

from our viewpoint...

Celebrities happy to help raise money

Friday evening was the annual Slice of Life Auction and the sports celebrities handed out signed Chiefs and Broncos footballs to 20 couples who have helped keep the hospital foundation fundraising event going for 22 years.

The sports celebrities helped with the program and the golf teams were a part of it with each competing to see which celebrity would be their team partner for the Slice of Life golf tournament on Saturday.

Raising money for the hospital dialysis unit and for future improvements was this year's goal. Some of the celebrities have been coming to the event for several years, and are happy to help raise money for the Northwest Kansas Hospital Foundation.

Sugar Hills Golf Club hosts the special auction and golf tournament, and the weather was great on Friday for the reception under the tent.

Goodland Regional Medical Center has been working on the dialysis unit for more than a year, and hopefully the hurdles have been crossed to begin construction later this summer and be open in the fall.

For the patients who need this special service the choices are narrow, and with the closure of the clinic in Burlington last year anyone in this area has to search outside the area. For many it means moving to another city where the service is available, and several Goodland citizens have had to face that decision in recent years.

Taking on the dialysis clinic will not probably make the hospital a profit, but as Hospital Administrator Jay Jolly said it is a needed service, and fits in the mission of the Goodland hospital.

Talking to the sports celebrities on Friday they truly enjoy coming to Goodland for this great cause, and their enthusiasm helps our citizens look forward to those better days.

Today's edition of The Goodland Star-News includes a special Progress Section. The stories highlight several areas of progress in the past year including the hospital and Northwest Tech.

Progress sometimes is big, and everyone can see the changes. For many small businesses progress is a change in the menu, a new outdoor patio or new equipment to help repair cars. For some in this economy it is celebrating being in business for another year, and looking forward to better things in the future.

We salute the small businesses, and know they are the heart and soul of our economy. When we shop in our local stores we help each other.

Anything we can do to help promote our community will come back many times over. We need to be positive when we talk to visitors about our community, because you never know if the person is someone who may be looking to open a business or relocate. The front line people in this effort are the people at the motels and restaurants who are the first people the visitor meets when they come to Goodland.

We enjoy featuring the businesses in the Progress Edition, and thank those who gave us their information to help tell their stories. — Tom Betz



Arizona is really hot, dry or not

"It's a dry heat," they always say.

That's just so much bunk. "They" should know if they live there.

But I don't care what they say; when it's 110, it's hot.

When we arrived at Phoenix for our meeting last week, it was, the pilot announced, 110 outside. And that's in the shade.

The walk down the jet way to the gate was stifling. The cool of the terminal only a brief respite. Outdoors, the full force of the evening hit you.

Since it's a dry heat, you have the illusion of not sweating. The droplets just evaporate straight off your skin. Dry does have some advantages. As long as you're not digging ditches in the sun, you can cope.

But then, by the time we started to evening, and the sun was no longer high.

At noon, dry heat or not, it's hard to function in the sun. Whatever they say.

And pretty soon you start to understand why Arizona does not observe Daylight Saving Time. They are in a hurry for the sun to go down. They don't need any more.

The evenings are pretty decent. In downtown Tempe, restaurants offer outdoor patios where



steve haynes

• along the sappa

misters spray water on the guests day and night. At night, though, with a little breeze, you really don't need it. It's only in the 90s.

We found Arizona a strange place, where tourist attractions close in the summer and open again in the fall. Who'd be crazy enough to go to the desert in the summer? (Conventional wisdom does not account for convention planners looking for cheap hotel rooms, however. One museum we visited actually had to open up just for our group.)

At night, the students come out and roam the streets. Downtown Tempe and the Arizona State campus sort of meld together, the campus almost more a collection of city blocks than a park-like area.

Denizens of the night inhabit the sidewalks, college girls wearing too little and boys with more tattoos than any adult needs to see. And tourists who just shake their heads.

Street kids ride skateboards or play a guitar or dance for dollars. There's an argument. A guy playing a sax tells a young woman to find her own corner and start singing to "earn a living." He's not very nice, but neither is she.

You wonder where they will be 30 years from now. Sleeping under a bridge, holding a sign and a cup at an intersection? They're so young to have dropped out, but society doesn't offer much to the dysfunctional.

By midnight, it may be down in the 80s. It never gets past the 70s. It might be that hot for a week or two out on the plains, but this is nothing like the heat we're accustomed to. In the desert, summer starts in May and runs to October.

I wear my shorts for three days. Most everyone else is in shorts, too. It's just a matter of survival. Going in and out, from heat to air conditioning, that's just normal. You'd have to think it'd cause a lot of summer colds.

