

Teen runs to Goodland

By Pat Schiefen
pschiefen@nwkansas.com

A 15-year-old runner from St. Francis succeeded in his run Wednesday from St. Francis to Goodland, around 36 miles, arriving around 10:30 a.m. for a time of about four hours.

Robert James Herman III said he did the run to help kids at Children's Hospital in Denver, where he had almost nine surgeries over a little more than a year.

As he neared Gulick Park he had enough energy to pick up speed a little but his face was flushed. Earlier he had a measured pace when he was at Jack Armstrong's, north of Goodland.

"My feet hurt," he said after he arrived. "The worst part of the run was the hills. The best part is how happy the kids will be for the hospital to get the money."

He said he had company running out of St. Francis for a while. He also said that he did detour a little off of the highway to a dirt road because of the truck traffic.

Originally, he had planned to run back, but Wednesday, he said he didn't think that was going to happen.

Herman has a shunt to drain fluid off his brain. His mother, Jeanie Herman, had planned on having him checked by a nurse before he ran back to St. Francis.

His medical problems started after he went to a Boy Scout camp in Kiowa, where he found a tick on his stomach and was bitten by a mosquito, his mother said. After he got home, he wound up with a 104-degree fever and vomiting. He was eventually diagnosed with West Nile Virus, spread by mosquitoes, and Rocky Mountain spotted fever,



Robert James Herman III, 15, St. Francis, ran about 36 miles to Goodland in four hours Wednesday to raise money for Children's Hospital of Denver. His father followed in a car with hazard lights flashing to alert drivers.
Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

spread by ticks, she said.

While he was being treated for those things, doctors have cleared him from the run, his mother said, and his coach thought he could do it.

His father followed behind him in a car with flashers on.

Herman said he had been training by running up to eight miles at a time. Doctors have cleared him for the run, his mother said, and his coach thought he could do it.

Anyone who wants to donate to

his fund can send checks to him at 320 Webster, St. Francis, Kan. 67756.

The people in St. Francis were shocked that he wanted to run from St. Francis to Goodland, he said.

"I thought it would be awesome to make the run," he added.

Clown's visit means circus coming

Skeeter, the advance clown for the Culpepper and Merriweather Circus, came to town Tuesday in to help prepare for the big top's visit on Saturday, June 14.

The Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the circus for two shows at 2 and 4:30 p.m.

Skeeter talked with kids and handed out circus coloring-contest sheets. She said she got her start as a clown at the early age of 9, in Columbus, Ohio. She later graduated from the Ringling Clown College and has spent much of the last 19 years clowning around the country.

The circus will set up behind Howard Johnson's Hotel, and invites people to come out between 9:30 and 10 a.m. to see the big top tent go up. Once the rigging in place, people will be offered a free tour of the circus grounds to meet some of the performers and learn about the history of circus, now in its 21st season.

The show is an authentic one-ring, big top circus, and has been featured on National Geographic's Explorer television series, Entertainment Tonight, The Los Angeles Times, The Chicago Tribune and Arizona Highways magazine. It has also been featured on the A&E Network special, "Under the Big Top," and most recently, "On the Road with Circus Kids," a Nickelodeon special featured on the Nick News Program.

In recent years, the tent raising and tour has become a popular program for families and circus enthusiasts, the show says. This year's 90-minute show includes an all-star group of performers and entertainers.



Skeeter, the clown, visited the swimmers at the Steever Water Park on Tuesday afternoon. She let the kids know that the Culpepper and Merriweather Circus will be in Goodland on Saturday, June 14, behind Howard Johnson's Hotel.
Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

The Midway and box office will open at 1 p.m. on Saturday, with rides and concessions. The first show is at 2 p.m. and the second starts at 4:30 p.m.

Tickets are available at the Cham-

ber of Commerce office or First National, Western State and Peoples State banks. Advance tickets are

\$6 for children 2 to 12 and \$8 for adults. On show day, tickets will be \$1.50 more.

