

Mysterious room rediscovered



Construction crews working on the brick replacement project on Main Avenue got a bit of a surprise when they discovered this small underground room under the sidewalk in front of Olde Westport. The room was empty except for shelves. It is currently unknown

exactly what the room was used for, though it has been speculated that it may have housed tools for when the building was an auto repair shop around the turn of the century.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Deadline nears for flex accounts

The new Multi-Year Flex Account (MYFA) program allows a water right holder to convert his or her groundwater right from an annual quantity to a 5-year total quantity – with no restriction on annual pumping – only the total 5-year pumping.

The July 15 deadline is important to those who filed drought emergency term permits in 2011 and now wish to convert to the MYFA program at a reduced filing fee, and

for those who did not file drought emergency term permits last year and wish to avoid enforcement for their 2011 overuse.

There is much more to the MYFA option, so if interested, contact your DWR field office or local GMD office for more details and assistance in evaluating your options and possibly completing the application. You can also visit the web at www.ksda.gov/appropriation/?cid=297 for more information.

More small field fires flare up over weekend

FIRES, from Page 1

“You could see the glow from Oberlin,” Mr. Cathcart said. “I was up at a restaurant this morning, and one of my friends said you could see it from Dresden, too.”

“As long as the wind stays down, I think we’ll be alright.”

Firefighters, emergency medical service workers and volunteers worked from about 1 p.m. Tuesday, when the fire began, straight through to Thursday morning combating the powerful fire. While the main fire was contained Tuesday night, four other fires plagued the county over the following 48 hours.

There is no official list of damages yet, said Mr. Cathcart, but he estimated it would exceed \$2 million. While barns, outbuildings, farm equipment and cattle were lost, no one died, was seriously injured or lost their homes to the fire.

Those fighting the fire faced some challenges: 35 mph winds, zero percent moisture and temperatures up to 115 degrees all conspired to feed the fire.

Hot spots continued to spring up in areas that had already been put down, driving firefighters and volunteers to scramble over the fields,

snuffing out fires they had already extinguished several times.

Fire rigs from Rawlins and Sheridan counties came to help, as well as the Red Willow Western, Beaver Valley and Culbertson departments in Nebraska, Fire Chief Bill Cathcart said.

Violin duo helps open art exhibit

Exhibit, from Page 1

Depending on the shapes and forms she uses ink drawing overlaid on acrylic paint and sometimes gold leaf. Fisher has been influenced by Yvonne Jacquette, Hieronymus Bosch and the Japanese-style of block printing.

Her formal training was at North Park University in Chicago. She then returned to Lindsborg where she grew up.

State transportation department is trying to stay cool

So far the Kansas Department of Transportation has been able to beat the sizzling summer heat, but with an extended heat wave in the forecast, the agency is being vigilant.

“Excessive heat can cause problems for highways and for our workers,” said Peter Carttar, assistant chief in the Bureau of Construction and Maintenance. “Right now we haven’t experienced significant issues, but it’s not even July and there’s a lot of summer left.”

Pavement blow-ups along the state’s 9,500 miles of highway are one of the summertime problems. With temperatures continuing to exceed 100 degrees throughout the state the potential exist they could develop in Kansas. The blow-ups occur through thermal expansion of the pavement. It expands with increasing temperatures and the corresponding increase

in stress at a joint causes the pavement to push up – or blow-up.

“You never know exactly where one’s going to occur or how bad it will be,” said Carttar. “They usually occur during the heat of the day. Our district maintenance crews are on the look-out for them and address them as they appear.”

Heat-related injuries are a potential hazard for department maintenance and construction workers. Pavement temperature can often soar to more than 30 degrees above air temperature creating stifling working conditions. In the summertime, the department modifies work schedules, usually making the workday from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Starting early and finishing early helps avoid the extreme heat of the day.

Department workers use common sense when working in the sun, maintaining proper hydra-

tion, wearing cool clothing, taking breaks and getting out of the sun if possible. Workers monitor themselves and their coworkers for signs of heat-related stress.

The potential for wildfires also increases with triple digit temperatures and little or no precipitation. Wednesday, nine counties in west-central Kansas were included in a disaster declaration by the Gov. Sam Brownback. The fires were contained later in the evening.

