

City asked to support several coming events

By Tom Betz
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City commissioners were asked Monday to support the Professional Bull Rider event, the Run For The Wall and a special request from the Kiwanis club about putting flags out for the Run For The Wall.

Randy Whitmore opened the public comment portion of the commission meeting on Monday with a request for the city and Sherman County Economic Development to support the Professional Bull Rider event this year to be held on Wednesday, Aug. 3, at the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair.

Whitmore said they had a good event last year and decided to stay with a one-day event.

"We had the number one cowboy in the world," he said, "and he got bucked off. We expect a good crowd. We did make a little money last year and we will put it back into the show this year. We are out beating the bushes this year for money."

Mayor John Garcia said it was good the attendance was going up.

"We hope it keeps going up," Whitmore said. "We get a lot of help from the community. It takes a lot of money to put this on."

Garcia asked how many people are in the audience.

Whitmore said it is 2,500 or more, and the biggest attendance of any event in the fair. He said the Goodland Ambassadors and Goodland High School cheerleaders have

helped in past years, and that Kiwanis helps by feeding the cowboys.

Commissioner Annette Fairbanks asked what the city gave the PBR last year.

Whitmore said the city gave \$1,000 and economic development gave \$1,000.

City Manager Doug Gerber asked if Whitmore knew how many people come and stay overnight.

Whitmore said he did not know, but knows people from all over the area are in the audience. He said Pumpkin Town Clown, who is part of the entertainment and helps the other rodeo clowns, asks about where people in the audience are from and it spreads out a long way.

He said Comfort Inn is the host motel and they have been satisfied and are going to work with the local group again.

Commissioner Chris Zimmerman asked about the number of bull riders in the event.

Whitmore said there will be 40 riders, and the PBR event is getting some big names. He said being in the middle of the week helps and brings some of the top 25 riders.

Commissioner Josh Dechant said he feels it is a great event, and that it has rained before or after the event so they are not the only ones who get some help out of the evening.

Commissioner Bill Finley asked if this is something the city has budgeted for, and asked how much Whitmore was ask-

ing for. Whitmore said he would take whatever the city would give. He said in the past the city has taken the free tickets and given them away to citizens.

Gerber said in the past the city has randomly drawn names from those who pay their utility bills on time.

Fairbanks made a motion to give PBR \$1,000 and it passed 5-0.

Next up was former commissioner Dave Daniels who said he understood how hard it was to deal with all the requests, and here he was asking for money.

He said he was asking for money for the gas for the Run For The Wall riders who will be in Goodland on May 21 and 22. He said last year the city gave \$500 and Sherman County Economic Development gave \$300. He said the money was to help pay for the gas, and last year it was 464 gallons at \$1,300 and the committee had raised that amount.

He said they fueled about 300 bikes in 20 minutes.

Daniels was asking the city to do a proclamation on behalf of the Run For The Wall and to have the mayor or another commissioner read the proclamation on May 21 at the Derrick Lutters Armory Building where the motorcycle group will overnight.

Daniels said he ran into a guy in Denver who was impressed with what Salina did with all the flags and events.

Daniels said he was working on the flags to be on the route when the motorcycles arrive on Saturday going up K-27 to Eighth Street and east to Caldwell Ave. and then north to the armory, and again on Sunday morning from Caldwell Ave. south to 17th Street and east to Cherry Ave. and south to Business U.S. 24 where the motorcycles turn east to I-70 and head on to Oakley.

On the gas money Daniels said they have raised \$701 from the local motorcycle group, and said the price of gas was somewhat lower last year.

Dechant said last year he did not know what he was expecting, but when he was at the armory he had a great time and people kept thanking him and the city for the program. He said it was hard to read the proclamation with dry eyes after Andrea Townsend had sung the national anthem.

Garcia said he was at the armory early on Sunday morning to help with the Rotary breakfast and was impressed by those riding to remember all the veterans.

Finley made a motion to do the \$500 the city did last year. The motion passed 5-0.

Jeff Mason, city attorney and a Kiwanis member, said he was at the meeting in conjunction with what Daniels was asking because Kiwanis does the flags around town on six holidays.

"We have run into the problem that we have been asked to put out the flags on a number of different days," he said. "We

have been asked about Flatlanders, School reunion and Run For The Wall.

"We might have a solution that the city declare the Run For The Wall a holiday. If we have a declared holiday we might have some room to put the flags out for the Run For The Wall."

He said there are 50 flags on Caldwell Ave., and about 50 on Eight Street. He said Kiwanis might put them out and any contribution from the city would go to the Run For The Wall.

Ray Smee, co-chair of the Kiwanis flag committee said they put out 622 flags on the holidays, but would not put that many out for the Run For The Wall. He said if the city would make it a holiday they would put the flags out on Saturday evening and put them out on Caldwell Ave. on Sunday morning.

Smee said it is a lot of work getting all the flags out.

Gerber asked if it is a Kiwanis policy of having a holiday.

Mason said it was the Kiwanis policy and he said they had looked at a way to modify it, but felt that is not going to happen and that is why he was suggesting the city put that it is a holiday in the proclamation.

Garcia said he felt comfortable doing that.

Daniels said he would volunteer to help put out the flags.

