

from our viewpoint...

## New faces wanted, college opens doors

Often we hear people say there is nothing in Goodland that would attract new blood — as in people — which would then in turn impact the business community in many ways.

Those who bear the responsibility for bringing new people and new businesses to town face an ongoing challenge. And no doubt it's tough!

Just maybe we are overlooking something in our midst that's been around for a lot of years that could open the door to new faces. It has an excellent reputation, it's attractive, it's productive.

Of course any effort to attract new folks to our confines has to be a joint venture. Reports show that most pluses are scored when everyone climbs aboard an effort.

Yes, if you haven't already guessed, it's Northwest Tech, home of the best looking campus of any similar institution in our state.

In the "Time Out" column earlier this week (page 2 Tuesday), the citizens of this community were encouraged to consider themselves recruiters for Northwest Tech. We all have friends and family living in other locations who might have kids ready to step up the pace as they seek to further their education. You've got a ready answer: Northwest Tech!

The variety of classes, the quality of instructors and staff, the attractive setting — it all smacks of the ideal place. And, with the addition of rodeo, golf and wrestling, it becomes even more inviting.

Economic development is a mixed bag. Yes, we should be out trying to sell GOODland to anyone who'll listen. We have enough room to pretty much accommodate just about anything looking for a new location or looking to start from scratch. And while we are doing this we should also bring the name Northwest Tech into the conversation. Hopefully, we are already doing that.

Goodland belongs to all of us. It's not a "theirs vs. ours" divide. There's no place for stuff like that. Because whatever good comes out of a trip to sell our town, benefits all of us.

Personal contact can't be beat, thus an occasional mini-caravan made up of the city's and county's leaders, as well as supporters and others dedicated to the Northwest Tech cause, shouldn't be ruled out either. And we say "leaders" because that gives the perception of the importance we place on the mission.

We can sit here with a potential economic development tool looking us right in the eyes. We can do one of two things: put it to work to our advantage, or ignore it.

Let's get 'er done! -*Tom Dreiling*  
(Note: This is just an observation of a former resident who came back to retire without knowledge that perhaps this suggestion is already in place.)

### Letter Policy

The Goodland Star-News encourages and welcomes letters from readers. Letters should be typewritten, and must include a telephone number and a signature. Unsigned letters will not be published. Form letters will be rejected, as will letters deemed to be of no public interest or considered offensive. We reserve the right to edit letters for length and good taste. We encourage letters, with address and phone numbers, by e-mail to: <star.news@nwkansas.com>.

## The Goodland Star-News

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

Member: Kansas Press Association  
Inland Press Association Colorado Press Association  
National Newspaper Association  
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Published every Tuesday and Friday except the days observed for New Year's Day, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving 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@nwkansas.com](mailto:star-news@nwkansas.com). Advertising questions can be sent to: [goodlandads@nwkansas.com](mailto:goodlandads@nwkansas.com)

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SUBSCRIPTIONS: In Sherman County and adjacent counties: three months, \$29; six months, \$46; 12 months, \$81. Out of area, weekly mailing of two issues: three months, \$39; six months, \$54; 12 months, \$89 (All tax included). Mailed individually each day: (call for a price).

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## Thumbs Up to business, museum

**Thumbs Up** to Kathie and Elizabeth, on your new business venture on Main Ave. Good luck. -(email request); to the High Plains Museum people, for your Kansas Day "class" for our elementary students. Very nice. -(email request); to the friendly crew putting up the new building at the 8th and Main intersection. -(telephone request); and to all the teachers manning the classrooms in the Goodland School District. -(td), To join in this ongoing chorus of cheers, please email [tad1@st-tel.net](mailto:tad1@st-tel.net), call 890-2475 or 899-2338, or regular mail to 516 E. 6th, Apt. 212, or 1205 Main. Thanks for your interest.

-(td-

Let's just call this a case of misunderstanding. It's about a terribly overweight gal who worked up enough nerve to see a doctor about her condition. After an examination the doctor told her a diet was the only answer.

So he told her to eat regularly for two days, then skip a day, and to repeat this procedure for two weeks. He said if she followed it as he explained, she would be 10 pounds lighter when she comes back to see him.

Well, after two weeks on the diet she kept her appointment and to the astonishment of the doctor she lost 20 pounds. "Apparently you followed my instructions," the doctor said.



### tom dreiling

• time out with td

Nodding yes, she then said, "But I'll tell you doctor, it was those third days that really got me. I thought I was going to drop dead."

"From hunger?" he said.

"No, doctor," she answered, "from skipping!"

(Thanks to the people who publish The Towners Gazette for that chuckle.)

-(td-

From my readers: "Mr. Dreiling, you are not alone on the faded stripes issue on K27 south of the stoplights. Thanks." "Mr. TD, you said in your editorial that the angry persons are those on the cable news networks. I never gave that any thought, but you are on to something." "Angry persons? The leader is your president (I intentionally said YOUR.) Listen to him closely." "Looks like the president's suggestion that he meet with the Republican caucus backfired. They got the best of him" "Why would the armory building not make good indoor tennis courts? Maybe an archery range

also? You asked for suggestions, so these are our dime's worth." "Can you do anything to bring a grocery store to the downtown area?" (Email your brief thoughts on any issue to [tad1@st-tel.net](mailto:tad1@st-tel.net).)

-(td-

I had a special honor Wednesday morning when Marty Melia of Eagle Communications invited me to be a guest on his weekly hour-long television program on channel 9. The other guest was his Dad, Kay Melia. We talked about a multitude of things and it seemed like the program went entirely too fast. I was a guest of Marty's when he had an afternoon program on KLOE radio at the station just south of the city. I also worked for Marty and Kay for a few months when I was between jobs when the then Goodland Daily News was sold in January 1989. Being with these two gentlemen of note once again Wednesday morning in the Eagle studio downtown brought back so many good memories of our relationship over the years; and that continues.

