

County leaders talk about emergencies

By Ramona C. Sanders
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County Central Dispatch Director Chrissy Conger asked the Sherman County commissioners Tuesday to think about how to better prepare for a catastrophic emergency like the tornado that hit Greensburg this year.

Conger advised the commissioners to make advance plans for things like emergency spending, appointing a person to be in charge and having required emergency response training.

"What do you think your role would be in case of an emergency?" Conger asked the commissioners.

Conger said Kansas emergency planners learned lessons from what happened when Greensburg was leveled by a tornado in May. She said county commissioners were not allowed past police barricades because they didn't have identification and no one was authorized to make emergency payments.

City Clerk Janet Rumpel said she heard that Greensburg was at a standstill on how to discard debris, what to do with farm animals, where to locate a makeshift morgue and how to find drinking water.

"They went through two days of

paperwork before they could burn their debris," Conger said, adding that state and federal regulations caused problems.

Conger suggested that the commissioners, county department heads, law enforcement and fire officials, school district leaders and health department managers complete training in the National Incident Management Systems, a standardized system for emergency response. This training is required for the county to get federal money under several programs.

She said two levels of training are available on the Internet and two more are offered in physical classrooms. Conger told the commissioners that trainers would be willing to come to Goodland if at least 20 people signed up, but the training would not be available until the spring. She gave the commissioners a list of workshops available in Colby, Hoxie and Norton.

The commissioners advised Conger to look into setting up a training session until a decision can be made.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Named Conger to a two-year term as the county representative

on the Homeland Security regional board.

- Terminated Kanorado fire chief Garry Moore in a 3-0 vote after Moore failed to respond to a letter asking him to resign. The commissioners appointed fireman Larry Wilkerson as co-chief along with Sherman County Fire Chief Alan David for 60 days while Wilkerson is learning the job. Both David and Wilkerson will be paid \$70 a month.

- Announced that Carol Armstrong planned to retire as the county register of deeds effective Dec. 31. Rumpel told the commissioners that the Republican Party is required to meet after Dec. 31 to decide on a replacement and then advise Gov. Kathleen Sebelius. The governor has seven days to approve or reject the appointment or the nominee will be accepted.

- Purchased the building on 1622 Broadway that houses the Sherman County Health Department for \$71,250 from Mike and Jodi Miller. Rumpel said the county has been leasing the property for 10 years. The commissioners voted 3-0 to purchase the property as long as there is no roofing or structural damage.

Students 'Box-It-Up' for the needy



Goodland High School junior Brennen Clouse, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America state president, sorted through surplus lunch boxes for the American Red Cross Box-It-Up service project. The student leadership organization will fill the boxes with hygiene products and household items donated by students last week. The club challenged each seminar class at the school to donate by giving one point for each item donated. The winning class will win an early and extended lunch period. Wal-Mart donated the 280 lunch boxes and the filled containers will be shipped to Wichita by the Sherman County chapter of the American Red Cross for distribution to needy families.

Photo by Ramona C. Sanders/The Goodland Star-News

Fairgrounds conflict decided on by County

By Ramona C. Sanders
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Organizers of the Sherman County stock car races and the 4-H horse show asked the County commissioners Tuesday to decide who can use the Sherman County Fairgrounds on a date next year both groups want.

Melanie Goodwin, project leader of the horse project for all six of the county's 4-H Clubs, said the Sherman County Extension office hat told her nothing was scheduled for May 31, when the group wants to hold its first horse show.

"We've never had a horse show outside of the fair," Goodwin said, "and it's a way for our kids to raise funds."

Alex West, past president of the Sherman County Stock Car Association, said the races have traditionally been on that weekend. He said the races start the first weekend of May and then run every two weeks.

"When they do scheduling," he said, "nobody checks with us."

West said the organization did not secure the date earlier because they have to elect new leadership before those decisions can be made. The new president is Bob Lamb.

After looking at the fairgrounds schedule, the commissioners asked about several available dates to try to solve the conflict.

Goodwin said the weekend following Memorial Day is an ideal time to hold the horse show because it doesn't conflict with events in eastern Kansas. Goodwin said the 4-H group hopes to grow the event each year and eventually turn it into a two-day event with a horse show the first day and a ranch rodeo the second. She said the club hoped they could hold the event at the same time each year.

"We want it to be a tri-state annual event," she said. "If we can establish a great club, bring some money in, that will establish us ... and maybe

bring more horse shows west."

West said the May 31 date is important to the race group because it coincides with Colby's schedule.

"The Colorado guys won't come down with just one race," he said. "If we have races with Colby, we get more cars. If we have a race without Colby, we might as well not even have it all."

