

Work started on parking

Miller's Construction had a crew of 10 people Tuesday morning pouring concrete for the first half of the parking lot the school district has approved at the corner of 12th and Cherry Ave. The parking lot will cover the area where Cobblestone Floral was located several years ago before the school district bought the property.

Photo by Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News

Wheat harvest raises question about yield signs

By Tom Betz
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Wheat harvest began this week and Sherman County commissioners were asked about putting in a stop sign on an intersection "for the summer harvest," but the commissioners said they would see what could be done.

A letter to the commissioners asked them to look at the intersection of County Road 78 and County Road 15, which is on a hill. The letter said a yield sign is on Rd 78, but the question was if the county could put up a stop sign on the road for the summer harvest.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas said it is important for everyone using the roads to be cautious with the harvest beginning. He said the yield sign is probably the best the county can do at this time.

"We cannot flop signs around," he said.

Commissioner Max Linin said there are corn fields on three sides,

and felt the county could ask the landowners to cut the corners back for better line of sight.

Later in the meeting Sheriff Kevin Butts came in and Commissioner Cynthia Strnad showed the letter to the sheriff.

She asked him if he was familiar with the corner.

Sheriff Butts said he had not been out there recently, but would check it out and talk to Curt Way, public works manager, about the signs.

On Friday Sheriff Butts said he had driven out to look at the intersection and agreed that something should be done to improve safety.

He said he talked to Way, and Way said the yield signs should work. Butts said Way told him he could put up stop signs if the commissioners wanted that, but a traffic survey really needs to be done to determine the need.

Butts said with the wheat harvest beginning drivers all around the county should be aware of the farm

vehicles and obey the signs for the safety of everyone.

In other business the commissioner:

- Talked about Doug Hall, county noxious weed director, and said he was working hard spraying weeds. Thomas said the part timer who was helping has quit and he told Hall to get an ad out and check with Northwest Tech to see if there was a student interested in part time work.

Commissioner Max Linin asked what he should do if he sees noxious weeds.

Thomas said the right thing to do is call Hall. When Hall checks it out he sends the landowner a letter, and if the owner doesn't take care of it Hall will go on the land and spray and the cost gets charged to the land.

He said keeping up with all the spraying is a huge job.

Linin asked about allowing farmers to burn the ditches.

Thomas said he thought it was OK as long as the farmers got the right burn permit and watch it.

Linin said he thought the county might think about reseeding some of the ditches. He said he saw the state doing it on K-27, and felt it might be something for the long term.

- Discussed the resolution to put the at-large commissioner issue on the November ballot.

Thomas said it has to be a dual majority so it has to pass both in the rural areas of the county and in the city.

"If we don't put it on the ballot it is done," Thomas said.

The commissioners agreed to wait until the next meeting on Monday, July 12, to discuss the resolution further.

The at-large issue was passed by the state legislature in 2009, but has to be on a November ballot and under the state law requires a county resolution to place the issue on the ballot.

When the county was working to get the issue through the state legislature, Thomas opposed the bill. He had said earlier he was in favor of giving the citizens of Sherman County the right to decide the at-large issue by their vote.

A question about expanding the commission from three to five members will be on the November ballot after the district court ruled the election held in April 2009 where citizens voted to expand the commission was declared null because it had to be on a November election. The issue expanding the commission was brought to the ballot by citizen petitions.

- Approved a bid with McCormicks Construction of Stratton, Colo., to pave the alley behind the courthouse.

Sheriff Butts said there is a problem with water and the existing sidewalk that has sunk down. He said he doesn't care where the water goes, but away from the building.

Thomas said he felt Butts had better talk to someone about what needs to be done.

Linin asked if the sidewalk needs to be done before the paving.

Linin brought up a question about the concrete parking area in front of the Good Samaritan Society building and what needs to be done there.

Thomas said it was his opinion the concrete will have to be taken out before any asphalt can be put down.

Strnad suggested talking to the City Manager Doug Gerber about when the paving needs to be done, and who's responsibility the parking area is.

Thomas said he would call Pam Black, Good Sam director, about the parking.

The commissioners agreed to go ahead with paving the alley at a cost of about \$25,000.

Sheriff's web site gives information

By Tom Betz
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Sherman County citizens can learn more about the Sheriff's office through a web site recently created to expand the access of the public information about the office and the activities.

The web site shermancounty-sheriff.com opens with the smiling face of Sherman County Sheriff Kevin Butts.

He said he is pleased with how the site is coming along, but knows more needs to be done. The site includes information about accidents the sheriff has investigated since the site was created and a list of those arrested.

A special section of the site lists - with photos - those who are currently in the Bastille, the charges, when they were arrested and their bond.

The site includes information about concealed carry and how to obtain a permit plus information

about preventing crimes.

