

Sherman, Wallace consider forming extension district

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News
The Sherman County Extension Council executive board was at the county commission meeting last Tuesday to talk to the commissioners about the idea of forming an extension district with Wallace County.

Daniel O'Brien, area extension director, along with Marsha Schilling, head of the Sherman extension council, and Dana Belshe, county agent, met with the commissioners to discuss the idea of an extension district and to explain what it would mean.

O'Brien said the executive boards in Sherman and Wallace had met and decided to proceed with forming a district. He said Cheyenne County had been asked to join, but has decided not to because of reservations by at least one of the commissioners.

"Thomas and Rawlins are looking at this," O'Brien said. "Thomas has agreed and Rawlins commissioners have not yet made a decision. Both extension boards have approved of the district."

Creating the districts is something that the Kansas State Extension Service has been encouraging, and three have been formed so far. The Post Rock District is Lincoln and Mitchell counties. Walnut Creek District is Lane, Ness and Rush counties. Central Kansas District covers Saline and Ottawa counties.

He said the main advantage is to provide better services and educational programs in their counties. He said both the offices in the two counties would remain open. Assistant county agents would handle the 4-H program in each county and the county fair programs would remain the same as they are now.

A fact sheet developed by O'Brien said that Sherman and Wallace should consider forming a district because of a common regional trade area and similar employment patterns, reasonable traveling distances and compatible extension educational programs.

He pointed to similar agriculture practices in the two counties including irrigation, dryland cropping systems and pasture management issues, complimentary family and consumer science education programs for adults, and compatible 4-

H youth programs in the areas of livestock, families, camping and judging activities.

The commissioners asked Schilling if the county extension council had any concerns about the proposal.

Schilling said that not many concerns had been expressed, but that they did not want to get the district too big.

She said the plan has not been approved by the Wallace County commissioners yet, and suggested it might be good for the two commissions and the two councils to meet to discuss the details.

O'Brien said the commissioners need to consider a resolution forming the district, and that after formal adoption, there is a 60-day waiting period to see if there is any opposition. Unless someone mounts a petition, the district would be reviewed by the attorney general for a 90-day period, and that if approved, the new district could be in operation by July 1.

Charges filed in stabbing case

SHOOTING, from Page 1
was shot and came down from the roof, Whitaker continued to struggle, and it took several officers to subdue him.

Smith said he said he was not allowed to release any more information about the shooting Monday.

Whitaker was taken to the same Denver hospital, where he remained until Friday. He was released into the custody of the Denver County Sheriff's office, and is awaiting extradition back to Goodland.

Hopper is on paid administrative leave until the investigation by the KBI is complete.

Firemen handle truck fire



Members of the Goodland Fire Department rushed to the scene of a semi-trailer fire at Truck and Tractor Repair on business U.S. 24 Wednesday. Fire Chief Richard Jensen said the fire was caused by an electrical short that caused some flames to shoot on the underside of the truck. He said although 12 firemen arrived on the scene, the blaze was fairly minor and quickly put out.

Photo by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News

County asked for fireworks money

FIREWORKS, from Page 1

"We didn't come to get help with this year's," Clouse said, "but we owe \$3,000 for this year."

Clouse said the Chamber looked at scaling the fireworks back for a couple of years, and see how it does, but felt that would be less than what the community expects.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede asked when the Chamber has to know about the money.

"We have to have commitments by March to determine the size of the show," Clouse said.

"It does bring a lot of people to town," Rasure said. "I know there are a lot of people who come specially for the carnival and fireworks."

Tiede asked what happened to the prior funding for the fireworks.

Swager said when the Chamber had all the programs, including economic development and the tourism board, they had more options.

She said when the Convention and Visitors Bureau broke away,

their board decided that the Freedom Fest was not a tourism program and cut their part of the money.

"All the money went away," Swager said, "and we decided it was not right to ask the Chamber members to fill the void."

"I think that is wrong," Rasure said. "I believe this is a program that brings people to town and they help pay the taxes that support the tourism program."

"It brings people to town," Tiede said, "and should be part of tourism."

Rasure said he did not like the idea of scaling the show back, but did not believe it needs to be bigger.

"We support economic development," he said. "We haven't done much to support the Chamber. I would be willing to say yes to this amount of money."

"I agree," Thomas said.

"I like the program, but \$7,500 is a lot of money," Tiede said.

Swager said the Chamber has been working to expand the Freedom Fest to include more than just the fireworks. She said the Cham-

ber had a parade this year, and the merchants did some special promotions as well. She said despite the rains, the carnival and meal did seem to bring a lot of people to the fairgrounds.

Tiede asked about what the city had done when asked.

Clouse said the city said they had budgeted \$500 for the fireworks for next year.

"We are going to go back and see them," Clouse said. "We were not satisfied with the response."

"I think we can do the \$2,500 on our side with the help of other organizations and donations from people who want to see the Freedom Fest continue."

Rasure asked Warden if the Chamber membership was increasing, and she said it was 40 when she began in the spring and it is now up to 110 members.

Thomas agreed it was a good plan, and wondered about helping with the shortfall for this year.

Tiede said the fireworks would be on the agenda for today's meeting.

Veterans Day speaker talks about honor, duty

VETERANS, from Page 1

ans of the Revolutionary War played in the beginning of this country. He talked about how the courage, dedication and sacrifice of America's veterans helped protect and maintain the freedom and liberty Americans now enjoy.

Jamison said while working with veterans and their organizations during the past few years, he had gained a strong respect for them and

the hardships they endured. He concluded his talk by reciting the poem "Mansions of the Lord," which had been read at the funeral of former President Ronald Reagan.

The service, which lasted about 35 minutes, concluded with the retiring of the colors and a closing prayer by Dixon. Following the service, the guests were invited to share refreshments at a reception in the hall, with the auxiliary serving as hostesses.

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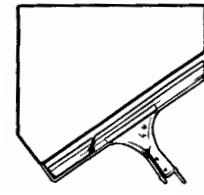
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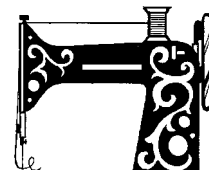
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