

County roads considered for \$10 millon project

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News
Eighth Street west, Roads 16 and 14 connecting the two, and old U.S. 24 through the county are among the roads being considered for repairs by the Sherman County Commission.

The county is working with the city of Goodland on a \$10 million bond project set to renovate county roads and city streets.

The original plan had county commissioners fixing up 33 miles of old U.S. 24, also known as County Road 64.

In a meeting Tuesday, county commissioners considered adding Eighth Street (County Road 65) from K-27 west to Road 14 and Road 14 from that intersection south to meet back up with old U.S. 24.

"I think we need to put it on the list because of economic development," said commissioner Mitch Tiede.

"To me, I think your priority should be Eighth Street," said Mayor Rick Billinger, noting the traffic on the road. "I think that's a more important road (than U.S. 24) by far."

Commissioner Kevin Rasure agreed Eighth has heavier travel than the old highway.

"Those first three miles," he said, "see more traffic than most of 24 does."

Eighth Street west of town, or Road 65, would need to be completely milled down and then built back up.

"It'll basically be shut down," said Tiede.

Thomas said that means they can't do both U.S. 24 and Eighth at the same time.

"I think the main question is, 'do we want to include it in our projects?'" said Rasure.

"I definitely think we do," said Thomas.

"I agree," said Tiede.

Commissioners listed the Northern Sunflower Plant, the Sugar Hills Golf Course and two feedlots as reasons to pave that road.

"The road is for industry and commerce," said Thomas, "not just the golf course."

Since the road is already in bad disrepair, commissioners agreed they will have to build the road up to 6 inches of asphalt.

Commissioners agreed they will hear some complaints about fixing Eighth. They said since Rasure lives on that road, people might suggest they are biased.

Billinger said the idea of working on a specific road for a commissioner is ridiculous.

"There will probably be some people who say that," he said, adding that someone will complain no matter what they do.

"The traffic warrants it," Rasure said.

"I think we have a good argument for the naysayers," said Thomas.

Later in the meeting, Larry McCants, president of the First National Bank, said economic development plans west of town might make improving both roads a good investment.

"Eighth Street is critical," he said, adding that truck traffic may increase.

He said if the plans for a new industry near the sunflower plant on Road 14 pan out, the tax base in

City, county ask for one-cent sales tax

ROADS, from Page 1a

late as spring 2007.

Rasure complained that old U.S. 24, one of the roads considered in the renovation project, is not supported by the Kansas Department of Transportation. With bridge work on I-70, he said, the road is carrying heavy traffic and the county is getting no help.

"It's frustrating when they put the burden of traffic back on us and we get no funds back," Rasure said.

Morrison said he is working to curb unnecessary spending at the Department of Transportation, like a recent move to install a \$50 million computer system.

"They have more than enough money to help you with those roads," he said. "We need to stop the incredibly bad waste in our state."

David Walker, an unsuccessful candidate for the city commission in spring elections, voiced his opinion on the tax hike from the audience.

"If we use up that 1 percent already available to us," he said, citing campaign promises of the

two new city commissioners to work on city infrastructure, "how do we deal with these other things (water, sewage, etc.)?"

Walker said the declining population of Sherman County will continue if taxes are raised.

"How to you propose to keep them if we keep raising taxes?" he asked. "This is going to be a city of paupers."

"This can not work. We're all in denial if we continue to do this."

Walker asked commissioners why they didn't decided to work on all of the city problems at the same time.

"You can't do it all at once," said Mayor Rick Billinger, adding that things will always keep coming up, and the city is not ignoring anything but simply focusing on the streets. "These things go on."

City Commissioner Annette Fairbanks said she got the use permit for the high school for a public meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 15.

She said they will have tables set up and a list of figures for people when they walk in.

"There's an awful lot of traffic," she said.

Tiede noted that the most important road to each person is the one in front of his house.

The commission charged County Attorney Bonnie Selby with looking into sharing a 1 percent tax share with the city.

Thomas said adding a sales tax is the most fair way to pay for the road work.

"It's not just the local community that will help pay for this," he said. "Anyone who stops to get gas, eat or shop from out of town will pitch in."

