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State honors city plans

Agency give city one of seven awards for development

By Tom Betz

Goodland Daily News

The City of Goodland has been signaled out by the state and honored for a progressive approach to preparing for community growth.

The city received a Community Achievement Award on Wednesday from the Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing, one of seven given out to mark Community Development Month.

Nedd Webb, director of community development for the department, was in Goodland and presented City Manager Ron Pickman and Mayor Rick Billinger with the award at a ceremony and reception at the city building.

"Goodland is an excellent example of the process of increasing capacity," Webb said. "Local leadership and involvement have resulted in this 'top' of Kansas community taking a proactive approach in shaping its future."

"Through the use of several department programs, the City of Goodland is making a difference in stabilizing employment, housing and community development to ensure the future quality of life for its 4,800 residents."

"Goodland has been active in community development projects concentrating on needed water system improvements. Water main replacement projects were awarded in 1991 and 1993 utilizing grants of \$181,921 and \$200,000 that replaced undersized water mains. The most recent water system improvement project is the new Goodland water tower that was, in part, funded by a \$400,000 grant.

"One of the reasons Goodland has been selected is its ability to recognize the links between economic, housing and community development, and to productively seek solutions."

Webb said the city has made efforts to work with the Tourism Information Center and used Community Service Tax Credits to help Sherman County Community Service Inc., the agency are developing the home-owned carnival, and also to the Goodland Activities Center this year. He mentioned the housing rehabilitation and demolition projects, which he said have contributed to the revitalization efforts.

"There is more. Ongoing efforts by Goodland have resulted in several important highway projects," the state official said. "The city has long wanted to improve entrances to the downtown area. Improvements to K-27, the intersection of U.S. 24 and K-27, and the intersections of 6th, 7th and 8th (on Main) are all under construction or in the planning stage. The east and west entrances to the community are both going to see road improvements."

"Additions to the Max Jones Fieldhouse and expansion of the Goodland Regional Medical Center are positive signs of the growth that is occurring! Goodland now joins the proud list of community achievement winners from this region."

In the past three years, community development achievement awards have been presented to Quinter, Sharon Springs and Colby in northwest Kansas.

"The programs provided by the Department of Commerce and Housing have had a tremendous impact on our community," said Pickman. "We have solved some of the community's utility problems, including water leaks, an insufficient water supply and old water lines that dated back to the early 1900s, with the help of the department. We have been able to instill pride in our community by providing a clean, orderly environment for citizens and visitors to enjoy."

Other 1999 award recipients are Bonner Springs, Fredonia, Hamilton County, Kinsley, Republic County and Salina. Community Development Month honors Kansas communities that actively plan and build for the future, Webb said.

Harvest of paintings on display



Rita Welle, a part-time worker at the Carnegie Art Center, adjusts a painting called Easter Sunday, one of a collection of works by Gerald Moore of Munden. The paintings are on display in Goodland as part of a statewide tour of Moore's paintings. To the left is his painting Twilight at the Northcentral Kansas Fair. Moore farms by day, on a 700-acre farm near Munden in Republic County. Photo by Nell Frohlich / Goodland Daily News

weather report

45°

at noon



Today

Sunset, 7:24 p.m.

Tomorrow

Sunrise, 6:07 a.m.

Sunset, 7:25 p.m.

Midday Conditions

•Soil Temp. 39 degrees

•Humidity 33 percent

•Sky Partly cloudy

•Winds NW 22-35

•Barometer 30.10

inches and falling

•Record High 87° (1964)

•Record Low 16° (1951)

Yesterday's Data

High 42°

Low 26°

Precipitation trace of snow

Northwest Kansas

Tonight: Clear and cold; low near record 20-25; winds NW 5-15. Tomorrow: Partly sunny and warming; high 50s; winds NW 20.

Extended Forecast

Sunday through Tuesday: Dry Sunday and Monday; highs near 70; lows 30-35. Tuesday Chance of showers; high 60; low 40.

24-hour weather information is broadcast at 162.400 MHz.

local markets



Noon

Wheat — \$2.32 bu.

Posted county price — \$2.31

Loan deficiency payment — 14¢

Corn — \$1.81 bu.

Posted county price — \$1.89

Loan deficiency payment — 10¢

Milo — \$2.70 cwt.

Soybeans — \$3.93 bu.

Posted county price — \$4.16

Loan deficiency payment — 73¢

Millet — \$4.15 cwt.

Sunflowers

oil current — \$8.35 cwt.

Loan deficiency payment — \$1.71

oil 1999 crop — \$8.85 cwt.

conf. current — \$17/\$10 cwt.

Pintos — \$12 (new crop)

Local markets courtesy of Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun and Frontier Equity

Local bean market courtesy of Prairie Pea and Bean

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press
1 p.m.



Gretzky to bow out of hockey

NEW YORK— Hockey great Wayne Gretzky will retire after Sunday's game, league officials said today.

The New York Rangers said only that a "major player announcement" would be made at 2 p.m. Mountain Time today. Attending the session besides Gretzky will be NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman and the three top officials of the Rangers.

There was no formal word on Gretzky's plans, but league officials told The Associated Press that the player known as "The Great One" was, indeed, ending his career at age 38 after 20 years in the NHL.

His last game will be Sunday, when the Rangers close their season against the Pittsburgh Penguins. The league planned to show a ceremony honoring Gretzky before the Rangers game live to some of its arenas.

New commissioners to face issues

Swearing in two new Goodland City commissioners will be the first item on the agenda for the regular meeting at 5 p.m. Monday, and the second will be selection of a mayor and mayor pro tem.

New Commissioners Curtis Hurd and Tom Rohr will be sworn-in along with Commissioner Jim Mull, who was re-elected earlier this month.

