

City, county move to S&T

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Newell said that could be handled any way the city and county want. City Clerk Mary Volk asked about voice mail and interoffice paging. Newell said there are some options for calling features the city or county could use. He said the voice mail could be done by department or by individual phone. Gary Slough of Goodland, S&T regional manager, said the firm's cable system has a dedicated channel for the city and county to use, and there are lots of ways a government office could use it. "We could put things on the channel," said City Commissioner Dave Daniels, "like where we were going to collect trash on a given weekend." "You could do it any way you wanted," Newell said. "You could put the information you want on the chan-

nel. You put it on and decide what equipment you want to provide." "If we had the equipment, we could broadcast the commission meetings," said Wayne Hill, the new city manager. "What is the cost to keep it 899?" Mayor Rick Billinger asked. Newell said the cost would be \$2 per line per month. Newell said the new S&T phone book is about to be printed, and all the city and county numbers would be listed with the prefix changes. "What if the city went one way and the county went the other?" Daniels asked. Volk said that is not an option with SBC because the two have been linked together. "I think we need to do this," said County Commissioner Mitch Tiede. "Will we have to sign a contract?" "No, I don't think we need any-

thing more than the regular agreement" Newell said. Rasure said the city and county need to send a letter to SBC as soon as possible. "We need to give them notice, because if we don't the contract with SBC will automatically renew," Sneath said. Rasure made a motion to sign up with S&T, and it passed unanimously. City Commissioner Josh Dechant was going to make a motion for the city, but Billinger said it should go on the agenda for the meeting tonight. Later in the meeting, Mary Messamore, head of central dispatch, came in to ask about the 911 system. Newell assured her that her system would work the way it is supposed to, adding that he would have his technicians go to her office to see what might be needed.

Chamber apologizes to city, county

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News

Goodland Chamber of Commerce board members met with the Sherman County and Goodland City commissions Wednesday to tell both boards what happened to the money they gave for the Freedom Fest. The bottom line, they said, is the money is gone, apparently spent to pay Chamber bills and leaving nothing for next year's Fourth of July celebration. Despite all the troubles, though, Chamber volunteers said they were ready to move forward with a new organization, focusing on member businesses and the Chamber's core mission. Ken Clouse, Chamber vice president, and Brian Linin, new Chamber president, said they were glad to be able to talk with both commissions at one meeting. "We feel a responsibility as a Chamber board to be accountable about the money contributed to the Freedom Fest," Clouse said. "You have heard things on the street and read the newspaper, that the \$5,000 went into our cash flow and was used in our payment of bills. We have bills from Freedom Fest that have not been paid. "We are ashamed that has occurred. The best explanation is we put it in our general account and it was consumed in our daily operating expenses. It is gone. "We know that does not make it right. We wanted to come forward and let you know what we are going to do. We want you to be well informed about what is happening to the Chamber and what happened to the money."

"We are going to divorce the Chamber from Freedom Fest and the Flatlander Festival. "We want to see economic development and visitors bureau work together with the Chamber. We think it is inefficient to be three separate offices with three separate directors. We believe it is better for the three to work together. "We are working on a detailed mission to develop our businesses and help them grow. We have about 65 business members, but need to have 80-90 percent of the businesses as members. "We want to get our bank account up to having a \$10,000 balance so we can stay in the black. "Our thought process was that we needed to do the (Tracy Lawrence) concert to make money. We felt your money should have been put in a separate account, but we did not do that." Both boards had some questions. "What about Flatlanders and Freedom Fest?" County Commissioner Chuck Thomas asked. "If you don't do it, who will?" "Flatlanders is organized and we think that will be great," Linin said. "Freedom Fest is not that easy. We need to decide if we are going to do that. There needs to be a committee to put that on and raise the money." "These are great events," Clouse added, "but we believe it is not within our ability on our dues. We are looking that we need to focus on the businesses.... "I am not proud about what has happened, but we are ready to move forward and do what is right for the community and be enthusiastic about it." Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked if the long-term strategy includes sharing a director with one of the other groups. "We don't have anybody now," Clouse said. "We think it is a two-year plan, and we do not know when we are going to be able to hire someone. I don't understand the politics of having three separate offices, three copy machines and other things. I am sure people can say the same thing about a city staff and a county staff." "We have looked at cities larger and smaller where these three either work closely together or are part of the same office," Linin added. "They should be closely integrated." "I am glad you have a plan in motion to visit with businesses to find out what they want from their Chamber," Commissioner Annette Fairbanks said. "I think the non-member thing is very important. I have had my business (Teeter Abstract) since 1998, and no one has ever asked me." "Businesses have to believe it is a positive investment to be a part of the chamber," Clouse said. "It is not something you are able to touch, but there are things that are going to happen because of the Chamber. It is a difficult sell for us, especially because we have full time jobs. It is going to take time. We are a working board. It is not going to be easy." "Our focus has been so zeroed in on the festivals," Linin said. "That was what our director and the board were focused on. We did not have any time for our members." "I think it is great to have you change your direction," Fairbanks said. "I think you have the right idea," Tiede said.

Energy crews head south to help

HELP, from Page 1

because of West Nile Virus. "The serious part is all of the hazards," she said. "I'm nervous for him." Helm said any shots or medications the crews need, the local company will take care of. He added crime and reports of lawlessness in the destroyed areas of New Orleans aren't a big worry be-

cause the workers are in a rural area. Helms said the group took along 50-plus gallons of drinking water, plus food and fuel. Laura said the job will require long hours, up to 16 a day. She said Tyler will get to work with the Midwest crew, guys he's worked with before. Familiarity cuts down on the potential for error, she said, making the work safer. Norris is glad her husband has

stepped up to help the storm victims. Traveling to the south is a chance for Tyler to see a part of the world he is unfamiliar with, she added. He should get some good work experience, too. She said that while Tyler has been on power-line breaks after storms, he has never faced the level of devastation they have in Mississippi. "It's gonna be interesting," she said.

