

# New roads worth the wait?

YEAR, from Page 1

owners.  
"I had to drive 4.2 miles out of my way to get here," Rich Miller, owner of Grass Roots, said. "The people who designed and engineered this project have tunnel vision."

The K-27 viaduct on the west side of town was closed during the same period, requiring all traffic on the south and west sides of town to use a rough stretch of Cattletrail Ave.

Many Goodland residents were angry at the inconvenience and complaints arose over the problems that could result when thousands of people came to town for the all-school reunion in August.

But, ultimately, the town survived the inconvenience and now enjoys a new and more direct entrance at Cherry Ave.

The bricks were replaced in the intersections of Sixth and Main, Seventh and Main and Eighth and Main in October and November.

People say the intersections are much smoother.

It would be nice to be able to do this to more of the intersections, City Manager Ron Pickman said, but it's expensive.

K-27 south of Goodland to the Wallace County line was under pilot car from late June through mid-July



Pavers worked to finish a new section of Cherry Street in August. The street forms a new entrance to Goodland, flanked by a giant sunflower painting and, soon, a new Pioneer Park.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Daily News

while the asphalt was renewed through a hot recycle and then repaved. The bridge over the Smoky Hill River was shored up in early December, allowing the structure to carry normal weight

limits. The bridge will be replaced in 2004.

7 After almost two years of work, a giant replica of a Vincent Van Gogh sunflower

painting was erected in east Goodland on June 19.

Sunflowers U.S.A., a group formed to bring the 24-by-32-foot painting to Goodland, started raising money and making plans in 1999, after a Canadian artist said he'd like to include this "Sunflower Capital" of Kansas in his project.

Cameron Cross, a former high school art teacher, said he wanted to do something for the town where he worked in Canada and decided to paint a huge copy of van Gogh's famous sunflower painting. When he started researching the painting, he found van Gogh had a series of seven, and he decided to expand his project.

Cross got an engineer to design the sculpture, which includes the painting mounted on a huge wooden canvas and attached to an 80-foot steel easel. He has erected paintings in Canada, Australia and Goodland, and plans to put the remaining four in Amsterdam, Japan, Argentina and South Africa.

In Goodland, the sculpture faces I-70 and is east of the new section of Cherry Street, which was completed this summer. The painting is part of plans for a new city entrance, including Pioneer Park, which could go in this fall. Organizers say they will hold a dedication ceremony for the sculpture this spring and Cross plans to attend.

# Earlier race starting time cuts complaints

COUNTY, from Page 1

Frankenfeld said. "I don't believe we called any one who had dropped out."

"Why are there only 35 counties?"

Eklund asked. "They have been in business for 10 or 12 years, and have less than half the counties in the state."

"Actually the number is 47 and with Sherman County that will be 48," Rasure said.

"We are taxpayers in this county," Eklund said, "and since you had heard all the good side of the pool, I wanted to bring up some of the bad side."

Rasure said the commissioners had wanted to keep the business local if possible, but that with a letter of cancellation from the insurance company Eklund represented and differences in deductibles, they decided to go with

the state pool.

"I hope you are satisfied with your decision, but I feel like you are gambling with the county's money," Eklund said as he got up to leave.

Roger Sneathen, president of the Sherman County Racing Association, met with the commissioners and William McKnight, building maintenance manager, about the upcoming racing season.

Sneathen presented a list of the racing schedule for the upcoming year, and McKnight said there did not appear to be any conflicts.

"Have you had any more noise complaints, or has the earlier start helped?" Rasure asked.

"We have had some positive comments about starting earlier," Sneathen said, "and no noise complaints. We are

finished by about 9:30 p.m."

McKnight said there may be some changes in the trash pickup by the city, but they do not know exactly what the changes might be yet.

The racing association pays \$200 per race for using the track and grandstand, and pays an average of \$185 for utilities per race. The association charges admission and operates the concession stands to cover the costs.

