

# Commissioners plan to fill vacancy Jan. 17

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Dechant asked if there have been many people contacting Gerber. Gerber said he has had six or seven contact him. Garcia said he has had several contacts. Fairbanks said she has had a couple contact her. Dechant said he had a couple ask for information and one who has confirmed his interest. He said the 17th would work for him as he will be in Topeka on the 19th and 20th. He said he would look up the new State Representative Billinger while he is in Topeka. Gerber said the city staff has to be outside the decision. He suggested the commissioners could invite those interested to be at the meeting and to give them two minutes to speak. Dechant said the commissioners should come ready to fill the vacancy on the 17th, and the other three commissioners agreed. In the City Manager's report Gerber said he would meet with John Collett on Tuesday about starting the negotiations on the airport contract and use of the hangar. He said the Airport Board would meet on

Wednesday to decide what to submit to the Federal Aviation Administration for the five-year plan. He said the city was allowing employees to attend the funeral on Thursday for Harvel Larm, and the city shop would be closed during the funeral. He said the city lost a good employee. He said he wanted to recognize Rich Simon, public works director, and Officer Joni Showalter who did CPR on Larm and revived him to get him to the hospital and flown to Hays where he died several hours later. Gerber said after the interviews he has extended a contract offer to the top candidate for the economic development coordinator position. He said he hopes to know a decision later this week. "I think he is going to be an outstanding person if he is willing to accept," Gerber said. Simon said the crews from VanKirk Brothers are installing the individual water taps along the new main water line on 10th, and as this is happening some people around town are seeing some cloudiness in the water. He said this is from air in the lines and should clear up in a few days.

## Street work continuing



A crew from APAC of Hays is starting the new year working on the corner and valley gutter at 11th and Caldwell Ave. The work will continue through the spring as APAC gets the curb and gutter and valley gutters along Caldwell ready for the next step a mill and overlay to be done in the spring. Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

# People thank Billinger for service to the city

SERVICE, from Page 1

representing the area. Former State Representative (1961-1964) and State Senator (1964-1966) John Golden congratulated Billinger on being selected, and said he is glad to see someone from Sherman County as the representative. Golden and Billinger talked about the capitol and Golden talked about how things have changed since he served. Golden said the state has done a lot of work to improve the buildings. "I have one piece of advice," Golden said. "Once you make up your mind on an issue stick with it and don't change." Billinger thanked Golden for coming and for his sage words. After the reception Billinger attended his final city commission meeting. Under state law he cannot serve as state representative and city commissioner at the same time and his commission seat will become vacant when Billinger is sworn in at Topeka on Monday. City Manager Doug Gerber said it had been good to work with Rick,

and he was looking forward to working with him in Topeka. City Commissioners John Garcia, Annette Fairbanks and Dave Daniels each said they had enjoyed working with Billinger. "Thanks for the reception," Billinger said. "There was a nice turnout. I want to thank the present commissioners. I have enjoyed working with you. I feel we have done a good job. "I want to thank the past commissioners who I have worked with. Doug and Mary (Volk, city clerk) and their good staffs. Thanks to Rich (Simon, public works director) and Rod (Blake, power plant superintendent). "We have had the best employees and they always do more than is asked. That is how we have been able to run the budget the way we have for the past years. Thanks to them all." Mayor Josh Dechant said he appreciated Billinger's leadership, experience and forward thinking. "That has helped make it easy for us on the commission, and we know you will do a good job for us and remember Goodland."

# Coyote Calling Contest set for weekend

By Karen Krien

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FoxPro's Midwest Coyote Calling Event will be held Saturday and Sunday in St. Francis at the fairgrounds. This is the 14th year for the calling contest to be held in St. Francis. Again, the response has been tremendous, said Brent Rueb, event coordinator. There will be 74 Dead Coyote class teams and 55 HEVI-Shot class teams. As of Dec. 29, the Dead Coyote class had been closed, however, the HEVI-Shot class has been full since Oct. 1. Callers are coming from Kansas, Colorado and Nebraska as well as Oklahoma, Wyoming, South Dakota, New Mexico, Minnesota, Texas and Missouri. These callers are some of the top callers in the nation! People who are not participating in the event are urged to come to the fairgrounds during check-in on Sunday to see all the teams returning with their coyotes. It is a good time to talk to the hunters, callers like to swap calling techniques and it is just an interesting event to be a part of. Two-pointer coyote Last year, the two-pointer coyote competition was a success with nine two-pointers killed, Mr. Rueb said. A two-pointer coyote is a coyote that has a predominately white-tipped tail (80 percent or more white than black). There are very few coyotes that have a white-tipped tail and so this

