

from our viewpoint...

Ceremonies open new chapter for city

Thursday marked the beginning of a new chapter for Goodland, with the ribbon cutting at Aircraft Seal and Gasket Corp.'s new Goodland plant, and the dedication of the building in the memory of former Public Works Director Ed Wolak.

As Lt. Gov. John Moore said, the community effort and co-operation involved in getting the building ready to bring the California company here is an example to show rural towns what can be done.

Herb Menold, president of Aircraft Seal and Gasket, said he was pleased with the effort state officials and people in Goodland made to make the move possible.

At the dedication of the building in memory of Wolak earlier on Thursday, Menold said he could always count on what Ed told him, and they were able to solve any situation that came up.

"He was great to work with," Menold said, "and was always ready to handle the next step."

There were two different but good sized crowds at the ceremonies on Thursday.

The first ceremony was attended by members of the Wolak family and many of the city employees who had worked with Ed before he died in November. There was a lot of emotion in the words spoken by City Manager Ron Pickman as he recalled the well-liked public works chief and how much he misses him.

Wolak's father, Stan, spoke about how much working for the city had meant to Ed.

Mayor Rick Billinger echoed everyone's thoughts after the plaque dedicating the plant was unveiled: "Ed we will miss you."

"He has been called to a new task," Pickman said. "I am sure he is looking down on us and keeping an eye on things as we continue to handle the tasks he used to do.

"I am sure he is handling some bigger job in his new assignment."

For the last two months of his life, which was cut short by a heart attack on Nov. 29, Wolak was heading the city crew as they helped get the building cleaned up and ready for remodeling. Pickman said he gave the job to Wolak on Sept. 26. In the next two months, 74 tons of debris were removed from the building. The first load of equipment arrived by truck from California about a week after Wolak died.

The crowd at the ribbon cutting included many city officials, as well as the county commissioners, bankers, school officials and members of the economic development council.

The first pieces of equipment are being hooked up, and a large mixer was demonstrated for Menold and his partners. Other machines will be arriving soon, and the plant is expected to begin manufacturing in a month to six weeks.

It takes time to move a plant and put it back in operation, but we know that Wolak is watching Plant Manager Chuck Lutters and his helpers as they bring the pieces of the plant on line.

The Ed Wolak Building and Aircraft Seal and Gasket are opening a new line of opportunity for Goodland and Sherman County.

Now if it would snow or rain, things will really be looking up. Maybe Ed can put in a word with his new boss. — *Tom Betz*

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Sales tax simplification it is not!

Kansas has over 750 sales tax jurisdictions.

The community where I live (Oakley) has a population of 2,000, but the city limits cover parts of three counties and the post office delivers mail to four. Until last July all sales to Kansas citizens were charged sales tax based on the location of my business and all out-of-state sales were tax exempt.

I have been the owner of a small photography studio for the past 29 years. When I take pictures of the local high school track team, the running events are in Logan County and the field events are in Thomas County. When I take pictures at a high school alumni reunion, I can have several hundred people order pictures that evening, and I am now supposed to charge sales tax based on where the person lives because I mail their picture.

These orders vary from \$6 to \$10 and the local sales tax amount is never more than 15 cents. Now I am supposed to check each person's address, verify the amount of sales tax and record the amount due in each of the possible 753 Kansas sales tax jurisdictions monthly.

If this "destination sourcing" is allowed nationwide, I will be required to collect sales tax for every sales tax jurisdiction in our country. The potential exists that I will have to write countless checks for less than \$5 monthly or authorize an electronic funds transfer in similar amounts to a number of states. A common example would be photographs at a wedding.



stan
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- newsletter

Most of the time, 10 to 12 people (family members and members of the bridal party) order two to five pictures each. The retail sales would be from \$10 to \$100 and it is likely the orders are from three or four states. No one, even with a demented mind, can claim this is sales tax simplification.

Sales tax should be based on the location of the business, not on the location where the purchaser first receives possession of the product or service. As legislators, we should encourage businesses to locate in our districts to provide employment, increase the property tax base, and strengthen our communities. One reward should be that the sales taxes will remain in the city, county and state where it is collected.

When I voted last year for the Streamlined Sales Tax proposal, I had an explanation recorded. It stated:

MR. VICE PRESIDENT: My "yes" vote is with the understanding and assurance from the Senate Assessment and Taxation Chairman that an anticipated minimum gross sales threshold of \$5 million will be adopted before

the January 1, 2006, effective date of this act. Without this assurance, this act places an undue compliance burden on beginning small retail businesses in our state.

In the Kansas Senate, some of us are attempting to either delay or repeal this onerous law until Congress acts. To renew our local economies, we have to encourage our youth to open businesses and many of these businesses will have to market their products outside the immediate community.

A community grows and prospers when the capital, management and labor are all three generated within the community. Absence of any one of these three elements increases the hurdles that have to be overcome.

The current law and the regulations being advanced by the multi-state compact favor large businesses that can afford the compliance costs. At the same time, this law and the proposed regulations discourage others from starting a business.

I will continue to work to create a business climate that encourages the development of more businesses throughout our state.

Please feel free to contact me on this or any issue. I can be reached by writing to Sen. Stan Clark, State Capitol-Room 449-N, Topeka, Kan 66612; by calling 1-800-432-3924 or 785-296-7399; by FAX at 801-457-9064; or by e-mail at <mailto:sclark@ink.org> <sclark@ink.org>

Remembering Dad

To the Editor:
Mac McGinley passed away on Jan. 24. I understand it is natural for acceptance, belief, the reality of it all, to take time in coming, sometimes in bits and pieces and at unexpected moments.

At his funeral, Jack Burr and Perry Warren did a great job of describing an entertaining aspect of this man's life.

They were all truly dear friends. But that was not a side that I knew well. I didn't go to Vegas with him or play cards (unless you count Uno). I did not call this man "Macky."

A few of us called him Daddy, then Dad. To some he was Grandpa, or a brother, son, friend, lawyer, judge, etc.

There are so many people with memories from all kinds of different places and times in his life. Thank you to all of you who shared a thoughtful memory.

My Dad was the strongest man I ever knew. He set and achieved so many goals in his life, and not all were without obstacles.

I have spent much of my adult life in awe of his strength and determination, times when he found it in himself to push on through where many might have given up.

Dad's heart transplant gave us another 10-plus years with him. My children, Amanda and Justin, were then 5 and 2 years old. They had the opportunity over those next 10 years to build a relationship filled with solid memories they will never forget, a few of which bring a big smile to their faces and an arch to my eyebrow. My childhood memories, that vividly rush



from our
readers

- to the editor

back at me as a parent myself, are of a wonderful man who loved us unconditionally and are to numerous to tell. Through the years, there was much laughter. A couple of us even inherited Dad's uncanny ability to cry so easily when we laugh.

He coached Jim's little league team, built forts with Bill and I, camped and fished with us in Colorado and at the cabin in Parks, Neb., to name only a few.

He was the kind of Dad who made Easter egg hunts fun and scary movies even scarier!

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