

## Star Wars final episode opens



The Sherman Theater opened its doors about 11 p.m. Wednesday, and 124 people showed up for the midnight opening of the newest Star Wars film, Episode III "Revenge of the Sith." Most of the crowd were not born when the first

Star Wars film, now known as Episode IV "A New Hope," opened in May 1977. Owner Dave Branda said many were high school seniors celebrating their last day of school Wednesday.

Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Star-News

## County approves beer garden for Freedom Fest concert

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commissioners for suggesting the area.

"We are hoping to make the Freedom Fest into a two-to-three-day event," Swager said. "We have a good fireworks program, but we feel that expanding the event will be more beneficial to the businesses in the community."

She said the Chamber is planning a sidewalk sale on Friday, the concert on Saturday and the carnival rides and fireworks on Sunday. Monday is the rain day for the fireworks.

Rasure said the Chamber would have to get a license for the beer garden from the city because the fairgrounds is inside the city limits.

Swager said they will be asking the city for the license, but had to

have the contract with the county changed first.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Approved appointment of Marsha Schilling, April Hall, Colleen Duell and Scott Jarrett to the new Extension District Board. Dana Belshe, county extension agent, said two of the appointments will serve for four years and two will serve for two years. He said the district for Sherman and Wallace counties will begin operating in July.

After the initial terms, the citizens of each county will elect extension board members. The commissioners decided Schilling and Hall would serve four-year terms and Duell and Jarrett would serve two-year terms.

- Approved reappointment of

Gennifer House and Darin Neufeld to the Goodland Regional Medical Center board, and appointment of Mary Volk to replace Kim Duell, and former commissioner Chuck Frankenfeld to fill the vacancy left by Pete Whalen's resignation. House, Neufeld and Volk will serve three-year terms, and Frankenfeld will serve two years of Whalen's term.

- Held a 10 minute closed session with County Clerk Janet Rumpel and payroll clerk Crystal Wright. When back in open session, Rasure made a motion to reaffirm the county policy that all injuries on the job and personnel information must run through the clerk's office because of legal privacy requirements. A letter about the policy is to be sent to each department and to be posted.

## Soil Conservation program celebrates 70th anniversary

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

Anyone who's heard about the Dust Bowl would shudder to think of enduring the "Dirty '30s" again.

That fear motivated the formation of a government agency to prevent wind and water erosion of the soil.

Over the past 70 years, that agency has evolved to include protection for all natural resources — soil, water, air, plants and animals — and now goes by the name of National Resources Conservation Service.

The agency began as the Soil Erosion Service and then was the Soil Conservation Service under the U.S. Department of Agriculture. It has grown to include programs to help farmers and ranchers, and service employees work directly with them on conservation projects.

The agency's primary mission at first was to conserve soil on agricultural land, said State Conservationist Harold L. Klaege. In 1994, the service's name was changed to reflect its expanded role of protecting all natural resources.

"Although we are not planning a public celebration in Kansas," Klaege said, "we do want to make people aware of the anniversary's theme, 'A Partner in Conservation Since 1935.'"

The service is a liaison, said Fred Wedel, district conservationist for Sherman County; it works with farmers and ranchers to help them manage their resources.

When farmers come to the agency for help, Wedel said, someone goes out to the their place to evaluate the problem and suggest

solutions. Employees look for government programs the farmer or rancher might qualify for, he said, and sometimes refer them to other agencies.

For example, he said, sometimes the service doesn't have the help a farmer needs, but the Extension service does, so they send the farmer or rancher to talk to county agent Dana Belshe.

"One of my duties is to be a coordinator," Wedel said. "We are the only USDA agency that has the direct relationship we do with the farmers and ranchers."

Besides the extension office, Wedel said, the conservation service works with the Farm Service Agency, a sister agency in the Agriculture Department.

"We try to bring all things to-

gether," he said.

Wedel said that a farmer may come in and say that part of his pasture is being overgrazed. Someone from the conservation service, he said, would help the farmer develop a plan to have stock water on all parts of his rangeland with wells, pipes and tanks.

Providing water for livestock on all areas, Wedel said, keeps the animals from just grazing in one area. If there's a tank in one area and then another tank a mile and a half away, he said, the cattle will just stay where they are and graze near the water. It's similar to the way people avoid unnecessary effort.

"We'll walk to Wal-Mart," Wedel said, "but we won't walk to Colby's Wal-Mart."

