

City manager retiring

MANAGER, from Page 1a

ing at his options. Tuesday morning, Commissioner Dave Daniels said he had expected Pickman's decision. He said it was just a matter of timing as to whether it would be on Monday or in October when they began contract and salary negotiations.

Pickman said his final work day will be Friday, May 27, and he will be on vacation until his retirement date in June, which will be established by the Kansas Public Employees Retirement board.

Billinger suggested contacting the Kansas League of Municipalities for ideas on a replacement.

The city charter requires the commission to appoint an interim city manager until one is hired, as selection could take several months.

After the meeting, commissioners and city employees shook Pickman's hand and said they were sorry to see him go.

Pickman said he is proud of the projects he has helped complete over the past 10 years, though he knows the city has many tough issues to face in the future.

"I want to personally thank the employees who have striven to do their best and have made my job easier," Pickman wrote in a memo he handed to the commissioners. "I commend their work and pride in a job well done."

"Goodland has many projects that need to be addressed, and the governing body needs to set the policies that lead the way for the future of this city. I encourage the governing body to address these needs in a prompt and decisive manner based on the benefit to the majority, and not in favor of the vocal minority."

Pickman came to Goodland in January 1994 as the police chief. The next year, he was asked to assume the duties of city manager along with the police chief duties.

In 1999, he stepped down as po-

lice chief. He has been in public service for 32 years.

He grew up in Atchison, where he graduated from high school in 1969. In 1973 he graduated from St. Benedict's College. He began his public career as an Atchison police officer in 1973, and became the police chief in 1982.

He graduated from the FBI Academy in 1985, and received a master's degree in criminal science from Central Missouri State University in 1989.

Pickman's wife, Donna, has been active in the community, and they have four children, Jeff, Angie, Adrienne and Sean. Jeff and Adrienne are in Kansas City, he said, and will soon be joined by Angie, who is moving from New York. Sean is a student at Fort Hays State University.

Pickman said he will take a couple of months to relax and enjoy life, then maybe look for a job, but does not have any specific ideas.

Mayor, vice mayor re-elected

MAYOR, from Page 1a

11th and 12th with Main.

Neufeld said they are waiting on a project review from the state Department of Transportation.

On a Pioneer Park, Neufeld said they were waiting for contractor Mike Miller to sign the agreement. Work could begin as soon as a pre-construction meeting can be arranged.

"I think we have answered all of the questions," Neufeld said. "I expect Miller to sign the contract in the next few days, and work could begin within the next week to 10 days."

Garcia reported the Adronics/Elrob officials has been pleased with the people they had interviewed, and are planning to start production in the first or second week of May.

He said they brought some equip-

ment to Goodland on Monday, and planned to bring more on Tuesday.

City Manager Ron Pickman said the city was trying to get Aircraft Seal and Gasket Corp.'s equipment moved out of the way or to another location. He said the city attorney was working with the attorneys for the state and People's State Bank to get the equipment moved and to protect the city's position.

Pickman said the staff has been looking at the question of handling the possible problem of nitrates in the water.

"It is not going to be an inexpensive process," he said. "We are looking at several options, but the estimate is treating the nitrates would cost \$60,000 to \$100,000 per well for the equipment and then \$6,000 to \$15,000 per year site per year to operate."

"We will keep looking at this. We

do not have anything now that exceeds the state and federal standards for nitrates, but it is probably a question of time."

Billinger said he wanted to thank the Chamber of Commerce and all the volunteers who helped with the citywide cleanup on Saturday.

Dechant agreed it was a great start, but said he was sure there were alleys and places that had not been cleaned yet.

Daniels reminded the commissioners that on Saturday, the volunteers will be gathering to clean the approaches to the city along K-27 and Caldwell.

Billinger read a proclamation declaring April as Fair Housing Month.

The commission will meet again at 5 p.m. on Monday, May 2, at the City Administration Building.

