

Lutters chosen as mayor

City commission names member to serve this term

By Tom Betz

Goodland Daily News

Newly elected city commissioners Curtis Hurd and Tom Rohr and re-elected commissioner Jim Mull were sworn in Monday night, then the commission proceeded to choose a new mayor.

When nominations were opened, Mull nominated Commissioner Chuck Lutters, and it was seconded by Hurd. With no other nominations, the vote was taken and Lutters was elected.

Outgoing Mayor Rick Billinger and Lutters changed seats and Lutters called for nominations for mayor pro tem. Commissioner Billinger nominated Mull, and it was seconded by Rohr. The vote was unanimous.

Once the reorganization was completed and the new mayor and mayor pro tem were sworn in by City Clerk Mary Volk, the commission turned to a lengthy agenda.

Amy Griffey, economic development coordinator for the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission, told the commission that housing rehabilitation program regulations require that anytime a city employee wants to apply for money, a public hearing must be held to give an opportunity for comments on any possible conflict of interest.

A hearing was held because Dustin Bedore, a city employee, is requesting money to assist in the demolition of a structure at 524 E Ninth.

There were no objections, and Commissioner Mull said, "I think it is good he wants to clean up another spot in the city."

The commission approved payment to Apache Construction \$8,667 for completion of several housing projects, and granted an extension on two projects to May 29.

At the previous meeting, Brad Cowan of Collingwood Grain had asked the commission for permission

"When we asked why there were no regulations on the temporary process, no one at the state level had a good answer."

— Ron Pickman
city manager



Ramp closing on hold

Construction has been delayed again on the west Goodland exit as the contractor and the Kansas Department of Transportation wait for the forecast to improve. According to Eric Oelschlager of the department, the forecast for nearly a week of showers prompted the contractor to delay the closing of the westbound ramps at K-27. While waiting for the weather, however, Koss Construction crews were out today setting up two concrete paving machines (above) to have them ready. A new closing date should be announced later this week, Oelschlager said. With work nearly completed on the outside walls (right) of the weight room addition to Max Jones Fieldhouse, the workers are now setting the doors and corners for the inside walls. Work progresses (below) on Market Street, which runs behind Wal-Mart, and when completed, will provide a second access to the Centennial Park area. The City of Goodland is buying asphalt milling from the I-70 project to surface the roadbed.

Photo by Tom Betz / Goodland Daily News



Youths spray gunfire at high school

LITTLETON, Colo. (AP) — Two masked youths dressed in long, black trench coats opened fire in a suburban high school today, scattering students as gunshots ricocheted off lockers, witnesses said. At least 11 people were injured.

There were also reports of explosions in Columbine High School, which was ringed by ambulances and more than 100 police officers.

Nearly two hours after the 11:30 a.m. shooting, SWAT team members entered the building and 15 to 20 students fled. The frightened students ran out with their hands in the air and were frisked by police.

There was no confirmation that the

gunmen were still inside, but police said some students had been hiding in a choir room.

Television images, broadcast nationwide, showed police cars and ambulances at a staging area near the school, and helmeted officers in camouflage gear. At least one person was seen being carried to an ambulance.

Shortly after the school was stormed, three youths wearing black — but not trench coats — were stopped by police in a field near the school. It was not immediately clear if they were connected to the shooting.

Some witnesses said there were two gunmen and the shootings took place around the school, including the cafe-

ria and library.

"We heard the gunshots and we were running," said Kaley Boyle, a junior at Columbine.

"They walked down the stairs and they started shooting people," said a student who gave her name as Janine. "We didn't think it was real and then we saw blood." Her voice broke with anguish as she spoke.

She said the shooters were two young men, wearing black trench coats.

"They were shooting people and throwing grenades and stuff.... Me and my friends got to my car and drove off.... We saw three people get shot. They were just shooting. Then something blew up."

Bob Sapin, another student, also said the gunmen were all in black, in trench coats and masks.

"I hid behind the school in the bushes and I saw them. When they started walking down the hallway, I ran and I ran and I hid in the bushes," he said.

