

Getting ready for the summer



The Kansas Department of Transportation has cleared a patch of land at the Brewster I-70 exit and begun staging material there for summer road projects. Photo by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News

County positions on ballot this year

BALLOT, from Page 1

Sheridan and Graham counties. Billinger told the Goodland Rotary Club two weeks ago that in the redistricting process, the 121st may lose Sheridan and Graham counties to Ward Cassidy's 120th District, but it may pick up Wallace, Logan and Gove.

The outcome of the redistricting is still up in the air. It will be decided at the legislative session. If redistricting is completed before May 10, the filing deadline will be noon on June 1. If it is completed after May 10, the deadline will be extended to June 10.

The 1st District seat in the U.S. House of Representatives will be up for election this year. Rep. Tim Huelskamp has not filed yet. He was elected in 2010, filling the seat left open by Jerry Moran, who was elected to the U.S. Senate. He defeated Democrat Alan Jilka of Salina.

The Big 1st will also pick up more territory this year, though it is unknown where that territory will be.

Commissioners discuss economy

ECONOMY, from Page 1

Also, he said, farmland is valued on the average productivity for the past eight years. Strnad said the 2012 valuation should be about \$1 million higher.

The Standard and Poor representatives asked if there were any concerns about big corporate taxpayers being in trouble. Strnad said most that survived the 2008 recession are solid.

They asked about the local housing market. Enfield said low end homes are around \$40,000 to \$50,000 while the bulk are from \$150,000 to

\$250,000. There are fewer of the \$150,000 to \$250,000 homes on the market he said.

Another point brought up was that some county funds show a deficit. County Clerk Janet Rumpel said the commissioners have tried to keep taxes low, but some needed purchases drove the balance lower and resulted in less carry-over in recent years. The commissioners have had to raise taxes some to make up the difference.

The representatives also asked about debt policy, current projects and the county's pension plan. They will take the information collected and come back with the rating and report.

After the call, the commissioners signed the \$12,000 contract with Standard and Poor to do the rating.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Approved an emergency vehicle designation for Chris Zimmerman, which allows him to place lights and sirens on his vehicle.
- Approved a group to use the livestock building at the fairgrounds for a pig and lamb sale on April 8 and 9.
- Approved a contract with Goodland Glass for \$229.80 to replace a broken window on 17th Street.

Stewardship program deadline extended

WASHINGTON – U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service Chief Dave White announced last week that the cut-off date for the current Conservation Stewardship Program ranking period has been extended to Jan. 27. Producers who maintain a high level of conservation on their land and agree to adopt higher levels of stewardship are eligible for program payments.

"We want to make sure that peo-

ple who want to be considered for CSP during this first ranking period have the time they need to complete their applications," White said. "CSP is a very popular program, and I encourage interested producers to apply at their local NRCS office as soon as they can."

The program is offered in all 50 states, tribal lands and the Pacific and Caribbean areas through continuous sign-ups. Administered by conservation service, the program

provides many conservation benefits including improved water and soil quality, enhanced wildlife habitat, and conservation activities that address the effects of climate change.

Producers are encouraged to apply for the program throughout the year to be considered for current and future application ranking periods. Those who apply by Jan. 27 may be eligible for currently available funding. Eligible lands include

cropland, pastureland, rangeland and nonindustrial forestland.

A self-screening checklist is available to help producers determine if the program is suitable for their operation. The checklist highlights basic information about eligibility requirements, contract obligations, and potential payments. It is available from local NRCS offices and at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/csp>.

K-State, other colleges performing swine survey

Kansas State University swine nutritionists are teaming up with their Iowa State University counterparts in asking swine producers, industry consultants and advisors to the pork industry to participate in an online survey about swine feed efficiency. The survey answers will help guide research direction and educational programs to improve feed efficiency and lower feed costs.

The survey, which can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/swinesurvey>, aims to identify gaps in current industry knowledge to help researchers better prepare educational materials and plan on-farm commercial research over the next four years, as part of an Agricultural and Food Research Initiative (AFRI) USDA grant, said Joel DeRouchey, livestock specialist with K-State Research and Extension.

The survey should take less than 15 minutes to complete. No responses will be individually identified – all responses will be summarized together, DeRouchey said. Survey participants are not required to give contact information, although if they choose to do so, the research team will provide feed efficiency project updates, including research results and publications as they become available.

