

City commission approves incentive

By Kevin Bottrell
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The Goodland City Commission approved an incentive for Crop Production Services' expansion at its meeting Tuesday. The city agreed to pay 70 percent of the cost to relocate the lines at the construction site, which comes to a little more than \$7,200. Economic Development Director Michael Solomon said this incentive is similar to what has been offered to other companies in the past.

The new facility, on the west side of Goodland, will have more office space and more storage. Commissioner Bill Finley asked if the company is going to be hiring more people for the expanded office. Justin Quain, operations manager, said they have moved some personnel from another office to Goodland, and there is the potential for hiring more in the future.

Commissioner Annette Fairbanks said the new buildings looks real nice.

"It's exciting to see you expanding," said Mayor John Garcia.

In other business, the commission:

- Approved a contract with the Goodland Activity Center. Gerber said the city has been contracting with the center for years to manage the city's recreation activities. The two-year contract is for \$45,000 per year. Garcia said he saw no changes in the contract from previous years, and said he felt comfortable continuing to contract with the center.

- Heard a report from Mayor Garcia, who said the first round of electronic city utility bills have gone out. However, there are only about 30 people signed up, and the city is hoping to eventually have more. The cost of postage for city bills is almost \$700 a month, he said, and sending out bills over the Internet would reduce that.



Construction of an expansion for Crop Production Services, K-27, received an incentive from Economic Development for the City of Goodland on Monday night at a regular meeting of the city commission.

Photo by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News

Grassland Reserve Program announces cut-off date

Eric B. Banks, State Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service for Kansas, announced the cut-off date for submitting applications for the Grassland Reserve Program is Wednesday, Jan. 25. Although applications may be taken at any time, only those applications submitted and ranked by January 25 will be considered for funding for the Fiscal Year 2012

program. The U.S. Department of Agriculture conservation service provides technical assistance for Grassland Reserve Program.

The program was reauthorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008. In 2012 Kansas received an allocation of \$1.4 million to fund the program.

"Kansas has the finest, most productive native grassland in the

world," said Banks, "and GRP offers a way for ranchers and farmers--the backbone of our economy--to ensure this unique natural resource remains a healthy and viable part of Kansas for years to come."

The grassland reserve is a voluntary program offering landowners the opportunity to protect, restore and enhance grasslands on their property through permanent ease-

ments and rental contracts (10-year, 15-year, or 20-year). For the 2012 program, priority will be given to enrolling land in easements.

The program emphasizes the preservation of native and natural grasslands and shrub lands, support for grazing operations, plant and animal biodiversity and the protection of grassland that is under multiple threats of conversion to

other land uses.

Land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program with an expiring contract in the next 12 months is also eligible for enrollment in Grassland Reserve Program. Enrollment options for this land are limited to permanent easements and 20-year rental contracts.

"I would encourage producers interested in preserving their grass-

lands to stop by a USDA Service Center and visit with NRCS or Farm Service Agency staffs to learn more about the program," Banks said.

If you need more information about the program, please contact your local USDA Service Center or conservation district. To find a service center, go to the Web site: <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app>.

College recruiting for dance team

Northwest Tech is now recruiting for the Maverick Dancers, a new collegiate dance team for the 2012-2013 school year. With the addition of the men and women's Maverick basketball teams at Northwest Tech beginning next fall, there is a fresh opportunity for a dance team. Members of the Maverick Dancers should have experience in a variety of dance styles, including pom, jazz, novelty and hip-hop.

Participation as a member of

the Maverick Dancers will allow students to take their performance skills to a whole new level through teamwork, leadership, self-confidence, discipline and mentoring. This competitive dance team will perform at home athletic events, community performances, and charity events. Maverick Dancers will be challenged to grow physically and intellectually as they develop the skills they need for success both on the stage and throughout life.

If you are interested in becoming a Maverick Dancer, go to the dancer questionnaire link on the college website at www.nwktc.edu, or contact the Maverick Dancers' team Coach Tiffini Unger at 890-1517 or tiffini.unger@nwktc.edu. There will be dance try-outs prior to the fall, so stay tuned for more exciting announcements and news about Northwest Tech athletics.

Blood draws to be done for fair

To prepare for the Sherman County Health fair on Saturday, Jan. 28, Goodland Regional Medical center will be performing blood draws from 7 to 9 a.m. each day from Monday to next Friday.

Costs for the blood profiles are:

Chemistries, \$30; CBC only, \$10; A1c (Diabetes), \$15; PSA (Prostate), \$15; and TSH (Thyroid), \$15.

Fasting for 12 to 14 hours is recommended to ensure accurate cholesterol screening included in

the blood chemistry profiles.

The fair itself will be from 8 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 28, at the Northwest Kansas technical College student union. It will include more than 30 booths, contests and more.

corrections

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