

# Carnival fun



Kids of all ages were able to enjoy the home owned carnival rides at the Freedom Fest on Monday, July 4th, at the Sherman County Fairgrounds. Rides include the scrambler (right), tilt-a-whirl, carousel, farris wheel and several others. There are rides for the very young as well as the older kids.  
Photo by Pat Schiefen  
The Goodland Star-News

# Groups plead causes for county budget

By Ava Betz  
abetz@nwkansas.com

County Commissioners Larry Enfield, Max Linin and Cynthia Strnad faced a full agenda Thursday as representatives of several organizations reviewed those entities' roles in the community and requested slots for their programs in the next budget.

David Fyler of the Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center made his presentation shortly after the 8 a.m. meeting began. He noted the Center covers 29 counties and provides several services to law enforcement agencies, victims and their families.

They do not charge their clients for services, Fyler reminded them. In the last year the agency has been to Sherman County 11 times, and maintains a mobile unit so interviews and services come to the counties and law enforcement clients to them.

Burton Pianalto, investigator with the County Attorney's office spoke in support of the Center, saying it was "vitaly important in gathering evidence" to be used in court.

The Center has a budget of \$350,000 from donations, grants and the counties served, Fyler said. Sherman County budgeted \$5,000 last year, and the commissioners agreed to the same amount to be allocated in this year's budget.

Aaron Duell updated the Commissioners on plans for the July 4 Freedom Fest. Duell, who is chairman of the event, briefly outlined plans for the entertainment, Rotary Watermelon Feed, other food vendors and Kiwanis Club, and the fireworks display planned by Goodland native Joe Diaz. He asked if the county would contribute \$1,000 to the fireworks fund. Last year the County contributed \$500, but the price has gone up this year by about \$200 to \$7,400 total. The Commissioners unanimously moved to stay

with the \$500 donation. "I don't feel generous," Strnad said, explaining there was no line item for such expenses, which then had to come out of an already slim miscellaneous category in the budget.

Duell reported on current improvements at the fairgrounds, including concrete projects and sound system upgrades. There is still some work to be done before the fair begins, but the grounds are looking good and the sticker problem "is much better... under control," Duell reported.

During discussion of what still needed to be done at the fairgrounds, it was mentioned that sprinkler pipe was needed to provide a sturdy guard rail on part of the track at the fairgrounds. Commissioners pondered whether a public-spirited citizen might have some pipe available.

"There has been a tremendous improvement" at the fairgrounds, Strnad commented, and Enfield added to Duell, "Thanks for all the work you have done."

Michael Solomon, economic development director, and James Foster of the Small Business Assistance Center were next on the agenda to talk to the commissioners about the Rural Opportunity Zone, a two-pronged project authored by Gov. Sam Brownback to bring people to rural Kansas by offering state income tax waivers for five years to people moving into the state, and by offering to help students pay back a portion of their student college loans when they return to rural communities to live.

Fifty Kansas counties were invited to participate in the plan by paying back \$1,500 of a \$3,000 annual payment to lending institutions to which a former student owed money when that student had lived in the county for a year and had applied to be part of the incentive program. The state would pay the remain-

ing \$1,500 of the payback plan. The payback would last a maximum of five years per student and would only be paid if the student continued to live in the community for the whole year of the payback period.

"You have an opportunity to recruit kids for this county," Solomon told the commissioners, asking them to see the long term benefits of attracting recent graduates and their families to the area. He added if counties around offered the incentive and Sherman County did not, the other counties might appear more attractive to young people seeking to put down roots. "I see it as keeping us competitive," he said.

Dr. Ed Mills, president of Northwest Tech, voiced his support from the audience of those attending the meeting. "This is the kind of thing that insures the future of Sherman County," he said.

Solomon proposed an initial funding from the county of \$21,000, which would fund 14 students. He told the commissioners money would only be expended when an applicant had lived in the county for a year. Hence, if there were not 14 applicants, or if an applicant did not stay for a full year, those funds would not be spent.

Commissioners' reaction to the proposal was less than enthusiastic. There was concern about obligating future commissioners to the five-year program. There was a feeling students should shoulder their own debts, as many had done before them, and not turn to the county and the state to pay for their college education.

