

Commissioners waive fees for benefit pull

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News

Sherman County commissioners agreed to waive rental fees for a benefit tractor pull April 24-25 at the fairgrounds, and discussed the annual weed mowing program.

Gary Coons told the board last Friday the local tractor pull group was planning a benefit event for Doug Hilty, who is completely disabled. Hilty was injured when a piece of farm equipment fell on him at Ruleton the afternoon of Jan. 27, 1999.

William McKnight, county facilities manager, said he had checked the dates and there were no conflicts.

Coons said the storm dates would be May 1-2. He asked for the use of the 4-H building for a concession stand, and said they were asking the Boy Scouts to handle this as a money-raising project.

He said groups in St. Francis and Sharon Springs have indicated they will match the proceeds from the tractor pull up to \$2,000 each.

The commissioners agreed to waive the rental fees, and Coons agreed they will pay

for electricity. He said the group will have insurance to cover the event.

Coons then asked if the tractor group could use the 4-H building for club meetings on the second Thursday of each month.

McKnight said he had checked and a this time, there is no conflict. He said if there is a need for the 4-H building on one of those nights, he would open the larger Agriculture building for the tractor group.

“We don’t mind meeting in everyone’s garage,” Coons said, “but we have some wives who are interested, and there is a need for a better place to meet.”

The commissioners said they had no problem with the club meeting as long as it does not interfere with other uses.

Contractor Darrell Schrader and Curt Way, county public works manager, reviewed the weed mowing program with the commissioners and agreed to keep the same contract as last year. The contract is for a lump sum of \$160,000 for the year.

Commission Chairman Mitch Tiede said he was satisfied with the job Schrader did last year.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said he was satisfied with the weed mowing last year, but asked if the program this year could start where the weeds seem to be growing and where the population and traffic are the highest.

Schrader said he would work with Way on hitting the main roads first, and the starting date. Last year, he said, he started the first round about the middle of May.

“We do about 7,000 miles of mowing in a year,” Schrader said. “Last year was the first time we decided not to mow during corn harvest because of the heavy traffic.”

Way said he had agreed for them not to mow during harvest because it was a safety factor. He said they will do the same this year and not mow during the harvests.

Schrader said he will probably run four mowers again this year. He has six, and bought four new ones last year. Amaranth is one of the toughest weeds to mow, and he said it really messes up the blades.

“I will keep the same price this year,” he said. “It will probably have to go up next year for sure. The fuel costs have gone up

over 10 percent.

“I want to know about any blind corners so I can get them mowed.”

The commissioners agreed to keep the contract the same, and County Attorney Bonnie Selby said there is no need for a new contract because it is a two-year contract good until next year.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Heard from County Treasurer Shelby Miller that one of her employees is quitting and she will have to replace her. Miller told the commissioners she is not going to seek re-election this year.
- Approved recommendations from the Solid Waste Committee to change the yard waste program and make it separate from the city trash ordinance.

The program and rates would be reviewed on an annual basis by the solid waste committee and the county commissioners. The committee recommended a new category be added to the city trash ordinance for “non-commercial storage,” and that address which qualify for this would be billed by the county trash contractor \$25

per year based on usage. The recommendations have been given to the city for their review and implementation.

- Approved a new resolution for the credit card which is being used by the sheriff’s office. The resolution was required by the issuing bank to show that the county was financially responsible for charges made on the credit card.
- Discussed holding a joint clean up with the city this spring. Commissioner Tiede said the next household hazardous waste collection will be from 7-11 a.m. on Saturday, April 3, and he was working on a way to accept old non-working computer monitors at the same time.

Kenny Griffith, who heads the county household hazardous waste program said they will not be taking used oil because they do not have a place to dispose of this product.

- Decided to delay the Community Lake Assistance Program grant application for Smoky Gardens until the March 9 meeting.
- Approved vouchers for the second half of February totaling \$24,458.

City buys two dump trucks

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A bid for \$136,194, to purchase two new dump trucks was approved at a City Commission meeting Monday evening, sticking to a low bid from a local firm.

City Manager Ron Pickman said the city received seven bids, and the staff had reviewed them, then recommended purchasing the trucks from Dan Brenner Ford.

Brenner’s bid was without trade-in. Pickman and Phil Erickson of the street crew suggested the city could keep one of the older dump trucks to haul debris.

Pickman said they would probably sell the other truck on sealed bids.

He said there was \$141,000 in the budget for the new trucks. Commissioner Dean Blume asked if this purchase had been delayed for a year or two.

Pickman said the first half of the money was put in the budget two years ago and the second half was in last year’s budget.

Dan Brenner bid \$136,194 for two 2005 Sterling LT7500 trucks with Caterpillar 300 horsepower engines. Expected delivery is between May 28 and June 15.

Finley Motors bid \$136,030 (with trade-in) for two 2005 Model TC8500 trucks with Caterpillar 300 horsepower engines. Without trade-in, the price was \$144,030. Delivery was expected in mid July.

