



Chelsie Gausman, daughter of Randy and Shellie Gausman, a sixth grader at North Elementary School, drew a number from a can, held by Grant Junior High Principal Jim Mull, to choose her word in the spelling bee Tuesday. She finished fourth in the event.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

Brothers fight over spelling title

BEE, from Page 1

spelled martial correctly in the fourth round but spelled mob instead of mauve in the fifth round. He didn't ask for the word's definition or for it to be read in a sentence.

Brad Geist, a sixth grader and son of Eugene and Paula Geist, spelled hygiene in the fourth round but

spelled ride instead of writhe in the fifth round. He also failed to ask for the definition or the word used in a sentence.

Michelle Smith, a sixth grader and daughter of Bobby and Sondra Smith, spelled relieve right in the fourth round but misspelled superintendent in the fifth round.

Jance McKee, a seventh grader

and son of Jim and Judy McKee; Andrew Pettibone, an eighth grader and son of Jay and Janell Pettibone of Kanorado; and Drew Raile, a sixth grader and son of Randy and Shirley Raile and Brian and Michelle Luther, fell out in the fourth round.

They misspelled mayonnaise, civilian and schooner.

Director reports on first 70 days

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

The new Sherman County Economic Development Council office has been open for about 70 days, and Monday, Director Carolyn Applegate gave an update on what she has been doing.

Applegate told the council, and about 10 citizens who attended its meeting, that she has visited with approximately 200 business owners and managers in Sherman County, and continues to meet with business people on a regular basis.

"I have a ways to go to," she said, "but I am meeting as many as I can and talking to them about what they need and what we can do. Some of them are coming to the office to talk."

She is working with the real estate agents to develop a list of all commercial buildings and land for sale.

"The old Gibson's building was shown at least twice recently by Jones Land Co.," she said. "We are trying to be a support agency for the Realtors and have them show the property."

She has been collecting information about franchises and has a list of over 220 with phone number, addresses and web sites. Has been working with the city and county on an incentive package to present to prospective businesses.

One application for a micro loan has been completed, and a second was expected to be finished this

week. She said 13 applications have been given out to start-up businesses or for expansion of existing ones.

She said there is a joint effort with another county to work on a wind energy generation project, and is working on ways to market the industrial park.

She has been meeting with the Kyle Railroad and the Kansas Department of Transportation on a grant for a rail spur for a company.

The office has been busy, and she has had visits from Doug Bruggeman director of Pioneer County Development, Don Ballek with the Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing office in Hays, and Sheryl Davis and Susan Bittle with the Small Business Development Center from Hays.

Applegate said severao projects are moving forward, and one of those is the truck stopm which will go up for public sale on March 10. She thinks there are six solid bidders interested in the property.

"We will break down our need to do what we can to be of assistance to the bidders," she said. "We want these people to be happy if they are going to spend \$1 million to \$2 million on a piece of property."

Applegate reported on the joint effort of the economic development office and the Vonvention and Visitors Bureau to produce a four-minute video to present as a promotion for having a television mini-series of "Little House on the Prais-

rie" filmed in the area.

"We all worked together to put the presentation together," she said. "We were very pleased, and it shows we need a recruiting video for the community. The last one was done about 1986."

"I am really pleased to hear this report," said Judy Harper, a member of the audience. "Nobody has known what is going on. The people I talk to have to have a glimmer of hope. They don't need all the details, but they need to feel that something is moving forward."

"We can do a better job of communication," said Patty Eckhardt, council secretary.

"We are starting to get active and get out feet under us," John Garcia, council vice-chairman said. "Things are happening, and are going to happen to become more visible."

"Just think where we would be if this had not been started 70 days ago," said Dave Daniels, council chairman.

"This is not going to be a quick fix," said Royal Reid, a council member. "People are going to be happy with what is happening."

City Commissioner Curtis Hurd said, "I like what I am hearing."

Other members of the audience agreed, and encouraged the board to keep people informed.

The board decided to keep their meeting date on the third Monday of the month, and to keep the start time at 5:15 p.m. at Western State Bank.

