

# Alumni reunion, election round out top stories

STORIES, from Page 1

and beyond. Gennifer House, a big supporter of the school bond, and wife of Andrew House said she was pleased to be elected to the school board.

On the city commission there will be two new faces with Chris Zimmerman being the youngest to be elected to the commission with the top votes of 787 for a four-year term.

Zimmerman said it will be a challenge he is looking forward to. He was a bit surprised he finished first in the city voting.

Incumbent Annette Fairbanks won a second four-year term with 657 votes.

"I am very pleased the citizens of Goodland re-elected me to another term," she said. "I am looking forward to working with John Garcia and Josh Dechant again and getting to know Bill and Chris on a whole new level. I hope we meld well together and continue to make decisions in the best interest of our community."

The third person to be elected was Bill Finley who had 614 votes to win a two-year term.

Gary Farris was fourth with 522 votes, Jeff Deeds fifth with 518 and incumbent commissioner Dave Daniels sixth with 472. Daniels was seeking this third term on the commission.

In the Kanorado Mayor's race Dennis Korblick was on the ballot and received 26 votes. A write-in for Linda Bishop fell short with 18.

For the Kanorado city council position Alan Billenwillms was on the ballot and received 26 votes to win the top spot. The council had a vacancy for a second person and write-in votes gave Jay Pettibone 18 votes and Robert Helderman had 17.

**7** With the largest turnout in recent record Goodland School District voters turned down a \$14.9 million bond issue by a more than 2 to 1 margin with 559 voting Yes and 1,439 voting No on Tuesday, April 5.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said a total of 2,099 voters participated for a 56 percent turnout, the largest she has seen in many years. The average turnout over the past several April General Elections have averaged about 20 percent with the one in 2009 increasing to 37 percent.

The school bond issue did not pass in any of the city wards or rural area, and took the biggest beating in Kanorado where 26 people voted and 25 were No on the bond issue.

The school district board and administration were facing serious budget cuts, and the defeat of the bond issue will add to the list with continued questions about dealing with the problem of lower enrollment and too many buildings.

The school board started the process of trying to pare down the expenses of the Goodland School District when cuts in funding continued into the fall of 2010.

The district had decided to go a two building district, an elementary school and a combined junior and senior high. In the school year of 2009-10 the district operated five different schools including three elementary's, a junior high and a high school, said Superintendent Shelly Angelos. Declining enrollment and uncertain state aid have lead the board to consider a different school configuration for the district.

A community meeting held on Tuesday night, Nov. 29, by the Goodland School District gave citizens information on the district's plans to renovate North Elementary School into a kindergarten through six facility.

A crowd of more than 50 people were at the public meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 29. About 17 people stayed after the meeting and were interested in helping organize the bond election committee. Gennifer House and Deb Ihrig volunteered to be co-chairs of the bond election committee. The bond question



will be on the ballot for the April 5 election.

Project Architect Richard Hawks, Jr., of Archi+etc showed drawings that were the early ideas on the remodel of North Elementary. He said in the month since the first community meeting they had been going through architectural drawings the district had as well as measuring spaces.

The proposal would keep the kindergarten at its present location in the front southeast pod. The preschool would be located at the front southwest corner of the school. The first and second grades would be located in the pods on the northwest. The current gym or multi-purpose room would continue to be used as the cafeteria and the gym for the younger students. The library would take in the current courtyard for enlargement and a computer lab, reading rooms and special education rooms.

Hawks said most of the addition would be on the east and adjoin the current school. It would have class rooms for the third and fourth grades on the northeast and the classrooms for the fifth and sixth grades on the southeast. In the center would be bathrooms and a large enough space for a tornado shelter and multi-purpose room.

He said visiting with facility the teachers wanted to keep the rest rooms in the classrooms with the small kids.

**8** The city spent more than six month working with Sunflowers USA and the Shine On Sherman County Resource Development Committee to transfer ownership of the Van Gogh painting to the city, and continuing improvements around the painting.

City Manager Doug Gerber said at a meeting in May he felt things were moving forward.

He said the objective was to get city ownership of the Van Gogh painting.

He said one thing is to get the landscaping improved out there, and with the efforts of Annette Fairbanks they have been getting some trees planted with the help of Kevin Zimmerman and some design work by Dana Belshe and an associate of his.

He said the second thing is the city got done was getting legal ownership from Sunflowers USA.

