

Commission votes down proposed utility audit

AUDIT, from Page 1

the city would see immediate benefit after the company looks at the billing process, because any errors can be fixed right away.

Finley was concerned with how the city would pay for the study and a project, since any city-wide utility project could run into the millions. Christiansen said Johnson Controls builds these projects to be as self-funded as possible, with the money coming out of what the city would save by making the improvements.

Mayor John Garcia said the city just put in a rate increase, and any further increases would be difficult to explain to the public.

"When Joe Blo taxpayer gets a meter replaced and pays more, he will see it as a rate increase," Finley said.

Christiansen said that most homeowners would likely see a small increase in their bills from more accurate meters and businesses would see larger increases. However, he said, this will result in more revenue from the city.

Garcia suggested taking the money the city would spend on the audit and doing the work in-house. City Water Department Manager Rich Simon said his department doesn't have the time to become proficient in the kind of work the study would take, since they spend all their time maintaining the current system. Leak detection especially has become very sophisticated, he said. City Manager Doug Gerber said the city would have to contract with someone to do a study.

Garcia said he understood the logic of doing the study, but said a lot of people are having trouble making ends meet and can't afford more increases. Fairbanks said all of the commissioners share that concern, but she would like to have the results of the study.

"What I would like to see, because we're not obligate past that point, is the results," she said. "We need the road map. It's in all of our best interests to know what we're talking about."

Sanderson agreed, saying it isn't going to

get any cheaper. She pointed to what Mense had said at the last meeting, that in 2014, because of new low-lead requirements, the cost of new utility meters is going to go up.

Commissioner Gary Farris said he didn't think it was time for a vote, but Fairbanks called for a vote on the audit without the rate study at \$135,250. The vote failed 3-2 with Sanderson and Fairbanks voting yes and Garcia, Finley and Farris voting no.

Gerber said the infrastructure issue is not solved, but now the city will have to go back to the drawing board.

In other business, the commission:

- Voted to donate \$2,000 to the Flatlanders Festival Committee. Committee chair Brent Wood had been to several meetings requesting a donation. Finley asked Wood if he had approached civic organizations to ask for donations. Wood said he had spoken to the Rotary Club about a donation, but had not heard anything back. Most civic organizations, he said, already contribute manpower to one festival event or another.

Fairbanks asked about out-of-town attendance and whether the festival gets any money from the lodging tax. Wood said Goodland hotels are already full that weekend, and people are having to go to Colby to find rooms. In the past, he said, the committee has gotten money from the Convention and Visitors Bureau, who administer money from that tax, for out-of-county advertising.

Fairbanks made the motion to donate \$2,000, which passed 4-1. Farris voted no, saying the commission should give more.

- Approved two economic development utility incentives for new and expanding businesses. One is the bookstore on Clark Avenue in the old Word of Life Church building. Economic Development Director Michael Solomon said the business will start as an art gallery and used book store, and will have at least two jobs.

The other business is Doc's Coffee on Main Street. Solomon said the business has expanded to include food such as sandwiches, pizza and baked goods. This has resulted

in two more in-house jobs and one contract job for some of the baked goods.

Both businesses will get a rebate on six months of utilities once they have been in place for a year.

- Appointed Gerber and City Clerk Mary Volk as delegates to the Kansas League of Municipalities Convention in October in Topeka. Garcia said he might be able to attend as well.

- Gave ADM a 30-day extension to show progress on doing something with the building framework at 601 Industrial Loop. The company previously had 90 days to show progress, which expired in August.

Gerber said the company is intending to file foreclosure proceedings so it can get the property sold. Currently the land is owned by Goodland Economic Development, which is a separate entity from the city's Economic Development Department. The commission decided on 30 days for the company to show some sort of progress toward that. Gerber said the alternative is for the city to tear down the building itself.

Corn crop in poor shape after dry weather

CORN, from Page 1

"It's terrible," he said. "In the 25 years that I've been in this business, this has been the worst I've ever seen it. What they do pick, it'll make 20, 25 bushels an acre, tops."

"It hurts everybody," he said, when asked how the elevators are coping with the losses. Farmers have insurance, he pointed out, but nobody else does when it comes to the crops.

"We're just kind of left out. The more bushels we take, the better it gets, but when you ain't got the bushels, it's a big deal. If we'd gotten even one rain in August, it would have made a difference. I think some of the ethanol plants are going to close down over this. Some have closed already because they can't afford the corn."

"And what are the feed lots going to do for corn? If they don't have it, they'll have to ship it in, and that's a lot of money."

