ster P-Dewsland Star-News / Tuesday, Febraury 21, 2006 3a

Farm couples win conservation awards for county

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News Celebrating 62 years of farm conservation, the Sherman County Conservation District held its annual banquet and awards presentation last Monday at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall.

About 150 people attended the banquet and listened to the Disciples on Tour group from the First Christian Church, who entertained between the dinner and the award presentation.

The gospel group of 13 has been singing together for six years, said Ron Vignery, who was the spokesman for the group. They have performed in Winona and Oakley was well as other places around the area, and were glad to be back home for this program.

Debra Griffith is the director and members are Diann and Terry Ross, Carol and Jay Jolly, Judi and Ron Vignery, Tina and Bruce Gleason, Kara Smith, Janet Davis, Amy Fenner, Sean Davis and Glenn Snider.

The chicken dinner was prepared by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary.

The Friends of Conservation award was presented to Adam Duell, BreAnna Nemechek and Devin Mangus, who are the members of the Eco-Team coached by Sandy Rodgers, district manager.

Holton Witman was honored for





Disciples on Tour, a choir from the First Christian Church, entertained at the Sher- Ross, Carol Jolly, Judi Vignery, Amy Fenner, Kara Smith, Janet Davis, Tina Gleason man County Conservation District banquet last Monday. The 13-member group is (back row) Sean Davis, Bruce Gleason, Terry Ross, Jay Jolly, Ron Vignery and Glenr directed by Debra Griffith (left) and the members (front row, from left) include Diann Snider.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

winning first place in the state winners, including: poster contest.

farm southwest of Goodland, were Ryleigh Paxton and honorable menpresented the Bankers Award and tion to Nicole Sederstrom, Garrett Joe and Darlene Bauman, who live Taylor, Jake Anderson and Brianna west of Goodland, received the White. Windbreak Award.

Whether it is a household pet

that has died or a small animal

killed on the roads or streets, there

is no place in Sherman County to

Commissioner Kevin Rasure

asked Curt Way, county public

works director, to talk about the

problem at last Tuesday's com-

mission meeting. One solution

might be a pet cemetery, but right

now there's no good way to handle

"We don't take dead animals,"

Way said. "We have worked with

the city in a few cases where we

put the animals they have frozen

and sealed in bags in the bottom of

By Tom Betz

bury the animals.

the furry little bodies.

the landfill."

Posters third and fourth grade: Bob and Velta Bradshaw, who Gerell Miller, Raquel Tomsic,

Rodgers announced the county Shaley Miller, Cassie Battistoni, poster, limerick and essay contest Nathaniel Smith and honorable grade: Ty Stelting, Reed Bellamy, Zweck and honorable mentions to

mention to Sydney Winston, Riley Winston and honorable mention to Victoria Hayes, Belen Ledesma and Oharah, Jaron Ragels and Cassie Thomas.

Limericks third and fourth: to Sabre Yarbrough, Gabriel mention to M'Lynn Hinger. Posters fifth and sixth grade: Ledesma and Gage Ihrig.

Sheldon Nelson, Haley Linnell and Katelyn Coon. Connor Gray.

Tyler Neufeld, Gerell Miller, Am- Ryder Kling, Nicole Hendrich, and Lonnie Whiteker were reber Perdew and honorable mention Kasarah Woodrow and honorable elected for three-year terms. Graber

Computer Tech awards: Reed Limericks fifth and sixth Bellamy, Audrey Titus, Kaleb

During the business meeting, dis-Essays third and fourth grade: trict board members Dean Graber has been on the board for four years; Whiteker started in 1995 and has been president for four years.

County asked to improve fairgrounds wiring for racing season

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News Racing will begin in a few months at the Sherman County Speedway, and the county is working on a plan to add more power lines for a concession stand in the pit area.

The big questions are, how much power does the stand need, and who will pay for the new service? Commissioners weren't sure, and put off

a decision until they could find out. There is a line out to the pit area, but there is not enough juice to run the lights and a concession stand. Commissioner Kevin Rasure said at a county meeting last Tuesday that electricians Shad Sheldon and Marty Johnson would meet with him at the fairgrounds to look at what is needed.

Rasure said Sheldon had talked to Harold Snethen, who will be the concession vendor for the pit area.

Way said Dr. Greg Smith has "Sheldon talked to Snethen," Rasure said, "and he is willing to pay a rental fee for the use of the power."

landfill. I am not sure how this will The Goodland Star-News work with the baler system.

"Don't know of any good way to do it. It can be done, but not something we really want to do on a regular basis."

Commissioner Mitch Tiede asked Way if he has talked to the city about the situation, and whether they could create an animal disposal site on city land.