"I do not know all the history," he said, "but the group came together 10 years ago and got a grant to get the painting here and had ownership. Over the years Sunflowers USA became a defunct organization."

"That has been taken care of, and the group has reformed so they could disband. The group agreed to donate the painting to the city, and we have a bill of sale."

Once the city had possession of the painting and viewing area the

Former Goodland High cheerleaders (above) came together for a performance at the All-School Reunion in August. This gag sign (below) got a lot of laughs at the reunion.

Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News



next question was what it would take to get the painting cleaned up and some resurfacing done.

The Canadian painter of the reproduction of the VanGogh Three Sunflowers in a Vase hanging on The Big Easel was in Goodland in December for a special program at the High Plains Museum.

Karen Anderson, museum curator and Michael Solomon, economic development director worked with Cross for his visit to inspect the VanGogh painting and help raise money to repair the painting and help raise money for an electronic kiosk at the VanGogh Park for visitors.

Cross was the speaker at a dinner held at the High Plains Museum. Cross talked about The Big Easel Project, his travels and his life as an artist.

Goodland Girl Scout Brooke Lockhart, a junior at Goodland High School, gave a short presentation about her Gold Award project to establish an electronic kiosk at the VanGogh Park for visitors and would include a historic tour of Goodland.

About 50 people braved the more than six inches of snow to attend the Evening with Cameron Cross dinner event held at the High Plains Museum.

Canadian artist Cameron Cross said he was glad to be back in Goodland, and was pleased to see how the painting looks.

Cross said he plans to come back in June to work on the painting. He said the effort would be to clean the painting, put some fiberglass on a couple of the seams, fix the screw holes where the resin has popped off and repaint the basic artwork.

He said the painting is in better shape than he had feared and feels the painting is really in good shape

Reunion activities started that Thursday with a golf tournament. The tournament had a shotgun start at Sugar Hills Golf Club and another session in the afternoon, also with a shotgun start.

Alumni not playing golf spent the day visiting family and friends.

A meet-and-greet with former teachers was held at the Goodland Elks Lodge. Friday evening was open for class parties at homes and locations around the county. A social gathering was held at the fairgrounds.

Linda Rumpel, alumni association president, opened the assembly at 10 a.m. that Saturday with announcements and introductions. The Class of 1961, which graduated 50 years ago, was the honored class.

More class parties were held over lunch and in the afternoon.

The reunion ended with a dance that evening at the fairgrounds with the band "Cherry Bomb."

Visitors found many changes in town since the last reunion, but they were free to explore the age old high school evening occupation of "dragging Main" with a special Black and Gold stripe in the middle to salute the alumni.

A lot of the changes in the past five years were not as visible as the intersections and highway work going on when the alumni gathered five years ago.

**10** Economic Development for both Goodland and Sherman County came under the city in 2010, and at the beginning of last year the city had hired a person to be the economic development director.

City Manager Doug Gerber said he was pleased Michael Solomon of Lowell, Ark., had accepted the economic development director job.

"We had about 30 people apply," Gerber said. "I phone interviewed 11 and we had personal interviews with four. Michael emerged as the clear cut top choice."

"He impressed the commissioners and myself with his research of the city and bringing his family to the city before the interview."

"I feel we are getting tire kickers," Michael Solomon said at his first report to the commission. "That is good. I will limit my reports to things that are promising and look fruitful. We get a lot of calls that do not pan out, but these are things that I feel could happen."

Over the past 11 months Solomon has worked with the new owners of Motel 6, Cowboy Corner Xpress, Crop Production Services, L & L Engine Services, and other businesses seeking incentives from the city.

Michael Solomon said he had a good visit with Sam Mancini of Bella's Market in Denver, and was told by Mancini he had hired a new construction company to begin the work.

