

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 as 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 Sherman County Conservation District banquet last Monday. The 13-member group is directed by Debra Griffith (left) and the members (front row, from left) include Diann

Ross, Carol Jolly, Judi Vignery, Amy Fenner, Kara Smith, Janet Davis, Tina Gleason, (back row) Sean Davis, Bruce Gleason, Terry Ross, Jay Jolly, Ron Vignery and Glenn Snider.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

winning first place in the state poster contest.

Bob and Velta Bradshaw, who farm southwest of Goodland, were presented the Bankers Award and Joe and Darlene Bauman, who live west of Goodland, received the Windbreak Award.

Rodgers announced the county poster, limerick and essay contest

winners, including:

Posters third and fourth grade: Gerell Miller, Raquel Tomsic, Ryleigh Paxton and honorable mention to Nicole Sederstrom, Garrett Taylor, Jake Anderson and Brianna White.

Posters fifth and sixth grade: Shaley Miller, Cassie Battistoni, Nathaniel Smith and honorable

mention to Sydney Winston, Riley Oharah, Jaron Ragels and Cassie Thomas.

Limericks third and fourth: Tyler Neufeld, Gerell Miller, Amber Perdue and honorable mention to Sabre Yarbrough, Gabriel Ledesma and Gage Ihrig.

Limericks fifth and sixth grade: Ty Stelting, Reed Bellamy,

Winston and honorable mention to Sheldon Nelson, Haley Linnell and Connor Gray.

Essays third and fourth grade: Ryder Kling, Nicole Hendrich, Kasarah Woodrow and honorable mention to M'Lynn Hinger.

Computer Tech awards: Reed Bellamy, Audrey Titus, Kaleb Zweck and honorable mentions to

Victoria Hayes, Belen Ledesma and Katelyn Coon.

During the business meeting, district board members Dean Graber and Lonnie Whiteker were re-elected for three-year terms. 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.

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

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

Pet cemetery an option for burying small animals

By Tom Betz

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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 bury the animals.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked Curt Way, county public works director, to talk about the problem at last Tuesday's commission meeting. One solution might be a pet cemetery, but right now there's no good way to handle the furry little bodies.

"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 the landfill."

Way said Dr. Greg Smith has 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

landfill. I am not sure how this will 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 better 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."

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.

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

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.

Tiede then asked Mary Ann Snethen what kind of power the concession stand draws. She called

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 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 delay the decision until they had a clearer idea on what was needed and the actual cost.

corrections

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