County approves grader financing plan Development plan signed by county

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News A new motor grader and track loader have arrived for Sherman County, and Tuesday the Sherman County commissioners reviewed interest rates to finance \$107,591 balance on the grader.

Curt Way, county public works director, presented commissioners with four interest rate bids from three Goodland banks and from Caterpillar: Bankwest, 4.97 percent; First National Bank, 4.79 percent; Western State Bank, 5.05 percent; and Caterpillar, 4.95 percent.

The commissioners approved the First National bid as the lowest interest rate for the five-year financing of the grader.

Way said he will be back at another meeting with the bids for financing an end-load dump truck with snowplow and a second track loader.

He said the first loader is now in use

used at the transfer station.

He told the commissioners the cost of tire removal is increasing, and that ago. this will mean an increase in January charges for taking tires at the transfer station.

Way said he was not sure how much the increase will be, but that the contractor who has picked up the tires in the past notified the county the cost will be higher next year.

The commissioners received a preliminary insurance proposal from Kansas Association of Counties Insurance Pool, and will receive a similar pro-

posal from Eklund Insurance. The commissioners will review bids from the two companies at their meet-

ing on Tuesday. board members and administration of the Goodland Regional Medical Center, the commissioners were given a the county additional money for a speat the landfill, and the second will be letter requesting the renewal of the cial election.

special 6 mill levy for the hospital. The last renewal was three years

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said the of the \$2 apiece the county now commissioners will have to approve a resolution on the levy, and then there will be a protest period during which citizens can petition to put the tax to a

> Rumpel said she will be looking at the election calendar to set the process so if there is a protest the election could be held as part of the August primary election.

> When the hospital ask for the renewal of the levy in 1998, there was no protest, but there was an election when the hospital asked for a levy to last for 20 years. That proposal was defeated.

Rumpel said she wants to make sure During a noon luncheon Friday with the scheduling of the resolution and protest period would allow any vote to be held in August rather than costing

Sherman County commissioners need to be completed by then because approved a formal agreement and a the proposal from the six counties must resolution Tuesday to join a six-county group seeking a state grant to encourage people who have ideas which could become a successful small business where they live.

Commissioner Chuck Frankenfeld will be the lead representative for the county on this project, which requires the county to identify people who would be willing to serve as a local support group to assist anyone who has an idea develop a well-rounded business plan.

The commissioners will be contacting about 20 people in Sherman County over the next few days to ask

be in the mail by Wednesday, Dec. 19.

Frankenfeld said Wichita County is coordinating the proposal, and that the City of Leoti has agreed to be the lead agency to handle the bookkeeping if the grant is approved. The 36-month pilot program will cost about \$300,000, with about \$200,000 coming from the state and the rest split between the six counties.

Counties who are participating are Sherman, Scott, Wichita, Greeley, Kearny and Lane.

The commissioners approved an agreement with the Southeast and East Central Recycling Association. This is if they will be willing to be part of the the formal request asking that Sherman group, and hope to have the names by County, including the City of Tuesday. The list, along with the agree- Goodland and the City of Kanorado, be ments and additional letters of support, formally a part of the Colorado-based

This says states Sherman County will be responsible for paying the \$2 per person annual cost. Under the agreement, if accepted by the association board, Sherman County will have a voting member on the board.

A similar agreement was approved by the county and Goodland city commissioners setting out arrangements and responsibilities for starting up the program here.

In other business, Commissioner Kevin Rasure was approved as the representative to the Kansas Legislative Policy Group, and commissioners approved \$542 dues.

The commissioners will meet at 8 a.m. Tuesday in the commission room on the main floor of the courthouse, Eighth Street and Broadway Avenue.

Suicide bombing further upsets people in Jerusalem

By the Associated Press **INTERNATIONAL**

detonated explosives outside a central Jerusalem hotel Wednesday, killing himself, lightly injuring two bystanders and further rattling a city already edgy after a wave of deadly weekend attacks.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

The assailant had explosives packed with nails and bolts strapped to his body and was crossing the street near the David Citadel Hotel when he detonated the bomb about 7:35 a.m., said Police Chief Mickey Levy. Two people who had been waiting at a nearby bus stop were lightly hurt.

The blast followed two days of Israeli military strikes targeting Gaza and the West Bank. Two Palestinians were killed Tuesday, and three missiles hit 55 yards from Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's office.

The strikes were Israel's response to suicide attacks by Islamic militants that killed 25 people in Jerusalem and the northern port city of Haifa over the weekend.

There were conflicting indications about what Israel might do next. Palestinians braced for further strikes and the military said it was ready to continue, but an Israeli official held out the possibility of a pause.

ANKARA, Turkey — Secretary of State Colin Powell, trying to rally support for a global campaign against ter-

ap news capsules JERUSALEM — A suicide bomber

rorism, faces skepticism from Turkey Superior Court Judge Clarkson S. over suggestions that Iraq be the next target after Afghanistan.

agenda" to raise in his meetings Wednesday with Turkish officials. But are out." American officials expect Turkey will raise the subject.

