#### Brewster station celebrates 20 years of operation

By John Van Nostrand

In Psalm 98 of the Bible it states family's schedule. to make a joyful noise. A place near

KGCR, a Christianbased radio station (107.7 FM) is celebrating 20 years of broadcasting this

The station, west of Brewster, offers a mix of Christian contemporary

music and programs. The station was initially started by Brewster

Allen wanted a station he could rely on that had Christian music or programs. Regional, secular radio

changes in ownership or marketing took those songs off the air. "I talked with the pastor in Mingo at the time about an interest in Christian radio," Quenzer said. "I and Herb Roszhart then met in

Goodland to talk about that. I felt the Lord has blessed our farm and it was time to get involved." Roszhart is affiliated with Praise Network which has Christian stations.Quenzer, 67, estimated it took at least three years to turn those discussions into a working radio station. Ouenzer found the land to build the station. He and others went

applied for, and applied for again. "None of us had radio experience. I never dreamed it would happen," Quenzer said. "The Lord works in mysterious ways."

But when March 1, 1988, arrived, so did the sounds of KGCR.

"That first time on the air, you don't forget that," he said. "My Tribute" and "Find Us Faithful"

were the first songs played. Quenzer was active in station operations during its first 10 years. He watched the growth in the listeners, donations to keep the station operat-

ing and the employees come and go. "I am thankful for the support of our audience and supporters," he said. "We are fortunate being in a rural area to have a Christian radio station. I know of people who have donated part of their Social Security

check or pension."

tions became more technical and the jvannostrand@nwkansas.com station occasionally interrupted his

"It was better than I ever Brewster is doing just that this dreamed," Quenzer said about the station's activity.

Because of the growth and the challenges that came with it, the Quenzers donated the station in 1998 to the Praise Network. Praise Network has stations in Hays, O'Neill, Norfolk and Grand Island, Neb. Praise Network has offices in Hays and Aurora, Neb. Quenzer is still

residents Allen and Doris Quenzer. involved with operations by sitting on the Praise Network board.

Station manager James Claassen has been with the station for 19 of stations in the 1980s had them, but those 20 years. He almost started his relationship with the station the same time he got married.

"We actually visited the station on our honeymoon, about two months extension of church." after it was on the air," he said. 'Then we came a year later."

James' wife, Brenda, also assists with operations at the station.

"We visited because we thought we might be here," James said. "The station was looking for some sible," he said. help, but Brenda still had a year of school left."

Claassen, who grew up near Wichita, attended Calvary Bible College in Kansas City, Mo., and to Topeka and a place near Denver developed an interest in Christian for equipment. Licenses had to be radio. He had worked at stations in metro-Kansas City.

"If things were still good, we would come back," James said about going to Brewster.

Although staff and the songs played have changed over the years, the station's mission has not.

"Our goal is exactly the same," he said. "Our mission statement is to glorify God and turning hearts to Christ. That was the mission when started and the mission now."

Claassen said about half the day's offering is music and the other half is programs.

'We wanted something to reach the span of the body of Christ. We have Bible-teaching programs and self-help programs from money to personal issues."

Claassen said the station complements listeners' faith.

"When people leave their church, As the station grew, so did the there is still something to keep them demands. Quenzer said the opera- on focus. We like to think we are an



From left, Herb Roszhart, Lloyd Mintzmyer and KGCR station manager James Claassen share some air time while at KGCR, located near Brewster. Roszhart and Mintzmyer are both involved with Praise Network, which KGCR is apart of. March marks the 20th anniversary of KGCR.

has a Shareathon, its fundraising campaign. The money is the station's operating budget.

"We like to be as frugal as pos-

He said the listeners of the station was \$170,000, which it exceeded. mercial station by the Federal Comgive back. Held in the fall, KGCR This year's goal is expected to be munications Commission, it can't \$175,000. Claassen estimated two-have traditional, radio-like ads. third of the funds are from listeners and one-third is from businesses.

a primitive ad on the radio. Since is made up of part-time employees www.kgcr.org.

James is one of two full-time

who man the station during the evenings. When the station first opened, employees used turntables and reel-to-reel tapes. Now everything is digital or from a computer

"The technology has been huge," Claassen said.

The station's reception area is about a 75-mile radius. According to its promotional clip, the station can be heard along I-70 from Quinter to Stratton, Colo. During the past five years, the station has expanded its reach.

A translator was installed in Chevenne Wells, Colo. Three years ago another translator was installed in Wray, Colo., and last year the translator for McCook, Neb., was turned on.

"People there were wanting Christian radio," Claassen said. "We already provide news and weather for the area.'

The station will celebrate the entire The Shareathon goal last year KGCR is considered a non-commonth of March. The anniversary month will conclude with a free concert by Scott Krippayne at 5:30 p.m., on Monday, March 31, at Colby High School. To attend the employees at the station, as has been concert a person must have a ticket. Businesses who donate receive done in the past. The rest of the staff For ticket information, go online to

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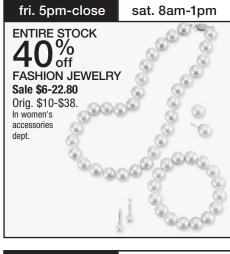
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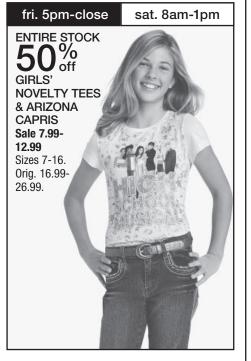
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