

# City contributes to Flatlander Festival

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

City commissioners agreed Tuesday to give \$1,368 to the new Flatlander Fall Festival committee as seed money to get the festival going.

Dale Neill and Brent Wood, members of the committee, told commissioners they were asking for help.

"We have no money since this is our first year as a separate committee," Neill said. "We are asking for help this year, but we hope to be profitable enough to pay for the costs next year."

Neill said the county had contributed \$1,000 without even being asked, and the Sherman County Economic Development Council had donated \$500. He handed the commissioners a budget for the festival which showed a total cost of \$2,865.

City Commissioner John Garcia, saying it is important for the city to support this event, made a motion to give the \$1,368, the remaining amount to cover the budget. Wood said the committee is planning some improvements for the festival, including covered seating for those eating.

City Commissioner Annette Fairbanks seconded, the motion saying the festival was something the city needed to help. The motion passed 4-0 with Commissioner Dave Daniels abstaining because he is one of the organizers with the motorcycle show.

• Heard a proposal from Angie Whitman, who said she was surprised to receive a bill for mowing weeds from the city.

Whitman said she had been at the property shortly before the city mowed and did not feel it was that bad.

"It is not unusual for us to get one letter a year on our property," Whitman said. "I would like to propose we get more than one letter a year. I honestly did not think it was that bad, or I would have mowed it myself."

Mayor Rick Billinger said he agreed, saying he got a similar bill on some of his property.

"We may need to tweak our system," he said.

• Accepted a grant from the Federal Aviation Administration to acquire land for the Localizer Critical Area on the north end of the airport approach. The cost of the project will be \$30,000 with the FAA paying \$28,500 and the city \$1,500.

• Approved changing the city phones to S&T Telephone later this month. The city and county will change to "zeros" with the prefix becoming 890. The switch is planned for the third week of the month, and S&T will advertise when the switch will occur.

• Approved a bid from Government Cars Distribution Center of Miami, to buy three used city police cars. The bid for a 1997 Ford was \$100, a 1998 Ford \$1,188 and a 1999 Ford \$1,386.

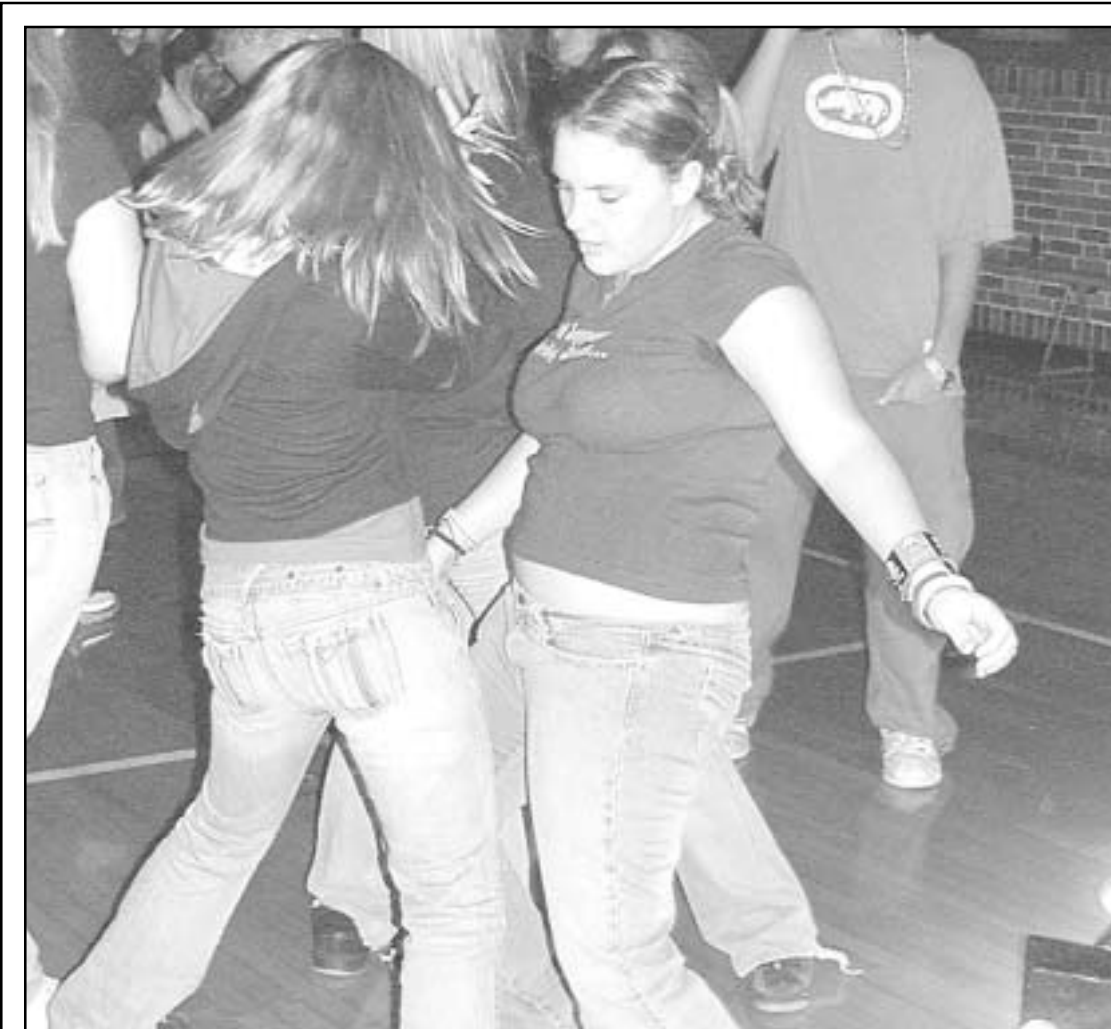
• Approved payment to Miller Construction of \$72,737 for work completed on Pioneer Park; payment to Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates of \$7,710 for engineering on the park; a reimbursement request from the state Department of Transportation for \$37,533 for the park; and payment to Evans, Bierly, Hutchison of \$826 for engineering on the airport lighting project.