"We hope to break even," Sneathen said.

The commissioners approved the lease for the year, and told Sneathen there may be some improvements in the lighting for the roping arena and in front of the grandstand.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel was absent because of a death in her family, so the commissioners delayed re-

viewing the cost of a bailer and a building for cardboard recycling until the next meeting. Deputy Clerk Mary Ann Sneathen kept the minutes and handled the paperwork.

County Attorney Selby was asked to draft a resolution establishing the county tipping fee.

She said plans are to do the tax sale end of the month. She said there was one property she is working on, but may hold it because of legal problems and proceed with the final notice on the other properties to hold the sale.

"This will be much easier if it is done every September," Selby said.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m. The next meeting will be 8 a.m. Tuesday, in the commission room on the main floor of the Sherman County courthouse 813 Broadway.

# State employees' frustrations rise with budget cuts

COSTS, from Page 1

ative drafted by two Republican Senate leaders provides raises for state employees.

Weibel's frustration rises as he talks about the prospects of not getting a raise regardless of his job performance.

"Of course it doesn't do anything for morale," he said. "You get to feeling that your employer doesn't give a hoot about you."

Graves said he is sympathetic. He has promised to propose tax increases to offset some of the cuts in the budget the plans to submit, which by law must be based only on existing revenue sources.

"An employee of the state is no different than somebody working anywhere else," Graves said during a recent interview. "They aspire to increase their standard of living, their capacity to take care of the family, send their kids to school, trade out the old car for something a little better. They hope to be rewarded for their work."

Many of Graves' fellow Republicans in the Legislature are less sympathetic, given the state's slumping economy and budget crunch.

"In business, when you have a tight year, people get laid off," said Rep. John Edmonds, R-Great Bend.

For fiscal year 2003, which starts July 1, legislators must close a pro-

jected \$426 million gap between expected state tax revenue and required spending.

New commitments include \$13 million to cover unanticipated health insurance coverage costs, \$9 million for employee raises granted in 2001 and \$6 million in extra pension contributions required by state law.

Graves, his staff and legislative leaders consider those items automatic for inclusion in any budget drafted for fiscal 2003.

What's not automatic is any new pay increase.

"It could be a very difficult year for state employees," Graves acknowledged.

About two-thirds of Kansas' more than 40,000 full-time employees are part of its civil service system.

This year, salaries and benefits account for more than \$1.87 billion or about 20 percent of the state budget of \$9.2 billion. The general fund, which holds most tax revenues, is supposed to pick up about \$932 million in salary costs, or about 21 percent of the \$4.5 billion appropriated from it.

That makes any proposal to raise salaries expensive — and difficult when the state faces a budget crisis.

"It's not unreasonable in a tight year that you forgo some of the increases you would like to do," Edmonds said.

Talk like that bothers Weibel, who is on the executive board of the Kansas

Association of Public Employees. He says he and other ABC agents will do relatively well. Their starting pay is about \$35,000 a year.

"We'd just have to tighten our belts a little," he said. "It may mean you eat more hamburger. It may mean you don't buy new clothes as often."

But other employees, he said, may have to defer dreams of buying a house or drive on bald tires longer. Some workers start at \$6.06 an hour, or about

\$12,600 a year.

"It seems like in tough budget times, those in power cut back on those who are on the front lines dealing with Kansas citizens," said House Minority Leader Jim Garner, D-Coffeyville.

Weibel said legislators sometimes don't seem to appreciate government workers.

"I don't think they think of us in terms of real people with lives and family expenses," he said.

## student of the week



**Name:** Stephanie Fairbanks

**Parents:** Jerry & Annette Fairbanks

**Grade:** Junior

**Age:** 17

**We've nominated this student because:** She continually does outstanding work and is always prepared.

**Student Comment:** I will never forget about the "locker room sessions" of the 2001 volleyball team. (Not to mention any names... Colleen & Jayci)

**Activities involved in at school:** FCCLA-Parlaw, Student Council Secretary, GAA, Musical, Volleyball, Basketball, Softball, Dance Team.