Turkish officials have voiced concern about speculation that the United States would go after Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein in a second phase of by then. its war against terrorism.

tion concerning Iraq," President walked out Thursday, unwilling to con-Ahmet Necdet Sezer said on Tuesday in advance of Powell's visit. "But, I don't know what Mr. Powell will say.' Turkish officials were expected to ask Powell to clarify the U.S. position. Ankara was the second stop on Powell's eight-day, ten nation tour of Europe and central Asia.

NATIONAL FREEHOLD, N.J. (AP) - Fortythree striking teachers were spending their first night in jail early Wednesday for defying a judge's back-to-work order, while their negotiators continued contract talks with the school board

A judge has now sent 47 Middletown Township teachers to jail for defying his order; four were jailed Monday, the rest on Tuesday.

Fisher Jr. told one group of teachers before sentencing them to one-week Powell says he "has no specific Iraq jail terms Tuesday. "Any time you want to come out, let me know and you

> Fisher and a second judge were scheduled to hear additional cases on Wednesday morning, when more teachers were expected to be locked up if a contract agreement is not reached

More than 700 teachers in Mon-"We don't want an American opera- mouth County's largest school district tinue working without a new contract. The previous one expired June 30.

Classes have been called since the strike began.

At issue in the contract negotiations is a board of education proposal that would require the teachers to pay more for their health insurance.

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)-

After yet another delay in the launch of space shuttle Endeavour, NASA continued preparations for a launch to begin a mission to ferry a fresh crew to the international space station.

Rain clouds over the launch pad scuttled Tuesday evening's attempt to send Endeavour and seven astronauts on their way. NASA waited as long as possible before halting the countdown,

rity. Similar weather was expected itable deals with its cable partners. Wednesday.

"God's in control of the weather, we'll wait for him," commander environmental officials ordered Gen-Dominic Gorie said before crawling out of the shuttle cockpit.

Endeavour was supposed to blast off last Thursday, but had to wait for the space station's residents to clear a jammed docking mechanism.

Commander Frank Culbertson and his two Russian crewmates, Vladimir Dezhurov and Mikhail Tyurin, have been living aboard the space station since August. Their replacements, two Americans and one Russian, will stay until May.

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — In one of the technology world's most prominent flameouts, high-speed Internet service provider ExciteAtHome announced that it is about to go out of business.

The bankrupt company released a statement Tuesday saying that it would keep its Internet access service running for three months in exchange for immediate payments totaling \$355 million from many of its cable partners. ExciteAtHome, which has 1.300 employees, said it will cease operations for good on Feb. 28.

The announcement came after AT&T Corp. withdrew a \$307 million offer to buy ExciteAtHome, saying the Internet company violated agreements by cutting off service to 850,000AT&T customers. A federal judge had autho-"You are holding the keys to the jail," conducted amid unprecedented secu-rized ExciteAtHome to cancel unprof-ket.

WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal eral Electric Co. to pay to remove tons of poisonous PCBs from the bed of the upper Hudson River, one of the largest dredging operations ever.

The dredging is expected to cost at least \$500 million and could go much higher. If GE refuses to agree to the cleanup, the EPA can start work on its own and charge the company up to triple the cost.

Environmentalists, sharply critical of the Bush administration's early decisions on issues such as global warming and acceptable arsenic levels, praised the Environmental Protection Agency on Tuesday for resisting a fierce lobbying campaign from GE to weaken the plan.

The decision EPA sent to New York State on Tuesday effectively sets in motion the plan to remove 2.65 million cubic yards of sediment — enough to fill about 40 football fields 30 feet deep — from a 40-mile stretch of the

Hudson River north of Albany. GE, which adamantly opposes dredging, had no immediate comment Tuesday. Spokesman Mark Behan said

company officials had not yet seen the plan and would not comment until they reviewed it. WASHINGTON (AP) — President

Bush says the federal government has set the stage for a rebounding job mar- give the unemployed.

Bush, eager to show he can manage the economy and a war, went to Orlando, Fla., on Tuesday for a firsthand glimpse of the recession's toll on American workers. He said he had empathy, and a plan.

"I hurt, coming into the holiday season, that you're not working," Bush told jobseekers at a career center in Orlando, hard-hit by a tourism slump.

At a question-and-answer session later, Bush said the federal government's principal role was to create more jobs.

"I believe we're on the verge of doing just that," Bush said. He cited income tax cuts, low interest rates and "reasonable" energy prices."So we've got the framework for growth," he said.

Bush's proposals for jump-starting the economy include accelerating personal income tax cuts, granting states more money for job training and health care, and corporate tax breaks. He also wants to extend unemployment benefits in hard-hit areas.

He told workers affected by the weak tourism market what they want Americans to hear: that travelers should feel safe flying, thanks to federal actions to improve airline security.

WASHINGTON (AP)-Key sticking points for Republicans and Democrats on legislation to bolster the faltering economy are whether to accelerate future income tax cuts and how much health insurance assistance to

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