

State meeting tours Northwest Tech



The Kansas state meeting of the resource, conservation and development councils (top) visited Northwest Tech on Monday afternoon as part of the places they went to in Goodland. The state president is Sandy Rodgers of Goodland. Northwest Tech Dr. Ed Mills (bottom right) talked about the programs at the school. Cosmetology instructor Christa Bergsma (bottom left) gave a tour of her department.

Photos by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

City to accept applications for board vacancy

By Tom Betz
nt.betz@nwkansas.com

City commissioners decided on Monday they would accept applications from those interested in serving on the commission with announcement of an up coming vacancy in October.

"The cat is out of the bag," City Manager Doug Gerber said, "Josh Dechant is leaving the city limits of Goodland."

Gerber said Dechant is buying a home outside of the city, and anticipates the closing and move to be sometime in October.

"This is not a good thing for the city," Gerber said, "but it is not like he is moving far away."

Gerber said since the commission has some time he wanted them to discuss how they want to fill the upcoming vacancy.

He said state law has specific

details about the way vacancies are to be handled.

He said the law says the vacancy becomes automatic if the commissioner leaves the city limits, and the four remaining commissioners are supposed to fill the vacancy within 10 days.

Dechant said he expects the move to be by the second meeting in October, which will be Monday, Oct. 17.

Gerber said the four remaining commissioners decide who gets to be on the commission by appointing someone. However, if it is a tie the city attorney does make the deciding vote.

Mayor John Garcia said he knows in the past then City Attorney Perry Warren had to break a tie on a vacancy.

Gerber said the commission has several alternatives in choosing the

next person.

He said since the commissioners will be dealing with an elected position, all discussions must be conducted in open session.

Gerber suggested at least four options:

- Appoint the "next" top vote getter from the last election.
- Appoint a former commissioner to fill the remainder of Dechant's term.
- Solicit public applications for the vacancy and then conduct interviews.
- Each commissioner could submit a name or names to discuss.

Commissioner Annette Fairbanks asked if the vacancy will be for the remainder of Dechant's term of two years.

Dechant said it would be for two years.

Fairbanks said she felt this was

different than the vacancy when Rick Billinger became the state representative in January.

She said the thinking there was to find someone who would not be interested in running as the city election was only two months away.

Gerber said if the commissioners went back to the election the next top person on the ballot would be Gary Farris, who beat Jeff Deeds by three votes.

Gerber said he contacted some other communities about their process and found most are split between taking applications and having commissioners bring names to be discussed.

Mayor John Garcia said he felt it was narrowing it down to the applications for bringing names.

Commissioner Bill Finley asked if the commissioners accept applications could they do interviews.

Gerber said he would not have anything to do with the interviews, but the commissioners could do interviews in open session.

Fairbanks said she did not feel any of the options were a perfect solution.

"It is a tough choice," Garcia said. He said the application process would make it sort of an administrative one, but felt the current commissioners have been here long enough to know what it takes to be a good commissioner.

Finley said he was worried the city would have 50 people apply.

Gerber said there are not a log of legal things for being a commissioner. Have to be legal age, live in the city and be a registered voter.

The commissioners agreed the application process was the fairest way to get those who want to apply,

Those interested are asked to submit an application by Thursday, Sept. 29.

The interviews would be held at the meeting on Monday, Oct. 3, with the expectation of the person taking office by the second meeting on Monday, Oct. 17.

Mayor Garcia said if there are a lot of applicants the commissioners might hold a special meeting to do the interviews, but said they will wait to see how many apply.

Dechant said the decision was one he weighed heavily, but as a family felt it was the right thing to do.

"It is tough leaving you to deal with the vacancy," he said.

"I appreciate the comment about being hard to replace. I will not be far away if I can help in any way."

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.

ENJOY TONIGHT AT THE MOVIES!
Showing through Oct. 6
THE HELP
(PG-13): Thematic material.
www.goodlandnet.com/movies

Bring this Ad to the movie theater to receive a large popcorn & 2 med. drinks
EXP. 12/31/11
DIGITAL

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

The Goodland Star-News Ad Deadlines
For Tuesday papers
Friday Noon
For Friday papers
Wednesday Noon
For Country Advocate
Friday Noon
You may call the ad in to
(785) 899-2338 or stop by the
Star-News at 1205 Main.

Public Notice State of Kansas

Request for Proposal
JANITORIAL SERVICES

The State of Kansas, Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services is accepting written proposals for janitorial services for approximately 4,160 square feet of office space located at 104 W. Highway 24, Goodland, Kansas. For further information or to obtain a Request For Proposal contact Linda Gronquist at (785) 296-2375 or Linda.Gronquist@da.ks.gov. Information is available by looking for event ID 17300-EVT0000896 at www.da.ks.gov/purch.

Bidders are required to attend a pre-bid conference on Thursday September 29th at 10:00 a.m. local Mountain Time, 11:00 a.m. Central Time at the Goodland location. Check in at the reception desk at 104 W. Highway 24. For directions contact David Kurt at (620) 272-6043.

Written proposals must be received no later than 2:00 p.m. on October 7, 2011, at the following address: Kansas Division of Purchases, 900 SW Jackson Street, Room 102N, Topeka, KS 66612. Details about how to bid are listed in the Request for Proposal document.

ANNUAL FALL FARM EQUIPMENT, VEHICLES & MISC. CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

Saturday, November 19 at the Homestead Auction Lot, E. Hwy. 24

We already have several consignments of tractors, farm equipment, combine, vehicles and more.

CONSIGN EARLY TO BE ON SALE BILL.

Call Terry Richardson 785-899-2328 or 899-8094

Homestead Realty & Auction, 1023 Main, Goodland, KS.

TERRY RICHARDSON
OWNER/BROKER/AUCTIONEER

auctions@goodlandhomestead.com
 785-899-2328 or 800-974-2426
www.goodlandhomestead.com

1023 MAIN - GOODLAND, KS - 67735