The dense smoke from wildfires can decrease visibility for motorists. The Department stresses that vehicles pulling over on to the grass in these conditions are an added danger. Motorists are urged to stay on the roadway because hot exhaust systems can start a fire when conditions are so dry.

Democratic State Senate candidate thrown into new district by federal court

CANDIDATE, from Page 1

big a deal transportation is out here, Schmidt said, and he had to explain how some kids live down roads that are impassible some of the year.

“We have districts that have to go miles out of their way to get to kids,” he said.

Still, he said, schools and other organizations that get money from the state have had to learn to tighten their belts, and now when the state is able to put money back in, these organizations already know how to do things efficiently.

If re-elected, Schmidt said he will focus on K-12 education and health care access. He also plans to promote rural housing initiatives. New and expanding businesses need places to put their workers, he said, and right now northwest Kansas doesn’t have the housing. Schmidt said he has been working the Kansas Department of Agriculture on finding ways to get wage-appropriate

– rather than low-income – housing built. He said his idea is that communities should band together to negotiate with housing developers.

“I see it as one of my primary concerns,” he said.

Schmidt is on two interim committees: the Rules and Regulations committee and the Kansas Security Committee. He also serves on the advisory board for KanCare, the state’s plan to hand over Medicaid management to private managed-care companies. Schmidt said he accepted the appointment to that board in order to ensure that western Kansas maintains adequate access to health care, especially the elderly.

Schmidt said the the Brownback Administration’s current plan is to have KanCare up and running for the elderly in January, 2013, and for the disabled in 2014. The state recently announced that it will contract with Amerigroup Kansas Inc., Sunflower State Health Plan and

United Healthcare of the Midwest to manage KanCare.

Schmidt said he is skeptical of allowing private companies to take over the management of Medicare, but he is willing to watch and see if it works. Schmidt seems ideally suited to helping guide the state’s replacement for Medicaid. He has 32 years experience in the Army Medical Services Corps where he handled operations, training and administration.

“It was my job to make sure our soldiers were ready to go to war,” he

said. “So I know something about measuring success at the bottom level.”

While working on the committee, Schmidt made several specific requests including the creation of “measures of success,” criteria that the state can use to see if the new

program is working.

“We have to make sure these are working at the consumer level,” he said.

People should also be able to keep the same health providers they had under Medicare, he said.

“We want people to have the

same quality care they had before,” Schmidt said.

One thing was for sure, he said, the state can’t afford a 7 1/2 percent increase in health care costs every year, so some action was needed.

“I’m glad they put me on that committee,” he said.

UPCOMING EVENTS in Kansas

Brought to you in part by Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism

Wild West Festival
July 4-7, Hays
Start 4th of July with a bang at the FREE Fireworks Spectacular & weekend of concerts. Hairball, Diamond Rio, Easter Corbin & Glen Templeton. All for a \$12 events ticket. wildwestfestival.com

Downs Annual Celebration
July 5-7, Downs
Area’s largest carnival, reunion, beer garden. Fun for the whole family! Parade & live bands. Thur: Kill Creek Rising, Fr: Jimmy Dee & Fab. Sat: Pete Gile FREE! DownsChamber.com

Cowhand’s & Corriente’s Championship Ranch Rodeo
September 1-2, Dodge City
The best of championship ranch rodeo! Real cowboys show off their skills. Family-friendly event. Live music by Hometown Tuff. cvhorses.com

31 SHOW
July 12-14, Dodge City
Western State Bank Expo Center Th. & Fr. 8AM - 5PM; Sa. 8AM - 4PM
Over 500 indoor and outdoor agri-business exhibits, consumer programs, health screens and vintage tractors. (877) 405-2883, 31show.com

Ladies Night Out
July 13, Council Grove
Food, fun, shopping and prizes in Historic Downtown Council Grove. Discounts & specials just for the ladies: 5PM-9PM (620) 767-5413, councilgrove.com

Bluegrass & Old Tyme Music Festival
July 27-28, Milford Lake State Park
Bluegrass music furnished at beautiful Milford Lake. Camping available. Family style festival. Featuring bands from KS & MO. milfordlakebluegrassfestival.com

National Baseball Congress World Series
July 28-August 11, Wichita
78th Annual. The nation’s top amateur baseball teams compete in a 2-week tournament with Baseball “Round the Clock, Aug. 4-5. (316) 264-6837, nbcbaseball.com

2012 NORTHWEST KANSAS DISTRICT FREE FAIR

Goodland, KS ~ Sherman Co. Fairgrounds

It's Show Time!