-(td-

Have a good evening! And make sure you continue your relationship with the house of worship of your choice by attending services this weekend. ([tad1@st-tel.net](mailto:tad1@st-tel.net))

## Roundup of legislative actions

Here's a roundup of activity in the Kansas Senate for last week.

SB 348 (banning Synthetic Cannabinoids) was approved 36-1 on Thursday. It amends the hallucinogenic category of Schedule 1 controlled substances by adding HU-210, benzylpiperazine (BZP), and two synthetic cannabinoids known as "K2," H-018, and JWH-073. Currently, HU-210 and BZP are listed on the federal schedule but not by Kansas.

At the request of the Kansas County and District Attorneys Association, the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee amended the bill to add BZP to the list of schedule one drugs. The Board of Pharmacy believes the bill has no fiscal effect.

On Thursday, the Senate confirmed 12 appointments unanimously, including Robert Daniel Lykins, Juana "Janie" Perkins and Christine Downey-Schmidt to the State Board of Regents; Martin Kennedy as secretary of the Department on Aging; and Joshua Svaty as secretary of Agriculture.

Senate debate on House Bill 2222, the FY2010 budget rescission bill, is likely this week.

The Agriculture Committee heard a presentation by Carole Jordan with the Kansas Department of Commerce and held confirmation hearings.

The Assessment and Taxation Committee met Wednesday for hearings on SB 379, which validates the election granting sales tax authority to Chautauqua County. It was amended into HB 2353 and favorably voted out of committee. It is now up for consideration by the Senate.

On Tuesday, the Business and Labor Committee received an overview of the Kansas Unemployment Fund by Secretary Jim Garner of the Department of Labor. This is a new committee formed during the interim and chaired by Sen. Susan Wagle.

On Wednesday, acting Secretary Bill Thornton gave an overview of the Department of Commerce to the **Commerce Committee**.

The following day, an overview of the Kansas Technology Enterprise Corp. was presented by Kevin Carr, chief operating officer; Kyle Elliott, chairman of the board; and Stan Ahlerich of Kansas, Inc.

The **Education Committee** met with recipients of the Kansas Teacher of the Year Award and Deputy Commissioner of Educa-



### Ralph Ostmeyer

• state senator

tion Dale Dennis. Representatives of the Fort Hays State Math and Science Academy made a presentation. Finally, superintendents with the school districts of Wichita, Augusta, Blue Valley, Derby, and Holton gave presentations on their respective school districts.

The **Ethics and Elections Committee** heard from Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh. Carol Williams, director of the Kansas Governmental Ethics Commission, made a presentation on Thursday.

The **Federal and State Affairs Committee** met Tuesday in closed-door session to receive internal updates from Secretary of Revenue Joan Wagnon. Before that meeting, they heard from Carmen Alldritt with the Division of Motor Vehicles in the Department of Revenue.

Major Gen. Tod Bunting, adjutant general of the Kansas, provided an update. The committee received an overview of the activities of the Interim Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice Oversight. Thursday, the committee finished work for the week when Secretary of Corrections Roger Werholtz gave an overview of his department.

This week, the **Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee** reviewed the Kansas Insurance Department report, got an update on federal legislation and financial regulatory activities, and held a joint meeting with the House Insurance Committee to review credit scoring.

On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, the **Judiciary Committee** held hearings on two bills, SB 208 and SB 375, both proposing to eliminate the death penalty. SB 375 would also create the crime of aggravated murder. The committee is scheduled to work both bills this Friday.

The committee also conducted hearings on SB 376 regarding the Kansas Judicial Review Act; SB 373 which clarifies what municipal ordinance violations require assessment payments; and SCR 1622, a state constitutional amendment that would repeal the Legislature's authority to ban individuals with mental illnesses from voting.

The **Natural Resources Committee** met Thursday to receive an update from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment on proposed Environmental Protection Agency regulations. In addition, there was a presentation on the recommended burning of Flint Hills pastures.

The **Public Health and Welfare Committee** met to consider the appointments of Dr. Andrew Allison as executive director of the Kansas Health Policy Authority and Dr. William Heard to the board. The committee also held hearings on the appointments of Martin Kennedy as Secretary of the Department on Aging, Belinda Vierthaler as the long-term care ombudsman, and Scott Slabotsky to the Kansas University Hospital Authority. The committee reviewed the impact of new federal guidelines for mammography screening.

The **Transportation Committee** held a hearing on SB 295, which would establish the Motor Vehicle and Safe Mobility Committee to identify and make recommendations to the Kansas Department of Transportation on safeguards that ensure pedestrians, especially the blind and visually impaired, can hear motors of approaching vehicles, particularly hybrid vehicles.

The committee heard presentations on the InSureNet Vehicle Verification System by Jonathan Miller, president of InSureNet, and on the status of Transportation in Kansas by Secretary Deb Miller.

The **Utilities Committee** held an informational hearing on metro dialing, received an update of stimulus-funded energy efficiency programs by Tom Wright, acting chairman of the Kansas Corporation Commission, and reviewed the activities of utility interim committees.

The **Ways and Means Committee** held hearings on SB 350, the rescission bill on the current budget. The bill was amended into HB 2222 and is under consideration by the Senate. The committee also received an update on various audits by Barb Hinton with the Legislative Division of Post Audit and a review of the operations of the Kansas Health Policy Authority by Andy Allison, acting executive director.

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