Four Northwest Tech Student of Year candidates hail from Goodland

Four of the 14 candidates for the Northwest Tech Student of the Year are from Goodland with the winner to be announced at the college graduation at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, May 20 at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

Dr. Ed Mills, college president, said he was pleased to congratulate all of the students as outstanding students of the year.

"Each one of these students are very deserving of this honor," said Dr. Mills.

The four from Goodland are Brandon Douglas, Christopher Geeseka, Kim Horinek and Devin Keister.

Brandon Douglas graduated from Goodland High School in 2007. Brandon will be graduating in May from the Engineering Technology program at Northwest Tech. His parents are Tim Douglas of Goodland and Gloria Cummings of Lander, Wyo.

Brandon is the department president in his program. He has done



Douglas



Geeseka



Horinek



Keister

volunteer work for Red Cross, the department ambassador for his first year and the department Student of the Month for April. After graduation, Brandon plans to be an engineering technician in the industry.

Christopher Geeseka graduated from Goodland High School in 2008. Chris will be graduating from the Carpentry program at Northwest Tech. Chris and his wife Sarah are expecting a little one, and are excited about that.

Christopher's mother is Vicki Hilty of Goodland and his father

is Guy Geeseka of Chanute. Chris is involved with SkillsUSA and was the department Student of the Month for December.

Kim Horinek graduated from Liberty High School in 1998. Kim will be graduating from the Respiratory Therapy program at Northwest Tech this May. She is married to Dave Horinek, and their children are Jacelyn, Ethan, Justin and Travis.

Kim is originally from Joes, Colo., and her mother is Kathy Adolf and her father was the late Wes Adolf. Kim is a member of the National Technical Honor Society,

and received a KRCS Russ Babb Memorial Scholarship. She is a member of American Association for Respiratory Care and Kansas Respiratory Care Society. She is very involved in the community and is a part of the Goodland Ambassadors, Goodland's Got Talent Committee and a Relay For Life Volunteer.

Devin Keister graduated from Cheylin Jr/Sr High School in 2007. Devin will be graduating from the Computer Graphics Technology program. His mother, Stefanie Keister, lives in McAllester, Okla. Devin is the Department Treasurer, as well as a National Technical Honor Society nominee. After graduation, Devin plans to work as a graphic artist.

For more information on programs that Northwest Kansas Technical College offers, go to www.nwktc.edu. or call 1-800-316-4127.

Volunteers invited to help at state archeological dig

Volunteers will have an opportunity to participate in the Kansas Archeology Training Program field school June 4-19 to investigate the Coffey site (14PO1), located along the Big Blue River in the Flint Hills region north of Manhattan.

This site, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, will help researchers document the life ways of hunter-gatherers on the Plains during the Archaic period, around 7,000 years ago said Dr. Frederic Sellet, Assistant Professor of Anthropology at KU, the principal investigator.

This time of harsh climatic conditions forced drastic changes in adaptation, technology, and social organization among prehistoric groups, he said.

In recent years parts of the site has been lost due to erosion by the river. Archeology field school participants will salvage vital archeological information from this important site.

The Kansas State Historical Society and Kansas Anthropological Association will join forces with the University of Kansas and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in this two week excavation and training program.

The public is welcome to participate in the field school lab and excavation. No experience is necessary. Participation can be for all or part of the project. Monday, May 2 is the deadline for the lowest registration fee.

For full details and registration information, log on to www.kshs.org/p/kansas-archeology-training-program-field-school-2011/14622 or contact the state Historical Society Public Archeologist at (785) 272-8681 ext 266 or vwulfkuhle@kshs.org.

Project headquarters will be at Rock Creek Junior-Senior High School (USD 323) at Flush, beginning Saturday, June 4. Registration, the artifact-processing lab and some classes will take place at the school.

Visitors can stop by the field school lab, see artifacts being processed and get directions to visit the excavation site. Another opportunity to learn about the project is at orientation, 8-9 am daily from June 4 to June 18 at the school.

Free evening programs are open to the public at the Westmoreland Community Center starting at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. Monitor the web site for further program announcements.

City commissioners elect new face for mayor

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the start up of the water plant.

Gerber said he had thought it might be late April to get the water plant going. He said it might be early May.

"We are getting closer," he said. "It is frustrating, but we should have better water by next month."

Under commissioner reports Dechant welcomed Zimmerman and Finley, and said he felt the city needs to work on restarting the

city, county joint meetings. He said another project to work on would be extending Second Street out to K-27.

Fairbanks congratulated Zimmerman and Finley, and said she looked forward to working with them in the next years.

Finley said he was sorry for being late to the first meeting, and said he looks forward to working with the other commissioners.

Zimmerman said he wanted to thank the voters, and looking for-

ward to getting some things done for the city.

Mayor Garcia said he had been happy to serve with a great commission.

"One thing Doug eluded to (in his commissioner orientation) is this commission has been very proactive," he said. "We operate on a professional level. We agree and disagree and support the decisions.

"We have a great city staff and look forward and believe we will continue to progress."

The commissioners held a 15 minute closed door session with Gerber on personnel matters. When the meeting reopened no action was taken. The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m. The next commission meeting will be 5 p.m. on Monday, May 2.

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