

Six-county group looking for continued support

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News
Board members of the Western Kansas Enterprise Facilitation Consortium held their monthly meeting at Sugar Hills Golf Club on Thursday and heard a report from facilitator Wade Phillips.

The consortium comprises six counties, Sherman, Wichita, Greeley, Scott, Kearney and Lane. The project is part of an economic development program supported by the Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing with the help of the Sirolli Institute of Sacramento, Calif.

The program was begun more

than two years ago to help small business owners in the six counties with their business and to help with ideas to start businesses.

Chairman Todd Heitschmidt of Leoti opened the meeting and said there are several possibilities for continuing the program beyond the original three-year grant.

Sharla Krenzel, treasurer for the consortium and economic development director for Wichita County, said there is \$200,000 in the governor's budget to continue the five enterprise facilitation groups in the state.

This would mean \$40,000 for the next year if the Legislature ap-

proves the budget with the money.

Members discussed how much it takes each year to operate the program, which provides the services of Phillips as an economic adviser for free.

Over three years, the program was to cost \$300,000, but the final year is being done with much less. Members estimated it would take a \$40,000 match to complete the funding.

Representatives from the six counties asked how much would be required from each county under that plan, and it was just under \$7,000 for each.

Members talked about adding

one to three counties to increase the population base and spread out the costs.

The suggestion was to consider adding Wallace, Logan or Hamilton counties if they were interested

When the program began, contributions were received from outside groups including Wheatland Electric, Western State Bank and First National Bank of Goodland.

A subcommittee was appointed to look at the budget and revenue options and report back at the April meeting.

Appointed to the committee was Janet Rumpel, Sherman County clerk, Stan Rice of Lakin and

Krenzel.

The board plans to approach the counties in May before they begin working on their budget for next year.

Once the business was out of the way, the board went into closed session to discuss contacts that Phillips has been working with in the past month, and to get updates on several ongoing projects.

Phillips said he has met with people throughout the six counties, and is always looking for new people who could take advantage of his help.

The director said he will be leaving this week for California, where

he will be involved in a week-long training program through the Sirolli Institute.

Attending from Sherman County were Rumpel; Chuck Frankenfeld, former county commissioner; Merlyn Stasser of Western State Bank; Walt Lithacum of L and W. Andrist Insurance; and Commissioners Mitch Tiede, Kevin Rasure and Chuck Thomas.

The next consortium meeting will be at 4 p.m. on Thursday, April 29, in Tribune.

Phillips can be reached through the Wichita County Economic Development office at 620-375-2182.

Bishop confirms 26 candidates

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News
Twenty-six candidates were received into Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church as they were confirmed Sunday by Bishop George K. Fitzsimons.

Father Norbert Dlabal, pastor of the church, assisted in the service, and announced there will be a joint Palm Sunday service at 10:15 a.m. Sunday in Chambers Park with members of the Catholic, Lutheran, Episcopal and Methodist churches.

Bishop Fitzsimons told the confirmees they were the new voices of the church. He asked them questions about what they had learned, and talked about how important it is for them to take their responsibility as church members seriously.

He read from letters the class had sent asking to be confirmed. In them, the students talked about their reasons for seeking confirmation.

There was a large audience for the ceremony, usually done every two years. The bishop performed confirmation services in St. Francis and

St. Johns on Saturday, at Sharon Springs on Sunday morning and in Colby in the afternoon following the Goodland service.

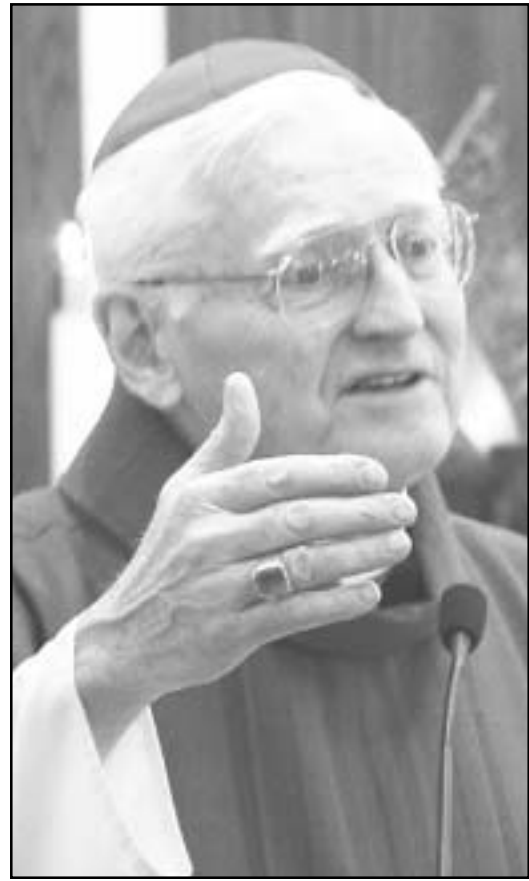
This may be Bishop Fitzsimons' last confirmation here, as he has reached age 75, and has turned in his letter of retirement. However, he said he has not heard back from the church officials and will continue to serve as long as he is allowed.

He has been in charge of the diocese of Salina, covering northwest Kansas, since 1984, and has been a priest since 1961. Bishop Fitzsimons lives in Kansas City, Mo., where he was born and grew up. He attended college at Consumption, Mo.

The bishop said he enjoys his work, and that he tries to keep as current as possible. He will be attending the Catholic Youth Convention in Salina this weekend, where he expects several hundred teens to gather for two days of fellowship.

