

Timing is big issue in special road project election

TIMING, from Page 1a

“One option is to do nothing,” Rasure said. “That is what we have done for several years, and the roads get worse.

“The second option is to raise property taxes to pay for the roads. That would take an estimated 18 mills, or about a 33 percent increase for 15 years, to pay for the projects.

“The third option is to pass the one-cent sales tax and everyone who spends money in the county will help pay for the roads. The city and county commissions felt the sales tax was the fairest way, and we are all together on this.

“Sherman County is lucky, because we have a pull factor greater than one, which means that more people are coming to the county and spending money than are going out of the county.”

Roberta Bretz of Goodland asked if the city and county have looked at current spending to see where it could be cut to pay for the roads.

Rasure said both have faced budget cuts in the past few years, losing about \$100,000 a year from the state. He said that would be 2 mills of property tax for county residents and 4 mills for city residents.

“We have made some other cuts,”

Few objections raised on city-county program

ELECTION, from Page 1a

Ihrig said the safety issue is the big thing, but the golf club has a large impact on the community.

“The sales tax is the fairest tax,” said Dr. Richard Whitmore, a retired veterinarian. “Everybody is going to benefit from these projects.”

Whitmore said there are a lot of people who go out to the golf course for tournaments like the

Slice of Life. He said his granddaughter is on the high school golf team and he would like to know she was driving on a safer road.

The forum opened with Rasure and Dechant explaining the basic goals of the project and the streets and roads to be improved.

“We are all together on this,” Rasure said. “The city and county are working together because we feel this is important to the future of the community.”

Rasure said.

“The city has done the same thing,” added Mayor Rick Billinger.

“Would the sales tax damage businesses in the county?” Bretz said.

Rasure said he and Mayor Billinger are involved in retail businesses, and while they are concerned, they feel we need better roads.

Billinger, who sells mobile and manufactured homes, said he is the last one who wants to add a higher sales tax, but he feels this is the right time and the sales tax is the best way

to improve the streets and roads.

“How many people decide where to shop by the sales tax rate?” Dechant asked the crowd.

A few people raised their hands, but nowhere near a quarter of the audience.

“Most of us don’t think about the sales tax rate when we go shopping,” he said. “My parents live in the Denver area and their sales tax rate is near 10 percent. Do you know what the sales tax rates are around the area? The sales tax in Cheyenne County is 7.33 percent.”

Sherman County’s is 6.55 percent and will be 7.55 percent if the

issue passes.

Dechant said getting the sales tax passed to start collecting money in July would be worth about \$590,000, based on the total city and county collections for the second six months of last year.

The current one-cent countywide sales tax, which is split between the county, Goodland and Kanorado, brought in \$1,141,812 in 2004 (\$549,710 went to Sherman County, \$566,838 went to Goodland and \$25,264 went to Kanorado).

“This is something we need to follow through,” said county Com-

missioner Mitch Tiede. “We need to keep the roads in decent shape.”

“The main roads of commerce need to be fixed,” added Commissioner Chuck Thomas.

“The city and county are working together on this,” Billinger said. “I appreciate the county handling this through the sales tax. This is a very important project.

“We used the sales tax to fix old U.S. 24 before. If we let it go, the roads will go to pot.”

City Commissioner Dave Daniels said, “We have come to a point where if we don’t do something, things will get worse, and it

will make it worse for the city and county down the road.”

Dechant said it is great that the state has given the county an \$800,000 economic development grant to help pay for the concrete paving on the section of County Road 14 that runs between old U.S. 24 and Eighth street.

“There is a rumor that the road project has come up since the new energy center was announced,” Dechant said, “but the city and county started planning this joint project before the plants were announced. We had the first public forum on May 23.”

Rasure said state officials had good things to say about what is happening in Sherman County and offered their support.

Billinger agreed there was good support for the projects in Topeka. “It was important that we were not there with our hands out,” Billinger said. “We were asking for them to let us do it ourselves.”

“I want to thank you for being farsighted to give us the opportunity to improve our roads,” said John Golden, a former city and county commissioner. “The method of payment worked before and will work for our community.