School board may hold hearing on suspension

If things work out, the Goodland School Board plans to hold a hearing on the suspension of Goodland High School student Gage Cloyd when it meets Monday.

Cloyd was suspended after a search at the high school on Jan. 15 turned up two handguns in his vehicle. Federal law requires that a student be suspended for a year if caught with weapons at a school.

As of Thursday morning, said Superintendent Marvin Selby, the

student's attorney hadn't received the information from the school district's attorney that would determine if there was a need for a hearing.

"We have had the attorney for the student ask for a hearing," Selby said. "We're just not sure right now if that hearing is going to take place."

If the hearing does take place Monday, it will be at 1 p.m. at the district office.

Selby said that most of the regu-

lar school board meeting would be taken up by evaluations of the school district's principals. Also, the board plans to discuss a request for continued support of the Carnegie Arts Center.

The board will sign its yearly agreement with the Northwest Kansas Service Center.

The meeting will be open to the public, but Selby said the hearing probably will be in closed session because it concerns a student.

Conservation meeting set

The Sherman County Conservation District will give out its annual awards at its annual meeting Monday, and citizens at the meeting will be treated to a performance by the "Poet Lariat" of Kansas

The meeting, which includes dinner, will start at 6:30 p.m. at the Vet-



Wilson

erans of Foreign Wars hall, 824 Main Ave. in Goodland.

In addition to reports from the district supervisors and U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service personnel, the program includes recognition of past awards winners. The district will present awards for Educator of the Year, winners of the Poster, Limerick, and Essay contests, the Windbreak award, the Bankers award, Conservationist of the Year award, and a special award.

Cowboy poet Ron Wilson, who

was proclaimed a "Poet Lariat" of Kansas last year by Gov. Bill Graves, will perform original poetry in full costume.

"The poetry is fun, family-oriented, patriotic, relates extremely well with rural audiences, and most of the time, it even rhymes," said Wilson, who lives with his family near Wamego. He said he offers a money-back guarantee: He will write and perform an original cowboy poem for a group or event, or they get their money back.

Colorado firm bails from trash war

City Manager Ron Pickman told city commissioners Monday that U.S. Waste Industries of Colorado Springs has stepped aside from the trash wars in Sherman County, withdrawing its collection proposal "until further notice."

Pickman said they felt it would be better to stay out until the city has made a final decision that they truly want to go to an outside collection system.

If that is what the city wants in the future, Pickman said, U.S. Waste officials said they would be glad to make a proposal to the city.

Several people in the audience had come to the meeting expecting to hear the U.S. Waste presentation, and possibly a second presentation by a Goodland individual who would like to do the collection. Since he was not on the agenda, and there was no U.S. Waste presentation, there was not much said on the trash issue.

Commissioner Dean Blume asked if the city had received a response from the county to the letter they had sent the day after the last city commission meeting Pickman

said he was not aware of any response.

The commission approved a five-year franchise ordinance with Southwestern Bell Telephone. Pickman said a change in Kansas law removed the requirement that the lengthy document be read at three meetings. He said it will be published in full at the cost of the phone company.

In other business, the commission

- Approved the reappointment of Leo Townsend, 515 Arcade, to a three-year term on the Board of Building Appeals.

- Approved paying city dues to the Goodland Chamber for the year of \$2,000.

- Discussed the upcoming road safety audit by the Kansas Department of Transportation. The state sent a letter saying the field review would be done in June, and asking if there are any specific areas of concern in the city. Pickman said the state will identify any problem areas, but there was no guarantee of any money to correct them.
- Approved engineering con-

tracts with Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates for two projects at the airport. One is to increase a safety area for the localizer critical area for the crosswind runway. The cost for this is \$29,500, and involves the purchase of about 2.5 acres of land and the rewriting an easement for obstructions. Neufeld said the easement written in 1953 does not meet the current federal requirements. He said all this cost will be paid by the federal government.

The second \ contract was for \$38,000 for design engineering services and \$50,000 in construction services for replacement of the lighting on runway 12/30 and several taxiways.