Further, there was no provision for targeting Kansas graduates to remain in the state - the program would be open to any college graduate with student loans, including those from other states. And there was concern students might come because of the loan payback program, but what would they do when they got here? "The bottom line is

there has got to be jobs here," Linin said.

The deadline to enroll in the program is Jan. 1. Commissioners promised to review the proposal and took no action at Thursday's meeting.

Charles Krull of Blue Cross and Blue Shield and Rhonda Fernandez of Professional Insurance Consultants met with the commissioners to discuss and update county employee insurance items. They confirmed for the commissioners that, as of July 1, there will be a 90-day waiting period for employees hired after that date before they are covered by county health insurance benefits.

The contract with Infini Source was up for renewal, Fernandez reminded the commissioners, who unanimously approved the contract for the next year at \$275 per month.

The company takes care of billing insurance matters and other services the county clerk's office formerly had to do relating to COBRA.

Several members of The Goodland Good Sams Family Council met with the commissioners informally on matters not related to the budget.

Sherman County Sheriff Kevin Butts met with the commissioners, along with County Attorney Bonnie Selby, County Treasurer Iris Scheopner, and Registrar of Deeds Billie Hoyt. Essentially the discussion was what could be charged on the Sheriff's Office credit card and what documentation was necessary for the county clerk's office to keep track of expenditures from the various county offices.

The commissioners voiced their opinion it was up to the individual offices to provide purchase orders along with the credit card statements and, if the expenditures were for training, an itinerary of the training schedule to the county clerk's office. Further, meals, gas and hotel rooms could be charged at the

discretion of the head of the department or office, who would then be accountable to the commissioners. It was pointed out there was a discrepancy in the procedures manual regarding whether meals could be charged or not. The wording of one policy was changed to eliminate the discrepancy.

A form was discussed, which used to be used to reimburse cash outlays, and it was decided if a supervisor chose to use the form as a reporting form in that office, it could be used, but as a general rule the form was obsolete and not necessary when credit cards were used.

Kay Younger, executive director of the Goodland Arts Council, gave a presentation to the commissioners on the many programs and activities of the Council. This includes such activities as Art in the Park; the show, classes and programs of the Carnegie Art Center; and special projects such as the mural being painted downtown. There are 37 new members to the council this year, she reported. Because the State has de-funded the Arts Councils this year, the burden of financing the Council has been thrown on the community. Their budget will be \$4,000 less without the state contribution, Younger said. She asked for \$2,500, which has been the county contribution in past years. The commissioners thanked the Arts Council members for coming to the meeting.

Lake Mellott from the office of Ambulance Service Director Bruce Gleason, told the commissioners there was an EMTI class starting soon. He asked the county to fund five students to the class at \$350 per student, for a total of \$1,750. It is a 10-week course, which is just starting. Soon all EMTs will have to be trained to a standard of AEMT, which will be a national standard for ambulance personnel, Mellott said.

This EMTI training is the next level of proficiency before the AEMT becomes mandatory. The ambulance service will have 10 trained people following this training, he said. The commissioners unanimously approved funding the training.

After a brief discussion, the commissioners also unanimously appointed Dr. Patrick Gleason to serve on the hospital board.

Transfer Station and Landfill supervisor Mark Felzien and Road and Bridge Superintendent Butch Vandiver were the last to report to the commissioners. Felzien received approval from the commissioners to give a raise to a county employee who had seen the county through the transition until he came on board. "He has become my right hand man," Felzien said in recommending the raise.

Vandiver reported a meeting has been scheduled in Oakley to discuss new state regulations regarding the disposal of large tarps at landfills. He got the okay from the commissioners to schedule a baler inspection at \$1,000 and to purchase a seven-foot mower to be used at the transfer station at \$3,158.

Approved was purchase of a riding mower, but after some discussion commissioners asked Vandiver to look for a rear discharge mower rather than the side delivery system under discussion.

The commissioners also agreed to go through the process of closing County Road 22 between Roads 65 and 66 if neighbors in the area would sign a petition to have the road closed.

