

City eliminates charge to citizens for alley lights

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News
 The Goodland City Commission agreed Monday to a change in policy about the existing alley lights, making them city lights and eliminating any charge to citizens. City Manager Ron Pickman said since the city was trying to update lists of security and alley lights, they were having quite a bit of protest from some of the people who had been charged in the past. His suggestion, which was ap-

proved by the commissioners, was that all existing alley lights would be paid for by the city. These would be lights in the alleys that are on public rights-of-way.. These are not the same as security lights, which are located on residential property, Pickman said. He said they have turned all the lights back on that had been disconnected in the past few weeks, and that several people had asked to have some moved or turned off and that they refused to pay for

the lights. "We believe it is a good idea for the city to pay for the alley lights," Pickman said. "We will install other alley lights as time and money permit." He said the security lights on commercial property are handled separately, and will continue to be paid for by the person requesting the light. "We don't want to get in the middle of a squabble between neighbors," Pickman said. "Some of these lights were put up years

ago, and we do not have any record of who was supposed to be paying for them." In other business, the commission: • Tabled the bids for crack repair and a latex slurry seal at the Goodland airport. Pickman said the bids that were received did not appear to be in line with what they have projected for costs. The bids were from Ballou Construction of Salina for \$229,775, and from Vance Brothers of Kansas City, Mo., for \$259,331.

• Received a report from Insurance Management Association that, based on a recent safety inspection, complimenting the city's safety practices. The letter from Bob Stevens with the insurance company from Wichita, said, "We plan to continue Goodland's "gold" certification again this year and, compliment the city on the programs and procedures that have been put in place." • Approved payment of bills totaling \$191,149.

• Hear that the contractor fixing the roof on the Carnegie Arts Center, Roofmaster of North Platte, Neb., had not met the deadline. The crew was working on Sunday to try to complete the job before the deadline in its contract with the city. They did not, and the firm will face a penalty for each day it goes beyond the deadline, Pickman said. City Commissioner Chuck Lutters was absent. The next commission meeting will be 5 p.m. Monday, June 16.



Brad Philipps, a sales and technical support representative for Shelbourne Reynolds, unloaded a stripper header from a container that was shipped from the factory in Stanton, England. Containers are brought to the United States by boat then by train and truck the rest of the way to Colby.

Photo by Michelle L. Hawkins/The Colby Free Press

International strippers in Colby

By Michelle L. Hawkins
Colby Free Press

International strippers? In Colby? Well, sort of. When you hear people talking about the strippers in Colby, don't be fooled. They are not talking about some seedy after-dark club, but rather combine headers made by Shelbourne Reynolds Inc. Neil Smith, business development manager, said the British-based company began selling the specialty headers in 1993 in this area after a hail storm had practically destroyed the wheat crop. The stripper header can be used to harvest hailed-out crops better than a traditional header, since it is lower to the ground and actually strips the grain from the stalk and leaves the straw intact. When some of the farmers were

getting five to 10 bushels per acre with other headers, he said, the stripper headers had increased yields to 30 to 40 bushels per acre in some cases. Smith said as the company became more known in the Midwest and more farmers were using the stripper header, it was apparent that a parts distributing center was needed somewhere in wheat country. "When people are harvesting, they are in a hurry," Smith said. "They aren't prepared to wait 24 hours for a part." Smith said the main reason Shelbourne chose Colby was a partnership with Western Sunflower Company. The sunflower packing and distribution plant, which was located in Colby at the time, allowed Shelbourne to have containers shipped by rail into their facility and un-

loaded them in exchange for the empty containers to use to send out full of sunflower seeds. The arrangement worked well for the two companies and allowed freight to be brought by ship from England and then into Colby by train. Now, since Western Sunflower no longer has a facility in Colby, the freight is shipped by train into either Kansas City or Denver and then brought by truck the rest of the way. Although Smith said there were disadvantages about being located in Colby, such as the distance to an international airport, the company places a higher importance on being at the doorstep of their customers. "It is better for us to have to drive to Denver than for our customers to have to drive long distances to pick up a needed part," he said.

Though some got a lot, others a little, weekend rain gives Goodland pick-me-up

Wasn't the weekend rain wonderful? My rain gauge showed 2.5 inches of rain. I know it was fairly accurate, as I just cleaned leaves and bugs out of the glass a couple of days earlier. The only sad thing was it was so spotty. Some got less than an inch, even as low as 20 hundredths, yet about five miles away, they got almost two inches. Most everyone was happy that they at least got some. One farmer was telling me his grain is having some stress due to lack of moisture, but he was very glad to have gotten almost an inch. There was spooky weather all around the area. Dale and Elaine Ellison spent a few days in Salina attending a meet-



Jan Zwetzig
 • goodland gazette

ing there. While there, they called former residents Leon and Eunice Liljegren, who now live in Lindsborg, resulting in their coming to Salina and having lunch with the Ellisons. Dale said both have had some health problems but seem to be doing okay for now. They both need canes during their walking. One can live with that if nothing further happens.

Marie Edwards told me about a get together at her house over the Memorial Day weekend. Guests included Cheryl Mickey, Ann Mickey of Salina and Chris Mickey and Kristina Thompson of Clifton, Colo. Joining them for dinner on Memorial Day were Ruth and Duane Jones of Brewster, Clyde Denton, Jon and Nila Denton of Stockton, Karen Bolt of Atwood and Wanda McClelland of Burlington. The Goodland guests were Rhonda Skrdlant, Tammie and Leonard Barnes, Jimmie McClel-

land, George McClelland, Ethel Chestnut and John Heyer. She said they all had a good time visiting before going home. Once again the community has a number of deaths. Among those who passed away the past week were Janice Wilkinson, wife of Bud and mother of four children; Dixie Myers, wife of Byron and mother of two boys, one daughter and a stepson; Debbie Snethen, wife of Keith, mother of Todd, daughter of Frances Musalek, sister of several and daughter-in-law of Robert and Edna Snethen; and Marion Amos, brother of Nancy Cloyd and brother-in-law of Virgiline Amos. While I knew of all but Mr. Amos, it was a sad time to think about these

losses. The three ladies have all been battling extended illnesses only to lose their battles. To each of these families, my sincere sympathy. May they all know and feel the healing hand of the Almighty during these next few troubling weeks. My June calendar doesn't show too many birthdays or anniversaries. The two anniversaries are those of John and Marcia Golden on the first and Kip and Marie Armstrong on the 10th. The two birthdays are Doug Minner on the fifth and Kim Acuff on the 13th. Best wishes to these and any others having a special day. A card shower would be appropriate for Eveline Saindon, who will

be celebrating her 90th on the ninth. Cards can be sent to her at 515 E. Sixth Apt. 102, Goodland, Kan. 67735. Many happy returns of the day and many more. Someone stopped me at the bank and said how much she enjoyed the birthdays, anniversaries, etc. and was wondering how to get some of her family and friends on. As I've said before, just a phone call or a note. It's the best part of the column, especially after I mention the deaths. So give me a call or drop me a note, and you'll see it in print. I see no other notes around the computer, so I will sign off and see you all next week, God willing and the creek doesn't rise.

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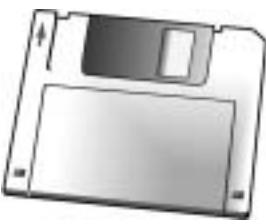
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