



Class of 1961 honored at game, bonfire

The homecoming rally and game honored the Class of 1961 on Thursday and Friday night. It has been 50 years since they graduated from Goodland High School.

Photos by Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News

College burglary investigation leads to arrests

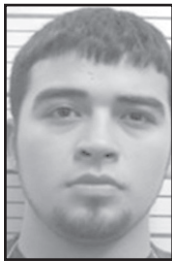
Two former Goodland residents were arrested Wednesday in Manhattan in connection with the burglary at Northwest Technical College and a string of home burglaries in August.

Investigation by the Goodland Police, Sherman County Sheriff and Federal Bureau of Investigation led to the arrest Wednesday of Fernando and Eduardo Martinez of Goodland, who had moved to Manhattan and were attending Kansas State University.

Sherman County Sheriff's deputies and Goodland Police obtained arrest warrants for the two for multiple charges of burglary, theft and deprivation of property.

The Riley County Police Department and Kansas State University Police arrested the two and turned them over to Goodland Detective Joni Showalter and Sherman County Deputy Travis Belden. The two men were transported back to Goodland and booked into the Sherman County Bastille.

When Fernando Martinez was arrested he had one of the stolen iPads and some other stolen property in



E. Martinez



F. Martinez

his possession. When Eduardo Martinez was arrested he was wearing shoes that matched the shoe prints found near the discarded ATM and several other burglaries.

City police and Sheriff's deputies continue to attempt to track down more of the stolen property from these crimes, said Police Chief Cliff Couch.

"The officers involved in this investigation are to be commended," said Sheriff Kevin Butts. "This is a great example of interdepartmental cooperation."

"The numerous law enforcement officers who worked on this investigation did an incredible job," said Chief Couch. "They put in many long nights and an enormous

amount of effort to make sure the people responsible for this crime spree were brought to justice. Any would-be criminals should take note such crimes will not go unanswered in our community."

In August local law enforcement began investigating a string of residential and vehicle burglaries occurring in the Goodland area. One of the burglaries was at Northwest Kansas Technical College where an ATM machine and numerous iPads were taken.

The stolen ATM was later found in Sherman County, outside the city limits. The ATM appeared to have been cut open using a welding torch. Shoe prints were located near the discarded ATM.

During a joint investigation between Goodland police, Sherman County Sheriff and Federal Bureau of Investigation, information was developed indicating some of the stolen items were possibly being kept at a Goodland residence. A search warrant was obtained and executed by Goodland police and Sheriff's deputies and several stolen items were located.

Police department changes structure

Beginning on Monday the Goodland Police Department's patrol division will be divided into two groups, said Chief Cliff Couch.

The two groups or 'rotations' will work opposite days of each other providing 24-hour coverage for the city, Couch said. Each rotation will be supervised by a sergeant and staffed by several officers.

Sergeant Greg Krosky, a 14-year veteran of the department, will supervise the first rotation. Sergeant William Fulcher, an 18-year veteran of the department, will supervise the second rotation.

Chief Couch said the days worked by the two

rotations will overlap once per week, allowing time for officers to train.

He said the reorganization will create a full-time investigator position. Detective Joni Showalter, who led the recent investigating into the Northwest Tech burglaries, will fill this position.

"This new structure will make the department more efficient and responsive to the needs of the community," Chief Couch said. "The new patrol schedule will increase accountability and the new investigator position will ensure better follow up on cases reported by citizens."

Christopher Castaneda, Crystal Bueno and Hector Sariana were at the residence and arrested after the search on charges of possession of stolen property.

At the same time, investigators determined more stolen property was in a dorm room at Northwest Tech. College officials conducted a room search and located several items. They informed the Goodland Police and Detective Showalter obtained a search warrant for the room

and seized the times. Ricardo Valdez, Jr., resident of the dorm room, was arrested and charged with possession of stolen property.

Investigators were able to locate one of the iPads stolen from the college.

After further investigation and interviewing suspects, officers determined that Fernando and Eduardo Martinez, both Goodland residents, were possibly involved

in the burglaries. It was determined both men had apparently left town, and had moved to Manhattan where they were attending KSU.