Hurricane Katrina comes close to family

FAMILY, from Page 1

Lyle and the late Pauline Worthy. Lyle owned the Worthy Implement and Motor Company in Atwood before he retired. Meyer said the Sivoris decided to move to Biloxi to be closer to their children, Ashley, who lives in Biloxi, and Amanda, who lives in North Carolina. Nola (Ginther) Winters, Debra's aunt, said the couple just moved into their new home in late July. She said when they moved in, they asked about flood insurance, but were told they didn't need it since they lived a full 10 miles from the coast. After Monday's storm cleared, the Sivoris headed back home. When the couple arrived Tuesday, Meyer said, they found their neighborhood a wreck. While leveling most of the houses, the hurricane took the lives of two neighbors who apparently

decided to wait out the storm. Meyer said it looked like they had moved to the attic, where they were found dead after failing to escape the rising waters. The Sivoris found their house completely destroyed. Winters said the walls were caved in and their furniture is ruined. "The home is just totaled," she said. "They said there's no way they can rebuild. It's terrible for them." In Mobile, the Sivoris were out of harm's way, Meyer said, but their home was hit hard. Katrina was rated as a Category 4 hurricane when it hit shore, with winds up to 155 mph. The school where Debra works, a junior high in Pascagoula, Miss., was filled with mud. Winters said Debra started back to work Monday, cleaning up the devastation. She said the Sivoris aren't rebuilding alone. "A lot of teachers lost their homes," Winters said.

Jefferson Community College, the place Marc works, was damaged by the storm, too. Since the storm left the area without power, Winters said, Sivoris's sister, DeAnna, has traveled from her home in Virginia with a generator and gasoline. She said high prices and fuel shortages in the area have made the trip from Virginia difficult. While Meyer is glad her niece is OK, she said last week the family was still worried about Marc's relatives in Biloxi. Winters said Marc was finally reunited with his daughter, Erica, his father and step-mother on Friday. "They're all OK," Winters said of her family members, "that's the important thing." In Atwood, the school is conducting a clothing drive and donation for the Sivoris and other hurricane victims. Checks can be made out to the ACE Foundation.

Severe storm damage power lines in county

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of seven severe thunderstorm warnings. Floyd said the thunderstorms were likely to continue today, with a 50 percent chance during the day and a 60 percent chance at night. Wednesday, the chance of rain goes

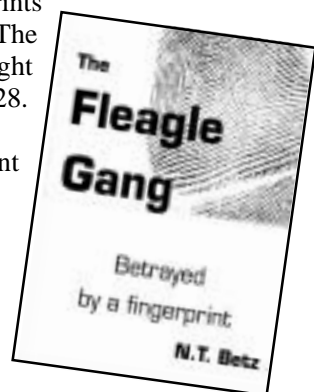
down to 40 percent. Another slight chance of rain was set for Saturday. Temperatures for the week will remain in the upper 80s and low 90s.

Floyd said that is about 12 degrees higher than normal for this time of year.

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Kansas' 'Fleagle Gang' Fingerprint ends nationwide '20s manhunt

Today we watch Crime Scene Investigation shows about using fingerprints to find criminals. This is a true crime story from the roaring 20s, "The Fleagle Gang, Betrayed by a fingerprint," begins with a brazen daylight robbery of the First National Bank in Lamar, Colo. on May 23, 1928. Four men are dead, and the robbers escape.



Author Tom (N.T.) Betz, editor of *The Goodland Star-News*, has spent a lifetime in journalism and on the Great Plains.

Check out the on-line five-star review at Amazon.com. This book would make a great Christmas gift - order now. Betz will be at the Greeley County Museum in Tribune at 2 p.m. (MT) on Saturday, Sept. 10; at the Finney County Museum for a picnic from 1-4 p.m. (CT) on Sunday, Oct. 2; At the El Quartejejo Museum in Scott City at 7 p.m. (CT) on Saturday, Oct. 15; and at the Fick Fossil and History Museum in Oakley on Saturday, Oct. 29.

"The Fleagle Gang" details the robbery/murder case which hinged on a single fingerprint — precursor to today's *CSI shows* — found on a murdered Dighton, Kan., doctor's car. The fledgling FBI plays a crucial role in turning the fingerprint into solid forensic evidence used to find, arrest and convict members of the Fleagle Gang. The FBI credits the Fleagle case as the first time a single fingerprint was used to identify and convict criminals. The book includes over 100 photos and maps taken from court files and places where the gang robbed banks. The Fleagle family lived near Friend, Kan. in Finney County.

A U.S. Navy journalist and a graduate of the University of Colorado, Betz started his career delivering papers for his family's newspaper (1920-1989) *The Lamar Daily News* in Lamar, Colo., winning the first of numerous journalism awards as a teenager.

The Fleagle Gang robbed banks in Larned, Kinsley, Marysville, Ottawa and McPherson Kan., Lamar, Colo., Eugene, Ore. and countless others of over \$1 million in the 10 years they operated.

"The Fleagle Gang" is available at the **Big Timbers Museum** in Lamar, Colo., the **Lane County Museum** in Dighton, Kan., the **Fick Fossil and History Museum** in Oakley, Kan., the **Finney County Museum** and **Hastings** in Garden City, Kan., the **High Plains Museum** in Goodland, Kan. and the **Keystone Gallery** north of Scott City. It is available on-line from the publisher **Authorhouse.com**. Linda Knott's new web bookstore **knottjustbooks.spreadtheword.com**, Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble and other major stores. Check out "The Fleagle Gang" web site at: **nwkansas.com/home/fleaglegang**.

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