

# Air conditioning finished at West school

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News

The air conditioning at West Elementary School has been finished three weeks ahead of schedule, in plenty of time to cool down classrooms for the start of school on Wednesday, Aug. 23.

Architect Glen Strait of Strait and Associates of Colby told the Goodland School Board at its meeting on Monday night that he had made his final walk-through inspection.

"It was a good project," Strait said. "Everyone worked together well."

In the administrative area, he said, a duct had been added for an office he had thought was used for storage. The supply lines for the gas were replaced and gages were added.

The city has started upgrading the electrical service, Strait said. The original ser-

vice for 800 amps was marginal and went out last week. New wire has been strung and the three 50-amp transformers will be replaced with 75-amp transformers. The heating has been fired up but not tested, he said, adding that the air conditioning is the real test.

The contractor, Tatro Plumbing Co. of Garden City, would like to do the air conditioning at North Elementary School, he said, and they would like to order the equipment before Jan. 1.

Superintendent Shelly Angelos said she had checked with Kansas Association of School Board and the project for North Elementary will need to go through the bid process.

Summer school started Monday, said Angelos. There are 182 elementary students, 13 in junior high and 41 high school students. Teachers Tara Mull and Pam

Hardy are in charge of the elementary students, Tonya Gray the junior high and Jerry McKee the high school, she said.

Some students are required to attend and others are recommended by teachers, Angelos said.

The superintendent reported that the Kansas Supreme Court has not ruled on the school finance bill passed by the Legislature. The state has pre-released budget software, she said, which indicates they think the court will not strike down the finance bill.

She said she; Marvin Selby, financial advisor and former superintendent; and Pat Juhl, board clerk; planned to go to Oakley on Wednesday for a budget workshop.

She said she had received the goal summary from Dr. David Majors from the all-board training session. Discussion of the goals is planned for a special meeting at 6

p.m. Monday, Aug. 7.

Technology coordinator Karla Murray asked permission from the board to seek bids for computer projectors in the technology plan. The projectors work like an electronic blackboard. The district was planning on getting 36 but she said after checking, 31 would work.

One board member asked how many the district had now. Murray said it was hard to tell but there are at least two in each building. Equipment gotten with federal money for vocational education is not on her inventory, she said, nor is any purchased by principals for their buildings.

LeAnn Friedrichs asked if the board could see a technology inventory. Murray said she would have something for the board to look at the next board meeting on how many projectors the district has and where the new ones will go.

In other business, the board:

- Adopted a resolution to allow the district to pay bills by electronic funds transfers or checks.

- Approved end-of-year financial reports. A cash summary showed that funds that needed to be zeroed out were and others carried over as allowed by law such as special education, vocational, bilingual, at-risk and local option budget funds.

- Approved payment of \$146,034 in bills.

- Hired Rachel Stasser as a fourth grade teacher at Central Elementary School.

- Hired Jeanette White as elementary para professional

- Hired Mellanie Goodwin as activities director's secretary at the high school.

- Hired Emily Braxmeyer as assistant volleyball coach.

- Hired Janice Bonsall as high school cheerleading sponsor.

# Survey results show businesses growing

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Goodland businesses have been growing, creating new jobs, and they expect to continue, community leaders heard during a review Thursday of the survey results at the Howard Johnson's Hotel.

One-third of 38 Goodland businesses surveyed plan to grow, adding 44 jobs to the economy on top of 42 added in the last couple of years.

Cary Catchpole, economic development representative of the state Department of Commerce, explained the Business Retention and Expansion Survey results to city, county, Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Council board members.

Chamber board members, development council members and Kay Younger, economic development project coordinator, conducted interviews with the 38 businesses.

Catchpole said the owners said Goodland was a great place to do business, but there are some barriers to growth they identified.

"Goodland is in the middle of a solid job expansion trend," Catchpole said the survey shows. "That is based on 42 net jobs created over the past two years and 44 net jobs anticipated."

The businesses said they expect to expand their locations, adding

11,430 square feet over the past two years and expecting to add more, she said.

Goodland's central location was considered an advantage. Catchpole said, giving businesses good market access.

She said business people said they are having trouble locating the right employee skill level mix, and some are alarmed at what they call poor employee attitudes.

Other items identified as being less than adequate include air transport, availability of training services, quality and maintenance of roads, freight costs and quality of housing.

Catchpole said the positives included available space for businesses at a relatively low cost. She said it helped that the cost of living in Goodland was 25 percent below the national average.

Things rated high by businesses include phone service, fire protection, water and electrical services and quality of life.

She said the plan was to interview 44 businesses, but four declined to participate and 38 interviews were conducted. Those included 17 retail businesses; 12 service industry firms; four finance, insurance or real estate businesses; two agriculture establishments; one manufacturer; one transportation firm; and one wholesale company.

Of those surveyed, 37 businesses have an average of 6.6 full-time employees and 25 businesses have an average of 3.1 part-time employees. Catchpole said nine firms reported having employees who live outside the county, and the average of those Goodland businesses has 5.3 workers from out of town. The highest is 40 out of town employees.

Problems recruiting employees were diverse, she said. Responses from 18 firms indicate equal difficulty attracting skilled or professional workers. Recruiting unskilled employees was a problem listed by 39 percent of the businesses and 11 percent indicated problems recruiting employees with supervisory skills.

