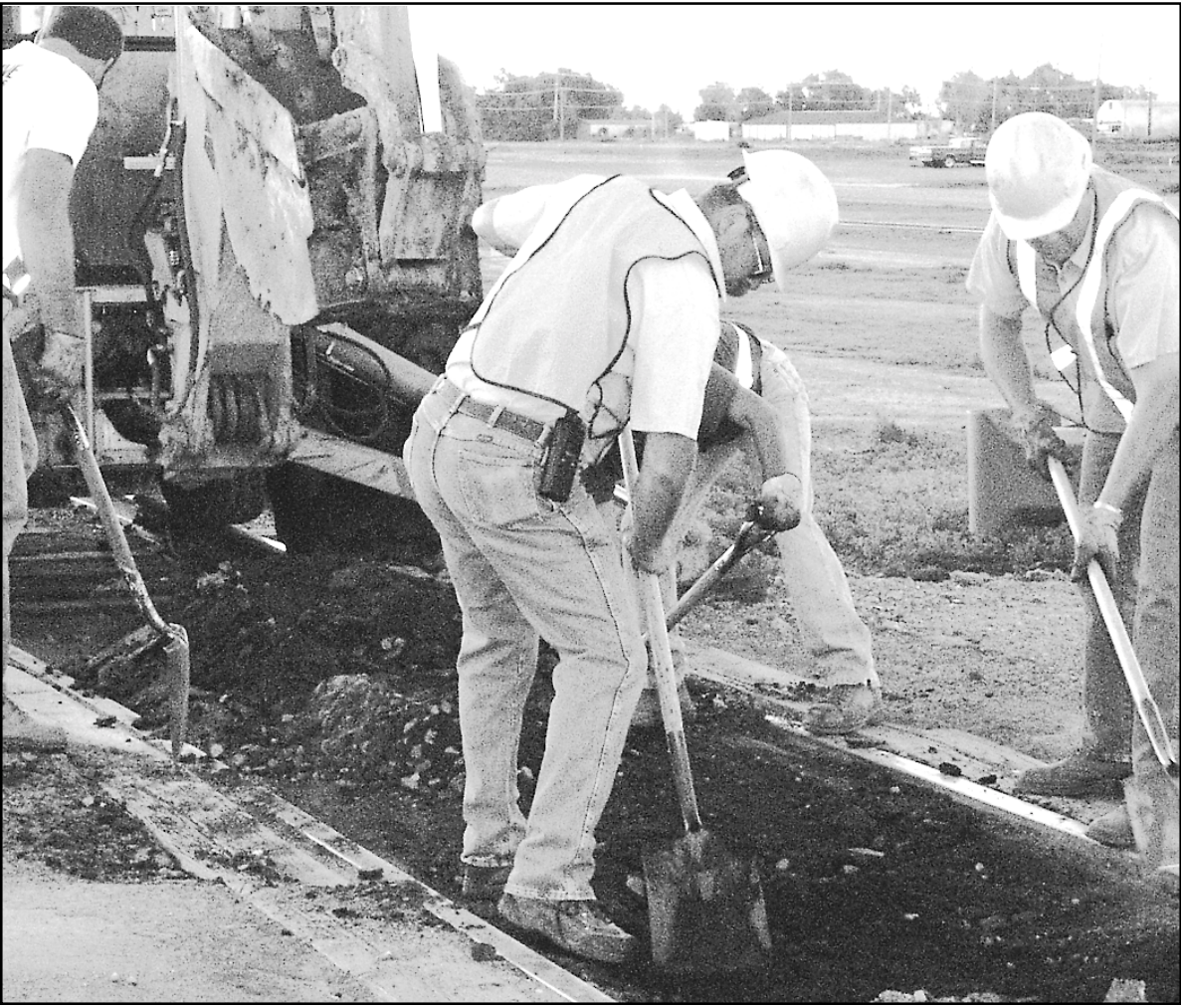


Working on the railroad



Workers from Kyle Railroad and the City of Goodland used their shovels to smooth out the pavement between the rails at the Cattletrail crossing early Tuesday morning. The workers removed the old pavement and replaced it to try to smooth out the crossing, and reduce the pressure on the rails. There has been increased traffic because the crossing is the only way in or out of the downtown area from the south.

Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Daily News

Reunion festivities to be in full swing

ALUMNI, from Page 1

Fair parade at 5 p.m. Saturday, starting at 17th and Main and progressing to Main and Eighth.

The festivities conclude Saturday with a dance from 7 p.m.-1 a.m. at the fairgrounds featuring the bands Your Father's Mustache from Denver, King Midas and the Mufflers from Wichita and a band of local alumni who will reunite for the reunion.

Registration will be held at the fairgrounds all day Thursday and Friday and from 8-10 a.m. Saturday at the Max

Jones Field House. A show of alumni art will be on display Thursday, Friday and Saturday at the Carnegie Arts Center.

Alumni can enjoy class photos on display in the foyer of the High Plains Museum from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday-Saturday and from 1-4 p.m. Sunday. Their will be buses available to take alumni from their motels to the activities and downtown.