“I am proud to be in Sherman County and proud of our leaders.”

New budget gives Goodland School District more state money

SCHOOL, from Page 1a

spending for education by the \$550 million that the Supreme Court wants, but over three years. If the issue goes back to the court, he said, it will be May or June before the district will know where it stands on state money.

“I’m not very encouraged,” Selby said. “There has been some movement for loosening at-risk money to pay for all-day kindergarten, relaxing the definition of at-risk and allowing at-risk money to be used for part of teacher salaries.”

Selby reported that enrollment has gone up by six or eight since the last report in February. Loss or gain of students after the official count in October does not affect how much money the school has. It does give the board an idea of what the student count may be the next year.

Steve Raymer, Goodland High School assistant principal/activities director, said spring sports had

started. Track has 37 going out, softball has 20, golf has 19, tennis has seven but expects to end up with 10 to 12, and baseball has 22.

Jim Mull, principal at the junior high and north elementary, said he has two new students at the junior high. There are 75 students out for track, he said.

The junior high assessments will be in April for the seventh and eighth grade in reading and math.

North Elementary will have its Outdoor Education Day on Tuesday, April 4, Mull said. The sixth grade has finished its reading assessments and will be taking the math test. The fifth grade will have its assessments next month.

Harvey Swager, high school principal, reported that the site council would like to see if the greenhouse could be used before it is torn down. He gave the March discipline report which said three students were suspended for disrespect to teachers.

Swager said the new sign at the

high school was vandalized this weekend with paint. Custodian Kenny Grieve did a good job of removing the damage. He said the site council is in the process of recommending raising academic standards and trying to get a before- and after school study hall.

Shelly Angelos, West Elementary principal, said the site council there will meet Tuesday. They are working on Ag Day for the school and are in their third week of testing. Teacher on working on report cards and getting ready for parent-teacher conferences. Kansas English Language Proficiency Assessment testing will take place in April.

Teachers have been working on a new report card, she said, as the current one does not reflect curriculum changes.

Board member Marty Melia, the district’s representative on the Northwest Kansas Technical College board, said the diesel mechan-

ics and medical assistant programs are expanding. Enrollment is down for freshmen and up for sophomores. The Endowment Association will have its fund raising event Saturday at Sugar Hills Golf Club.

Board training dates agreed on were Saturday, April 8 with the alternate of Saturday, June 3. The school board will meet with a rep-

resentative from Kansas Association of School Boards to learn about topics facing the board.

Board members agreed that they would give all the banks an opportunity to bid in April on the district’s accounts.

The board voted to give \$1,000 to the Goodland Arts Council. They have tried to take up the slack when

the district eliminated elementary art, Selby said.

In personnel issues, the board:

- Accepted the resignation of Don Smith as the head coach of cross country and track for next year.
- Hired Amy Stoffel as high school librarian.
- Hired Margaret Belshe as kindergarten and early childhood aide.

AT&T and S&T Communications.

- The contract for electricity with Goodland Energy Resources and for wind power from ReNewable Energy Resources. Hill said some change are being proposed to both.
- The Sunflower Electric contract, which is due to end in May. Hill said he has the new contract and thinks it is a good deal for the city.

County extends total burn ban

BURN, from Page 1a

ander said Wednesday 69 of 105 Kansas counties have issued burn bans because of dry conditions.

Winds gusted to 44 mph on Wednesday, the National Weather Service said, while the total for moisture for the year is just .59 inches. The average for this time of year is 1.39 inches. Goodland had a skiff of snow Monday, which

added .01 of an inch to the total. That is the total moisture for March. The winds were expected to slow down to 10-15 mph on Thursday, and the National Weather Service forecast for the weekend has a 30 percent chance for rain and snow Saturday through Sunday. The high Wednesday was 72, but the highs for the rest of the week were forecast to be in the mid 50s, and in the 40s for the weekend.

Scientists at Kansas State University reported the first two months were the fourth driest on record.

