

Planters look good



Sherman County Master Gardeners received a visit from Alan Stevens, K-State Extension horticulture state leader last week to evaluate the flower trials at Eighth and Caldwell in Gulick Park. Stevens presented a program on using flowers to make the community a more colorful place and a more inviting place. After the program he went down to see the planters along Main Ave. He said the planters bring the downtown together and look spectacular. "The community pride the planters instill will be picked up by the businesses,"

he predicted. He said other businesses could add planters to make the downtown inviting. Stevens said it was good the Master Gardeners are encouraging businesses, yards and blocks with the Golden Glove Awards. Pictured with Alan Stevens are Reva Bauman, Marilyn Imel, Carol Topliff and Jessica Cole.

Photo by Dana Belshe/Sunflower Extension Agent

City urged to clean up unsightly yards

By Tom Betz
nt.betz@nwkansas.com

A Goodland citizen spoke at the commission meeting on Monday asking the city to use existing ordinances to clean up unsightly yards. Pete Whalen, 606 Main Ave., said he felt it was important for the city to use existing city laws to clean up the yards. "I feel guilty bringing up something negative," he said. "We have worried about cleanliness of this community. People will tell you Goodland has more of a problem than other cities in the area with more trash in our yards and more junk cars."

He said he read about a clean up plan City Manager Doug Gerber

proposed, but said he did not see any support for the plan. "We want you to review the plan," he said. "There are four fenced yards in our neighborhood and there are lots of trash that are breeding grounds for mice, rats and can bring diseases. "We believe the city has ordinances on the books, and we can clean this up much quicker than what Brian James, city building inspector, feels is required." Whalen said he feels the court could help move this clean up effort along. Whalen showed the commissioners photos of some of the areas he is talking about. He said the commissioners ought to look past some silver gates on

Seventh Street to see the filthy mess. "I am not sure why this is allowed to exist," he said. "You have the ordinance and the building inspector to clean this up. We ask you to do the clean up as quickly as possible." He said the commissioners ought to talk to the real estate dealers about what happens when they try to sell a house and there is trash nearby. On a related subject Whalen said he had talked to the state forester, Jim Strine of Hays, about the dead trees around town. Whalen said he has talked to members of the city tree board about the problem. "I have a letter from Strine that was sent to Dana Belshe, extension

district agent," Whalen said. "In the letter Strine says, 'I agree that dead and dying trees in a community are a danger and should be removed.'" Whalen said the city has a tree board and a tree ordinance that is specific about what can be done. "The city can tell a person to remove the trees," he said. "If they do not the city can remove the trees. It is expensive to do, and we had this happen to several Chinese elms in our yard after that freeze a few years ago. "Getting rid of these dead trees will make Goodland a better place to live.

Road work to begin in Trego County

Work was scheduled to begin on Monday to apply a thin asphalt overlay seal on the mainline of I-70 in Trego County according to the Kansas Department of Transportation construction office in Hays. Beginning at the Trego and Ellis County line and extending west 16 miles to the U.S. 283 junction near WaKeeney, contractor Venture Corp, of Great Bend, will oversee the process of placing the thin overlay seal along the corridor. "Before the thin overlay seal can begin, the contractor will do some milling on the roadway near the bridge ends and placing hot mix

asphalt over several known surface defect areas," said Kevin Zimmer, Hays area engineer. "Once that process is complete, the contractor will move onto the overlay operation for all directional driving lanes." I-70 traffic will be reduced to one-lane while the construction is underway. The estimated cost of the thin asphalt overlay is \$1.8 million. Work will be complete by mid-September, weather permitting. "As always, we ask the public exercise caution while driving through this and any other work zone in Kansas," said Kristen Brands, public affairs manager. "Please slow down."

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.