"But basically, it's hurting a lot of people, anything having to do with agriculture. The whole world runs on (corn). People just don't look at it that way, but it's true."

Mr. Callander said the firm has around 20 elevators in Oklahoma and Kansas, and none of them is doing well.

"We're keeping most of the corn we've got," he said, "because the price will probably go up. And we have wheat here yet. I don't know how it'd even sprout in this drought (for next year). There'll be a lot of wheat, if it rains once or twice, or if we get a lot of snow this year, which they say will happen. We need something to get the foundation of the soil going again."

And when it comes to planting the wheat, well, that depends on rain as well.

"You're not going to do it without moisture," said Shawn Diederich of Diederich Agronomy in Colby. "Some areas got some pretty good rain last week, but it will depend on how hot and dry we'll stay between now and the wheat planting. The ground gets pretty hard, and you have to have some moisture to get the drills in the ground for planting, so farmers will have to use deep drills."

"There's not going to be a lot of subsoil moisture to keep it going even if we do get it planted."

With the wheat, a lot will depend on this fall and winter, Diederich said. Even if we get some good rain this fall, if it doesn't stick through into the spring, the wheat can still die. Diederich suggested planting wheat late

in September, when there's a better chance of moisture. Sometimes farmers plant early, he said, drilling deep into the earth for moisture, but this year that would be a disadvantage, as the seed could end up just sitting in hot, dry earth, subject to the winds for another month.

"That's the question these guys will have to (answer)," Diederich said of the shaky business of knowing when to plant to get the best yield possible. "Do they drill now and hope for moisture, or do we wait and hope for it? Generally, the yields are better in the later drilled wheat, because we're early yet, but there could be moisture deep down."

For his part, Diederich, whose father farms in Decatur County, said he won't be planting until Sept. 20 or later.

Workshop planned in Atwood

WORKSHOP, from Page 1

Workshop speakers include Donn Teske, former financial advisor, to talk about the financial aspect of farm transition; Linda Hessman, agricultural mediator, will talk about Bridging the Gap Between Beginning and Retiring Farmers; Char Henton, Kansas Agricultural Mediation Service; Calvin Adams will discuss the Kansas Ranch Institute Internship Program that he created; Dr. Scott Mickelsen with the Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture will talk about the college's 100 Cow Program and others NCTA offers; Growing Produce and Delivery to Market, Youth Internships and Beginning Farmer Website, presented by High Plains Food Co-op and Rawlins County Extension Agent Cynthia Dixson.

At 5 p.m. (Mountain Time), after the workshop, Farmers Union Board Member Chris Schmidt will conduct a tour of Atwood including the Ben-Lee Processing Plant. Supper will be at 5:30 p.m. at the American Legion and will feature food produced by co-op members. On Thursday, Sept. 20, there will be a tour of the St Francis co-op from 6 to 11 a.m.

The workshop and tour are open to the public. Registration is free.

Legion Riders plan fund raiser at World's Largest Convoy

RIDERS, from Page 1

show will last until 2 p.m. The entry fee is \$10 per bike.

"All bikes must be ridden in," said Riders director C.W. Hamilton, "even if it's just the last 10 feet. Bikes must be in running order to be eligible for awards. And we need them to stay the whole time, since we'll be taking photos and giving out awards."

Hamilton said there will be seven classes and nine awards given: cruiser, custom, scooter, sport, trike and three-wheeled, touring/dresser and vintage. He said bikes in the

touring/dresser class must have hard or soft saddlebags, full fairsing and tour pack. Bikes for the vintage class must be at least 35 years old.

Awards will be given for each class. A Best Bike award will be given based on the decision from three judges and an Athlete's Choice award will be given to the bike that receives the most votes from special olympians.

All proceeds from the show will be donated to the Special Olympics of Kansas, said Hamilton.

Later that afternoon, from 3 to 5 p.m., the Legion Riders will have their fourth annual Ride Against the

Wind Fun Run. This year's version will be a little different than what participants have come to expect, said Hamilton, and people can drive or ride any street-legal vehicle.

"Kansas is one of four states in the United States that does not allow games of chance anymore," he said. "Games must be based on skill level, so instead of the familiar poker and dice runs, we have modified ours and are calling it a Fun Run."

"Our Fun Run is much like the poker runs of the past, but now at each of the stops you must use your skills to accumulate points. We'll have throwing darts, washer toss,

making basketball goals, bean bag toss, horseshoe pitching or a number of similar games.

"It'll begin at the American Legion and end there, too. Whoever has the most points at the end wins half of the entry fees. The other half will be donated to American Legion projects for veterans and their families, along with various community benefits."

