

Farmers market group plans to add more vendors

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News
Farmers market organizers want to have more people selling produce this summer, and asked the City Commission Monday to waive a license fee for out-of-county vendors. The city manager said, however, that the \$100 fee does not apply to farmers selling their own produce. The city does require a \$20 application fee from out-of-county sellers, he said, and in the end, commissioners left it that way. Organizers Diane Gattshall and Colleen Rall said they had been talking to produce growers in nearby counties who were interested in the farmers market this year. However, they said, it looked like farmers who live outside of

Sherman County would have to pay a \$100 license fee and \$5 for each day they sold produce.

Rall said the farmers market will be held at the old roadside park on the east side of town on Business 24. Owner Virgil Baumfalk has insurance to allow the market to operate, they said.

"It says in your code that the city may waive the fee," Rall said. "We would ask that you do that for people from the surrounding counties of Thomas, Wallace and Cheyenne."

Mayor Rick Billinger asked how many people sold at the farmers market the last year.

Rall said one weekend there were seven, but usually only three.

"We never had enough toma-

toes," she said. "There is one in Hays that takes in nine counties, and makes the farmer sign that they grew the produce."

"We think expanding the farmers market will be a benefit to the other merchants if we bring others in to sell."

City Manager Ron Pickman said there is no license fee for Sherman County residents selling produce they have grown.

"If the produce is grown on your property in this county, there is no license fee," Pickman said. "The license fee is for people who are reselling produce they have bought somewhere else, and there is an application fee of \$20 for out-of-county people selling produce."

He said the \$20 fee is paid once

per year. If a vendor is reselling produce, there is a \$100 license fee for the season or a \$5-per-day license.

"I am a fifth-generation farm family," Gattshall said, "and my son wants to move back and become the sixth generation farmer."

"When he moves into my house, I would move to Brewster, and would wonder if I would be charged because I now lived in Thomas County, but grew the produce on my land in Sherman County?"

Billinger said she would be OK this year, but might have to pay the \$20 next year if she had moved to Brewster.

"I personally don't have a problem," Billinger said. "I think the more people, the merrier."

"Who has to do the paperwork?"

Commissioner Josh Dechant asked.

"The application is from the clerk's office," Pickman said, "and it is then given to the police department to have them do a check. The ordinance has been in effect since 1997."

"I think the ordinance was drawn up for other types of vendors," Billinger said. "I believe it was to protect some of the local people from having vendors come in and set up in town."

"I think it is a problem if the farmer has to drive in on Friday to get the license," Rall said.

"Some people mail in their information," City Clerk Mary Volk said, "and we mail back the permit."

Commissioner John Garcia asked how long the season was, and Rall said it sometimes starts in June

or July and lasts until October to get the fall squash.

"Do you think \$20 is too much for out-of-county growers?" Billinger asked.

"I would prefer they didn't have any cost to get more sellers here," Rall said.

"I think \$20 sounds better than \$100," Commissioner Annette Fairbanks said.

"It was designed to limit the outsiders and protect the local sellers," Commissioner Josh Dechant said. "I enjoy the farmers market. I think \$20 is minimal."

"If it doesn't work you can come back and see us," Commissioner Dave Daniels said.

"You mean come back and beg?" Rall asked.

Spotters have a chance Wednesday to advance knowledge

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News
Have you ever wanted to know how a tornado forms or how a severe storm works? The National Weather Service is offering an in-depth look at severe storms with an Advanced Storm Spotter classes.

Dave Floyd, a meteorologist with the weather office here, said the class is for spotters who have already taken the basic class and want more information.

Instead of explaining basic spotting guidelines, he plans to show people how storms are formed.

Floyd said he will provide a better look at the structure and evolution of storms. He said in beginning classes, they look at snapshots of

storms, but he wants to show spotters the entire cycle of a severe storm.

"I want to make sure they realize these storms are constantly evolving," he said.