**My choice of movies, books, and games :** I like any kind of movie that makes me laugh. I listen to a variety of music, but my favorites are Rock & Hip-Hop.

**After I leave Goodland High School I...:** plan on attending Kansas State University (wouldn't want to break tradition) and possibly further my education in the area of marine biology or zoology.

**And 10 years from now, I think I'll be ....:** raising a family & hopefully be working in an area that I enjoy.

**Favorite Quote:** "What lies behind us and what lies ahead of us are tiny matters compared to what lives within us." - Thoreau

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# First Lady visits Topeka

TOPEKA (AP) — First lady Laura Bush spent her day with the kids and her evening with the grown-ups as she helped celebrate the renovation of a public library.

About 300 people attended a ceremony Wednesday dedicating the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library's new children's services area. Mrs. Bush's visit was the highlight of a week of activities that marked the completion of a \$23 million expansion.

"I actually do have my books in Dewey decimal order," joked Mrs. Bush, a former school librarian with a master's degree in library science.

Also on hand were Kansas first lady Linda Graves, library staff, donors to the library programs and children representing each of Shawnee County's 54 elementary schools. Mrs. Bush cut a red ribbon strung across the main entrance to the children's services section, then read to a third-grade class

from Randolph Elementary. Mrs. Bush also attended an evening reception for contributors to the library expansion project.

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## SHERMAN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS EXPENDITURES FOR THE MONTHS OF OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, AND DECEMBER, FOURTH QUARTER AS AUTHORIZED BY HOUSE BILL 3211-1980.

### SALARIES:

APPRAISER \$29,611.22; AUTO MOTOR \$22,751.87; HEALTH \$39,750.33; ELECTION \$1,695.46; GENERAL \$202,323.60; SEWER DISTRICT \$795.60; NOXIOUS WEED \$7,457.82; ROAD & BRIDGE \$118,286.64; RURAL FIRE DISTRICT #1 \$4,470.00; SOLDIERS MEMORIAL PARK \$3,954.79; SOLID WASTE \$23,429.75; TOTAL SALARIES: \$454,527.08