“Out of the more than 200 (weather) reporting stations we have around the state, only a handful had any measurable precipitation,” said Mary Knapp, state climatologist. “Three of the nine divisions are having their driest start since 1895. All of them are in the central part of the state.”

SPORTS TELEVISION SCHEDULE

Saturday

9 a.m. ESPN College Basketball NIT Tournament Second Round

10 a.m. ESPN2 NCAA Women’s Basketball Tournament First Round

11 a.m. CBS NCAA Basketball Tournament Second-round games

12:30 p.m. ESPN2 NCAA Women’s Basketball Tournament First Round

NBC Golf Bay Hill Invitational
1 p.m. CBS NCAA Basketball Tournament Second-round games

ESPN International Baseball World Baseball Classic-Semifinal 1

WGN MLB Baseball Spring Training Chicago White Sox vs Chicago Cubs from Wrigley Field

3 p.m. CBS NCAA Basketball Tournament Second-round games

FX NASCAR Happy Hour Series Atlanta Motor Speedway

3:30 p.m. ESPN2 Tennis Masters Series Pacific Life Open: Women’s Final from Indian Wells, CA

4 p.m. ESPN CITGO Racing to the Kentucky Derby Rebel Stakes, San Felipe, Gotham Stakes, Tampa Bay Derby

4:30 p.m. FX NASCAR Busch Series Nicorette 300 from Atlanta Motor Speedway

5 p.m. CBS NCAA Basketball Tournament Second-round games

5:30 p.m. ESPN College Wrestling NCAA Championship from Oklahoma City

6 p.m. ESPN2 NCAA Women’s Basketball Tournament First Round

7 p.m. CBS NCAA Basketball Tournament Second-round games

8 p.m. ESPN International Baseball World Baseball Classic-Semifinal 2

HBO World Championship Boxing Rahman vs Toney
8:30 p.m. ESPN2 NCAA Women’s Basketball Tournament First Round

12 a.m. ESPN SportsCenter from Bristol, Conn.

Sunday

10 a.m. CBS NCAA Basketball Tournament Second-round games

ESPN2 NCAA Women’s Basketball Tournament First Round

NBC Arena Football Dallas at Orlando

10:30 a.m. ESPN PBA Bowling ACE Hardware Championship from Taylor, Mich.

11 a.m. ABC NBA Basketball Teams TBA

FOX Auto Racing NASCAR Nextel Cup in Hampton, Ga.

UNIV Fútbol América Águilas at San Luis Potosi

12 p.m. CBS NCAA Basketball Tournament Second-round games

ESPN Women’s College Basketball NCAA Championship First Round

ESPN2 Tennis Masters Series Pacific Life Open: Men’s Final from Indian Wells, CA

12:30 p.m. NBC Golf Bay Hill Invitational

1:30 p.m. WGN NBA Basketball Chicago Bulls at Washington Wizards from The MCI Center

2 p.m. CBS NCAA Basketball Tournament Second-round games

5 p.m. ESPN SportsCenter from Bristol, Conn.

ESPN2 NCAA Women’s Basketball Tournament First Round

5:30 p.m. ESPN NBA Basketball Miami Heat at New York Knicks from Madison Square Garden

7 p.m. ESPN2 NCAA Women’s Basketball Tournament First Round

9 p.m. ESPN SportsCenter from Bristol, Conn.

Morning

8 a.m. ESPN2 Cold Pizza from New York

Monday

11 a.m. ESPN MLB Baseball Spring Training Atlanta Braves vs St. Louis Cardinals from Jupiter, Fla.

4 p.m. ESPN SportsCenter from Bristol, Conn.

5 p.m. ESPN College Basketball NIT Tournament Second Round

ESPN2 NCAA Women’s Basketball Tournament Second Round

7 p.m. ESPN International Baseball World Baseball Classic-Championship

ESPN2 NCAA Women’s Basketball Tournament Second Round

10 p.m. ESPN SportsCenter from Bristol, Conn.

ESPN2 College Basketball NIT Tournament Second Round

12 a.m. ESPN SportsCenter from Bristol, Conn.