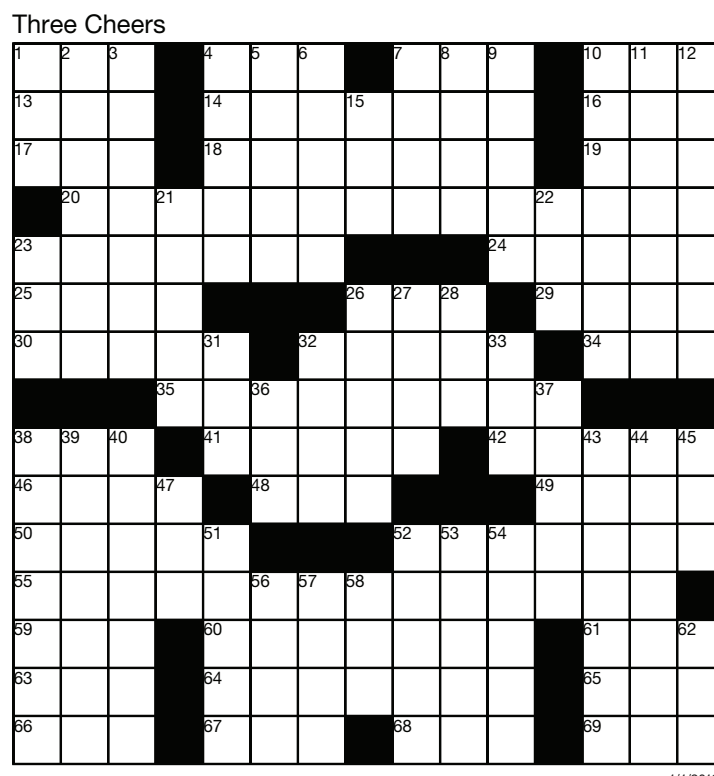
Sherman County commissioners were not enthusiastic about the Rural Opportunity Zone program when Michael Solomon presented the program at the end of June, but he told the city commissioners he would go back to get the county to join in supporting Gov. Sam Brownback's rural development program.

The Sherman County commissioners discussed the Rural Opportunity Zone program and agreed to pass a resolution to join and pay at least one college loan repayment as a start.

Solomon told the county commissioners in June the Rural Opportunity Zone program has two parts. The first is the income tax exemption for someone moving to rural Kansas. The second part is a college loan repayment program to be paid 50 percent by the state and 50 percent by the county up to \$1,500 each for

## Crossword Puzzle

Three Cheers



### ACROSS

1. Subway alternative
4. Masseur's milieu
7. Mama porker
10. On the \_\_\_ vive
13. Introduction to sex?
14. Summon, as the devil
16. Young \_\_\_ (tykes)
17. Brit's raincoat
18. Most desirable
19. Earth-friendly prefix
20. Best Supporting Actress of 1991
23. Eating peas with a knife, say
24. Fish finder
25. Kaffiyeh wearer
26. Slip preventer
29. Old video format, for short
30. Hard-to-combine gas
32. Strikers' demand
34. JFK or FDR
35. Archie Bunker expression
38. Bonehead
41. Vichyssoise server
42. Eclipse shadow
46. Rainbow septet
48. Finder's take
49. Styptic pencil stuff
50. Rand's shrugger
52. Without exception
55. Novelty shop purchase
59. "\_\_\_ to worry!"
60. \_\_\_ VO5 (hair-care name)
61. Word with honey or humble
63. Piece of the past
64. Like a fillet
65. Bard's nightfall
66. Serpentine curve
67. Dash lengths
68. Take a whack at
69. Els, e.g.: Abbr.

### DOWN

1. London derriere
2. In the dark
3. Chinese province, or its cuisine
4. Newshawk's coup
5. "Where's \_\_\_?" (George Segal movie)
6. Nay sayers
7. Battle of beefy grapplers
8. Like some confessions
9. Fuses
10. Got promoted, as a pawn
11. Remove from a shipping container
12. Map line connecting points of equal value
15. Dubliner's dance

21. U-shaped river bend
22. Feller in Cooperstown
23. Send via phone
26. Bowling pin wood
27. White House staffer
28. Mao \_\_\_-tung
31. Lady Byng Memorial Trophy org.
32. Hopped a freight
33. E-mail address ending
36. Blockhead
37. Native of Muscat
38. Tecumseh, for one
39. Royalty receivers
40. Jai alai balls
43. Radio announcer's blunder

44. Less cooked, as eggs
45. Letters in some church names
47. \_\_\_ Tomé and Príncipe
51. Sleuth played by Bogart
52. Beyond well done
53. Fall bloomer
54. Little \_\_\_ (nickname of our smallest state)
56. Grades K-6: Abbr.
57. Dwindles
58. Corp. top dog
62. USNA grad

The crossword puzzle brought to you by:

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 PG: Some mild rude humor.  
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## FUN BY THE NUMBERS

	5			3		2
8		6	5			
4				1	6	5
2			3			
		7				8
			8	9	5	6
6					9	1
			1			6
9	1			3		

Level: Intermediate

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

**Here's How It Works:**  
 Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!