The lesson will include information on supercell storms and their variations. Floyd said he wants to highlight some features related to severe storms, including the rear flank downdraft, a part of the storm where tornado formation begins.

He plans to talk about surface boundaries in storm development, weather parameters associated with severe weather, estimating storm movement and the latest theories on tornado formation.

"It's a lot of additional information," he said.

Along with videos and photos of

actual storms, Floyd said he will include diagrams of how storms work.

Although he is presenting some advanced weather information, he said, the class will be geared towards the audience.

"It's not gonna be real technical," he said adding there will be time for questions. "I kind of plan to take it a little slower and not have too much information."

The advanced class will last about two hours, he said.

"I think when they're done," he said, "they'll have a little bit better knowledge on how a storm works."

Floyd said he expects a big crowd and has gotten a positive response from the basic spotter talks. He said some people have even called the

office to find out about the classes.

"A lot of the spotters who come really have a general interest in storms," he said.

He offers an advanced class every other year, but has expanded his scope this year. Floyd will hold four classes throughout the area to attract interested spotters.

The first will be at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the National Guard Armory,

720 Armory Rd., in Goodland.

The next class will be at 7 p.m. on Thursday at the Wray ambulance barn, U.S. 34 and Blake Ave., in Wray, Colo.

The third class will be at 7 p.m. Central Time on Tuesday, May 17, at McCook Community College, 1205 East 3rd St., Hormel Center in MacMillen Hall, room 213.

The final class will be at 7 p.m.

Central Time on Thursday, May 19, in the Logan County Courthouse, 710 West 2nd St., in Oakley.

The free classes are open to spotters who have attended a basic spotter training class within the past three years.

For information, call Floyd at 785-899-7119. Class information is available at www.weather.gov/goodland.

Park work to begin in 14 days

PARK, from Page 1a

city parking lot across from the park for his construction base. Pickman said unless someone has an objection, he told Miller that was OK.

Neufeld said the commission needs to make some color decisions, and showed sample bricks for signs and a retaining wall.

He showed the "ADA" brick,

which is to be used under the benches, where the Americans With Disabilities Act requires a contrasting color for the visually impaired. That means the outside edges will be grey brick the inside area will be red, he said.

The commissioners looked at the drawing showing where the signs and retaining wall are to be built.

Neufeld said the decision did not

have to be made right away if the commission wanted time to consider the choices.

Commissioner Annette Fairbanks said she thought the red brick would be the best and the other commissioners agreed.

Neufeld said he would be back later with other color choices involving signs to be built on the east and west side of Cherry.

Funeral on hold for Goodland soldier

FUNERAL, from Page 1a

"I offer my heartfelt sympathy to the Lutters family for the loss of Derrick," said Congressman Jerry Moran Tuesday. "Derrick was a citizen-soldier who courageously left his life at home to answer our country's call to duty. He exempli-

fies what's great about Kansas: courage, dedication, and sacrifice for the good of others. Kansans and all Americans owe him great thanks for his service.

"This hero's death reminds us all to live a life worthy of his sacrifice. The Lutters family is in my family's thoughts and prayers."

Derrick's sister Genevieve Gibson and brother Paul are waiting with both parents to bury their brother.

Lutters was the third Kansas Guard soldier who has died in Iraq. Staff Sgt. Clinton Wisdom, Atchison, and Specialist Don Clary, Troy, died Nov. 8 in a suicide bomb attack near Baghdad.

Interim manager contract requested

CITY, from Page 1a

• Read a proclamation declaring the first week of May as Elks Youth Week. The proclamation listed many youth programs the Elk Lodge does throughout the year.

• Received a note from Kin

Huang saying she was unable to attend the meeting, but asking that a packet from the Sherman County Community Foundation be handed out to commissioners. Pickman said Huang wanted the commission to understand what the foundation was doing.

• Approved a resolution adopting a city personnel policy and salary schedule, and then an ordinance repealing a conflicting section of the city code. The resolution made no changes in the salary schedule adopted by the commission last year



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