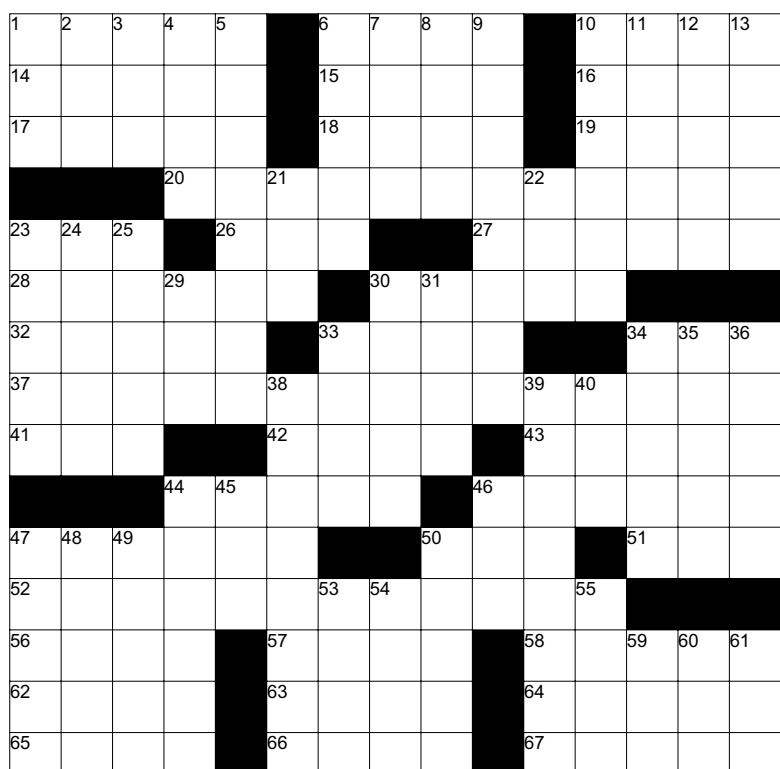
8 a.m. ESPN2 Cold Pizza from New York

Crossword Puzzle

"What's New?"

ACROSS

- Descend like an eagle
- Food with chips
- Gift from a genie
- Broom ____ (comics witch)
- Division word
- St. ____'s fire
- One to respect
- Idyllic place
- Sphinx, in part
- "You missed it!"
- Pop-up cyber-annoyances
- Calendar unit
- Praised highly
- Morsel in a box of bran flakes
- Drink noisily
- Credits as a source
- Stable babe
- Actress Zadora
- It's needed to run appliances
- Bad: Prefix
- Like a stained shirt pocket
- Like ghost stories
- Soft tennis shots
- Loses one's cool
- UFO crew
- Scholarship money
- The Beatles' " ____ It Be"
- "Keep your hands to yourself!"
- Weekend rancher
- Nonwritten
- Change for a sawbuck
- Cow-horned goddess
- Larry of The Three Stooges
- In plain view
- Well-groomed
- Confused states



American Profile Hometown Content

060312

67. Take another crack at

DOWN

- ____ sells sea shells"
- Comic Shrinker
- Moth-eaten
- Poems of praise
- Writer of song takeoffs
- Intensely hot
- "500" race
- "Keep it in"
- Waikiki Beach's city
- Form, as tears
- Tale of Troy
- Whacked, bible-style
- Put an edge on
- Did a 10K, say
- Dinghy propeller

- Rainbow-shaped
- When many newspapers are published
- Places to build
- Dry, to a vintner
- Haberdashery buy
- Like a doily
- Act the rat
- Trouble for Pauline?
- How fish may be packed
- "This is only ____"
- Remove the soap from
- Tries to get, as an acting part
- Stimpy's pal
- Can't stomach
- Gerund ending

- Jack Horner's far
- Introduce to the mix
- No-goodnik
- Columbus's 1492 goal
- Van Gogh painted here
- Rock's Cream, e.g.
- Vampire's tooth
- Drones' home
- November 11 marcher
- Go amiss
- Barnyard digs

The crossword puzzle brought to you by:

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