The road closings due to construction to straighten Cherry Ave. and to smooth the railroad viaduct on K-27 will cause inconveniences, especially with so many more people needing to get around.

Alumni are encouraged to take advantage of the buses, Whisler said, as many people can travel in just one bus rather than dozens of cars causing gridlock on Cattletrail, the only available entrance from the south and west sides of Goodland.

While the construction is not convenient, she said, it's a fact of life.

"If the citizens of Goodland keep a positive attitude," Whisler said, "the guests will enjoy the reunion more.

"We should all enjoy the activities, and hopefully make new memories to talk about at the next reunion."

Budget crunch forces increase

BUDGET, from Page 1

raised by local property taxes. The levy there won't be increased, though.

"This doesn't put the district in a dangerous position," Selby said, "just not as comfortable as we were before."

Selby was to travel to Topeka Tuesday for a state review of the budget figures for next year. He said the trip gives him another viewpoint and a check on how the budget matches with the state formulas.

"It is not a plush budget," he said, "but not a destitute budget."

Selby presented a chart of the district property tax levy over the past 17 years which shows the change in revenues. In the early years, he said, the state was providing all the money and the state mill levy was more than twice what it is today. In the '90s, the district began to use the Local Option Budget, adding a local property tax levy, as the state began to reduce its support.

Over the past few years, he said, the state levy has remained the same, and the district has slowly increased the local revenue to the point it is nearly half of the total budget. For all the 17 years, the district's capital outlay budget has remained nearly the same.

Selby said with the exception of special education, the district budget will grow by about \$7,000 total, and the local portion would increase by \$70,000.

Reviewing the state formulas that determine the budget, Selby said, the only firm number is the total number of students, which will be based on the 1,128 from the previous year.

All the other figures for revenue are based on estimates, and Selby said until the actual numbers are known, there are several factors that can cause the estimates to drop. Those include vocational enrollment, the number getting free lunches and those qualified for bus transportation.

Board member Mike Campbell asked what it would take to not raise the property tax levy at all?

Selby said he would have to cut at least \$45,000 from the budget.

"Considering the current economic conditions, it is hard to vote for a tax increase," said board member Ron Schilling.

Looking at the budget, Schilling asked about things that might be adjusted. He asked about the number of support staff and principals.

"You would have been OK if not for the huge increase in insurance," Schilling added.

Campbell asked about the figures for the cost of heating, which appeared to be lower than the actual cost from last year?

After much checking, Selby found that the budget figures from last year had not been adjusted to the actual cost, and that money had been shifted from other places to pay for the increased cost of heating.

Selby said he would make adjustments in the figures to bring this into line with the actual cost from last year. He said this would not cause any increase in the budget, but some more shifting of figures.

"If we can get by with this small an increase in the mill levy, we will still have bragging rights in comparison to the city," said board member Kathy

Russell.

"We will try to save where we can," Selby said.

"I am not going to vote for a tax increase," said board member Ben Duell. "Where would we cut to not have any increase?"

Selby said they have already taken 10 percent off everything and some have been cut by 20 percent.

"I can find you \$60,000 of savings," he said, "but you may not want to live without some programs."

One of the programs Selby said could be cut was summer school, which costs about \$20,000.

"But would we want to do that?" Duell asked.

Other things mentioned were the annual senior citizen dinner, someone to oversee the public use of the weightlifting equipment and the tailgate parties.

"I think we need to cut administration cost and extracurricular," Schilling said. "These are the only places where you can cut."

Selby said the drop in enrollment means the district will take a hit next year. He said the changes in class sizes will work their way through the district, and the board may need to close a building at some point.

"I like the way it is set up now," Duell said. "I don't want to close a building unless it might be the junior high."

"We've never gone overboard on the local option budget," Selby said.

"Nobody has done what we have been able to do and not drastically raise taxes," Schilling said.

"I don't like it, but in comparison to the city we look better," board member Eric Gray said.

Menninger psychiatric clinic plans to stay in Topeka

TOPEKA (AP) — The Menninger psychiatric clinic plans to stay in Topeka for now after failing to reach an agreement with the Baylor College of Medicine.

Dr. Walt Menninger, the clinic's chief executive officer, said during a news conference Tuesday that Menninger officials could not come to terms with the Baylor College of Medicine, based in Houston, and the Methodist Health Care system in Texas.

He said Menninger will remain in Topeka until at least the summer of 2002, but that he would continue to look for an affiliation with a major medical school.

Walt Menninger also said the clinic will continue to wind down services and cut its staff to decrease losses. Last year, when it announced plans to move to Texas, Walt Menninger told employees the clinic would close in six to eight years if it stayed in Topeka.

All parties described the ending of negotiations as amicable. Officials at Baylor and the Methodist system said they would continue research and treatment for brain and behavior disorders.

Gov. Bill Graves said Tuesday the state was prepared to reopen discussions about keeping Menninger in Kansas.

The clinic planned to leave its 242-acre campus in northwest Topeka because of financial problems.

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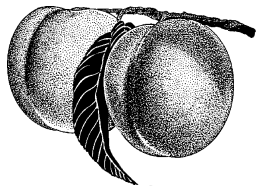
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