Californian to take over Edson gym

GYM, from Page 1a

Soper says he is considering some of the ideas, but for now he just wants to open the flea market. "With an 8,000 square foot gym," he said, "there's a million things you can do."

He took out a mortgage on his home in California for the \$40,000 he owes the Goodland Schools, he said. In February, he gave the district a check for \$10,000 and signed a contract for the gym. The schools put the money in an escrow account.

The district sold the gym for a total of \$50,000, with the remaining \$40,000 to be paid by June 1.

Soper said his 81-year-old father, Lou, asked what he will do if he loses the house in the venture.

"I don't see this as a big risk," he said, adding he told Dad they could pack up and move to Kansas if anything happens.

In one of their final actions to get the gym ready for business, the school board accepted the lowest bid to put in a water well for the gym. The bid was from Merle Arm-

strong with Armstrong's Pump and Well Service is for \$8,028.

Although he does plan to make his home in the gym while he gets it ready for business, Soper said he is looking for a place to live.

"I don't want to live in the gym forever," he said.

He wants to expand the business and buy the land adjacent to the gym that holds the old Edson school, football field and bus barn.

He is interested in 16 acres of land to the east of the gym with a rental house that used to be an elk farm.

Final cleanup Saturday morning

CLEANUP, from Page 1a

annual basis every April," he said, adding that as time goes by, there will be less and less trash to pick up each time.

The first community cleanup on Saturday, April 2, brought in 17,260 pounds of construction debris, almost 4,840 pounds of metal, 4,580 pounds of furniture and trash and an estimated 15,000 pounds of tree limbs.

The second cleanup last Saturday was just as successful, pulling in as much or more than twice the 20 tons from the first weekend. Rich Simon, super-

intendent of public works, said the city trucks each made eight trips and a county truck made 10 trips to the transfer station with limbs. He said there were two large loads of concrete and brick, two of furniture and one of mattresses.

After two weekends picking up trash, Clouse said, he has noticed a considerable difference in town.

"I think all of our community has really stepped up," he said. "I think it's been a big hit, a home run."

If you want to help out, call Clouse at 890-3641 or Christie Rasure at 890-7149. Clouse said they will welcome any and all volunteers who show up at the college at 8 a.m. Saturday, too.

Notorious 'Fleagle Gang' Fingerprint ends nationwide '20s manhunt

True crime from the roaring 20s, "The Fleagle Gang, Betrayed by a fingerprint," begins with a brazen daylight bank robbery of the First National Bank in Lamar, Colo. on May 23, 1928. Four men are dead, and the robbers escaped.

"The Fleagle Gang" details the case which hinges on a single fingerprint found on a murdered Dighton, Kan., doctor's car. The fledgling FBI and new boss J. Edgar Hoover play a crucial role in turning the fingerprint into solid evidence used to find, arrest and convict members of the Fleagle Gang. The book includes photos taken from the court files and places where the gang robbed banks.

The author N.T. (Tom) Betz has spent a lifetime in journalism and on the Great Plains. Betz is editor of the Goodland Star-News.

