

Fee waived for tractor pulls

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ate her and let her know where they want to see her go. She would also like to see workshops held to help understand budgeting better. Lori Leonard and Gary Coon asked about waiving the charge for using the fairgrounds for antique tractor pulls. Gary Coon, an officer of the Sunflower Spinners, said the organization is non-profit and wants to have fun. They will have tractor pulls in May, August and September. The commissioners decided to waive the \$200 fee, but said the Sunflower Spinners would have to put down a \$250 damage deposit, provide insurance and pay utilities. Coon said the organization would hold the events and then let 4-H clubs serve concessions to raise money. Leonard, whose children are members of the Ruleton Eager Beavers, said the club will serve concessions at the first tractor pull and then bring it up at a 4-H Council meeting so that any 4-H club that wanted to could take a turn. The commissioners asked for an update on elevator repairs at the courthouse. William McKnight, county building supervisor, said a man from the elevator company had been out last week to install the new part only to find out it was the wrong one. Mike Miller, owner of Miller's Construction, who was the general contrac-

tor on the handicapped elevator project said he had talked with Blaine Davis, architect on the project, and said Davis is supposed to be working something out with the elevator company. Miller said the elevator dings on the outside, but not on the inside. He said he thought that Davis had gone by the wrong Americans with Disabilities Act regulations. Commissioner Kevin Rasure said it's Davis' responsibility to get it fixed. County Attorney Bonnie Selby said in the contract, Davis said he would make it right without further cost to the county. Miller said he thought the elevator company might fix it. Daryl West, noxious weed director, approached the commissioners about hiring a part-time employee for his department. He said he has money in the budget for it. The commissioners decided to wait until next week to give West an answer as they want to wait until they make a decision on the moving bids. The commissioners discussed letters of support from the Northwest Local Environmental Protection Group to go to Senator Stan Clark, Representative Jim Morrison and Randy Allen, executive director of the Kansas Association of Counties. The group implements and enforces the environmental and sanitary code for Sherman County and handles the Local Environmental Protection Program which helps to protect the quality of groundwater and the environ-

ment for the county. The letters stated that their operating money comes from the Kansas Water Plan Fund through the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, but that the amount may be reduced in 2004. It said the county is extremely limited in its capacity to provide local contributions to this program and asked that the program be funded from state general funds rather than the state water plan. The commissioners decided to sign the letters. The commissioners approved a motion to rent out the 4-H Building at the fairgrounds on Tuesday, March 20, to Walco International for \$50. County Appraiser Terry Ballard met with the commission in closed session for 10 minutes to discuss personnel in the county appraiser's office. Register of Deeds Carol Armstrong was also scheduled to meet with the commissioners about employee evaluations and budget concerns. The commissioners looked at two mowing bids. One from Kamal Inc. for \$24.50 a swath mile and the other from Darrel Schrader for \$26 a swath mile. Road and Bridge Supervisor Way asked the commissioners to put the matter on the agenda for their next meeting. The commissioners will meet at 8 a.m. Tuesday in the commissioners' room on the first floor of the courthouse.

Slipping and sliding



A semi-tractor trailer rig driven by Sharon Jensen of Maumelle, Ark., jackknifed in the median of I-70 about four miles east of Brewster Wednesday evening. Jensen was not injured. Trooper Shawn Phillips said the accident happened after Jensen lost control of the rig due to icy road conditions and slid into the median. The rig, which is owned by Werner Enterprises, took out part of a guardrail in the median. There was some damage to a rim and tire on the trailer, but Jensen was still able to drive the rig after a McB's wrecker pulled it out. Photo by Rachel Miscal/The Goodland Daily News

Snow, ice cause damage to roads

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can now, he said, streets will be falling apart by the time spring comes around. However, he added, the crew can't do much until the streets dry out. "It's kind of a band aid affect right now," he said. "We just have to wait until spring. Hopefully there's not too much adverse weather then." City workers will find out how damaged the streets are when the snow melts, Wolak said, adding the crew will spend more time and money on roads this year compared to the past few when Kansas had mild winters. Keeping the streets up to par would be easier, he said, if they had been constructed well in the first place. He said many of the streets' thin surfaces,

which are thinnest at the edges near the gutters, make them more susceptible to damage. "There is no real base," Wolak said. "It's hard to hold a roadway in place when you don't have much to work with." Many of Goodland's residential streets are not asphalt, City Manager Ron Pickman said, but are made from oil and aggregate and have a dirt base — unlike the brick streets' concrete and sand base. When the streets were put in, Pickman said, the main roads were paved in asphalt, but workers used the cheaper chip and seal process to pave side streets. "They just wanted to make sure people weren't driving on dirt," he

said. Now, he said, with an increase in the size and number of vehicles, the roads aren't holding up. While all of the city's streets, whether they are asphalt, concrete or oil, wear down, Pickman said, the oil roads are more easily damaged because they are thin and weak. Wolak noted the bricks' sand base helps drain away water under the street, preventing damage from freezing. Wolak said a construction project a few years ago made some streets' edges even thinner. City officials, he said, decided to grind off an inch off the edges to allow water to drain more easily off streets. "They found out the streets weren't as thick as they thought," he said.

Joint Commission raises many questions

HOSPITAL, from Page 1

would take could be better used on equipment, salaries or personnel workshops. "Expenses involved as opposed to not providing employees with annual raises in 2002. "What is more important: hospital personnel or a title? Expect a rather severe employee backlash in terms of dissatisfaction." One question was why Citizens Medical Center of Colby dropped their membership in the Joint Commission. Schields reported that Jerry Campbell, Citizens hospital administrator said,

"It was expensive and the hospital felt it derived little benefit from certification." "Our standards aren't that bad or we wouldn't be in business," Schields said. "From a human resource standpoint, I believe you can expect to see the 10 employees cut from out of the 2001 budget restored in order to meet the paperwork and compliance demands of the Joint Commission Certification." Brenda McCants, head of patient relations, said she had some experience working at a hospital that had Joint Commission certification, and that some of the successful volunteer pro-

grams she has built in Goodland were based on the standards from the certification program. She said it was her belief the program would improve the hospital standards. The board agreed to wait until after the selection of the new administrator to make a decision, but also asked that information continue to be gathered on the Joint Commission program. The next regular monthly hospital board meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, April 2. The finance committee will meet at 7 a.m. on Thursday March 29. Both meetings will be at the hospital in the board room.

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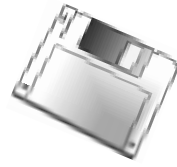
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