County accepts low concrete bid

By Tom Betz
nt.betz@nwkansas.com

Replacing the concrete parking on the east side of the Sherman County Good Samaritan Society facility will begin in phases probably in September after the county commissioners agreed on Monday to accept the low bid of about \$17,000 for the project. Pam Black, Good Samaritan director, presented the commissioners with three bids for the work at the meeting on Monday. The three bids were from Terry Dobbs, Dick Morton and Dennis Malsom. Black said the bids were comparable and called for five inches of concrete. Commissioner Chuck Thomas asked about the availability of getting the project done. Black said Dobbs, who had the lowest bid, had told her he could start about any time. Commissioner Cynthia Strnad said the contractors were all local and the one from Morton and Dobbs were very close, but it appeared Dobbs was the lower bidder. Commissioner Max Linin said the two bids were really close, and the commissioners need to decide if they are going to do five inches or six inches of concrete. Thomas said the difference between five inches and six inches is about \$1,000. "It is probably better to do the six inches," Linin said. County Clerk Janet Rumpel asked if Morton's bid included rebar as Dobbs bid included rebar. Thomas said he thought Morton was going to put wire in the concrete. "That is probably as good as rebar," Linin said. Linin made the motion to go with Dobbs bid for six inches with rebar. Strnad seconded and it passed 3-0. Thomas told Black that would be the county's portion of the expenses for this year, and that the county would pay the contractor directly. Black said Thursday things are going well for the facility and they have had five admissions since the ban was lifted. She said the facility has a number of open beds, but things are going well. She said Dobbs told her he would wait for the temperature to drop a bit to do the parking, and will probably do it in phases taking out a third at a time to keep some parking open. In other business the county commissioners: • Approved a three year extension of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program. The program would expire at the end of the year, but Helen Dobbs, office manager for

the Sherman County Economic Development Council, said she wanted to make sure the program was extended. Thomas made the motion to extend the program and Linin seconded. The motion passed 3-0. Strnad asked Dobbs if she was going to stay on to the end of the year. Dobbs said her last day was Tuesday, and she thanked the commissioners for their support of her. Strnad said she was sorry to hear Dobbs was leaving, and said she had done a lot of work for the council over the past several years. Dobbs said she did not know what the council's plans are as they had changed the meeting from Tuesday to Thursday. She thanked the commissioners for their support and said she hopes they continue to support the economic development program. • Accepted a proposal from the Kansas Department of Transportation to sell a small piece of land near I-70 at Caruso. Thomas said the state was asking for the land to be used during the rebuild of I-70 coming in a couple of years. The state proposed paying \$500 for the .41 acres at the edge of the highway. Linin made a motion to accept the state offer and Strnad seconded. It passed 3-0 and Thomas said he would let the state know. • Discussed a potential motor grader trade with Curt Way, public works manager, and Dustin McDaniels of Foley Equipment. Way said the plan was to trade an older motor grader for a new one, but he was not sure what was happening since a loader had gone down and was being taken to the shop. The commissioners decided to delay a decision until the problem with the loader was determined. The plan was to trade in the older motor grader and make a down payment of about \$65,000 and do an agreement through a local bank for about \$100,000 over the next four years. • The commissioners listened to representatives from Glassman Corporation of Hays about replacing the boiler in the courthouse. Joe Glassman told the commissioners he would work on some specifications to replace the existing boiler with two boilers that could be converted to hot water in the future. He told them this would be the first of several steps to improve the heating and cooling of the courthouse. He estimated the cost of the two boilers to be around \$120,000 and the total project for the courthouse heating and cooling to cost about \$350,000.

Maverick Madness Golf Challenge



Sponsored by:
Northwest Kansas Technical College

When: Saturday, August 28, 2010
8:00 AM (MDT)

Where: Shotgun Start at Sugar Hills Golf Club

Registration/Information:

Please visit us on the web at WWW.NWKTC.EDU, or
Contact Tiffini Overstreet at 785-890-1517 or tiffini.overstreet@nwktc.edu

****All proceeds will benefit the Northwest Tech Athletic Programs****

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION: NWKTC does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, age, disability, or sex. Accusations concerning sexual discrimination, sexual harassment, and age discrimination should be referred to the TITLE IX COORDINATOR/AGE ACT COORDINATOR, Vice President of Student Affairs at 785-890-3641. Accusations based on disability or race, color, or national origin should be referred to SECTION 504 COORDINATOR/ADA COORDINATOR/TITLE VI COORDINATOR, College Counselor, located at 1209 Harrison (785-890-3641).

Sherman County Farm Bureau Annual Meeting

REMINDER!! REMINDER!! REMINDER!!

**Tuesday, August 24, at 6 p.m. MT,
in the Northwest Tech College
Student Union Assembly Room**

Guest speaker: Terry Holdren from Kansas Farm Bureau
Terry is the National Director of Governmental Relations and
General Counsel Designate

KANSAS FARM BUREAU®
The Voice of Agriculture®

DIGITAL CINEMA IS HERE!!!!!!
August 20-26
The Last Airbender 3D
PG: Fantasy action violence.
www.goodlandnet.com/movies

Bring this AD to the theater to receive a large popcorn & 2 med. drinks
EXP: 12/31/10

Nightly 7 PM
Sunday Matinee 1:30 PM
Movie bucks make great gifts!
Sherman
1203 Main - Phone 899-6103