



Tom Betz, editor of *The Goodland Star-News*, won first place in the Kansas Press Association contest for this photo (left) of Chief Ray Smee holding his gun on Scott Baumfalk during an arrest at his home in July. Sharon Corcoran, society editor of *The Star-News*, won second place in sports photos (above) for her shot of cowboys holding the tail of a cow during the ranch rodeo at the Sherman County fair.

# Photographers lead award winners for papers

Northwest Kansas photographers were on the scene, shooting award-winning pictures last year.

*The Goodland Star-News*, *The Oberlin Herald* and *The Norton Telegram* all won first-place awards for photography during the Kansas Press Association's annual meeting in Wichita.

Tom Betz, editor of *The Star-News*, took first place in news photography for weekly papers, circulation up to 1,750, with a picture of Police Chief Ray Smee holding a gun on Scott Baumfalk.

Baumfalk was arrested in a raid on his home by city, county state and federal officers in July. He was suspected of having explosives and drugs in the house, but officers in-

stead found what they said looked like a meth lab.

The photo award was one of six for *The Star-News*. The paper won third place among small dailies in Kansas for news and writing excellence. Judges from the Arizona Press Association read and evaluated three issues of each paper.

"It's really an honor to rank that high among our peers in overall news quality," said Publisher Steve Haynes. "It speaks well of the job our staff does for Goodland."

Other awards included:

- Second place in column writing for Kathryn Burke, a former reporter for *The Star-News*, who wrote about chasing tornadoes with her weatherman husband.

- Second for sports photo to society editor Sharon Corcoran for a picture of cowboys pulling a cow's tail at the ranch rodeo at the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair.

- Honorable mention for series writing for stories Burke wrote about ethanol

- An honorable mention for headline writing. "Betty dances into Edson," was the headline on the story about the opening of the Edson gym as a flea market featuring Betty Boop.

The Oberlin paper took first place in the class for weekly papers with circulation from 1,751-4,000, for a sports photo by Jonna Inman, which showed Lady Red Devil Sarah Murray fighting to hold on to the

basketball in a game against the Ellis Lady Railroaders.

The judge from the Arizona Press Association said, "Great photo; no explanation or cut line needed here. The center of attention is clearly on the girl with the ball and the reader can easily see the determination on her face — that she's not going to give it up — and the determination on everyone else's face that they're either going to protect this player or get the ball from this player!"

*The Telegram's* Veronica Monier captured children getting wet during a tug-of-war contest during the annual Jennings Firemen's Fun Day for her first place in feature photos for weekly papers, circulation up to 1,750.

*The Herald* received honorable mention in sports features for a story about the undefeated Decatur Community High football team of 1955 by managing editor Kimberly Davis.

*The Telegram* won a second-place award for editorial writing by former publisher Cynthia Haynes; a third place for government and political writing by Ms. Monier for a story about Norton County finding out that it owned a school building; a third place for a photo package on the Norton County Fair by Ms. Monier, former publisher Dick Boyd, Carolyn Plotts, Susie Marble and Charlotte Stephenson; a third place for headline writing; and an honorable mention for column writ-

ing by Liza Deines, who writes about her youth during the Great Depression.

*The Colby Free Press* won a second-place award for feature writing by small dailies for a story about a boy and his dog by editor Patty Decker.

Phyllis Zorn, of the *Hays Daily News* and former editor of *The Goodland Daily News*, won second place for a religion story and honorable mention for a youth story.

Other area newspaper winning awards included *The Rawlins County Square Deal* in Atwood, which took first place for its editorial pages for weekly papers with a circulation of 1,751-4,000.

# Goodland School Board holds off on eligibility

By Pat Schiefen

*The Goodland Star-News* Goodland School Board members heard suggestions from the High School's site council for raising academic eligibility for extra curricular activities at the meeting on April 24 and ended up tabling them.

Harvey Swager, high school principal, said the council had checked on the eligibility requirements of area schools, which are competitors. Schools such as Scott City had higher requirements than the Kan-

sas State High School Activities Association. The association requires students to be passing five new classes each semester.

The site council recommended the school set eligibility as passing six new classes from the previous semester. Grades would need to be pulled every two weeks during the semester. If a student had two or more F's they would not be eligible for extra curricular activities and would remain ineligible until they are passing all classes. If money was available it was suggested hav-

ing a study hall before and after school.

An ineligible student could practice and play in extra curricular activities if they were working on class work in study hall each day they are ineligible.

The council suggested any ineligible student would not be able to be in any outside activities including school dances, musicals, sports, activities of clubs, math relays, science Olympiad. Activities such as pep band, DECA, electric car and any that involve a grade would not

be affected.

Gary McClung, member of the site council said, "We looked at a lot of different things and didn't differentiate between sports and things like DECA."

"The faculty spent two meetings and two department head meetings talking about eligibility," said Mary Porterfield, teacher. "Their recommendations were stricter yet."

To get new requirements in the student handbook they need to be done by May, said McClung.

"I have a couple of concerns,"

said Jane Philbrick, president of the school board. "I don't want to give kids another reason to quit school."

"It would hurt too many kids," said Marty Melia, board member.

"I'm in favor of raising eligibility," said LeAnn Friedrichs, board member. "How is expecting more going to hurt them?"

Dick Short, board member, asked Porterfield if the teachers had any concerns.

"One issue is class length," said Porterfield. "and freshman English needs to be offered in summer

school."

There were concerns that flunking a class such as freshman English could keep a kid out of activities all four years of high school, she said.

"I move to table this discussion on academic eligibility requirements and form a committee to further study the suggestions and include parents, teachers and student," Friedrichs said.

The board passed the motion but did not name who was going to be on the committee.

# Manager receives company award

By Pat Schiefen

*The Goodland Star-News* The manager of a Goodland motels received a top award at her company's annual meeting and banquet in Salina last month.

Judy Siruta, manager of the Comfort Inn here for six years, received a plaque and \$1,000 as Employee of



Siruta

the Year at the S&B annual employee meeting on Wednesday, March 29.

She said she is planning on getting some new furniture for her living room with the money.

S&B has headquarters in Wichita and does business in Manhattan, Lawrence, Wichita, Salina, Colby and Goodland. They operate Comfort Inns, Days Inns, Super 8s, Hampton Inns, Marriotts and Qual-

ity Inns, Siruta said, all in Kansas.

Siruta said she grew up on a farm north of Brewster and went to high school there. She ran travel agencies in Denver before moving to Goodland. Siruta worked at the Goodland Chamber of Commerce before she went to work at Comfort Inn.

She said she did not apply for the award. S&B has 400 to 500 employees. To get the award, a person needs to have worked for the company for two years, show leadership and an ability take action, perform consistently, meet deadlines and get positive comments from guests,

supervisors, employees and S&B associates. The company also has awards for Manager of the Year and Hotel Employee of the Year.

Her boss, Stanley Weilert, president of S&B, said any job Siruta has, she finishes and does it well.

"I love working for them," she said. "They are a fantastic organization to work for."

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