Soon enough, we sweat our way through the jet way and let the little plane take us back to the plains, where it's cool. We follow thunderstorms east into the night, the temperature hovering in the 50s. It doesn't feel bad at all.

Manufacturing jobs in rural America

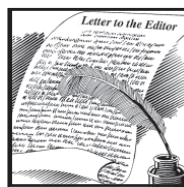
By Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack

Over the past two years, U. S. Department of Agriculture and our federal partners have focused on creating jobs and driving economic growth in rural communities.

At President Obama's direction, we have built and modernized critical rural infrastructure - providing broadband Internet access to millions of rural Americans and improving roads, bridges and wastewater systems. We have expanded educational opportunities and made quality health care more affordable for rural families. This work is improving the quality-of-life and helping to create jobs in rural communities.

The manufacturing sector is one of the biggest employers in rural America, providing more than 2.5 million good-paying jobs for families and serving as the backbone of communities across the country. But manufacturing was particularly hard hit in the recent recession. So our efforts in rural America are looking to promote innovation and strengthen the rural manufacturing sector.

We are looking to promote production of biofuels using advanced technologies to cre-



from other pens

• commentary

ate manufacturing jobs building and operating new facilities, and we are supporting jobs in the ongoing production of renewable energy. Our work to expand access to broadband Internet has the potential to bring new, lean, small manufacturers to rural communities - particularly those with a strong, educated work force and a good standard of living.

And the Obama administration's efforts are paying off. Nationwide, since the beginning of 2010, manufacturing has added almost a quarter of a million jobs - the best period of manufacturing job growth in over a decade. And in rural communities, we have seen a more than 5 percent increase in manufacturing jobs in the past year.

To continue this progress, the Obama administration is supporting efforts to train and prepare our workforce to compete for manufacturing jobs across the nation. We are

working to strengthen our nation's community colleges, and help them credential students for these jobs.

We understand what it takes to build a stronger economy. We must invest in the research and technology that will lead to new ideas and new industries of the future. We must manufacture new products right here in America.

Above all, we must train and educate Americans to out-compete workers from other countries. This will strengthen the economy, strengthen the middle class and allow us to win the future.

We know what happens when we believe in the strength and determination of the American people. It's what happened in Detroit and surrounding with the resurgence and turnaround of the auto industry. They're hiring again, adding second shifts and rebuilding their communities. And rural America can see the same progress.

Promoting a revitalized manufacturing sector in rural America will not only put folks back to work, it's critical to our nation's success as we compete in a 21st century global economy.

A thank you from Run for the Wall couple

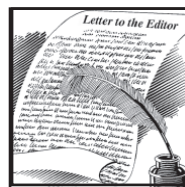
To the Editor:

My husband and I were a part of the Run for the Wall 2011. We want to thank the citizens of Goodland for providing dinner and breakfast for our group.

What a great group of people. We know the

amount of work involved in preparing for that sort of event and appreciate that your community comes together to make it work. We very much appreciate the great roast beef dinner and enjoyed being inside for both meals.

Thanks for the patches—I have stitched them



from our readers

• to the editor

on our vests. The program was wonderful - what talented young singers! Please convey our appreciation to everyone involved.

Eddie and LaJean Chance
Pueblo, Colo.

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The Goodland Star-News

(USPS No. 222-460. ISSN 0893-0562)

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Inland Press Association Colorado Press Association

National Newspaper Association

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Published every Tuesday and Friday except the days observed for New Year's Day, Memorial Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas Day, at 1205 Main Ave., Goodland, Kan. 67735.

Periodicals postage paid at Goodland, Kan. 67735; entered at the Goodland, Kan., Post Office under the Act of Congress of March 8, 1878.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Goodland Star-News, 1205 Main Ave., Goodland, Kan. 67735.

TELEPHONE: (785) 899-2338. Editorial e-mail: star-news@nwkansas.com. Advertising questions can be sent to: goodlandads@nwkansas.com

The Goodland Star-News assumes no liability for mistakes or omissions in advertising or failure to publish beyond the actual cost of the ad.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: In Sherman County and adjacent counties: three months, \$29; six months, \$46; 12 months, \$81. Out of area, weekly mailing of two issues: three months, \$39; six months, \$54; 12 months, \$89 (All tax included). Mailed individually each day: (call for a price).

Incorporating:

The Goodland Daily News

1932-2003

The Sherman County Herald

Founded by Thomas McCants

1935-1989

THE SHERMAN COUNTY STAR

Founded by Eric and Roxie Yonkey

1994-2001

Nor'West Newspapers

Haynes Publishing Company