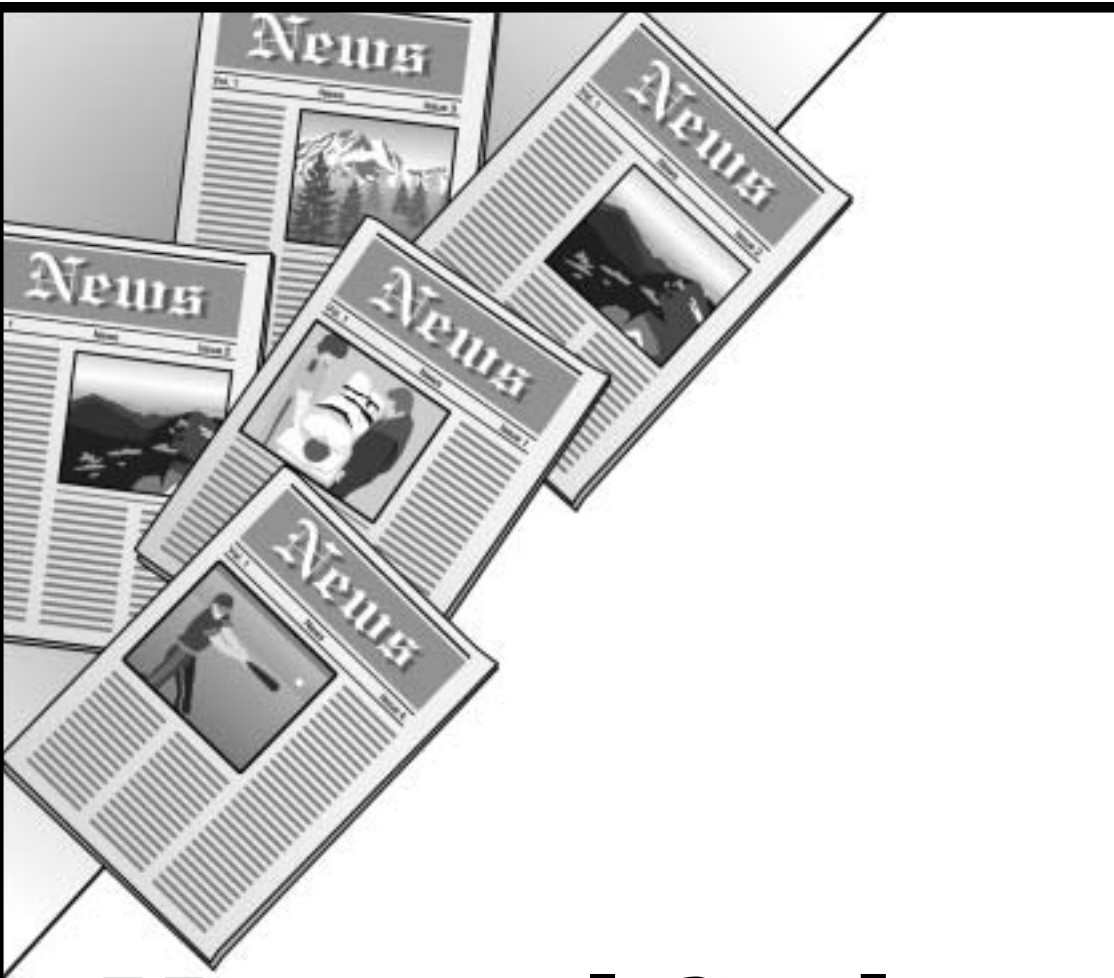
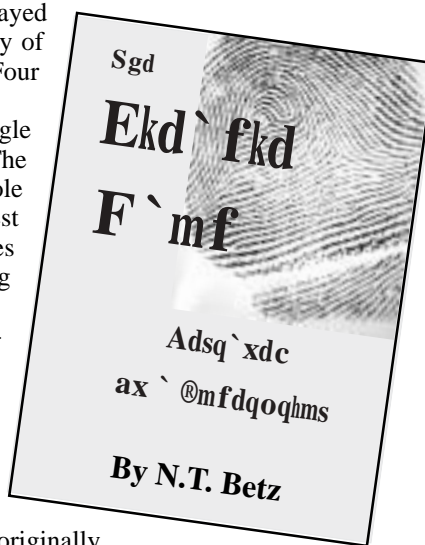
A U.S. Navy journalist and a graduate of the University of Colorado, Betz started his career delivering papers for his family's newspaper in Lamar, Colo., winning the first of numerous journalism awards as a teenager. He grew up on stories of the First National Bank robbery, and the Fleagle gang, originally reported on by his grandfather, Fred Betz, Sr.

