

# Gym market opens today

**GYM, from Page 1a**

artwork. The long tables are covered with home decorating items, books and miscellaneous stuff.

Everything from old keys to a judge's gavel from the 1900s is on display and tagged with a price.

Antique wooden china cabinets filled with assorted glassware are lined up along the south wall. Next to them sit an accent table, two chairs and a dresser.

From eight-track tapes to a Japanese kimono, the gym is filled with something to pique almost every interest.

Soper says he wants the gym to become a marketplace for others by opening the space up for rent.

Kathy Briney, Edson, will have items set up for the opening weekend.

Soper said he wants more vendors. He will provide the tables and help setting up.

He said he will help sellers move into the electronic age with eBay and other online auction sites, too.

While checking out the merchandise, gym customers can grab a bite to eat.

Soper said he will start in the morning with free Starbucks coffee and rolls. Later he will have hot dogs, cold drinks and potato chips for sale.

For information or to sign up for a booth, call 899-8588.

Norie Elliott, gym caretaker, carefully placed glassware into one of the antique wooden cabinets for sale at the new market.

Photo by Kathryn Burke  
The Goodland Star-News



# County to split dispatch position

**COUNTY, from Page 1a**

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said she has received several calls about the job, and that at least one person was interested in the dual position like Messamore has.

Tiede said talking to Rogers might give them some options. He asked Messamore if there was someone in her department who could be an interim head of dispatch. She said there was. She said the person does not qualify to run the department at this time because they do not have the supervisory experience listed in the county job description.

"I can say what I feel," she said. "If you have a combined position, the person should not have to do dispatch. If you divide it out, that is not a problem.

"You need to decide if the person is going to be a supervisor, or can do dispatching as needed. There are different qualifications."

She said the emergency management part has changed, especially after the terrorist attacks in 2001.

"I am trying to do some notes and training for people who will handle the things I do," Messamore said.

She said the county need to replace the Dictaphone recording

equipment, purchased for \$39,000 in 1996. She said the maintenance cost for this year is \$8,876, and Dictaphone has sold to another company.

Replacing the recording equipment would cost \$17,399 if ordered with a trade-in and discount. She said the new system has 20 channels and there is a one-year warranty. The maintenance cost for the next year would be \$2,900, and that after five years the cost would be about \$3,500.

Commissioners Tiede and Chuck Thomas approved the purchase of the new recording equipment to be paid out of the 911 funds. Messamore said there was \$59,000 in the fund.

The commissioners gave Messamore permission to add a universal power supply for \$600 if the company recommended it.

She handed the commissioners an inventory of the dispatch with all the new and old equipment noted.

Commissioners asked how the switch of phone companies, from SBC to S&T, had gone on Wednesday.

Messamore said it did not go smoothly and there were a number of problems. She said it was not smooth, but had been completed.

Her last day is Oct. 18.

# Pioneer Park project dresses up entrance to Goodland

**PARK, from Page 1a**

shrubs. Buffalo grass was planted and a drip system for watering tress and shrubs installed.

A cement hike-and-bike path was laid around the park and benches were set up in several locations.

"It really looks nice," Billinger said.

The commissioners approved payments for construction, starting with a payment to Miller Construction for scenic enhancement, hike and bike path and storm water mitigation for \$78,014.

Next commissioners approved a

payment to the engineering firm for scenic inspection, \$3,861.

Commissioners voted to seek reimbursement from the Kansas Department of Transportation for \$45,486 for its part of the project.

Another city project, replacing the kiddie pool at the Steever Water Park, is nearly completed, too, Neufeld said.

The youth pool itself is finished, he said, but work on the umbrella, pool sensors and boiler to heat the pool is still pending.

"Physically, inside of the fence," Neufeld said, "we're done."

Commissioners asked about

grass in the area.

Neufeld said grass on a berm in the area is growing back nicely and all of the area has been reseeded.

In other business, commissioners:

- Approved an agreement between the city and the Kansas secretary of transportation for the brick replacement of the intersections at Main with Ninth, 10th and 13th.

Commissioner John Garcia asked if the agreement was an 80 percent-20 percent split or a 70-30 split. Neufeld said the split was 70 percent from the state and 30 percent for the city.

- Thanked the city crews for help-

ing make the Flatlander Fall Festival a success. Commissioner Dave Daniels said many visitors complimented Goodland.

"I heard lots and lots of good comments," he said. "It just want to tell all the city crews thanks."

- Authorized City Manager

Wayne Hill and Clerk Mary Volk to attend the League of Kansas Municipalities annual conference in Wichita from Saturday through Tuesday.

- Appointed Greg Shores to fill a vacant position on the High Plains Museum advisory board on the recommendation of the board. Shores

takes the seventh spot left by Mary Lou Franklin, who died in June.

- Approved the minutes from the regular meeting on Monday, Sept. 19; a joint city and county commission meeting on Monday, Sept. 12; and a special meeting on Monday, Sept. 26.

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## State experts advise say ask businesses

**BUSINESS, from Page 1a**

depending on how many surveys are conducted, trends and specific problems can be identified."

She said the program is for communities and non-profit organizations, and registering is simple. The survey is available online and a community or organization can register through the web site.

"Once all the surveys are completed, they are sent to us in Topeka," Catchpole said. "We will input them and give you back the completed report."

She said the program began earlier this year, and six towns have started the process. The first was Russell, where she said the program is nearly complete.

Once a town is registered, Catchpole provides training and materials to help the volunteers ask the survey questions and get accurate answers. She said the state's report will have charts and graphs analyzing the statistics to give averages and rankings.

Catchpole said she also works with the state Board of Tax Appeals and handles requests for industrial revenue bonds. Dwane Timm, council vice chairman, said he had help from both Ballek and Catchpole while working on the county's tax abatement incentive program.

In other business, the council approved spending \$592 to help pay for 130 new welcome flags to replace those that have been damaged by weather, and to ex-

tend the display along 17th to Cherry and south to Business U.S. 24. The cost is being split with the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Donna Price, bureau executive director, said her office would be moving to the Centennial Building at the end of the month because the current office at 1206 Main is being sold.

Price said the new office will cost \$350 per month with all utilities paid. She said the Economic Development Council and Goodland Chamber of Commerce might move into offices to the same building at the \$350 per month rate. Steve West, a council member from Western State Bank, said the council's the current lease with Pete Whalen is due Oct. 1.

Council member Harlan House said he thought it was a good idea for the offices to stay together and to move to the Centennial building location.

Don Newell said it was a good idea, but with the Chamber unable to pay its \$100 rent now, it would be up to the Economic Development Council to pay their rent and that would mean \$700 a month. He agreed it would not be a big cost for the development council office to move, as the rent is similar to what they pay now with the utilities.

Garcia said the council should think about the move, and could hold a special meeting before the end of the month if necessary.

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