Those who were confirmed Sunday were:

Sarah Albers, Kaylee Billinger, Joshua Cech, May Davis, Jared



Bishop George Fitzsimons confirmed Melissa Swager (right) on Sunday at the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church. Swager was one of 26 received into the church.

Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Star-News



Hall, Julie Leiker, Olivia Lovington, Bryant Nemechek, Jalyn Reid, Lacey Ridder, Caitlan Rush, Melissa Swager, Trina Lazo,

Rogelio Bustillos, Tyler Anderson, Ashley Cebula, Katrina Cotter, Chelsea Gray, Audrey Hoyt, Emily Linden, Emily Murray, Jillian

Parker, Kali Rietscheck, Matthew Rohr, Megan Stefan, Janelle Wolak and Emily Bustillos.

Adults who helped with confir-

mation classes were Stan Cebula, Geralyn Parker, Eric and Marianne Gray, Kim Davis and Harvey and Donna Swager.

Sex offender held in Colby jail

By Patty Decker
Colby Free Press
A Wisconsin man is being held at the Thomas County jail for failing to register as a sex offender, the Colby Police Department said Friday.

William David Buckel, 26, known by the nickname of Billy Bob, was arrested March 12, on a warrant from the U.S. Marshal's Office on behalf of the state of Wisconsin.

"We had some inquiries from the public asking if we have caught a child molester," said Gary Shull, Colby Police Department investigator, "but just to set the record straight, Mr. Buckel was not arrested for a sex crime in Colby or Thomas County."

Shull said that Colby authorities actually have no idea what Buckel was accused of in Waukesha County, Wis., other than the fact that whatever occurred did require him to register as a sex offender in 1997.

The first contact that Colby police had with Buckel was in July when officers here discovered that he was a registered offender in Wisconsin.

"After 10 days and when he did not register with the Thomas County sheriff's office as required by law," Shull said, "we contacted the Thomas County attorney's office as well as the Kansas Bureau of

Investigation's Registered Offender office in Topeka."

Police said police asked if either the county attorney or KBI wanted to prosecute Buckel.

"We were instructed to contact Buckel and have him register, which he did on July 28, 2003," Shull said.

Buckel had moved twice from that date before being contacted again by police to update his registration, which Shull said he did on Feb. 25. It was later learned that Buckel had moved again and that time he did not update his registration, which resulted in Wisconsin issuing an arrest warrant.

Buckel is awaiting extradition back to Wisconsin and remains in jail here, Shull said.

The criminal complaint from Wisconsin, which was filed by Sandy Cornell, a sex offender registration specialist, Buckel is accused of not complying with the guidelines of his program.

Failure to comply could mean that Buckel faces up to six years in prison or a fine of up to \$10,000.

Anyone interested in knowing more about sex offenders in most states and what they were convicted of can locate that information on the Internet at: <http://sexoffender.com>

Computer upgrade on agenda

The Sherman County commissioners will convene at 8 a.m. Wednesday for their final meeting of March and upgrading the county's main computer is one item on the agenda.

Brent Gustin of Infinitec will talk with commissioners about upgrading the county's main IBM computer, which ties the offices of the clerk and treasurer together.

Mary Messamore, head of the county emergency management office and central dispatch, will give the commissioners and update on her computer needs and discuss the tornado readiness test held on March 16.

A report on seismograph findings on the county land around the Northern Sun plant at Caruso will be presented by Hiriam Lucius of Press Oil Investments.

Amy Griffey, of the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development

corrections

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors.

Commission will discuss the bridge project grant and possible future projects.

The commissioners will consider a resolution to update the solid waste plan as filed with the Northwest Planning and Development group in Hill City.

They also will review a letter from the Good Samaritan Center regarding the proposed upgrade of their call system, air conditioning and lighting. The commissioners at their last meeting had suggested

they would consider spending \$20,000 to help with these projects.

A late addition to the agenda is a request from a group of people from Kanorado who want to discuss the ambulance with the commissioners. At their last meeting, the commissioners heard an update on the ambulance service and that the ambulance which is housed in Kanorado had been called to Goodland because the main ambulance had been in an accident and was awaiting final certification.

ADVERTISEMENT

Wrinkle Cream Success

Millions of Seniors and "Baby Boomers" are praising the exciting discovery by famous Pharmacist Robert Heldfond...his **EB5 Facial Cream**...for the dreaded signs of *wrinkles, crow's feet, crepey throat, "feather" lips and dry skin.*

EB5 is five creams in one jar...Wrinkle Cream...Throat Cream...Firming Cream...24-hour Moisturizer and Make-up Base...all in one. One jar lasts for months and is sold with a guarantee of satisfaction at **JCPenney**. Phone toll free **1-800-929-8325** to learn more about all EB5 formulas for younger looking skin! Or visit online at **www.eb5.com**.

Robert Heldfond

Get your Taste of Home Cooking School tickets now!

The Goodland Star-News

1205 Main, Goodland, Kan. 67735

Sherman County Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Saturday, April 3, 2004
7 a.m. to 11 a.m. Mountain time
HHW Facility
1820 Cherry Street
Goodland, Kansas

For more information please contact Kenny Griffith at 821-1024.
No early drop off or no drop offs without personnel present.
There will be no **Used Oil** collected at this time.
For Sherman County Residents Only!

Retirement Reception for Everett Lage

Please join First National Bank as we celebrate Everett Lage's 22 years of Banking Service on Wednesday, March 31 from 9am to 3pm.

First National Bank
133 North Main - Sharon Springs, KS
785-852-2000

Bird City, Colby, Goodland, Kirk, Oberlin, Quinter, Sharon Springs, St. Francis
www.fnb.com