Keeping track of registered offenders is one of the sheriff's duties, and this site has a description of what the list is and a link to the state registered offenders list.

The section on crime prevention includes tips for anyone who is going to the market or to dinner and for those going on vacation to reduce the temptation of criminals to break in while the owners are away.

Links are included to the Goodland Police, KBI and several other law enforcement agencies.

The frequently asked questions section includes information about car seats, fingerprints and how to report missing persons.

In the about us section is a history of all the people who have served as Sherman County Sheriff and biographic information on Sheriff Butts.

"The Sherman County Sheriff's Office patrols 1,056 square miles of roads, including 35 miles of I70, 35

miles of old U.S. 24 and 30 miles of K-27 in Northwest Kansas," says the main screen of the sheriff's web site.

"Sherman County Sheriff's Office provides law enforcement protection for rural Sherman County, as well as the cities of Goodland, Kanorado, and Edson.

"Sheriff Deputies conduct traffic enforcement, motor vehicle accident investigations, criminal investigation, transportation of prisoners, and serve warrants and civil process."

Included under the inmate information is the hours when people can visit those held in the Bastille and what they can and cannot bring to the jail.

Sheriff Butts said he hopes the site is helpful, and expects the site to expand as more information is added.

To contact the sheriff in an emergency call 911, or to reach the office call (785) 890-4835.

Have you changed your sales tax?

Effective July 1, the state sales tax rate increased from 5.3 percent to 6.3 percent.

Did you adjust for this change? Sales tax is not your money. You are only collecting it and turning it over to the state. If you fail to collect correctly, sales tax becomes your expense.

For a list of effective Sales Tax Rates in Kansas go to www.ksrev-venue.org/salesratechanges.

This tip was brought to you by Western Kansas Business Consulting, sponsored in part by



jamie morphew

• business tips

Sherman County. We offer free and confidential business consulting to Kearny, Scott, Sherman, and Wichita counties. For more information or to set

up an appointment, contact Jamie Morphey at (620) 874-0771 or e-mail wkbc@wbsnet.org.

corrections

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.

The Business Directory can help get your business' name out. Call 899-2338

matters of record

Accidents

The following accidents were investigated by the Goodland Police Department.

June 12 - 2:02 p.m., a 2008 Chevrolet driven by Richard A. Stefan was driving north on Cherry Ave., when he sideswiped a 2001 Ford owned by Jesus Alberto Diaz that was legally parked along the curb facing south. Stefan went across the street and hit the Ford. Stefan continued driving north and had

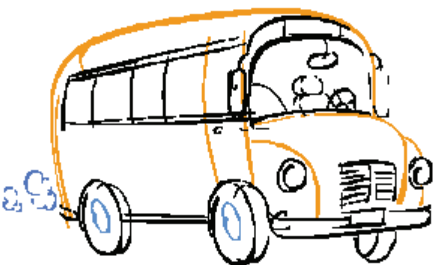
two more accidents before disabling his pickup.

June 18 - 7:37 p.m., 900 Kansas Ave., a 2000 Dodge driven by Vance Earl Jackson Jones was pulling forward out of a back yard at Ninth and Kansas. The Dodge went forward across the alley and hit a barricade around a gas pipe that belongs to Black Hills Energy. There was no damage to the barricade or the gas pipe.

General Public Transportation

Schedule a ride call:
Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm MST
785-899-5082

Bus services are available within the city limits of Goodland



Donations are accepted

Handicap Accessible

"Project Funded in part by the KDOT Public Transit Program"

Relay For Life Guitar Chance Drawing

\$5 for 1 ticket • \$10 for 3 tickets

Enter for a chance to win a one of a kind Relay For Life Guitar.

All proceeds benefit Relay For Life.

See the guitar on display at:

S&T Communications: 6/28-7/2

Smitty's Sports/Mann's Jewelry: 7/5-7/9

Bankwest of Kansas: 7/12-7/16

Western State Bank: 7/19-7/23

Madd Hatters Music Emporium: 7/26-7/30

Tickets can be purchased at the above businesses when the guitar is being displayed, or by calling Aaron Thompson (785) 821-4222, Amy Thompson (785) 821-2700, or Ashley Kear (785) 821-2412



Listings from Homestead Realty!

New lowered price...320 E. 12th....3 bedroom home with large living room with hardwood floors, big kitchen, main floor laundry, basement, single garage, sun porch, new roof. Was \$52,340 NOW \$39,900. Please contact Donna Moore 785-899-2328 or cell 785-899-8089 to view this home today.

New listing....228 Walnut....4 bedroom, 2 bath home on fenced yard, covered patio and much more. Newer carpet, new roof, central heat and air, kitchen with appliances. \$54,000. Please let Donna show you this home today 785-899-2328 or e-mail donna@goodland-homestead.com

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