The Fleagle Gang robbed banks and trains in Larned, Kinsley, Marysville, Ottawa and McPherson Kan., Lamar, Colo., Eugene, Ore., Pittsburg, Calif. and countless others of over \$1 million in the 10 years they operated.

Three gang members — Ralph Fleagle, George Abshire and Howard Royston — were "jerked up" at the Colorado Penitentiary a little over two years after committing the Colorado bank robbery. The fourth, Jake Fleagle, was shot on a train in Branson, Mo. in Oct. 1930.

Cartoonist Al Capp used Jake Fleagle to create the character Evil Eye Fleagle in the Lil Abner cartoon strip and Broadway show. Check out the website at www.nwkansas.com/home/fleaglegang.

"The Fleagle Gang" is available at **Knott Just Books** in Goodland (Call 890-7105 to reserve your copy.), and a book signing is planned for Friday, May 20. A second book signing is planned for Saturday, May 21, at The Barry Patch in Lamar which is the site of the original First National Bank of Lamar. The book is available at The **Finney County Museum** in Garden City, and online from the publisher *Authorhouse.com*, and other book stores.



Home and Garden Subscription Special

1 year • \$68
(maximum renewal, 2 years)

6 Months • \$38

The Goodland Star-News

1205 Main Ave • Goodland Kan. 67735 • 785-899-2338

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!	
4B Boarding	Marilyn Gittinger
American Family Insurance	Mark & Cindy Smith
Amy & Brad Schick	Mary Wickwar
Arlie & Delores Archer	Max Alderman
Back Door Bakery	McClung Appliances
BANKWEST	Mike Niernberger
Bob's Meat Block	Miller's Electronics
Bowladium Lanes	Mr. Jim's His & Hers
Buffalo Inn	NAPA
Callahan Grund	Natures Secrets - George Adelgren
China Gardens	Northern Sun - ADM
City of Goodland	NWKTC Auto Body
Comfort Inn	NWKTC Auto Technology
Crazy R's	NWKTC Bookstore
Dan Brenner Ford	NWKTC Cafeteria
Dependable Glass	NWKTC Cosmetology
Dr. Travis Daise	NWKTC Diesel
Eklund's First Insurance	NWKTC Electrical Technology
El Reynaldo's	NWKTC Electronics & Computer Technology
Elliott's Furniture	NWKTC Endowment
Everett & LaVonne Lage	NWKTC Office Staff
Farm Equity	NWKTC Welding
Farris Manufacturing	Overhead Door
Finley Motors	Paul & Linda Chaffin
First National Bank	Pearce Family
Gambino's Pizza	Picnic in the Park
Garcia's Home Furnishings	PJ's Home Improvement
Garrett's Liquor	Plains Mountain & Truck
Gary & Cindy Kickler	Rasure Lumber
Glenda & Bud Allaman	S & T Telephone
Goodland Greenline	Salon & Spa Services
Goodland Machine & Automotive	Scheopner's Water Conditioning
Goodland Regional Medical Center	Seamhead
Goodland Star News	Sharon & John Borgmann
Grinnell Furniture	Short & Son
Grinnell Locker Plant	Snap-On
Hennick Lumber	Sonny Rundell
High Plains Office Supply	State Farm Insurance
Inga Sloan	Stephen's Restaurant
JcPenney	Steve's Body Shop
Justin Bentzinger	Tom & Kathy Button
Kansasland Tire	Topside Office Products
Kears Liquor	Truck & Tractor Repair
Ken & JoAnn Clouse	Uniques by Bonnie
Kirk's Auto Supply	Wallace Co Coop
Knott Just Books	Wal-Mart
Lisa Jones	Western Dist.-Budweiser
Lock's Electric	Western State Bank
Mann's Jewelry	Witzel & Rhea Implement
Marilyn Frisbie	Yost Farm Supply

Thank you for your generous donations to the NWKTC Endowment fundraiser scholarship event. Items donated help make the event a great success.