

Street work



Workers with B&H Paving of Scott City laid down oil and sand to seal Sherman Avenue from Sixth to Ninth on Monday morning as a part of the repaving contract around town.
Photos by Shannon Davidson/The Goodland Star-News

County reviews departments to cut costs

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News

The Sherman County commissioners Tuesday morning kept looking for ways to balance the county budget for next year and keep any property tax increase as low as possible.

Previously, the commissioners had reviewed the budgets of the court house, commissioners, county attorney, sheriff, treasurer, assessor and register of deeds. Tuesday, they reviewed noxious weeds, prairie dog control, central dispatch

and road and bridge.

Last week, the commissioners reviewed preliminary budget figures which, when all the departments were totaled at their requested levels, would have taken an increase of over 8 mills in the property tax.

In talking to Daryl West about the noxious weed budget, the commissioners looked at any line item where they could make a savings, no matter how small.

"A \$1,000 here and a \$1,000 there may not seem like much, but every

one helps," said Commissioner Mitch Tiede.

The commissioners looked at cutting the travel, maintenance and miscellaneous line items and cutting a bit off the chemicals costs to reduce the budget by \$7,000.

They did look at the capital reserve and West said he was probably going to need to replace a pickup he is using because the transmission is causing problems. He said he would rather have a diesel to use in spraying wheat stubble fields rather than a gasoline-powered truck. There is \$33,000 in the capital reserve for noxious weeds to pay for a replacement vehicle next year, West said. On the prairie dog fund, West said landowners should pay most of the cost, and that with the county putting on a special effort this fall, there should not be a problem with this fund.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked what West was charging to go out and handle prairie dog problems. West said he has been charging \$15 per hour.

Rasure suggested this price was not high enough to cover the cost of the equipment the county is using or the man hours, and said he felt it should be \$25 per hour.

Tiede and Commissioner Chuck Thomas said they agreed that the charge should be \$25 per hour, and said the increase would be effective immediately.

West said he has had good response and many calls from farmers for prairie dog bait. He said several of the calls were from the worst areas of the county, including some people he thought might not be easy to work with.

Mary Messamore, head of central dispatch and the emergency 911 fund, said she has been trying to cut the office supply costs over the past two years. She said she had replaced

two chairs this year that have been in service for about seven years, and that she would probably need to replace another next year.

The commissioners suggested minor cuts in miscellaneous expenses and said there would be no increase in salaries.

Messamore said there is \$75,767 in the 911 fund, and that the county receives about \$24,000 a year from the special fee on all phones. Expenses are about \$14,000 a year.

"I have been building this for new equipment, and a new mapping system," she said. "We may need to spend part of this next year."

These funds are restricted, Messamore said, and can only be used for equipment and costs of the 911 emergency phone system.

Station reopens



Bob Barry took payment from Robert Jones for his gas at the reopened Goodland Sinclair on Sunday afternoon. Barry, who reopened the station Friday, said the pumps have been pretty steady, and he hopes it stays that way. The Sinclair is the second station Barry has taken over, but the other is not expected to be open until the first of October. He bought the old Austin Conoco at the east Goodland exit, and is awaiting permits to get the station open. Barry and his partner Mike McGlone are both from Denver. The Sinclair will be open daily from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., he said. Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

School boards tries to ease yo-yo effect

By Shannon Davidson
The Goodland Star-News

Superintendent Marvin Selby told the Goodland School Board that he had come up with a way to make the local option budget "yo-yo" effect easier on taxpayers this year.

The yo-yo effect was created when the Legislature decided to help balance the state budget by collecting three payments on property taxes in the current fiscal year. The school board is faced with managing the state problem on the local level, which is where Selby says the "yo-yo" effect will come from this year.

Because the school district is not supposed to share in the state's windfall, the property tax levy is supposed to go down this year and go back up next year.

Selby proposed that this year's mill levy for the local option budget be set at a decrease of 2.656 mills. Last year's mill levy was 14.546 and the proposal is set it to be 11.89 percent to reduce the size of the "yo-yo" effect.

Over the last two years, he said, the school board has seen the local option budget at a steady mill levy rate of 14.7 and 14.04 percent. That is what it takes to meet the \$814,000 needed to operate the school dis-

trict. This year's decrease will mean lower taxes this year, Selby said, but the "yo-yo" will go back up in the 2004-2005 fiscal year to a mill levy rate around 15. It is a one year tax decrease from the local option budget.

In other business, Selby announced the first day of summer school had only 60 percent of students in attendance. Teachers had begun to make calls to students homes to find out why they were not in class.

corrections

The young man pictured in the goat-tail untie competition of the Howdy Rowdy Rodeo at the Northwest Kansas District Free on the front page of the Aug. 8 *Goodland Star-News* was Aaron Avelar, not Casey Quagliano. This was a reporting error.

☆☆☆☆☆
The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

New Listings



1116 Cherry ... Completely remodeled and ready to move into! This 4 bedroom, 2 bath home offers new carpet, linoleum and paint just to name a few. Exterior has new paint and an added front porch. Priced to sell at



529 Walnut ... Spacious brick ranch in pristine condition. This home offers 1900 sq. ft. of living space all on one level...Large living room, kitchen with appliances, family room with pre-fab fireplace off kitchen with sliding doors to a new patio, three bedrooms, 2 1/4 baths, office and a big storage room plus double car attached garage. New Marvin windows, new front and sliding doors, all new maintenance free guttering, soffits and eaves, underground sprinklers plus lots more. **\$135,000.** Please call Donna Moore 1-800-974-



1522 Caldwell ... Please take a look inside...you'll like what you see. This home boasts a living room, dining room, kitchen, three bedrooms, 2 baths and a big laundry room. The home has been totally remodeled with newer underground sprinklers, privacy fence, roof, central heat & air, kitchen cabinets, bath fixtures plus lots more. **\$59,500.** Please ask Donna to show



619 W. 9th... Perfect home for a single person or for your student who needs an inexpensive place to live. This home offers living room, kitchen with stove, refrigerator, stack washer/dryer, 2 bedrooms and bath, single car detached garage. **\$16,000.** Please let Donna show you this home.

Cynthia Butts, 899-3944; Donna Moore 899-6159.
RICHARDSON'S HOMESTEAD REALTY, INC.
1023 Main • Goodland, KS 67735
785-899-2328 or 1-800-974-2426
ORE-MAIL US AT: homestead@goodland.ikxs.com
Visit our website: www.goodlandksrealestate.com

GEO CLASSIC
Collins Arena
#9 Handicap
Saturday, August 16, 2003
7:00 p.m.

5 Header Rope all 5

Handicaps:
9 - Straight; 8 - 1 1/2 off
7 - 3 off; 6 - 4 1/2 off
5 - 6 off; 4 - 7 1/2 off
Over 9 - 1 1/2 added

\$50 a man

Will pay \$100 to the fast team of each round.
50-99 teams will add \$500
100+ teams will add \$1,000

1st Steer Horned
2nd Steer Muley
3rd Steer Horned
4th Steer Muley
5th Steer Horned

Collins arena is 1/2 mile south of Page City on County Road 280.
Any questions call George or Judy Collins at 785-846-7725.

The Community is invited to
The Sherman County Relay for Life
American Cancer Society
August 22
Sherman County Fairgrounds
Opening ceremony and Survivor Lap 7 p.m.
Luminaria Service 9 p.m.
Entertainment throughout the evening.
Kiwanis Club will be serving 6 - 10:30 p.m.
Public is Invited.

Internet tonight! 899-2338