Billinger said the city wants the projects to move fast.

"We'll do as much as we can, as quick as we can," he said.

"We'll find out more when we have the meeting on the 15th," said Tiede referring to a public meeting about the roads at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the high school auditorium.

"I do think it's important that people get involved in this process," added Rasure. "It's not just for us (city and county commissioners)."



Dr. Steven Holen of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science screened material on site at a dig near Kanorado.
Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Kanorado fossil dig uncovers signs of humans

DIG, from Page 1a

proper way to photograph a scientific site. Some of the students are taking the classes for credit from Emporia State University.

In the lab the volunteers are helping wash, sort and dry brush historic material gathered at the Fort Hays and Rice County sites in past years.

All of the specimens collected from the excavation this year are being taken to Denver for examination, carbon dating and cataloging.

The volunteers in the lab are learning how to use toothbrushes and water to clean pieces of glass and ceramics, and to dry brush metal fragments that came out of the Fort Hays dump site. Other volunteers sort the glass by color and types so it can be cataloged. One person has been working on a tray of old pieces of leather found in the same site that includes pieces of shoes, belts and leather straps.

The lab is open from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1 to 5 p.m. Visitors are welcome to drop by to see what the volunteers are cleaning and to see some of the

special items that have been found over the past week from this historic fort's dump site. Based on the amount of green champagne bottle glass being found the officers at historic Fort Hays had a lot of parties.

There will be a site tour of the excavations at 6:30 a.m. on Saturday. To participate, people need to show up at the school. The tour will give people a chance to actually see the three sites.

The final evening program will be at 7 p.m. on Saturday, June 18, when the volunteers will gather for an ice cream social and resume to review what has happened during the two weeks. Sage said there will be a silent auction to help raise money for the Anthropological Association for upcoming digs.

Evening speakers include local historian Mike Baughn or Marilyn Cooper, who will talk about the July 1867 Kidder Massacre at 7 p.m. on Friday at the high school. Tuesday at 7 p.m., Janice McLean of the state Historical Society will speak on "Patterns of High Plains Lithic Resource Use." Next Friday at 7 p.m., Chris Widga will talk about the Claussen site excavation last year.

Internet tonight! 899-2338

Howard Johnson Hotel



C.J. Shinette - Restaurant Manager, Wade Heideman - Maintenance Manager, Kathy Cochrane - Sales Manager, Lincoln Wilson - Owner, Jovita Gutierrez - Assistant Manager, Shelly Lock-Lounge Manager, Christy Smith - Housekeeping

"Where Service Comes First"

2218 Commerce Road Goodland, Kan. 890-3644

Sunflower Contest

RULES

- Write down as many words (at least 3 letters) that you can think of using the word "Sunshine"
 - Do not use proper names
- Bring your completed list to The Goodland Star-News office at 1205 Main or at our booth at the Fair by 12:00 p.m. by Monday, August 8th

Winners will be announced in the Friday, August 12th edition

1. _____	26. _____
2. _____	27. _____
3. _____	28. _____
4. _____	29. _____
5. _____	30. _____
6. _____	31. _____
7. _____	32. _____
8. _____	33. _____
9. _____	34. _____
10. _____	35. _____
11. _____	36. _____
12. _____	37. _____
13. _____	38. _____
14. _____	39. _____
15. _____	40. _____
16. _____	41. _____
17. _____	42. _____
18. _____	43. _____
19. _____	44. _____
20. _____	45. _____
21. _____	46. _____
22. _____	47. _____
23. _____	48. _____
24. _____	49. _____
25. _____	50. _____

(If you have more than 50, please attach an additional sheet)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Age _____

Winner of the Sunflower Contest will receive a FREE 1 year subscription to:

The Goodland Star-News


2005 Early Limited Weld
DEMOLITION DERBY

Sat., June 11 • 7 p.m. CT

Cheyenne County Fairgrounds • St. Francis, KS

Admission: Adults \$5 - 12 & under \$3

For more information contact: Wade Krien, 785-332-2847;
Mark Mills, 785-332-3008; Jared Douthit, 785-332-0124

Sponsored by the Cheyenne County Fair Board