"Names and contact information of individuals completing the

survey will be collected separately from their survey responses and will not be associated in any way with submitted answers," he said. "Respondents' names and contact information will remain confidential and will not be used for any other purpose other than to provide them with the latest feed efficiency research updates."

The deadline to take the survey is Feb. 20. Questions can be directed to DeRouchey at jderouch@ksu.edu or (785) 532-2280.

District gets state grant for after-school program

GRANT, from Page 1

along with anti-bullying enrichment. The arts may include music, dance as well as drawing and painting of which Carnegie Arts will have a part. There may also be science labs and local field trips. Everyone will get a healthy snack.

Biermann said he thinks they will need six teachers, two paras and four high school aides. He hoped by using high schoolers as

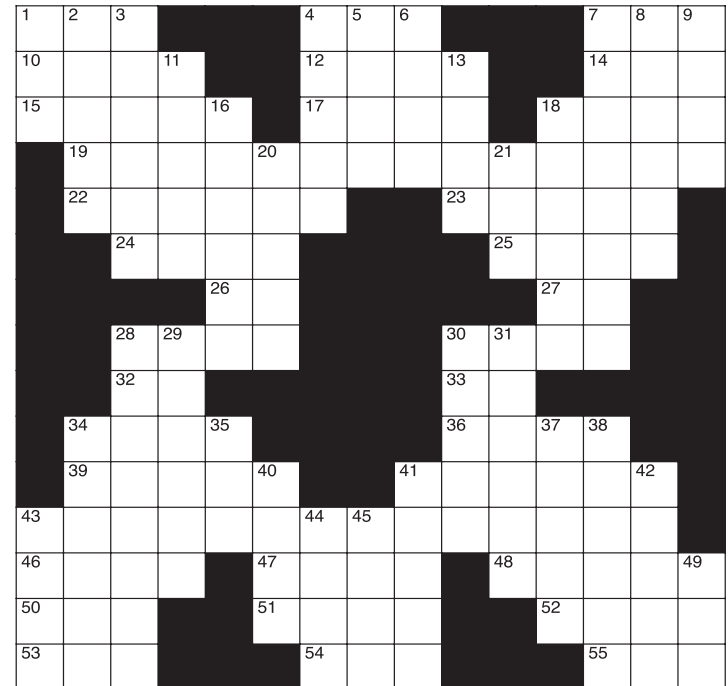
aides that would give some a job as well as providing mentors to younger kids.

The director of the project will be West Elementary Principal Verna Milnes. Parents should be on the lookout for notifications.

Contact West Elementary at 890-6163 or Central Elementary at 890-6558 for more information.

"The hope of the program is to improve academic achievement," said Biermann.

Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

- Tooth caregiver
- Greek counterpart of Rhea
- A numbered mail compartment (abbr.)
- New Zealand parrots
- Political action committees
- Fringe-toed lizard
- Reposes
- Winglike structures
- MacMurray of "My Three Sons"
- Oprah's Broadway show
- Ceaser, egg and tossed
- Oarlock
- Agile, lively (nautical)
- Skim or dart
- And (Latin)
- Gallivants
- Hyperbolic cosecant
- Rural delivery
- Atomic #89
- Opposite of wealthy
- Imus and Knotts
- Yellow ageratum species
- Large tropical Am. lizard
- Late Show star
- Armor breastplate
- "Death in the Family" author
- Liquors from rice
- Bread for a burger
- Yeast
- 100 = 1 tala in W. Samoa
- Two-year-old sheep

CLUES DOWN

- Danish krone (abbr.)
- Insect repellents
- Move sideways
- October's birthstones
- Alto, California city
- Mark of healed tissue
- Somewhat purple
- Egg mixture cooked until just set
- Past tense of bid
- Ancient stone slab bearing markings
- 9th month (abbr.)
- Thrown into a fright
- A playful antic
- "Waiting for Lefty" playwright
- Ultrahigh frequency
- Cutting gun barrel spirals
- Youth loved by Aphrodite
- Get by begging
- Cleans by scrubbing vigorously
- Bubonic calamity
- Radioactivity unit
- South African peoples
- Legless reptiles
- Thick piece of something
- A distinct part of a list
- Regarding (Scottish prep.)
- Something that is owed
- Mild exclamation
- Etce ____: continuing the same
- Variation of 17 down

FUN BY THE NUMBERS

					6		
3		1		6			
7	4		2				1
					9		4
5	2			3			
	7					8	2
2		5				1	9
8							
	1				7		3

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Level: Advanced

The crossword puzzle brought to you by:

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