<p>Pre-Fair Saturday, July 21st, 8:30 am - Dog Show (Ag Building) Tuesday, July, 24th, 6:00 pm - Style Revue (Sherman Theater) Friday, July 27th, 9:00 am - Horse Show (New Arena)</p> <p>Saturday, July 28th 8:00 am Fairgrounds Open for Set-up 4:00 pm Parade Line-up 5:00 pm NWKDFP Parade (Broadway St.) Sponsored by: Sherman Co. 4-H Ambassadors Carnival Wristband Night</p> <p>Sunday, July 29th 1:00 pm Fairgrounds Open for Set-up 5:00 pm Fairgrounds Closed</p> <p>Monday, July 30th 8:00 am Judging 4-H Foods, Arts & Crafts, Clothing 4-H Foods Sale 4-H Life Skills Judging 9:30 am Judging Exploring 4-H 2:30 pm Judging Rabbits & Poultry 5:30 pm Free Hotdog Feed Sponsored by: Eagle Communications Photo Booth 6:00 pm Howdy Rowdy Fun Night- Entries Open Sponsored by: Brittney’s Photography</p> <p>6:30 pm Howdy Rowdy Fun Night (Grandstands & New Arena)</p> <p>Tuesday, July 31st 8:00 am Check-in Entries 4-H & Open Class Livestock Weigh-in 10:30 am Livestock Weigh-in Closed 11:00 am All Entries Closed 11:30 am Judging 4-H & Open Class 1:00 pm Sheep Show 3:00 pm Goat Show 5:00 pm Tallest Corn Plant Contest- Entries Open Sponsored by: Crop Production Services Kids Pedal Tractor Pull Registration 6:00 pm Kids Pedal Tractor Pull 7:00 pm Catch-It-Pig Contest Carnival Wristband Night Free Ice Cream on the Midway Sponsored by: Sherman Co. Farm Bureau 8:00 pm Tallest Corn Plant Contest- Entries Closed All Times Shown are Mountain Time</p>	<p>Wednesday, August 1st 8:00 am Swine Show 4:30 pm Admission Gates Open 6:30 pm Western Plains Chute-Out PBR Touring Pro Division Adult: \$20.00 Children (10 & Under): \$10.00 Tickets Online @ www.goodlandcafe.net/pbr</p> <p>Thursday, August 2nd 9:00 am Beef Show 12:30 pm Round Robin Showmanship 7:30 pm Texaco Country Showdown Kansas State Final Sponsored by: BANKWEST OF KANSAS, Hot Country 97.9 KWGB, and NWKS Fair</p> <p>Friday, August 3rd 8:30 am Livestock Judging Registration 9:00 am Livestock Judging 4:30 pm 4-H Appreciation BBQ 5:30 pm 4-H Livestock Sale 7:00 pm Carnival Wristband Night 7:30 pm Modified Tractor Pull Adult: \$10.00 Children (10 & Under): \$5.00 Pit Pass: \$15.00</p> <p>Saturday, August 4th 8:00 am All Projects Released Check-in Tri-State Royal of Champions 10:30 am Release of Entries- Closed 1:00 pm Tri-State Royal of Champions Kiwanis Mud Bog Races Adult: \$10.00 Children (10 & Under): \$5.00 Pit Pass: \$20.00</p>
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Home-Owned Carnival Open on Midway
Saturday, July 28th & Monday, Jul 30th - Friday, Aug 3rd
Opening at 7:00 pm | Ticket Prices: \$0.50 Per Ticket

Wristband Nights Saturday, July 28th Tuesday, July 31st Friday, August 3rd	Wristband Prices All Rides: \$10.00 Kid Rides: \$5.00
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For Entry Forms & Additional Information Visit www.nwksfair.com

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