# Star-news lland The Goodland Star-News / Tuesday, April 12, 2005 **Commissioners** approve extension district

County commissioners.

Approval had been delayed to allow both ers to review a revised agreement including a property tax limit at the greater of 2.5 mills or \$150,000.

Belshe said he had discovered that the resolution the commissioners passed in November to form the extension district included a statement about a property tax limit that was removed by state law.

Commissioners in both counties decided they wanted to include a spending limitation in the operating agreement which was revised by County Attorney Bonnie Selby. Sherman County levies 1.71 mills for the

The Sunflower Extension District is this year will raise \$112,518. County Clerk The other two from each county would the new fire trucks that have been purcloser to realty with the approval of the dis- Janet Rumpel said Kansas State University trict operating agreement by the Sherman contributes \$17,000 to the extension program

With the original maximum tax of 2.5 Sherman and Wallace county commission- mills, the new extension district could receive up to \$150,000 annually from the Sherman County taxpayers.

Dan O'Brien, area director for Kansas In February Extension Agent Dana State University Research and Extension, Briney, Josh Dechant, April Hall and Laura McClung, were at the meeting March 31 to answer questions.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked how the district board would be set up.

O'Brien said the commissioners from Wallace and Sherman counties would each appoint four members from each county. Two of those from each county would serve

serve four-year terms before an election.

Rasure moved to approve the agreement and Commissioners Mitch Tiede and Chuck Thomas voted in favor.

With the agreement approved by both counties, the district is expected to begin operation in July.

In other business, the commissioners:

• Approved a bid from Hays Fire Equipand county extension board members Mike ment for \$192,052 for a new fire truck for the Goodland rural fire department. Rural

chased for Brewester and Kanorado.

• Approved purchase of a 72-inch, threepoint Landpride mower from Goodland Yost Farm Supply for \$2,300 for the fairgrounds.

• Agreed to have sheriff's Deputy Jason Showalter spend time over the next two months updating the county web site. The commissioners asked Showalter to contact each department to see what changes are needed since the site has not been updated since October. Once the site has been updated, the commissioners want Showalter to give them a report, and discuss how to keep it current.

• Discussed a "section 125" benefits with

but that last year the commissioners had allowed American Family Life (AFLAC) to sell its products, and this has made it difficult for his company to cover the administrative costs of the dependent child care and medical reimbursement accounts. He said the options were to charge the employee for the administration — which he does not want to do - or ask the commissioners to consider paying at least a portion of the cost of an accident policy for the fulltime employees. The cost of the policy is \$15.50 per month and he suggested that the county to pay \$10 and the employee pay \$5.50. The commissioners said they would discuss the options, and would ask the AFLAC agent what that firm has to offer.

· Held a 38-minute closed session with County Attorney Bonnie Selby on a personnel matter. No action was taken after the

## Sheriff warns of phone scam

ting calls asking them to donate ful and unprofessional in their sales money to help county lawmen get new equipment, but Sheriff Kevin Butts said the company's claims far outweigh reality.

It's not exactly a fraud, said Darrell Wilson of the Kansas Sheriff's Association, but not much of the money ever gets to county sheriffs. Most apparently is spent on expenses and salaries of the "fund raisers."

The calls, he said, are for donations to the American Deputy Sheriff's Association and the United States Deputy Sheriff's Association.

"Their pitch is that the donations will be used to purchase equipment for the sheriff's department," Wilson said. "However, the truth is one or two sheriff's offices will get something. Maybe a vest or two."

Butts said he has had complaints from citizens about the phone solicitors.

"Most complain they are high ise."

By Kathryn Burke

Sherman County people are get- pressure, rude, persistent, untruth-

He said the complaints are being forwarded to the state attorney general's office in hopes they can

Butts said he had a call last week from The Kansas City Star, and the reporter said the paper was doing a story on the groups.

"The reporter asked if we had ever received any equipment from this group," Butts said. "I told them not just no, but hell no! They got my dander up."

If you are contacted by either group, the sheriff said, you should you call the sheriff's office at 899-4835.

"We are part of and support the Kansas Sheriff's Association," Sheriff Butts said. "I haven't been contact by the American Deputy Sheriff's Association, but the information I have indicates they do not provide the equipment they prom-

pitch," Butts said.

find a way to stop their calls.