Way said he has not talked to the city. He said there are problems with digging a pit at the transfer station for animal disposal. He would need more details from the state, and that the county would have to modify the solid waste operation plan.

Tiede suggested a pet cemetery might be a good alternative.

Way said that sounds like a bet-

Tiede said Way should keep checking on the alternatives.

Way said he would talk to the city. He said Cheyenne County is having problems figuring out how do dispose of deer that have the chronic wasting disease. He said Colby buries animals in the landfill and charges for that service.

Rasure said there is no decision to be made at this time, but wanted the other commissioners to know what is going on.

In other action Tuesday, the commissioners:

• Approved donating \$100 to the Youth Skills Day program. Troy Mannis, service man for Aquila, told the commissioners the skills day would be held at Bellamy Farms southwest of Goodland on Barton of the district court to pur-

Pet cemetery an option for burying small animals have. He said they spent about \$2,000 last year, and it worked out pretty well because that was about what they raised.

• Approved three new tax rebate applications. Rasure said the three include a new home to be built on County Road 63 just inside the Sherman County line near Brewster, a new set of storage units to be built in Goodland and the remodeling of the Uniques by Bonnie building for the Insurance Agency. The commissioners gave unanimous approval to the three applications, the first to be filed this year. A total of 43 have been filed, and 41 of those have been approved.

• Approved a request from Kay June 17. He said they plan to do the chase computer support hours through the county. Barton said she did not want to buy a lot of technical support hours through the court system because they may not get used, but wanted time for when they need computer help. County Clerk Janet Rumpel said she thought that would work.

Harold, who said the concession stand probably would pull more power than the new circuit would provide.

Johnson said he would call and find out how much power would be available at the end of the 600 feet of line. The answer was the parallel would provide about 70 amps.

The commissioners thanked Sheldon and Johnson for coming to the meeting and said they would talk it over and get back to them.

Rasure said it was one thing to provide power for the racing association, but this was for a vendor. He wondered if there should be a fee for the vendor's use to help recover the cost of the power line.

Tiede said spending \$2,700 wouldn't get enough power to handle the needs anyway.

"If he is paying fees, that may be part of the issue," Thomas said, "but if he is not paying a fee and making money that is another issue "We could spend \$5,000 to make it right. We could have a usage fee for the vendor because we might have a different one every year." Rasure asked about other groups who use space at the fairgrounds, like the Kiwanis Club. He said Kiwanis provided the money to do the expansion to the 4-H building. 'If the fair board needed service, that is a different issue," Rasure

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said it would be good to know the cost of putting in the line.

"If we are going to put more power out there, I think we need to do it right the first time," Commissioner Chuck Thomas said.

Rasure said after he meets with

corrections

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lost his means of handling dead household pets, and after checking with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, it is up to the county to take care of them. "I think there should be some alternatives out there," Way said, 'rather than putting them in the

Sheldon, they will bring in proposal that makes more sense and meets the needs.

William McKnight, grounds and building maintenance supervisor, told the commissioners on Feb. 7 the racing association was asking to have another power line run out to the pit area. He said in the past, the concession stand has blown breakers and knocked out the pit lights.

McKnight told the commissioners he had received one bid from Sheldon, and had contacted a couple of other electricians about the project.

ter idea, though that some places use incinerators.

"There could be problems with other animals digging in the landfill," Way said. "My biggest concern is how to handle them. It is too bad the rendering truck won't pick up these animals.'

The original bid proposal was to trench a line parallel to the existing one, and add a circuit box with four 20 amp breakers.

McKnight said the existing wiring is not heavy enough to run the pit lights and the added circuits in the concession stand.

Rasure asked if the new line would be installed in pipe so that the wiring could be upgraded later.

McKnight said the bid said it would be laid in a pipe, but did not know if it was big enough to change wire

Rasure called Sheldon on the

st in savings-

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same activities as last year, and expected about 50 kids to participate.

"We had 56 last year, and it was a great success," Mannis said.

Tiede asked if they could take more kids. Mannis said they could add a few more, but the 50-60 range is about what they want to

phone, and he called back saying he would come to the meeting.

When Sheldon and Johnson arrived, Commissioner Mitch Tiede asked them to explain their plan.

Johnson said the idea was to run a second wire from the same service with another 100 amp line. He said this would help the lights by adding more power, but he said the main problem is a drop in voltage because

of the distance.

"The lights are sucking all the juice now," Tiede said.

McKnight said a lot of lights have been added in the pit area over the years.

"This would be our cheapest, easiest fix?" Tiede asked.

Snethen what kind of power the concession stand draws. She called

said 'The racing association is non-

profit," Tiede said. "We probably need to look at a way to recoup the expense for the expanded service."

The commissioners agreed to Tiede then asked Mary Ann delay the decision until they had a clearer idea on what was needed and the actual cost.



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