Farmers need to pipe water to all

areas of their rangeland, he said, especially in hilly areas. Cattle don't want to walk up and down hills. In this area, Wedel added, farmers can't depend on ponds and streams for water.

As part of the service's Conservation Technical Assistance program, Wedel said, someone goes to the farm and offers suggestions to deal with a farmer's problems. Once the farmer decides on a plan, he said, the service can offer financial help.

The farmer can choose structural or management practices, he said. Structural practices include such things as terraces and wells, while management practices include strip till and no-till farming, rotational grazing and irrigation.

The service keeps changing, ad-

justing to the country's conservation needs, he said.

Most of the service's programs have offered incentives to start conservation practices, Wedel said, but a new program takes a different approach. The Conservation Security Program rewards farmers and ranchers for good work they are already doing, he said. The program started two years ago, he said, but is in its first year in Sherman County.

The program involves watersheds, or river drainages, Wedel said. In eight years, he said, all the watersheds should be included in the program.

For information about the service in Kansas and to review the agency's history, visit the Kansas Web site at <http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov> and click on "70th anniversary."

## Students paint creative designs on carnival horses

HORSES, from Page 1a

Envisioning designs similar to the street cows in downtown Chicago and Peanuts characters in St. Paul, Minn., Goodwin thought colorful horses, adorned with designs by individuals and organizations in Sherman County, could give the fair a special flair.

"I hope each one takes on its own personality," she said when kicking off the project in November.

Groups could paint them with sunflowers, patriotic designs or the theme of their organization, she suggested — for example, a school organization might paint a horse black and gold.

One of the horses designed and painted by the college students has

a black-and-white checkered design with red accents, and the other is adorned with the solar system around its saddle and bright colors on its mane.

"They look really sharp," said College President Ken Clouse. "It's a nice community service project."

The students did 20-30 drawings, said Shannon Garrett, computer graphics instructor, and the arts council picked the ones they liked the best. The students teamed up three to a horse, she said.

"I helped figure out some of the logistics," Garrett said.

The program has a talented group this year, she said, but they are not all artists. There are writers, computer junkies and others, Garrett said; it's a diverse group.

Students in the class are Erica Harlan, Cass Antholz, Brenda Welch, Cathy Lovins, Debra Hummingbird and Joe Dobbs.

Seven students in grades seven through nine in Kannady's dance classes will paint a "dance horse" with point shoes. Two students, Brennen Clouse and Courtney Sheldon, are working on the design, Kannady said, and it may include some words of dances.

Besides Clouse and Sheldon, Shelbi Herl, Alexis Bateman, Heather West, Halli Stone and Chelsey Horney will paint the horse.

So far, Goodwin said, five of the 22 carousel horses have been repaired and the basecoat painted. Another horse is being painted with a K-State design with Cora House in charge, Goodwin said, adding that she may have a group to paint the fifth horse.

Advanced Auto Body is painting

the horse with K-State purple, House said, and it will have Wildcat paws and paw prints in silver.

"I didn't know anything about paint," she said. "If it was a quilt, I could do it, but I thought I should have a professional do it."

House said she challenged some University of Kansas fans to do a horse too.

The five horses that are prepared now are probably all that will be painted this year, Goodwin said, since the carnival board will want to get the ride ready for the Freedom Fest in July and then the fair. It will take more than one or two years to paint all the horses.

The project is being done by volunteers, Goodwin said, so the work, from welding to painting, is being done in their spare time.

Groups interested in painting can call Goodwin at the center, 890-6442.


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at the plant here, he said, but managers from Hays will continue to support the new branch.

"We're excited," Robinson said. "It's working out well."

He added the town should know that Adronics is here to stay. He said they are planning a grand opening this summer and people are welcome to stop by anytime.

"I want everyone to know," he said, "we are a for sure deal."

 <p><b>STAR WARS: Episode III</b> Revenge of the Sith PG-13</p> <p><a href="http://www.goodlandnet.com/movies">www.goodlandnet.com/movies</a></p>	<p>Bring this AD to the theatre for \$1 OFF on a large popcorn &amp; 2 med. drinks EXP: 12/31/05</p> <p>Nightly 7:00 p.m. Sunday Matinee 1:30</p> <p>Movie Bucks Make Great Gifts!</p> <p><b>Sherman</b> 1203 Main - Phone 899-6103</p>
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