Bids accepted for street work

By Tom Betz
ntbetz@nwkansas.com

Bids on four projects for street asphalt and concrete work around the city, being paid for by a \$2.5 million bond issue, were approved on Monday by the Goodland City Commission, with two contractors getting two jobs each.

The commission decided to take the higher of two bids for concrete work to use a local contractor, though the difference was less than 2.5 percent.

The asphalt part of the project include reconstruction parts of Grand Avenue and 12th Street, plus doing subgrade and eight inches of paving on South Main from 19th to Business U.S. 24, and 168 locations for repairing street edges with six inches of asphalt.

Grasser Construction of Stratton, Colo., was the only bidder on the two asphalt projects, with a bid of \$301,600 for the edge patching and \$119,780 for the asphalt reconstruction, plus \$161,793 for the South Main section.

Concrete projects include the intersection at 12th and Cattle-trail and rebuilding Circle Drive, and seven locations for valley gutter replacement, 40 locations for curb and gutter replacement and curb and gutter on Main from Eighth to 17th Street.

Miller Construction of Goodland was the lone bidder on the intersection work at \$170,240. Miller was one of two bidders on the curb and gutter and valley work, with a bid of \$434,400.

Darin Neufeld, engineer from Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, who is handling the projects, recommended taking the low bid of APAC of Hays at \$423,995 on the gutter work. Neufeld told the commissioners, though, that if they accepted Miller's bid, he could "play with the quantities" in some of the projects to get down to the budget.

Commissioner John Garcia said he felt with a difference of about 2 percent between Miller and the Hays firm, it would be better to go with the local contractor.

Neufeld said the bid documents did not say the city was

obligated to take the lowest bid.

"I can live with it either way," Neufeld said. "What you need to understand is that if you accept Miller's bid ... we will have to make another adjustment to get the project down to the budget."

"I am thinking the acceptance of the businesses on Main would be better with a local contractor rather than one from Hays," said Commissioner Josh Dechant.

"For a 2 percent difference, it is better to use the money here," Mayor Rick Billinger agreed.

Commissioner Dave Daniels said he liked the idea of going with the local contractor and made a motion to accept Miller's bid, which passed unanimously.

Neufeld said the asphalt project list includes a piece of taxiway at the airport for \$38,423, but only because it was better have it done at the same time. He said Grasser bid it as an alternate, and the Federal Aviation Administration has grant money to pay 75 percent of the cost.

He said the total for all the projects was about \$27,000 over budget before taking the higher Miller bid. However, he said, the bids for the concrete and asphalt on 19th Street from Cherry east to Eustis had not been taken yet, and he felt the whole project could be adjusted based on what happens with that final bid.

"I believe we have about \$400,000 in the budget for 19th," Neufeld said. "If it goes as we have planned, we should be able to work the rest of the projects in, but I did not want to let this bid until we had an idea of what the other projects were going to cost."

City Manager Wayne Hill said they were holding off on bidding 19th because they wanted to make sure they would have enough money to do the work on Main.

Neufeld said the plan for 19th would be concrete to the Fed Ex garage east of Dollar General and from there to the bus barn east of Fed Ex, let the contractors bid both concrete and asphalt to see which is the least expensive.

He said he would bring the bid for 19th back in mid July, and then juggle the list to bring the total down to the budget.

matters of record corrections

Divorces

The following divorces have been granted by the Sherman County District Court:

Ricky L. Coates and Michele Renee Coates, both of Sherman County.

Steven J. Riebel and Jana C. Riebel, both of Goodland.

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misrepresentation 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.

TO THE RESIDENTS OF SHERMAN COUNTY

I've appreciated the opportunity to serve the people of Sherman County. I have enjoyed listening to your comments and thoughts about issues that affect us. I hope I have been helpful or was able to explain the questions you may have had about an issue. I value your opinions on issues because it is you, the people, that we as Commissioners need to remember when we make decisions that affect our county and its residents. I thank the many people who have encouraged me to file as a candidate for Commissioner. If you as voters so choose, I would feel honored to continue serving as your County Commissioner.

Thank You,
Kevin Rasure

Paid for by Kevin Rasure

Thank You

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