Part of the project will include a new lighting vault, new high intensity lights and would put the lights in cans and conduit. Neufeld said the new lighting will give the pilots more adjustments.

The next regular city commission meeting will be 5 p.m. Monday, March 3, in the commission room on the second floor of the City Administration Building, 204 W. 11th.

City may upgrade, not replace, sewer

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

The city is considering whether to upgrade or build a new sewage treatment plant, and Tuesday commissioners questioned the engineer about the differences between the \$4.2 million and \$1.2 million options.

Darin Neufeld, of Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates' Goodland office, had to stand in for John Roth of Hays, the lead person on the study.

Neufeld said he was at the meeting to answer questions about the alternatives, and would take any questions back to Roth.

Commissioner Rick Billinger said looking at the two plans, he did not see why the city would have to spend the \$4.2 million on a new plant when it appeared the \$1.2 million upgrade would be more than sufficient.

Billinger said he had looked at the facility, and could see that the headworks where the sludge is handled is the biggest problem. He asked if it might be cheaper to replace this part?

"Nothing is in violation of any state or federal health regulations right now," Neufeld said, "but there is no control of the material being sent through the plant."

Billinger said the new headworks would solve all of the problems that he could see, and that it appeared to be even cheaper than the \$1.2 million option.

Neufeld said that might be possible, but thought there would be a problem with putting a new headworks where the old one is.

"It is a question of growth," Neufeld said. "The present system is at a point where it cannot be expanded."

"It is whatever you want to spend.

There are questions for the future either growth or regulatory changes.

"The \$1.2 million rebuilds what you have. The \$4.2 million builds a new plant and you do not have the Federal Aviation Administration problems."

There have been questions about the plant's location near the north end of the main runway at Renner Field, the city's airport, but so far, the government has not ask for changes in the plan.

Billinger suggested that there was plenty of capacity in the current plant to handle any growth if the headworks is replaced. He said the current plant is supposed to be rated for 750,000 gallons a day, and is running about 420,000.

Neufeld said the full capacity rating is misleading, and the plant cannot handle that level.

Billinger then asked about installing a belt press assembly in the current system.

Neufeld said he did not believe the equipment would work with the current system, and might require additional equipment to pump the sludge from one part to another.

"We are talking about piecemealing something," Commissioner Curtis Hurd said, "when we could do better on the whole project."

"We would be gambling that nothing changes when the interest rates are the lowest in 50 years. If we wait, the cost could be twice as much."

There was a question about the wetlands area where water is released, and Neufeld said this has to be solved to satisfy the federal aviation people. He said a new dam would have to be built to move the water out of the way of the north-

south runway. The reason for this is not the water itself, but that the open water attracts birds which could endanger with planes landing and taking off.

"We need to look at the whole picture," said Commissioner Chuck Lutters. "We can patch and patch, but we need to look at both sides."

"Sometimes doing things piecemeal ends up costing more," said Commissioner Dean Blume. "Better to do the whole thing. If we expand the city we would need the additional capacity."

"We need to think positive about our future," he said. "I feel it is best to do the full program."

Elmer Jacobs, 615 Walnut, said the city once had 5,500 people, and now there are about 1,500 fewer with the same plant.

"How did we handle it?" he asked.

"The gallons haven't changed even though the population has dropped," Neufeld replied.

City Manager Ron Pickman said the sewer plant study was done at the city's request to get a handle on the current situation. He said the sewer fund is in the red, and the rates have not been raised since the 1980s.

"If it is in the red now, we need a rate raise to handle the daily operation costs," said Mayor Tom Rohr.

"Are we talking about making one or two decisions?" Hurd asked. "We need to raise the rates to get us back to the black, but we could do both at once."

Rohr suggested a workshop on utility issues to be held at 5 p.m. Monday.

A question was asked whether the workshop would be for more than one issue, and Pickman said it could be for any utility issue.

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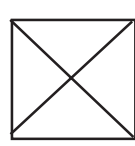
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