There has been crop damage in the area due to drivers driving off into the fields bordering the road.

The last act of the commissioners was to approve a correction on the tax rolls before adjourning at 12:15 p.m.

## matters of record

### Sherman County Bastille

The following people were booked into the Sherman County Bastille:

- May 4: Devon Inguanza, 19, Goodland, arrested by city police for minor in possession and obstruction.
- Cody Pancake, 20, Goodland,

arrested by city police for stalking and phone harassment.

May 6: Austin Buell, 20, Goodland, arrested by city police for furnish alcohol to minor.

Dawn Robinson, 32, Goodland, arrested by sheriff's deputy on warrant for failure to appear.

May 7: William Pearsall, 33,

Goodland, warrant arrest by city police for assault and disorderly conduct from Saline County, Okla.

May 8: Sheryl Davis, 56, Goodland, arrested by city police for domestic battery times two, battery

on law enforcement officer and disorderly conduct.

Manuel Hernandez, 69, Goodland, arrested by city police on warrant for failure to appear.

## Partnering To Bring Medical Specialists To Goodland

### Goodland Outreach Clinic Schedule

Goodland Regional Medical Center  
220 W. Second Street - Goodland

Cardiology  
Dr. Christine Fisher  
Monthly - (785) 625-4699

Urology  
Dr. Kevin McDonald  
Monthly

Dr. Wallace Curry  
Monthly  
(877) 312-1619 or (785) 628-6014



In partnership with Goodland Regional Medical Center  
haysmed.com

### Life in the country!

6525 Road 16 - Looking for a super location with room for you and your horses? This property is located just 4 miles West of Goodland, KS and offers wonderful views of the Sugar Hills Golf course. It includes 156 acres of grassland plus a homestead which has a 3 bedroom bungalow with basement, barn, shed and storage building. The property is all fenced and ready for you and your horses. Call Rose Koggie at United Country HomeLand Realty & Auction for more information and to view this property. 866-899-3060, 785-899-3060 or 785-821-1179.



UNITED COUNTRY®  
HOMELAND REALTY & AUCTION  
NATIONAL MARKETING, LOCAL EXPERTISE™

United Country  
HomeLand Realty  
& Auction  
1112 Main, Goodland  
(785) 899-3060



Tom Harrison  
Broker/Auctioneer



Rose Koggie  
Associate Broker

www.HomeLandRE.com

See how our nationwide property advertising, websites and exclusive real estate catalogs can find buyers. From homes, land, recreational, investment, retirement, ranches, farms or business.

Goodland, Kansas

Friday, July 8, 2011 @ 7 p.m. MT  
(Make-up races from June 11 and June 18)  
Saturday, July 9, 2011 @ 6:30 p.m. MT  
(Merchant's Night)

- IMCA MODIFIEDS • IMCA STOCKS • ECONO'S
- IMCA HOBBY STOCKS • IMCA NORTHERN SPORT MODS

**FRIDAY:** Pit Pass Pricing: \$25: 12 & up; \$10: 12 & Under  
Grandstand Pricing: \$10: 13 & up; \$5: 6-12; 5 & under FREE  
Pit Gates Open 3 PM MT/Close 6 PM • Hot Laps: 6 PM MT

**SATURDAY:** Pit Pass Pricing: \$25: 12 & up; \$10: 12 & Under  
Grandstand Pricing: \$10: 13 & up; \$5: 6-12; 5 & under FREE  
Pit Gates Open 2 p.m. MT • Hot Laps: 5:30 p.m. MT  
Pit Gates Close At 5:30 p.m. MT

**Contact Information:**  
Tom Colby (Promotor): 785-399-8041  
Dale Davis (Co-Promotor): 785-821-1246 Or 785-890-8426  
Tammy Colby (Secretary/Treasurer): 785-399-8009  
Contact Us By Email @: sscsra@gmail.com  
Website: www.shermancountyspeedway.com

**Track sponsors:**  
Coors, Coke, and SCSRA  
**Trophy Sponsors:**  
Big Twin Automotive, Goodland Machine, JB Meat Market, Johnson, Verlan & Schwan's.