Colby, presented an air condition- ing the schools with an engineer, the plan is to put in two units for each sional fees. Strait gave the board two options, school.

room; one for the office; and one for ments would cost \$173,000.

south of I-70 on Saturday. By Sunday afternoon, the building had built on the land. The gas pumps and underground tanks have

After adding up all the extras, "I'm not sure how you feel about ter handle," he said.

Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Star-News

Because Strait didn't attend the meeting, Selby said, he isn't sure.

He said if the board decided to eliminate some of the roof top units,

ing feasibility study to the school company has found adding the pod, or group of four classrooms; chiller is not the best way to cool the one unit for each kindergarten Selby said, putting in the improve-

West Elementary may be looking at cooler days ahead

Workers began knocking down the old Apple Trail truck stop

old truck stop to be demolished, with the old motel being removed

been reduced to a pile of rubble. This is the second part of the not been removed.

 $Selby \, read \, a \, report \, from \, the \, com- \quad the \, multipurpose \, room.$ District is thinking about installing hot water heating system or roof air pany that said the 35-year-old system and the piping in the building may be too old to rely on for a new system. The building's heating system is near the end of its service life. it said.

Fire Chief Kenneth Griffith had written the commissioners to say the bid met all the specifications. The cost of the new fire truck is being shared by the county and a grant of \$82,500 through Northwest Kansas Planning and Development. Weis Fire Mike Niernberger of Hays who is the rep-

Equipment of Hays bid \$228,202 with a resentative for American Fidelity Life Asdiscount of \$3,385 for early payment mak- surance. He said when the plan was first Sherman County Extension Council, and two-year terms and then be up for election. ingit \$224,517. The new truck is similar to proposed, American Fidelity won the bid, commission returned to open session.

The walls come tumblin' down



Elementary as the Goodland School a chiller to use with West's current air conditioning.

The Goodland Star-News

Although summer's coming,

cooler days may be ahead at West

In February, Glen Strait, owner of

#### corrections

In the caption for the trash cleanup pictures on Page 1b of the Friday, April 8, Goodland Star-News, Marshall Siruta was incorrectly identified as Dennis Fyfe, tossing bags of trash into the bucket of a front-end loader. In the story on the same page, Sherman County Undersheriff Roger Studer was identified as a deputy. These were reporter's errors.

conditioning units.

Monday, March, 21, Superinten-Strait Associates Architects in dent Marvin Selby said after visit-

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The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

#### Thank you

board.

for your support and for voting. I look forward to serving you on the **City Commission** Joshua Dechant

Paid for by Joshua Dechant

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"Basically the large chiller is out," Selby said.

That left the board considering roof-top air conditioning units. Selby said the estimates said the school would need 11 units. The

The cost breaks down to \$66,000 for 11 units. After buying the equipment, the school would pay \$57,000 for ductwork and installation, \$10,000 for gas piping, \$10,000 for electrical construction, \$6,000 for structural and ceiling system modification and \$6,000 for roof system modifications. The subtotal is \$155,000 before adding \$10,000 for a contingency fee in case of problems and \$18,000 for profes-

spending money on air conditioning," he said.

Board member Mike Campbell asked Selby if the costs incudes all of the labor with no hidden fees.

they could leave off a unit in the multipurpose gym and cafeteria room and the already-air-conditioned offices.

The board agreed to wait for a de-"It'd be nice to have a little bet- cision on the air conditioning.

#### student of the week

last year. Owner Doug Irvin said they are not sure what will be



Name: Kali Rietcheck

We've nominated this

student because: Kali is a

highly motivated student.

She is creative, spontane-

student. Kali is a valuable

Student Comment: I

enjoy coming to school to

see my friends and learn-

ous and an excellent

asset to her school and

Parents: David and

Lori Rietcheck

**Age:** 16

community.

Grade: Junior

ing about myself and the world around me.

Activities involved in at school: American Field Service, FCS, Girls Athletic Association, Science Olympiad, student council, tennis, cheerleading and track.

My choice of movies, books, and games: One of my favorite movies is "13 Going on 30" and I love to read all kinds of books.

After I leave Goodland High School I intend to: attend a 4-year university out of state.

And 10 years from now, I think I'll be: successful with a job and family.

**Favorite Quote: "If** you can imagine it, You can become it. If you can dream it' You can become it." William Ward



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