### EXPENDITURES:

Abilene Machine \$164.84; Advance Ins Co \$1,663.78; Advanced Court Reporting Services \$147.00; Alco \$38.86; Alexander Hamilton Institute Inc \$68.64; All Truck & Trailer Parts \$160.60; Richard Allaman \$29.70; Dave Allen \$10.00; Alltel \$1,856.94; American Crane Inc \$828.51; American Environmental Consulting LLC \$5,722.24; American Express \$14.95; American Fidelity Assurance Co \$4,376.49; American Freightways \$62.50; American Red Cross \$168.00; Americo LLC \$36.00; Andesite Rock Co \$5,744.19; Ansell HealthCare Products \$45.00; Apco Int'l Inc \$135.00; AR Supplies \$1,235.56; Raneaia Artzer \$75.00; AT&T \$178.25; Atco Int'l \$599.00; Aventus Pasteur \$40.85; B&B Electric Inc \$153.46; B&K Pumping Inc \$80.00; Baja Books \$19.80; Barco Municipal Products Inc \$670.88; Sue Barker \$15.00; Barton Co Community College \$360.00; Bateman Funeral Home Co \$315.00; Becton Dickinson Microbiological System \$47.68; Irma Benavides \$73.24; Berry Tractor & Equipment Co \$57.09; Best Western \$320.92; Bestest Inc \$57.00; Big R Manufacturing Distribution Inc \$1,472.15; Blue Cross/Blue Shield \$51,259.32; Margaret Boshoff \$10.00; Bowman's Heating & Air \$271.51; Broadview Hotel \$947.56; Brungardt Hower \$1,391.35; Bureau for At-Risk Youth \$39.95; Butler Co Community College \$1,356.00; Kevin Butts \$84.00; Rod Butts \$142.35; Carroll's Web Internet \$232.97; Caterpillar Financial Service Corp \$18,886.69; Cellular One \$51.37; Central Detroit Inc \$1,242.99; Central Plains Labs \$690.40; Chief Supply Corp \$437.00; City of Goodland \$9,497.61; City-Co Recreation \$2,404.56; Clawson Auto Supply \$152.82; Clubhouse Inn \$268.80; Cobblestone Floral \$25.00; Colby Community College \$9,696.00; Colonial Life & Accident Ins \$194.00; Commerce Bank \$14,786.07; Computer Info Concepts \$525.00; Computer Info Systems Inc \$4,106.67; Conoco Inc \$577.46; Consortium Inc \$601.54; Continental Analytical Service Inc \$190.00; Cowboy Loop \$54.45; Custom Truck & Trailer \$24.09; D&D Filter \$280.02; D-C Wholesale Inc \$4,395.91; Rhea Daise \$11.32; Dale Hayden Sprinklers Repairs \$40.00; Dan Brenner Ford \$42,559.97; Danko MES Inc \$5,623.17; Dell Marketing LP \$963.00; Dependable Glass Inc \$1,449.86; Developmental Service of NW Ks Inc \$3,690.92; Dictaphone Corp \$6,113.00; Barbara Disney \$75.00; Documents Etc \$566.50; Dodge City Community College \$900.00; Bonnie Duell \$31.92; Marvin Duell \$27.72; Duerst Machine Works \$48.00; Shirley Dupsky \$30.43; Edge Embroidery \$121.00; Eklund's First Insurance \$595.00; Elliott's Inc \$350.90; Enterprise Alexis Inc \$284.86; Judy Escudero \$10.00; Evercom Systems Inc \$35.00; Extension Office \$1,061.93; Fairfield Inn \$319.20; Fastpro Int'l \$49.90; Feist Publications Inc \$44.00; Barbara Fernandez \$45.00; Evelyn Finegan \$2,290.00; Finley Motors Inc \$625.30; First BankCard \$451.15; First Nat'l Bank \$113,406.15; Fixsen Electronics \$182.35; Chuck Frankenfeld \$220.22; Free Fair \$304.16; Frontier Equity Inc \$26,768.16; Frontier Forensics PA \$500.00; Gall's Inc \$874.20; Garden City Community College \$744.00; Gempler's Inc \$126.35; Scott Gilmer \$161.17; GlaxoSmithKline Pharm \$581.25; Global Computer Supplies \$685.56; Goodland Daily News Inc \$1,944.33; Goodland Greenline Inc \$650.89; Goodland Medical Arts Pharmacy \$1,381.55; Goodland Nutrition Project \$38.16; Goodland Postmaster \$68.00; Goodland Public Library \$166.99; Goodland Regional Medical Center \$5,321.46; Goodland Senior Citizens Center \$453.09; GoodSign \$75.00; Goody's \$580.00; H&H Sprinklers \$8.25; Dorendo Harrel \$109.34; Bonnie Hawks \$10.00; Hays Mack Sales & Service Inc \$55,303.59; Heartland Sales of Ks \$2,153.95; Hemocue Inc \$675.14; Herl Chevrolet-Buick Inc \$439.58; High Plains Mental Health \$2,766.76; Highland Community College \$60.00; Historical Society \$26.09; Hitchcock Inc \$1,800.60; Holiday Inn \$67.60; Homestead Nutrition Project \$83.14; Hospice Services Inc \$921.29; Hutchinson Community College \$240.00; IBM Corp \$11,141.84; IKON Office Solutions \$515.50; Industrial Specialties Inc \$217.63; Infinitect Inc \$3,389.36; IRS \$310.10; Intertec Publishing \$203.00; J&J Commodities Transport Inc \$15,304.32; J&J Drainage Products Co \$573.10; J-J Oil Co Inc \$1,722.84; J-O-M Pharmaceutical Services \$421.00; Jaws Recycling Inc \$10,744.00; JDR Microelectronics Inc \$115.52; Ryan Johnson \$26.00; K-N Communications Service \$5,108.00; Kanorado Coop Assoc \$98.69; Kanorado Senior Citizens Center \$217.25; Ks Assoc of Counties \$1,591.75; Ks Assoc of District Court Clerks & Adm \$100.00; Ks Assoc of Local Health Dept \$265.11; Ks Bar Assoc \$175.00; Ks Dept of Agriculture \$35.00; Ks District Judges Assoc \$50.00; Ks Legislative Policy Group \$542.36; Ks Payment Center \$953.05; Ks Register of Deeds Assoc \$80.00; Ks Sheriffs Assoc \$75.00; Ks Silver Haired Legis Inc \$5.50; Ks Turnpike Authority \$20.00; Ks Withholding Tax \$12,539.37; Kansasland Tire-Goodland \$6,914.19; KDHE Training Fee Fund \$50.00; Paula Keller \$139.50; Sharon Kenny \$10.00; Sheryl Ketter \$97.68; Kite & Day LLP \$67.50; Bill Knittler \$75.00; Knott Just Books \$49.95; Knox Consultant Service \$1,669.50; Krasity's Med/Surg Supply Inc \$104.69; L&L Engine Service \$75.95; Bob Lamb \$37.89; Lampton Welding Supply Co Inc \$32.84; Language Line Services \$35.00; Larry's Professional 2-way \$714.25; Kodi Lauer \$63.75; Lockwood Co Inc \$2,944.10; Phyllis Long \$33.18; Lonny's Quality Auto Body Inc \$568.39; Art Lovington \$90.92; Cris Lovington \$25.00; Martin Tractor Co Inc \$180,756.29; McClure Plumbing & Heating Inc \$394.82; Bob McClure \$109.62; Dr McCullough \$500.00; Mac McGinley \$455.00; McKesson General Medical \$757.55; Bill McKnight \$79; Med-Enterprises \$85.69; Merck Human Health \$235.20; Mary Messamore \$270.43; MHC Kenworth - Salina \$4,222.85; Michael A Feletti \$57.15; Mid-Continent Micrographics \$17,350.68; Mid-Kan Blueline Inc \$61.64; Midwest Election Officials Conference \$250.00; Midwest Energy Inc \$195.34; Mike Miller \$5,775.00; Rick Miller \$5.78; Shelby Miller \$37.11; Miller's Enterprises \$49,085.00; James M Milliken, Chartered \$340.78; NACTFO \$50.00; NADA Appraisal Guides \$55.00; Nat'l Auto Dealers Service Corp \$7.50; Nat'l Emergency Number Assoc \$75.00; Nat'l Info Data Center \$46.90; Nat'l Public Safety Info Bureau \$109.00; Nat'l Sheriffs Assoc \$50.00; NDF Co \$145.36; Ninemire Fence Construction \$29,526.70; Dr Noordhoek PA \$2,571.50; North American Weed Mgmt Assoc \$45.00; Norton Co Clerk \$160.00; Norwest Recreation Inc \$304.19; NW Ks Ambulance Service \$4,969.82; NW Ks Area Agency on Aging Inc \$55.57; NW Ks