• Approved adding the 14 acres of farm land near the east Goodland exit to the lease of Melvin Nemecheck, who farms the city property near the airport.

• Discussed having the city nominate Wayne Hill, new city manager, to be a member of the Leadership Sherman County class this year. Hill said he would like to go through the program to acquaint him with more of the city and county systems. Hill said he has been through a similar program in Guymon. Daniels said he would get the application.

• Discussed getting cost estimates on a power line to be built to the proposed power plant site west of the city.

Rod Blake, power plant superintendent, said he and Hill were working on the figures to bring to the commission. Blake reported that one of the diesel engines at the power plant is down and there is a Fairbanks-Morris repair man looking at the problem. Blake said it will take some time to fix the engine.



## Dancing the night away

Music blared from the disc jockey's speakers at the Back to School dance last Friday in the Goodland High School gym. Students danced to the beat of their favorite bands. The dance started at 9 p.m., just after the Cowboys football team beat the Hoxie Indians, 27-26.

Photos by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News



# Staff asks questions about new Goodland Energy Center

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

About 40 people showed up for a city commission work session, but the mayor told them the meeting was planned so city staff could ask questions about the impact of the new energy center being planned west of town.

Mayor Rick Billinger told the audience the work session on Aug. 29, was to hear questions from the city staff and city commissioners, and they wouldn't be taking questions from the public.

"We are doing a work session," he said. "We are not here to debate the pros and cons of the project."

Police Chief Ray Smee asked whether the city would need to patrol the site, or if the plants would have their own security.

Billinger said it was his understanding the plants would have their own guards.

"The only thing we would do is respond is if there is a crime out there," Smee said. "Violations of

the law we would handle. I don't see a need for more officers unless the growth of the city changes that."

Fire Chief Dean Jensen had a list of questions about the water needs and special equipment. One question was if there would be enough water to fight fires, and if there would be adequate fire hydrants with a minimum of 1,000 gallons per minute of water.

"We will have the fire system," said Ron Pickman, former city manager and head of Goodland Energy Resources, the partnership that will build the coal-fired power plant. "We will have a fire water pond and other equipment to help in case of fire. We would hope in a worst-case scenario, the city would have the ability to call for mutual aid."

"We will be the first response," said Mark Justus of Renewable Energy Resources. "Our insurance company says we must have a minimum amount of water on the site, and a minimum amount of foam available. We will be the primary

responder. That is what the insurance company has brought up, and we cannot get insurance without it.

"The city is a volunteer fire department, and the insurance company has taken that into account with their requirements."

Asked about special training for the firemen, Justus said they were getting a pretty thorough list from the insurance company, and they would meet with Jensen when they have that.

Darin Neufeld, engineer for Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, said the power plant site would have fire hydrants about 300 feet apart like other parts of the city, and would be able to provide 3,400 gallons per minute.

Billinger said one of Chief Jensen's questions was if they would need aerial fire fighting apparatus.

"We don't see a need," Pickman said. "We are not going to be any taller than the existing elevators, and the city doesn't have any aerial equipment to handle those types of fires."

Neufeld said the site would have a

detention pond to catch all run off, and it would handle any emergency spills.

Rich Simon, head of the street, water and sewer departments, said he was concerned about a plan to use the city easements for the pipeline to carry the city's gray water, the outflow from the sewer lagoons, out to the plant site.

"We are required to have 10 feet between the water and sewer mains," Simon said, "and we would have to keep this separation for the gray water line."

Pickman said the line would be parallel to the city's, but if there is no room, they would have to find the right-of-way.

"These are things we were asked to think about," Simon said. "They are just ideas. The easements may not be wide enough to handle the different lines."