Hamilton said the entry fee is \$10 per card and people can buy additional cards to play for \$5 each. Mulligans will be available at each stop in case someone wants to try and better his or her score.

Finally, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the Legion Hall, 1850 W. Fourth St., the American Legion Auxiliary will serve hamburgers, hot dogs, nachos and other foods to raise money for Auxiliary projects. A disc jockey will start a dance at 6:30 p.m., open to Legion members and guests.

Call Hamilton at (785) 462-0964 or Riders Co-Director Darren Kanady at (785) 728-7676 for information. Registration and liability release forms are available at www.ALR363.com. Forms will be available so people can register for the day's activities from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Legion hall.

Scott City to open new flight center

After more than a year of planning and construction, the Spencer Flight and Education Center at the Scott City Municipal Airport, 300 S. Mesquite Rd., will soon be opening its doors to the public.

Set for 2 p.m. (Mountain Time) next Friday the center's grand opening ceremony will highlight the center's features and mark the official start of operation of the first flight training facility of its kind in the region. An open house will be held from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. the following day and will feature free plane rides for kids ages 8 to 17, simulator demonstrations and a giveaway of simulator flight hours.

The activities will be held in con-

junction with the Showdown on the Plains Barbecue Challenge and Air Show (www.showdownbbq.com), of which the center is title sponsor. The Showdown's Friday night event will start at 4 p.m. (Mountain Time)

"It has been an exciting road as the vision for the SFEC has grown and developed into what we see today," says Brian Vulgamore, board chairman. "The grand opening will mark the beginning of the true purpose of the center - bringing resources, education and training to aviation enthusiasts and youth throughout Western Kansas and beyond."

The center is open to pilots and non-pilots alike and features a FAA-

certified Redbird FMX full-motion flight simulator. The center currently offers four different aircraft configurations on the simulator - including a Beechcraft Bonanza A36, Beechcraft Baron 58, Cessna 172 and Cessna 206 - with the option of purchasing others in the future. The center will also offer various educational programs for youth and non-pilots as well as reservable space for group meetings or business functions.

For information about the grand opening, contact board vice-chairman Andy Hineman at (913) 484-7116 or info@spencerflightcenter.com.

Come try out the new restaurant!



Westport Grill and Ice Cream is open for business. The first official day of business was July 2, the first day of Main Street construction for the 1200 block of Main Avenue.

Ann and John Myers manage Goodland's newest restaurant, which specializes in home-cooked short orders, using Olde Westport Spices, dip and soup mixes.

Ann thought it would be a dream to open a restaurant that uses the spices of Olde Westport Spice Trading Co., which were created 30 years ago by Ann's parents, Bill and Judy Petersen.

Drop by today and see the new building, and try out the fabulous food!

Location: 1218 Main Avenue, Goodland
Phone: (785) 890-2020

Reader Recipes

Blueberry Cream Cheese Tarts

- Ingredients
- 2 (8oz) packs cream cheese, softened
 - 1 cup sugar
 - 1 tsp. pure vanilla extract
 - 2 eggs
 - 12 vanilla wafers
 - 1 (21oz) can blueberry pie filling, or any flavor

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Place a paper cupcake liner in each cup of a muffin pan. Beat cream cheese with mixer until fluffy. Add sugar and vanilla, beating well. Add eggs, 1 at a time, beating well after each addition. Place a wafer, flat side down, in each muffin cup. Spoon cream cheese mixture over wafers, bake for 20 minutes. Allow tarts to cool completely. Serve with pie filling on top.

This ad is sponsored by:

Designs Unlimited, LLC

1012 Main Avenue, Goodland, KS • Phone: (785) 890-7673

Classifieds work! 899-2338

ATTENTION GOODLAND RESIDENTS!

We will soon be conducting a mail canvass of Goodland, KS, to compile information for your new City Directory.

Your cooperation in answering the questionnaire will be greatly appreciated and will help make the Directory accurate and complete.

Due to the State and National DO NOT CALL list for telemarketers, residents who have put their names on these lists cannot be contacted. To insure a complete updated directory, we will be updating everyone's listings through the US Postal Service. So watch for your letter in the mail. It is important that you check your listing and return to us any corrections or if you would like to purchase a City Directory.

If you did not receive your letter because of an incorrect address, or would like to purchase one, please call:

1-800-374-4691 press 2, Mon. thru Thurs. 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Fri. 7:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

City Directory, Inc.® P.O. Box 265 * Belmond, Iowa 50421 * E-mail: cdi@kalnet.com