Eight to 10 students in the school wear black trench coats every day, students said. Josh Nielsen said they are known as the "Trench Coat Mafia." Said another classmate, Jason Greer, "They are jerks. They are really strange, but I've never seen them do anything violent." At the adjacent Clement Park, students were shaking and crying as parents wandered about, looking for their children.

Reception will honor community's volunteers

By Janet Craft

Goodland Daily News

National Volunteer Appreciation Week will be celebrated with a reception to honor Sherman County volunteers at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church family center.

Anyone who has done any kind of volunteer work is invited to come and be thanked.

"It's the community's way of bringing a little brightness into the lives of its volunteers," said Natalie McCarty, head of the Community Volunteer Appreciation Committee.

The theme for the second annual celebration is "You Do Brighten Lives."

The committee's intention, since there are so many organizations with volunteer help, is to come

up with a way to recognize all volunteers and not just focus on certain ones. So the reception is an effort to do just that.

"It is amazing the contributions that volunteers make to Sherman County," said McCarty and Roberta Bretz of the Community Volunteer Appreciation Committee. "More than 2,000 volunteer positions were filled by Sherman County residents last year."

Last year, some 107 volunteers from organizations throughout the county attended. The committee has sent out 1,000 invitations and is planning for 200-250 people for this year's celebration.

The evening's agenda includes a short program, with entertainment by Jane Boys of Goodland and a presentation highlighting organizations that have volunteers. Refreshments will be served and door

prizes will be given away. A balloon release is also planned for the evening. Curtis Duncan will be the emcee.

Many volunteers have donated their time and help to organize this appreciation reception. Other Community Volunteer Appreciation Committee members include Jo Simmons, Carolyn McMahan, Willie Mannebach, Bill Hartzler, Cris Lovington, Stephanie Nemechek, Charlotte Linsner, T-Shane Roberts and Dick Straubinger.

The City of Goodland granted a request for \$500 to help pay for the event, but with donations by individuals and businesses, the committee didn't think they would need to use much of the city money.

Next year, they thought they would request equal amounts from the city and the county.

weather report

76°

at noon



Today

Sunset, 7:28 p.m.

Tomorrow

Sunrise, 6:01 a.m.

Sunset, 7:29 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temp. 52 degrees
- Humidity 22 percent
- Sky Mostly sunny
- Winds NW 18-23
- Barometer 29.81 inches and falling
- Record High 89° (1962)
- Record Low 20° (1953)

Yesterday's Data

High 78°
Low 34°
Precipitation none

Northwest Kansas

Tonight: Mostly cloudy; 40 percent for scattered showers; low 40; winds NW 5-15. Tomorrow: Cloudy; 60 percent chance of showers; high 55-60; winds NW 15-20.

Extended Forecast

Thursday through Saturday: Chance of rain through Saturday; highs in the 60s; lows 40 Thursday and Friday; mid 30s Saturday.

24-hour weather information is broadcast at 162.400 MHz.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$2.30 bu.
Posted county price — \$2.19
Loan deficiency payment — 26¢
Corn — \$1.87 bu.
Posted county price — \$1.88
Loan deficiency payment — 11¢
Milo — \$2.80 cwt.
Soybeans — \$4.03 bu.
Posted county price — \$4.14
Loan deficiency payment — 75¢
Millet — \$4.15 cwt.
Sunflowers
oil current — \$8.60 cwt.
loan deficiency payment — \$1.71
oil 1999 crop — \$9.05 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.



Senators push for ground war

WASHINGTON — As Congress began considering President Clinton's \$6 billion request to pay for the war in Yugoslavia, a group of seven senators today called for giving him authority to use "all necessary force," a move that could allow use of ground forces.

"I hope this resolution would encourage the administration and our allies to find the courage and resolve to prosecute this war in the manner most likely to result in its early end," said Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., prime sponsor of the proposal.

McCain, a 2000 presidential candidate and senior member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said he hoped the measure would "encourage Congress to meet its responsibilities, responsibilities we have thus far evaded."

McCain's resolution had the support of three Democrats, including Sen. Joseph Biden.