Both men are in the Sherman County Bastille on \$152,000 bond for two counts of burglary; two counts of conspiracy to commit burglary; three counts of theft; and criminal deprivation of property.

County renews membership

By Ava Betz

abetz@nwkans.com

Sherman County residents of all ages can have a break on the cost of their medical prescriptions thanks to the county commissioners, who renewed their agreement with the National Association of Counties (NACo) Friday.

County residents may obtain a free card at the County Clerk's office in the Sherman County Court House and take it with them when they have their prescriptions filled.

It is not an insurance program and it will not cover prescriptions already covered by insurance. There are no restrictions on costs or number of times the card may be used, and it can save an average of 20 percent on prescription drugs, according to information from NACo.

As part of the program, card users may be eligible for higher discounts on some medications and on "high-tech" and injectable drugs.

The discount card is available to county residents as part of the

county's membership in the national organization, which costs \$400 a year. The program has been available to residents for several years, according to County Clerk Janet Rumpel, but she added there are probably some residents out there who are unaware of it.

The Goodland Walmart accepts the NACo card and the program information mentions a mail service program.

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.

TWO FER SPECIALS

October special: For any two women that sign up **together**, they will receive a special deal: a 1 year contract for only \$20/month per woman!

Changing Lifestyles

24-hour Women's Fitness Facility
1224 Main, Goodland • (785) 890-7512, (785) 821-2389

PUBLIC NOTICE

NW KS GMD#4 WTAP Sign-up Starts October 1

The Kansas Department of Agriculture will be accepting applications during the period October 1 to November 15 for the Water Right Transition Assistance Program, WTAP.

WTAP is a voluntary, incentive-based program designed to help restore aquifers and streams in critical areas by retiring water rights. Six "High Priority" units in the Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 4 have been designated as eligible target areas by the Chief Engineer because of significant water level declines. They have been designated to be in need of aquifer recovery and are now closed to further appropriations of water. These six areas in Cheyenne, Sherman, Thomas, and Sheridan counties are also the subject of additional management program protocols being discussed with landowners by GMD#4.

Applicants who are selected for WTAP grants are compensated by the Kansas Department of Agriculture in exchange for the permanent retirement of water rights on irrigated land. Priority is given to retiring water rights in areas which would have the greatest impact on the aquifer system. A fixed rate price of \$2,000 per acre-foot of Historic Consumptive Water Use is available for eligible water rights to be retired. WTAP grants are approved on the basis of competitive bids.

To be eligible, water rights must have been actively used in the last 10 years. Dryland farming is permitted after a water right is retired. Limited irrigation can be temporarily allowed to establish a permanent cover on the land being transitioned from irrigation. Partial water right reductions can also be considered for retirement grants.

For more information, contact Steve Frost, Water Conservation Program Manager, at (785) 296-8964. WTAP rules and regulations, applications, maps, and other details are posted on the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Conservation web site at www.scc.ks.gov. Information and assistance can also be provided at the Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District No. 4 in Colby, (785) 462-3915, or at the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources Field Office in Stockton, (785) 425-6787.

Goodland welcomes its newest business!



The Goodland Star-News and the Goodland Ambassadors would like to welcome Assured Occupational Solutions to downtown Goodland!

Goodland's newest business, Assured Occupational Solutions, is now open for business!

Located at 1005 Main, the business is owned by Mike King of McPherson, Kan., and is managed by Courtney Warden of Goodland.

Assured Occupational Solutions is operated in four locations: Goodland, McPherson, Eldorado, and Garden City, with a new location opening up in Emporia by the end of the year.

Assured Occupational Solutions offers many services to its customers, including: drug and

alcohol testing, in which they are DOT certified, E-screen, quantitative fit testing, pulmonary function testing, safety supplies and much more!

Stop in to the new location in downtown Goodland and see what the business has to offer your company!

Business hours: Mon.-Fri. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. MT
On call 24 hours a day.
Location: 1005 Main, Goodland, KS