Goodwin pointed out that the 4-H Club had asked for the date first.

"I guess my question is, why does everyone have to change their calendar according to the stock car races? It should be on a first-come, first-serve basis."

Commissioner Mitch Tiede granted the 4-H club the date. No motion was made and the decision was not voted on.

"You've got it tied up a lot during the summer," Tiede told the stock car group. "I don't think it's too much to give them that one day."

matters of record

The following people were jailed by the Sherman County Sheriff's Department.

Nov. 7 — Marcus Lee Graves, 54, of Goodland, for driving while suspended-fourth or subsequent conviction.

Nov. 7 — Casey Wade Duke, 29, of Goodland, for disorderly conduct.

Nov. 8 — Joan Marie Lamb, 73, of Goodland, for second conviction for laned roadway, improper drive.

Nov. 9 — Russell Allan Bush, 23, of Haigler, driving under the influence -first conviction.

Nov. 9 — Kevin Deshner, 33, of Evans, Colo., driving while suspended -first conviction, child passenger safety, maximum speed limit.

Nov. 13 — Edward Bernard Jeffries, 38, of Goodland, for criminal trespassing and assault.

Nov. 14 — Matthew Rivera, 25, of Goodland, for misdemeanor

failure to appear.

Nov. 16 — Travis James Beal, 33, of Goodland, for misdemeanor failure to appear.

Nov. 16 — Michelle Lee Preston, 40, of Brewster, driving under the influence -first conviction and transporting an open container.

Nov. 17 — Marvin Duane Cullens, 75, of Goodland, driving under the influence-first conviction.

Nov. 17 — Delmer Leslie West, 65, of Goodland, driving under the influence -fourth or subsequent conviction.

Nov. 17 — Scot Charles McGinnes, 33, of Littleton, Colo., for driving under the influence-second conviction, refusal to take breath test and driving while suspended -first conviction.

corrections

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City employees to get drug, car policy training

By Ramona C. Sanders
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City workers will get training on drug and alcohol policies and use of city-owned vehicles, City Manager Wayne Hill told the Goodland City Commission on Monday.

Hill asked the commission to review the policy for changes before the workshop is given Dec. 17.

Commissioner Joshua Dechant asked if seat belts are required and if smoking was banned in city vehicles.

Hill said seat belts are required but there is no policy on smoking in a city car. He added that the public works department does not allow smoking in its vehicles.

"Can we include that in our policy?" Dechant asked.

"I have no problem with that at all," Hill said. "I think that's a very good idea."

Dechant also asked Hill to change the method of having just new hires sign off on city policies. He said he felt the city needs to make employees review city policies each year.

City Public Works Director Rich Simon suggested that the annual review coincide with the annual driver's license check.

Commissioner Dave Daniels asked about the Christmas wreath decorations on city light poles that

line the streets. He said the wreaths did not go down Highway 27 all the way to Interstate 70, and that is the busiest part of the road.

Commissioner Annette Fairbanks also asked about the burned-out bulbs on some of the wreaths.

Hill asked if the city owns the wreaths. Clerk Mary P. Volk said it does. Hill said he would check with electric department Superintendent Charles Bandel.

Daniels said he felt the six to eight benches that line Main Street should be upgraded. He suggested the city install new aluminum benches with no backs.

"Since we're looking at redoing our intersections, bricks and sidewalks, we could replace the benches with a new style so they are all uniform on both sides of Main Street," Daniels said.

He said the city could keep the cost down by offering to allow individuals to dedicate a bench or a businesses to purchase one.

Fairbanks asked about the status of dilapidated houses the city wants to demolish. Planning Director Steve Criswell said the property at 1519 Montana has been renovated, the one at 1608 Montana was "on the ground but has yet to be completed," and the one at 510 W. 15th Street was still standing.

"The owner has had heart problems and asked us to wait," Criswell said, adding that there are more on the list to be addressed.

In other business, the commission:

- Heard from city engineer Darin Neufeld that Eighth Street construction will be completed Tuesday and both sides of the street will be open to traffic.

- Approved 5-0 the payment of bills in the amount of \$855,377. Volk said that represented checks written for a two-week period.

- Approved 5-0 to accept a bid of \$3,010 from Leo Townsend to purchase a city forklift.

- Heard from Criswell about a 112-foot-by-355-foot property at 216 E. Highway 24 that needs to be rezoned from the manufactured home park district to the general business district. The commission approved the rezoning 4-0. Mayor Rick Billinger abstained from voting, because the issue "addresses his property," according to Hill.

- Heard a request from Commissioner John Garcia, who asked Simon to block off Main Street between 11th and 12th Streets from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 8, for a Christmas festival organized by a coalition of churches.

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