

## A visit from the cat



The Cat in the Hat, played by librarian for the grade schools Marcia Smith, visited Wheat Ridge Acres Retirement Home Tuesday to commemorate what would have been Dr. Seuss' 101st birthday Wednesday, March 2. Smith shared some history of Theodor "Ted" Seuss Geisel, explaining he started out as a cartoonist after college. Smith went on to read "My Many Colored Days" one of Seuss' later books, published in August 1996, and "The Sneetches and Other Stories" a book published in August 1961. Residents of Wheat Ridge gave Smith a warm round of applause after the presentation and agreed it had been a while since they heard a Dr. Seuss book.

Photo by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News

# Argument erupts at Kanorado meeting

By Kathryn Burke  
*The Goodland Star-News*

An argument involving a former city mayor candidate and other citizens at the Kanorado City Council meeting around 7 p.m. Monday night sent Sherman County Sheriff Kevin Butts and Deputy Roger Studer to the scene.

Butts said the verbal fight was over before they arrived, but they took names and filed an in-house incident report.

"It was a lot of name calling," he said.

City Clerk Susan Adams said the dispute, involving about 10 people, came up at the city meeting and followed the group out the door. She said the people involved were done with their business and had left the building when the incident happened.

Sandra Bagley, Kanorado citizen and owner and operator of King's Cafe, said the fight was only indirectly related to the city meeting. She said it started because one couple, Bob and Linda Handle, are negative influences in the community.

"Bob and Linda are always suing," she said adding they threaten to sue the city and individuals. "It's really a bad situation."

She went to the city meeting Monday along with friends to show support for the city councilmen, she said, because the Handles were presenting a petition to get a city worker fired.

"It was a set up deal when we walked in there," said Linda

Handle, adding the Pettibones, Kings, Bagleys and Wilkersons were waiting for them at the meeting. "Bob Helderman, the mayor, said 'There's trouble walking in the door' when we walked in."

She said the other group knew they were coming to the meeting because Jay Pettibone, the city road grader, hasn't done a good job on Kanorado streets.

"The roads are worse now than they've ever been," Linda said.

The couple tried to present the 32-signature petition, she said, but were not taken seriously by the council because they said some of the signatures were not from registered voters or property owners.

"People still have a right to talk about their streets," she said. "I think what upset them the most was there were a bunch of Hispanics on (the petition)."

Bob said the signatures were all from property owners and the petition should be taken seriously.

Linda said they were working to get Pettibone off the roads with the petition partially because he damaged a fence on their property. Bob said at the previous city meeting, the council agreed to pay for the damages, but he thinks the accident may have been intentional because of a feud between the families.

The meeting turned into an argument, Linda said, and the councilmen asked everyone involved to leave.

When they got to the parking lot, Linda said, she told Sherry Wilkerson not to go into her work-

place, Wal-Mart, and make trouble for her.

"That's all I said," Linda said. "She had tried that once before."

Bagley said the Handles brought up concerns about a stray dog that lives in Kanorado.

"We'd all like to catch it," Bagley said, about the dog that has been in the city since she moved there 12 years ago.

Bagley said the main cause of the fight was negativity between the Handles and other citizens.

"It's bad when the community gets torn apart," she said. "The community's tired of them; I'm tired of them."

"We're just trying to stand up for ourselves," Linda said. "I would like to live in that town without people bothering us."

"I wish people would just get off my back," agreed Bob. "We pay taxes, too."

The fight escalated, Linda said, and almost broke into physical fighting, but was stopped before it got too intense. After they left the scene of the fight, she said, the Sheriff's Department came by to take a statement.

Adams said as far as she knows the city meetings have not broken into fighting before.

"Other than that, we're a really quiet community," she said.

The city meeting, she said, went ahead as planned after the incident.

"We're trying to pull everyone together out here," Bagley said, adding she hopes everyone can find a way to get along.

## Program skating on thin ice

By Tom Betz  
*The Goodland Star-News*

The three-year old grant writer program may be on thin ice as the Sherman County commissioners were the first of the four groups to decide not to continue with the current contract.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas made the motion not to renew the existing contract and it passed unanimously with Commissioners Mitch Tiede and Kevin Rasure voting in favor.