District Court Clerks Assoc \$5.00; NW Ks Silver Haired Legislature \$2.13; NW Ks Substance Abuse Unit \$1,195.76; NW Ks Technical College \$148.05; Office Works LLC \$138.43; OMB Police Supply \$233.95; Orschelns \$1,105.72; Ken Palmgren \$13.20; Parts House \$4,213.70; Pawnee Co District Court \$948.50; PDQ Emergency Products \$105.74; Penco Engineering PA \$150.00; Peoples Natural Gas \$2,308.38; Britany Pettibone \$350.00; Stan Pettibone \$57.42; Phillips 66 Co \$25.93; Physicians Reference Lab \$23.70; Pitney Bowes Inc \$329.50; Positive Promotions \$18.27; Pratt Community College \$20.00; Prints & The Paper \$158.50; Professional Radiology Service PA \$62.00; Public Health Foundation \$30.50; Quartermaster \$107.95; Quill Corp \$1,098.03; Randy Raile \$120.00; Rasure Lumber Co \$1,146.89; Reserve Account \$3,716.71; Resource Management Co Inc \$2,798.65; Retailers' Sales Tax \$48.41; Rhoads Construction Co Inc \$20.80; Richman Helstrom Trucking Inc \$300.00; Robinson Textiles \$143.19; Roofmasters Roofing Inc \$10,842.00; Janet Rumpel \$152.03; Rural Health Ventures Inc \$195.00; S&T Telephone \$215.93; S&W Supply Co Inc \$781.79; Safety-Kleen Corp \$132.80; Scheopner's Water Conditioning Inc \$49.00; Darrell Schrader \$57,376.80; Scotty's Motor Co \$100.00; Bonnie Selby \$113.85; Serendipity Flower Shop \$60.00; SFI \$651.00; Shad's Electric \$1,770.00; Shawnee Co Coroners Office \$140.00; Sherman Co Abstract Co Inc \$5,670.00; Sherman Co Convention/Visitors Bureau \$32,751.36; Sherman Co Health Dept \$4,997.05; Sherman Co Rural Fire \$280.00; Sherman Co Soil Conservation \$109.03; Sherman Co Treasurer \$9,823.51; Shores Inc \$1,763.35; Scott Shwalter \$1,442.50; Melvin Sieck \$10.56; Simpson Farm Enterprises Inc \$2,535.00; Skaggs Co Inc \$660.26; Janet Smith \$10.00; Sue Smith \$75.00; Software Spectrum \$61.80; Some's Uniform Inc \$26.00; Someplace Special \$20.00; Southwestern Bell Telephone \$8,689.67; Spencer & Spencer PA \$6,238.86; Stephens-Peck Inc \$52.00; Roger Studer \$98.11; SW Mgmt Fund KDHE \$380.84; Lynn Swayne \$133.28; Lance Swayne \$10.61; T.J.'s Tires \$51.29; Thomas Co Alcohol & Drug \$1,195.77; Thomas Co Health Dept \$1.85; Thomas Co Treasurer \$1,918.14; Lucy Thomas \$50.00; Amy Thorson \$10.00; ThyssenKrupp Elevator \$882.42; Topside Office Products Inc \$780.50; Townsend Construction Co \$1,085.28; Tri-Central Office Supply \$1,345.49; Truck & Tractor Repair \$218.08; U S Identification Manual \$82.50; UAP-Timberland LLC \$3,120.00; Unique Truck Equipment Inc \$747.95; USF Dugan Inc \$48.07; Vignery & Mason LLC \$805.00; Viking Office Products \$236.22; Vref Publishing Inc \$45.00; W-R Equipment Inc \$31.00; Wagner Equipment Co \$347.10; Walmart Community \$6,150.58; Walter F Stephens Jr Inc \$109.34; Perry Warren \$1,687.50; Waste Connections Inc \$4,535.08; Gerald Webber \$75.00; Webkansas.net \$280.00; Weis Oil Co \$874.56; West District Co Weed Directors Assoc of Ks \$130.00; Daryl West \$109.79; Western Uniform Inc \$1,276.18; Westin Crown Center \$534.00; WH Scale Co Inc \$650.00; Doug Whitson \$118.46; Pam Whitson \$10.00; Wichita Marriott \$159.00; Wilkens Manufacturing Inc \$121.41; Wyeth-Ayerst Labs \$863.85; Xerox Corp \$147.00 Zee Medical Service Co \$381.23 TOTAL EXPENDITURES \$1,030,670.47

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