"We can make it work, but we need to be sure everyone is aware of what we need. All the problems can be addressed. We wanted to be as involved as possible to protect the city, and help the project as

much as possible."

Commissioner John Garcia asked about liability for the city with the gray water going to the power plant site.

"Where will you take possession of the gray water?" Hill asked Pickman. "We feel the city needs to know where the liability begins."

"It is our idea that we would have the line and be responsible for keeping it in shape," Pickman said.

Simon asked about maintenance outages at the power plant.

"We need to have plans for when the power plant is down or if the pumps go down," Simon said.

"We would take the water at all times," Pickman said. "It would only be shut down if there is an emergency."

"If there is a problem, we would need to continue the (state discharge) permit," Hill said.

"You own the wastewater plant," Pickman replied, "and would need to maintain the permit for that."

Daniels noted that the current

permit is up for renewal in 2008.

Steve Criswell, city building inspector said there were a couple of zoning issues that need to be addressed. One is that the smokestack will be higher than the 150 feet allowed in the zoning code. He said they would need a variance or a change in the wording of the zoning ordinance.

Justus said the smokestack would be about 200 feet tall.

Chuck Lutters, former public works director and construction superintendent for Renewable, noted that the elevators exceed the 150 feet height now.

Criswell said he would have the height limit on the agenda for the next planning and zoning meeting. He said the change would require a public hearing and approval by the commission.

Billinger thanked everyone for their questions and said the commission would do another work session this month to see if some of the questions have been answered and if there are more questions.

## bowling results

### Monday Afternoon Ladies League

August 29  
Bowladium Lanes over  
Medical Arts Pharmacy 3-1  
Lonny's Quality Auto Body over  
Team #7 3-1  
Clawson Electric tied  
Wheatridge Farms, Ltd. 2-2  
Alcorn/Shelter Insurance over  
Callahan's 3-1  
**High Individual Game:**  
Suzie Butts 197  
**High Individual Series:**  
Lori Amthor 510  
**High Team Game:**  
Callahan's 642  
**High Team Series:**  
Alcorn/Shelter Insurance 1,731

### Monday Afternoon Ladies League

September 6  
Wheatridge Farms, Ltd. over  
Alcorn/Shelter Insurance 3-1  
Clawson Electric over  
Callahan's 3-1  
Lonny's Quality Auto Body over  
Bowladium Lanes 3-1  
Medical Arts Pharmacy over  
Team #7 3-1  
**High Individual Game:**  
Suzie Butts 246  
**High Individual Series:**  
Suzie Butts 528  
**High Team Game:**  
Callahan's 674  
**High Team Series:**  
Medical Arts Pharmacy 1,860

### Team Standings

No. 1 Lonny's Aquality Auto Body 6-2  
No. 2 Clawson Electric 5-3  
tie Wheatridge Farms, Ltd. 5-3

### Wednesday Night Scratch Classic

September 7  
Steve's Body Shop over  
R & W Duell Farms 18-2  
Weber Kennels over  
Hank's Cafe 13-7  
Phil's Pro Shop over  
Fitzgibbons, Inc. 12-8  
Floyd's Refrig. & AC and  
Bowladium Lanes Later  
**High Individual Game:**

Craig Bolling 223

**High Individual Series:**  
Roy Freiberg 747

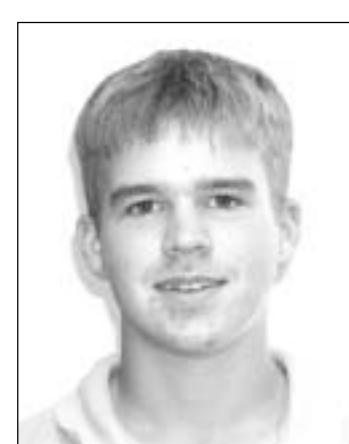
**High Team Game:**  
Floyd's Refrig. & AC 549

**High Team Series:**  
Weber Kennels 2,088

### League Standings:

Steve's Body Shop 18-2  
Weber Kennels 13-7  
Phil's Pro Shop 12-8  
Fitzgibbons, Inc. 8-12  
Hank's Cafe 7-13  
R & W Duell Farms 2-18  
Floyd's Refrig. & AC 0-0  
Bowladium Lanes 0-0

## student of the week



times I spent with friends. Also state and regional tennis sophomore year.

**Activities involved in at school:** Tennis, CYO, X-Pressos and band.

**My choice of movies, books, and games:** Comedy movies and Ping Pong

**After I leave Goodland High School I intend to:** Attend a technical institute.

**And 10 years from now, I think I'll be:** 26, working for an IT company.

**Favorite Quote:** "Don't sweat the petty things and don't pet the sweaty things."

**Name:** Joshua Cech  
**Parents:** Joe and Jean Cech

**Grade:** Junior  
**Age:** 16

**We've nominated this student because:** He is a very positive and influential role model to the other students.

**Student Comment:** I'll always remember the

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