Following the selection of the mayor and mayor pro tem, the commission will approve several payments for the

water tower and the housing rehabilitation projects.

At the last meeting, the commission tabled a request from Brad Cowen of Collingwood Grain to establish a permanent fertilizer mixing and storage facility. Cowen is expected to appear again to discuss the proposal.

City Manager Ron Pickman said regulations require the city's approval for a permanent facility.

Bids on the handicapped-accessible restroom for Centennial Park were also

tabled at the last meeting at Pickman's request. The city has received a grant of \$20,000 to assist in this project. Pickman said the city staff was looking at an alternative which might allow completion of the project without additional cost, and was to contact the bidders to review the new alternative.

The commissioners will also:

- Consider a request from KLOE Radio for closing the street at Max Jones Fieldhouse for the Home and Garden Show next weekend, April 24

and 25.

- Appoint two members to the Library Board.

- Consider a home occupation permit from Tami Bean, 202 W. Ninth, for a daycare.

- Consider bids for a trash truck.

- Hear a museum report from Linda Holton.

The next regular commission meeting will be 5 p.m. Monday, May 5, in the commission room upstairs in the City Building, 204 W. 11th.

Budget battle sure to follow GOP plan

WASHINGTON (AP)— Months of budget battles between President Clinton and lawmakers lie ahead now that Congress has completed a \$1.74 trillion spending plan for fiscal 2000.

Divided along party lines, the Senate gave final approval to the measure on Thursday by a 54-44 vote, a day after the House passed it with just three Democratic votes. Only Sens. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y., and Tim Hutchinson, R-Ark., did not vote.

Clinton's signature is not needed for the measure, which is an outline that clamps overall limits on the detailed tax and spending bills lawmakers will write in coming months. It is those bills, which the president must sign, in which Republicans will try to impose their priorities on the White House, or at least spell out their agenda to the voters.

The blueprint maps GOP plans for a new budgetary era in which annual federal surpluses seem to stretch to the horizon and beyond.

Over the next decade, Republicans would set aside all \$1.8 trillion in expected Social Security surpluses to reduce the national debt. They would use most of the rest of the surplus — at least \$778 billion — for tax cuts. Clinton and Democrats want smaller tax reductions and more spending for Medicare and other social programs.

"One party thinks government ought to get bigger and bigger," said Senate Budget Committee Chairman Pete Domenici, R-N.M., in a swipe at Democrats.

Passage marked only the second time Congress has completed the budget on time since the April 15 deadline was set in 1987, a win for Republicans eager to show they are efficiently doing the

Rep. Ryan's bill would relieve farmers from part of tax burden

WASHINGTON (AP)— Farmers would have an extra tool to help smooth fluctuations in income under tax-cutting legislation pushed by a Kansas lawmaker.

Designed to augment income averaging, which lets farmers even out their taxes from year to year, the measure would allow farmers in bad years to claim income from any of three previous years. Growers could then receive "rebate" payments akin to refunds for tax overpayment.

Kansas GOP Rep. Jim Ryun, the measure's sponsor, called the current system "kind of a one-way ratchet," because it only benefits farmers in good years. That is, it targets growers thrust into a higher tax bracket

during a profitable year and lowers their tax liability.

"Why should income averaging only apply to those who earn a high income this year?" Ryun said Thursday. "I believe that income averaging should first be applied to help farmers who are hurting today. This would allow us to go both ways."

Congress ended income averaging when the tax system was overhauled in 1986, then restored it in limited form in 1997. It is estimated to cost \$90 million over five years because farmers would pay lower rates overall.

The Joint Tax Committee has not yet determined the cost of Ryun's proposal.

public's business. It also gave them the symbolic victory of approving a budget touting big tax cuts on the day many taxpayers were rushing to mail their returns to the Internal Revenue Service.

Democrats warned of veto fights and other problems ahead.

"I predict here and now we'll be playing Russian roulette along the way to see who pulls the trigger on a government shutdown" because of a veto fight over spending, said Sen. Frank Lautenberg of New Jersey, ranking Democrat on the Senate Budget Committee.

Lautenberg called the GOP budget "shameful" and "a sham," saying it would not build up Social Security or

Medicare for when the nation's 76 million baby boomers begin retiring next decade.

Republicans argue that by setting aside the entire Social Security surplus they are doing more for senior citizens because Clinton proposed to spend some of those surpluses on other domestic programs. GOP lawmakers hope this will let them neutralize Democrats' historic ability to cast themselves as the protectors of Social Security.

Neither Clinton nor the Republicans has proposed reducing benefits or boosting taxes for Social Security or Medicare, fearing angry voters. Many experts say such changes will be needed to truly prepare those programs

for the baby boomers.

Economists say using surpluses to reduce the national debt should fuel economic growth by reducing interest rates. A stronger economy should help the government raise revenue in the future to pay retirement benefits.

Under a timetable established by the budget, Congress will consider must-pass spending bills at the same time tax-cutting legislation is ready. That could create a scenario for a possible trade-off late this summer with Republicans getting some tax cuts while Clinton and Democrats win some spending increases.

The GOP budget promises that as they write the 13 annual spending bills for fiscal 2000, which begins Oct. 1, Republicans will honor spending limits enacted in the 1997 budget-balancing law.

Democrats and some Republicans, however, say those caps are so tight that there will never be enough votes in the House and Senate, which Republicans control by thin margins, to approve many of the spending bills. Even if they are passed, Clinton would surely veto them, Democrats say.

Underlining the difficulty Republicans face in obeying the spending limits, the budget does not leave room for the conflict with Yugoslavia and a congressional effort to provide pay raises and better pensions for the military.

The GOP budget highlights increases for defense, schools, farmers, veterans' health care and biomedical research. But final decisions will have to be made in future bills.