The commissioners said they were not satisfied with the current arrangement, and said they might consider a different fee based arrangement.

Action to end or change the contract has to be taken 90 days prior to the end of the current term which ends on June 30.

Thomas said he did not feel the county was benefiting from the program in relation to the cost. He said the city and possibly hospital have seen more benefit.

Over the past three years the city, county, school district and the last year the Goodland hospital have

shared the \$36,000 annual salary for Penny Nemechek who has been the grant writer.

Rasure said he was not satisfied with the current arrangement. He felt the idea was a good one, but feels it should be done on a fee basis or a percentage of the total grant.

Tiede agreed that the county has not had a very good record getting grants through the grant writer, and said it seemed to him that the department heads have been doing their own grants or using the Northwest Planning and Development office in Hill City.

In other business the commissioners:

- Discussed putting the improvement of Caldwell Ave. from the city to the airport as the top priority in the next transportation five-year plan. The commissioners said they felt this was an important entrance to the city, and that they would work with the commission. Rasure said he would contact Ron Pickman, city manager, to discuss how this would be handled. Other areas the commissioners felt should be in the plan are Eighth Street and U.S. 24.

- Approved the appointment of Carolyn Paul to replace Marie Moore as the McPherson Township treasurer. The commissioners accepted the resignation of Moore because she is moving out of the county.

- Approved a bid from Rugtuck Flooring Service owned by Randy Raile, for \$250 to stretch carpets on the second floor of the county courthouse.

- Tiede reported a pre-bid conference on the new firetruck was held at the courthouse last week, and that bids will be opened at 9 a.m. on Monday, March 28. He said the commissioners will have to hold a special meeting to review the bids because the forms have to be turned in before the end of the month.

- Approved grant applications for the county health department to establish an Elderly Advocacy Program. Dorendo Harrel said Nemechek is writing the grant which would be \$5,000. The grant request is from the Kansas Health Foundation, and is to educate seniors 60 and older in the county about services available to them.

# Burlington publisher honored by colleagues

Burlington Record publisher Rol Hudler was recently feted by his peers, when he was named Newspaper Person of the Year by the Colorado Press Association.

Hudler, presented with his award at the 127th annual convention Feb. 26, in Denver, was surprised with the honor.

"All we try to do down in Burlington is put out a paper the people of the area like to read every week," he said during the luncheon.

"I love what I do every day, which makes it a pleasure to be in the profession."

Outgoing Colorado Press Association president Suzy Meyer of the Cortez Journal presented the award to Hudler; before naming him, she listed some of his accomplishments over the years in professional and personal interests.

She told association members in attendance the Hudler family bought the paper in Burlington in

1927, gave a short history of the family, including mentioning that Rol's father, John, had been awarded Newspaper Person of the Year exactly 25 years ago to the day.

"That makes this award extra special," Hudler said. "I remember

quite clearly when dad received his award; our entire family was in attendance to watch and it wound up being one of the last things he received before passing away a year later."

When telling the audience who the winner of this year's award was, Meyer expanded on the

local coverage provided by The Burlington Record, saying, "it is one of the finest weeklies anywhere around." Hudler was quick to point out that employees are why.

"We would not have anything without the people who work at The Record," he said. "Most everyone who works there full time has spent decades at their job, which is why

the paper is as successful as it is.

"In fact, if it wasn't for them, we would not be talking about this particular award today."

Hudler was nominated for his award by Tom Bredehoff, publisher of the Flagler News and Mile Saver Shopper. He said earlier this week his long time friend is deserving of the honor.

"This award is for people like Rol" he said. "Someone who has spent their entire life in this profession like he has should be honored by the association; I was more than happy to nominate him for this award."

Former Colorado Press Association President's Steve Haynes of Oberlin and Tom Betz of Goodland added their congratulations to Hudler as a great newspaperman they have known for many years.

Hudler is the third generation of his family to work at The Burlington Record. His wife, Joy, has also put decades into the operation and still writes a weekly column.



Hudler

## 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.

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