competition is very unique. Winning first in this contest was the team of Mahar and Rice from Gothenburg, Neb. Second place went to the team of Tarrell and Douglass of Sidney, Neb. There will be an additional \$10 added to the cost of entry fees which will be set aside for this competition. The extra fee, Mr. Rueb said, will have no effect on the regular payback and the two-pointer will still have it's same value as the rest of the teams' coyote count and total weight. Mr. Rueb said there are a few of the two-pointer coyotes out there! Hunters usually see anywhere from six hairs or more but normally no more than 20 or so in a coyote's tails. A two-pointer, he said, is easily detected and it is very apparent that almost all the hair in the tip of the tail is white. Kill block A new style of kill block was used last year. It is a "bench mark" in the contest-calling industry. This newly designed kill block dramatically stops the chances of pooling coyotes and cheating. The Midwest Coyote Event will have their kill blocks laser engraved with a special logo. This stops teams from making extra kill blocks of their own and also stops teams from pooling coyotes from other hunters in order to increase their harvest count. "This is another effort that we are taking to make sure that the Midwest Coyote Calling Event is honest and promotes the rules of fair chase," Mr. Rueb said. "The masters of coyote calling just keeps getting better and stronger." 2010 results Of the 142 teams participating in the 2010 event, 140 teams returned Sunday for check in. The hunters reported seeing 1,162 coyotes and killed 413. Last year's top four winners in the Dead Coyote class were Jeremy Gugelmeyer, Dalhart, Texas, and Nick Peterson of Lamar, Colo., with 19 coyotes. They were also the first place winners in 2009. Second place went to Bobby Guzman and Joel Kolean, both of Brush, Colo., with 13 coyotes; taking third were John Griswold, Piedmont, S.D., and Sam Stoddard, Kadoka, S.D., with 12 coyotes. The fourth place team was Stan Cure, Goodland, and Joel Crisman, Highlands Ranch, Colo. In the HEVI-Shot class, first place went to the team of Matt Brown, Wellington, Colo., and Jon Bopp, Loveland, Colo., with eight coyotes. Matt Smull and Lance Long, both of St. Francis, took second with seven coyotes. There were four teams bringing in seven coyotes and the placing was determined by the total weight of the coyotes brought in by each team. Third place went to Judd Kravig and Jason Kravig, Goodwell, Colo., and Laird, Colo., respectively. Fourth place winners were Victor Sampson, Wray, Colo., and Tom Hoff, Laird,

# Previous Goodland first baby of the year

BABIES, from Page 1

Parents: Yesenia Diaz and Jesus Diaz. 1999 - Sunday, Jan. 3 - boy, Jordan Jonithan Thomas Mustain. Parents: Misti Mustain. 1998 - Monday, Jan. 19 - boy, Christopher Keith Hoard. Parents: Elizabeth Hoard and Daniel Hoard. 1997 - Wednesday, Jan. 1 - boy, Michael Peterson. Parents: Victoria Peterson and Nathan Peterson. 1996 - Friday, Jan. 11 - girl, Kathryn Elizabeth McDaniel. Parents: Teena McDaniel and Bobby McDaniel. 1995 - Friday, Jan. 6 - girl, Chloe Anne Goodwin. Parents: Tina Goodwin and Curt Goodwin. 1994 - Friday, Jan. 7 - girl, Logan Tyler Lawson. Parents: Bonnie

Easterling and Dennis Lawson 1993 - Friday, Jan. 1 - girl, Christy Marie Studer. Parents: Kelly Studer and Kenny Studer. 1992 - Friday, Jan. 3 - girl, Jessica Elaine Lake. Parents: Lora Lake and Mike Lake. 1991 - Sunday, Jan. 13 - girl, Jessica Dahn Bauman. Parents: Kindi Bauman and Chris Bauman. 1990 - Friday, Jan. 5 - boy, Justin Robert Sherlock. Parents: Cindy Sherlock and Gilbert Sherlock. 1989 - Tuesday, Jan. 3 - boy, Travis Allen Purcell. Parents: Kaylene Purcell and Trev Purcell. 1988 - Monday, Jan. 4 - boy, Mario Hernandez. Parents: Maximina Hernandez and Mario Hernandez. 1987 - Friday, Jan. 9 - girl, Laura Renee Gross. Parents: Dovie Gross and Dr. Bruce Gross.

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