Among the reasons for the recruiting problems, the top issue reported was a reluctance to move to Goodland, Catchpole said. An equal number of businesses said the available workers have low skills, and 38 percent said the workers had poor work attitudes.

Sherman County Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked what businesses could do to overcome the reluctance to move to Goodland.

Catchpole said that would be a good topic for further study. She said it is possible we're not doing a good job of telling the story of how good it is to live in Goodland.

## What's in the hand?



Tabetha Peterson joined Dan Dan the Magic Man at the library on Wednesday as Dan showed her how to work a magic wand. The program was part of the summer reading program "Paws, Claws, Scales and Tales." Dan is from Great Bend. Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

# Street sealing to start

The city's annual street sealing project should start next week, Rich Simon, public works manager, said Thursday, and will last about a week.

People who live along streets to be sealed will be notified to get their vehicles off the street by city crew members knocking on doors, Simon said, adding that the schedule could be affected by the weather.

Simon said if a car it in the way and the owner can't be found, the city would have the vehicle towed.

He said the program will be similar to what was done last year, and done in two phases.

The city has been doing an annual chip seal every summer, doing about one-third of the streets each year.

Simon said the city was pleased with how well the streets that were sealed last year, then covered with a fog seal, have held up. He told the City Commission the new process should help the streets last longer, and

the city will probably be able to stretch the three-year cycle out to six years before redoing a street.

Simon said the new process is more expensive, but the better quality means the streets will last longer. The estimated cost is \$150,000.

About a month after the chip sealing, the same streets will be fog sealed to hold the surface better and extend the life of the chip seal, Simon said.

**Street to be sealed are** Eighth from Main west to D'Lao Drive, 11th from Kansas west to Cattletrail, 12th from Broadway east to Harrison, Sixth from Kansas east to Caldwell, Fifth from Caldwell east to Eustis, Third from Caldwell west to Kansas, Ninth from Main east to Arcade; Grand from 12th south to 17th, Sherman from Second south to Eighth and Clark from Ninth south to 17th.

## 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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## IRRIGATED PASTURE FIELD DAYS

### Barenbrug Forages

Open to the public and meal will be served concluding presentations.

**TOPICS INCLUDE:** Varietal Selection, Grazing Management, Rotational Grazing options, Drought Management Strategies.

### August 8th - 10:30 a.m.

**Vernon Tropf Farm - Champion, Nebraska**  
5 miles west on Champion HWY to AVE 322 then north 3/4 mile to field.  
Keith Regier (308) 882-8860

### August 8th - 6:00 p.m.

**Ernie Ketzner Farm - Bird City, Kansas**  
West 3 miles on HWY 36 to Rd 25, North 2 miles to RD P, E 1/2 mile to field.  
Brock Ketzner 719-342-8958

### August 9th - 10:30 a.m.

**Daryl Millershaski Farm - Montezuma, KS**  
8 1/2 miles north to RD T, 1 mile west to field  
Country Feed (620) 846-2259

### August 10th - 10:30 a.m.

**Tommy Mitchell Farm - Texhoma, Oklahoma**  
East 1.7 miles on State Hwy 95, South 8 Miles on CR 1290, East 5 miles on CR 2349, South 2 miles to field  
Brian Reed (405) 612-6978

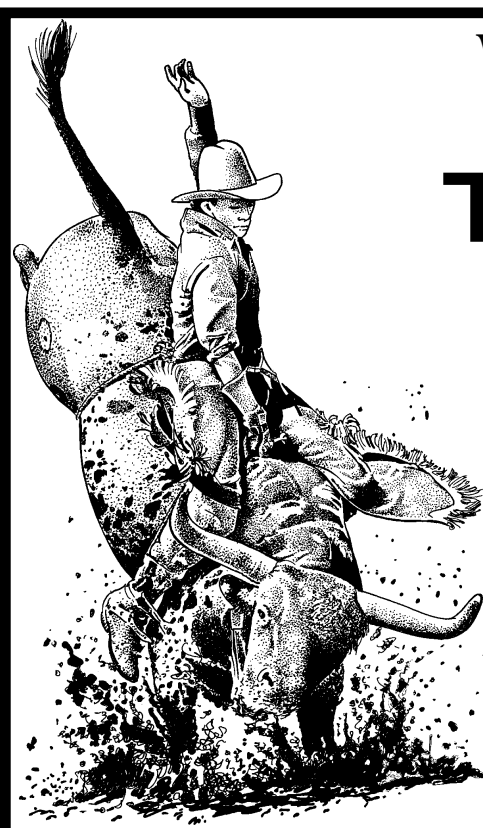
For questions regarding locations and information on Field Days contact above reps or ECS.

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# Thunder on the Plains

## Bull Riding

7 p.m. August 2<sup>nd</sup>

Sherman County Fairgrounds

Featuring local Bull Fighter Cory Wall & Tracy Weeter & Barrell Man Steve "Snorkel" Frahm

Top Bull riders from the PBR, PRCA, NSRA, and KPRA competing in the 2005 World Finals PBR portable arena on some of the top bulls in the country!

Adults: \$10  
Children under 12: \$5