Miss Kansas emphasizes family values

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Miss Kansas brought her message of strengthening the family to the Sherman County farm-city banquet audience Tuesday evening at the Goodland Elks lodge.

Miss Kansas, Michelle Walthers, was the speaker for the farm-city banquet attended by about 300 people and sponsored by the Goodland Area Chamber of Com-

Walthers entertained the audience by playing the piano during dinner, and at the end of her speech she demonstrated the signing talent she did for the Miss Kansas pag-

Walthers, a Barton Community College student who is from Tawanda, said she wanted to go to college, and she did everything she could do to raise money for college while in high school.

"Someone suggested I might try the Miss Kansas pageant," Walthers said, "because the top prize is a scholarship. "I had not thought about a pag-

eant, but decided to give it a try. The first year I came in fourth, and decided to give it one more try last year and won the Miss Kansas title." She said one of the things each

contestant has to have is a platform they would pursue as the voice of Miss Kansas. "I researched all the hot topics,"

she said. "I thought most of the problems being discussed had a common thread, and that is the fam-



GOODLAND STAR-NEWS Miss Kansas Michelle Walthers played music, spoke and sang at Goodland's Farm-City Banquest held Tuesday.

"If the family doesn't work, society doesn't work."

a big tree the family is the root sys- easy to remember the six points tem, and if the roots fail the whole because they spell out FAMILY.

Walthers said the family needs to be a strong foundation, and she had She said if we think of society as six ways to help. She said it was

Forgiveness was the first point, and she said true for giveness had to be complete and taken care of

Appreciation was the second, and she said we need to put this into practice in our daily lives.

Make memories was third. She said this means families need to spend time together.

Initiative was fourth. She said this was like teamwork, but that it goes further and the person needs to take the initiative to help the family even if it is not directly their job.

Love was fifth, and she said this is the glue that holds the family and relationships together. She said the three words, "I love you," need to be said even if you think they know

You was the sixth, and she said it is important to remember you have control over yourself, and to do things to support the family.

"I challenge you to go home and think of ways to make your family stronger," Walthers said. "Don't be happy with the status quo.

'Make it better.'

She sang a Liza Minnelli song 'Manhattan Lady," and a Nat King Cole song "Orange Colored Sky."

Master of ceremonies Dick Liess thanked Walthers for her program, and her offer to play the dinner

Walthers signed autographs and sold copies of her children's book after the program was over.

She said the Miss Kansas pageant this year will be in June in Pratt.

Abortion opponents accuse judge

TOPEKA (AP) — Abortion opponents filed an ethics complaint Thursday against the minishes the public trust in the Sedgwick County judge who dis- judicial system," Operation Resmissed 30 misdemeanor criminal cue President Troy Newman said charges against the state's bestknown abortion provider.

The complaint alleges District Judge Paul W. Clark violated rules of judicial conduct by not disclosing he had received cama law firm representing Dr. George Tiller and from Sedgwick County District Attorney Nola Foulston.

The rules, imposed by the Kansas Supreme Court, require a case "in which the judge's impartiality might reasonably be questioned."

State Sen. Tim Huelskamp, R-Fowler, who strongly opposes abortion, filed the complaint with the Commission on Judicial Qualifications, which reviews allegations of misconduct by judges. Officials with national listed as complaining parties.

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"When you have an overt appearance of impropriety, it diduring a Statehouse news conference where Huelskamp signed his complaint.

Dan Monnat, an attorney in the firm representing Tiller, said Clark has developed a strong paign contributions in 2004 from reputation for fairness in more than two decades on the bench. He said the ethics complaint is part of "last-gasp maneuvers" by abortion opponents against

"I think it's preposterous in judge to remove himself from a Kansas that a judge should need to disqualify himself because lawyers have contributed to his campaign," Monnat said. "It happens every day."

In December, then-Attorney General Phill Kline filed the criminal case against Tiller, accusing the doctor of performing illegal late-term abortions and failing to properly report the deanti-abortion groups, including tails to state health officials. Operation Rescue, also were Clark dismissed the charges the

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Campaign continues, despite wife's cancer

and Elizabeth Edwards stood sideby-side in the North Carolina sunshine to announce that her cancer was back and that his run for the presidency would go forward at full

It was a sympathetic tableau that drew an immediate outpouring of well wishes from people of all political persuasions. "You can cower in the corner and

hide or you can be tough and go out there and stand up for what you believe in," Edwards said.

together. That sort of can-do optimism in a grim and unavoidable sity. situation may well bring short-term benefits to a campaign trying to keep up with Democratic heavyhitters Hillary Rodham Clinton and Barack Obama.

But the longer-term political ramifications of his pursuing the presidency during her health crisis are unknown, and could well hinge on Mrs. Edwards' health.If Mrs. Edwards is able to campaign at his side with energy and vigor, there His wife said her illness was a could well be a positive reaction to

WASHINGTON (AP) — John hurdle they would surmount the resolute candidate and his wife, someone who has, and can identify who press forward despite adver-

selves have faced cancer or know makes her real."

with their challenge.

"It makes him real," said Demo-Millions of Americans them- cratic strategist Dane Strother. "It





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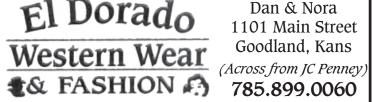
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