MHC Kenworth of Salina bid \$135,842 (with trade-in) on two 2005 Model T300 trucks with 315 horsepower engines. Delivery would be expected in 10-12 weeks.

A second option was two 2005 T800 trucks with Cummins 320 horsepower engines at a cost of \$170,440. Delivery would take 10-12 weeks.

Herl Chevrolet-Buick bid \$146,266 (with trade-in) on two 2004 CC8500 trucks with Caterpillar 300 horsepower engines. Without trade-in, the price would be

\$154,266. Delivery would take 10-14 weeks.

Peterbilt of Garden City bid \$146,980 (with trade-in) for two 2005 Model 330 trucks with Caterpillar 300 horsepower engines. Delivery to be July 1.

Rusty Eck Truck Center of Wichita, bid \$123,774 (with trade-in) on two Sterling LT7500 trucks with Mercedes-Benz engines. Delivery expected in 90 to 120 days.

Hays Mack Sales and Service bid \$170,696 (with trade-in) for two 2005 trucks with 350 horsepower engines. Without trade-in, it would be \$180,696. Delivery would be July 15.

Jim Waldman of Truck and Tractor Repair and Service of Goodland said the Cummins engine was a better buy than the Caterpillar. Waldman’s firm does a lot of the large-truck repair work for the city.

There was discussion that the Peterbilt bid was not acceptable because they would not be able to handle the requirement for service within 50 miles. Hays Mack indicated they would come get the trucks if service was required.

Questions were raised about the Mercedes-Benz engines, and the fact they were from a company in Wichita. There was a question of where service would be one on those, and Pickman said the company said service would be done in Colby.

Commissioner John Garcia suggested he would like to see the trucks purchased in town, and he would like to see the city buy the extended warranty for each truck, which would cost \$650 each.

Blume made a motion to purchase the trucks from Brenner and the extended warranty. Garcia seconded the motion, and it was approved on a unanimous vote with Mayor Rick Billinger and Commissioner Dave Daniels voting in favor. Commissioner Chuck Lutters was absent.

New director welcomed



Ken Clouse (left), president of Northwest Kansas Technical College and new board member of the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce, talked with Courtney Warden (right), the new Chamber director, at After Hours last Friday at Wheat Ridge Retirement Community.

Photo by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News

Fort Hays plans program for future students

President Edward Hammond will lead representatives from Fort Hays State University at the City Limits Convention Center, 2227 S. Range Ave. in Colby, in a program for prospective students starting at 7 p.m. (Central Time) Monday.

The event is for families from Cheyenne, Decatur, Gove, Logan, Rawlins, Sheridan, Sherman, Thomas and Wallace counties in Kansas, plus Chase, Dundy, Hayes and Hitchcock counties in Nebraska, and Cheyenne and Kit Carson counties in Colorado.

The program will introduce prospective students and their parents to the university and life on campus. President Hammond will give a multimedia presentation about what students can expect when they arrive at Fort Hays. Guests will

have the chance to meet with faculty and staff members.

Scholarships available to incoming freshman will be explained. These include the Miller Black and Gold Award, \$1,200 a year to any freshman who scores 29 or better on the ACT test.

The Hays City Silver Academic Award awards \$800 a year to those who score 24-28, while the Fort Hays Bronze Academic Award gives \$400 to those who score 21-23.

Many students will be eligible for Award of Excellence Scholarships from the academic departments. These are a one-time award of \$500 based on the student’s chosen major.

The Fort Hays State Alumni Association is sponsoring the event,

with the help of area businesses and individuals. Commerce Bank of Hays will hold a drawing for a \$400

scholarship.

For information, call the association at (888) 351-3591.

student of the week



Name: Adam Elliott
Parents: Marty and Gloria Elliott
Grade: Senior
Age: 17
We’ve nominated this student because: Adam has been a valuable asset to all the teachers and students he helps with their computer problems and projects. Adam is a very creative student and is very deserving to be student of the week.

Student Comment: My favorite part of school is getting to work with

computers and having freedom to express my talents. I will always remember my friends and the good times we’ve had.

Activities involved in at school: Art, assistant to District Technology Coordinator, networking classes.

My choice of movies, books, and games: Movie is “A Clockwork Orange.” Music is Tool, A Perfect Circle and Nine Inch Nails. Book is “When You Ride Alone, You Ride With Bin Laden” by Bill Maher.

After I leave Goodland High School I intend to: Attend a four year art college.

And 10 years from now, I think I’ll be: Living on the East coast, making lots of money and livin’ it up!

Favorite Quote: “Think for yourself — Question authority” Timothy Ceary

correction

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Thank you to all my friends and family for making my 80th birthday celebration so memorable. I so much enjoyed seeing all of you who stopped by the church. I received cards from friends I hadn't heard from in years and reading each of them gave me so much pleasure. There were many beautiful bouquets which I lasted all week. I am reminded how blessed I am to have such wonderful friends and family. Thanks so much for thinking of me and making this such a special birthday.

Sincerely, Laverne Stegman

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