumheller Fountain in Seattle.

## No. 8 severe thunderstorm batters town

Tornado sirens sounded in Goodland about 6:15 p.m. on Monday, July 20, as a large severe thunderstorm with a possible tornado and hail as large as tennis balls bore down on the city from the north leaving downed trees and broken windows in its path.

Amateur radio weather spotters north of the city reported to the National Weather Service office in Goodland on the direction and intensity of the storm. At one point Officer Jimmy Gillespie (NA0V) and his wife Kim (KC0HCM) were watching and videotaping the storm about nine miles north of town when they spotted a tornado coming south on K-27 and gave the warning as the tornado followed them south.

Chief Ray Smee said the National Weather Service was saying the damage was caused by the straight line winds, and that the tornado had touched down about two miles north of town, but was not on the ground as the storm passed through.

Smee said most of the severe damage was in the north and east part of town east of Caldwell Ave. and curved out to the east with larger hail along the east side of the city.

He said there were trees and tree limbs down all across the city from the high winds, but the most severe hail damage was in the eastern part of town.

Reports from the National Weather Service showed the storm developed in western Nebraska and moved south dropping hail 1.75 inches in size at Wheeler, and there was a report of a 79 mph wind gust and hail 4.75 inches in diameter from a weather service employee about nine miles north of town.

The weather service office reported wind gusts up to 72 mph at their office said Scott Mentzer, meteorologist. He said the wind gust made it into the top 10 the weather service has seen at that location. The weather service reported .41 in moisture from the storm.

## No. 9 antenna plant closed

The national downturn in car sales reached out and touched Goodland

### corrections

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.



There was a line of Model T's heading south to park in front of the Ennis Handy House after their parade down Main Avenue for a big crowd on Saturday, June 27. More than 50 cars were in the reenactment of the historic 1909 race.



Storm damage and flooding caused by a large severe thunderstorm on Monday, July 20.

with the closing of the Adronics/Elrob Manufacturing antenna plant in February.

The plant closing story was judged the ninth of the Top 10 stories of the year.

The plant had been running with a smaller work force since before the Christmas holidays, and the remaining workers were notified the first part of February the plant would be closing. Some of those who were laid off were told they could move to Hays to work for the company.

The city received a letter from the Adronics/Elrob headquarters saying the company would be terminating the lease with the city when the lease runs out in September or before if the city approves.

The city commission considered the termination and reached an agreement with Adronics to take over the building and have them pay for four months lease.

The plant manufactured radio antennas for various car models, and a majority of the work has been with General Motors over the past six plus years.

Adronics first opened their plant in Goodland on Monday, May 9, 2002 replacing a failed aircraft

parts operation in the city-owned Ed Wolak Building.

General Motors announced at the same time they would be cutting an additional 10,000 jobs and cut their car production from eight brands to four leaving them Chevrolet, Cadillac, GMC and Buick as they asked the federal government for more money to stay afloat.

## No. 10 city plans nitrate treatment and central water collection

The central water collection and nitrate treatment project is moving ahead, and Monday the city commissioners approved the contract with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to fund the project.

The water collection and treatment project has grown through the year with the addition of federal stimulus money to be a maximum of \$6 million, and made the story the 10th of the Top 10 stories of the year.

Water quality in several city wells had created a problem, but engineers

from Evans, Bierly, Hutchinson and Associates, hired in March to help design the project, felt the city could get by with a program to blend the water from the wells at two collection points.

However, more nitrate problems reported in city wells had the state declaring the problem a compliance issue and suggesting the city had to include nitrate treatment in the water project.

The city water project was one of several the city was working on, and received approval for federal stimulus money. The project now could cost up to \$6 million with up to 20 percent being considered loan forgiveness (up to \$1.2 million) from the stimulus money.


City Manager Doug Gerber said the the total loan project is at \$6,015,038 with a loan forgiveness of about 20 percent from the federal stimulus money to bring the loan total down to \$4,812,030 to be paid back over 20 years at 3.63 percent interest.

The city made an offer for an acre of Goodland School District land on Kansas Ave., and after several discussion and counteroffers the school district agreed to sell the city about an acre and a half as the site for the water collection and treatment plant.

The lagoons are to be built on the north end of the Goodland Industrial Park on the west side of K-27.

Bids on the project are to be opened on Jan. 12, and the commissioners are expected to hold a special meeting on Jan. 13 to approve the bids. Work on the project is expected to begin in the spring and take about a year to complete.

The city is looking at options to pay for the project including raising the monthly water meter rate and working out a way to use existing city reserve funds to reduce the total cost. The plan could save the city nearly \$2 million in interest and pay the city funds back with lower or no interest rather than sending the interest money to the state.



**Sherman**  
1203 Main - Phone 899-6103

Tonight 7 p.m.  
Alvin and the Chipmunks:  
The Squeakquel (PG)  
Starts Friday 7 PM  
The Blind Side (PG-13)



Cheyenne County Hospital  
"The Shining Star of Rural Healthcare!"

## Orthopaedic



Dr. White

Dr. Brian White with the Western Orthopaedics of Denver is coming to Cheyenne County Hospital.

The rehabilitation following surgery is important and the Physical Therapists and the aquatic therapy pool will be great assets at Cheyenne County Hospital

## Dermatologist

A few of the services that Dr. Karen Johnson performs at Cheyenne County Hospital include:

- Skin Checks to look for skin cancer.
- Biopsy and Evaluation of concerning lesions and moles.
- Skin Cancer Surgery (Mohs Technique)

This surgery is done at her home office in Denver, Colorado if she finds it necessary to perform.



Dr. Johnson

**For appointment call Cheyenne County Hospital,  
785-332-2104 ask for Amelia.  
210 W. First St., St. Francis  
www.cheyennecountyhospital.com**

**Classifieds work! 899-2338**



**Sherman County Health Fair**

**Saturday, January 30, 2010 8 a.m. to noon**  
Northwest Kansas Tech College Student Union  
1209 Harrison, Goodland

Blood profile done prior to health fair  
Goodland Regional Medical Center  
January 11-15  
7 a.m. to 9 a.m.  
Main entrance to hospital.

**Blood Profile Costs:**  
Profile-\$30  
CBC-only \$10  
\$15-additional for PSA (Prostate)  
\$15-additional for TSH (Thyroid)

\* 12-14 hours fasting recommended for Cholesterol screening included in blood chemistries

**Prior to Health Fair:**  
\* Carotid Ultrasound  
Screening & special promotion of Whole Body Mass Index Screening-reduced cost for health fair only! Call (785) 890-6033 for appointment!  
\* Pulmonary Function Test-Call (785) 890-6023 for appointment