



City Manager Wayne Hill guided a city truck to dump a load of metal collected Saturday as part of the second annual citywide cleanup. Photo By Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Volunteer effort cleans up city

TRASH, from Page 1

in less than a day.” Those who worked the two days of trash collection last year said they were surprised at the amount of trash — especially metal goods — put out for the one day this year. Clouse said he thought there was as much or more metal collected this time as in the two days last year. He said there was no way to tell the amount of tree limbs and yard waste because many of those loads went straight to the county transfer station. At the station, limbs went to the burn pit and yard waste bags were emptied on the compost pile. City Manager Wayne Hill, who has been in Goodland only about eight months, said he was pleased to see people working together. He said it is the kind of thing that shows real pride in the community. Clouse told the volunteers the plan was to have all the collections completed by noon, but it took a bit longer to cover the entire city. The last loads headed to the transfer station by 3 p.m. A barbecue for the volunteers was provided with the help of the Word of Life Foursquare Church. Steve Duell and Dana Belshe cooked the hamburgers and hot dogs. The hamburger was donated by Century Feeders, Wal-Mart provided buns and hot dogs, and Scheopner Water provided cases of water to keep the volunteers hydrated. The metal was left on Rasure’s lot and Alex West of Alex’s Radiator hauled it away on Sunday. Workers have a couple of weeks rest before the clean up of entrances to the city along K-27, Old U.S. 24 and Caldwell Avenue on Saturday, April 22. To volunteer for the highway clean up, call 890-3641, 890-7149 or 890-6692

Defining ‘landscaping’ in right of way delays city action

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News
AT&T wants to renew its telephone franchise with Goodland, but the firm wants a separate agreement defining its ability to use the city rights of way. City officials looked at AT&T’s proposed agreement, and thought it was one-sided, possibly leaving the city holding the bag for street and alley repairs. They decided to write their own rules. A proposed ordinance regulating use of the rights of way was on the agenda at the city meeting on April 3, but the commission put off the vote to the next meeting to give the city manager and city attorney a chance to modify the ordinance to exempt home sprinklers, fences, landscaping or lights from the permit process. The city doesn’t actually own a right of way, said City Manger Wayne Hill, but has a legal right to place utility lines on or under them, or cross the property to maintain and repair lines. The city can allow other companies to use the same rights of way, usually with a franchise agreement. The right of way typically includes 15 foot for an alley and 10 to 15 feet back from the street. It allows for public uses of streets and alleys and for utility lines, buried and overhead.

The big question is who pays for any damage that might happen when a company puts lines or pipes in the city right of way. Most city rights of way are in the alleys, where sewer lines are buried and power lines run, and along the front edge of property, where water lines are buried. Hill said it would be better for the city to pass an ordinance spelling out how city rights of way can be used rather than making it part of each franchise agreement. “We have the right of decide how we want to do the rights of way ordinance,” he said, “and set the regulations so any provider has to deal with our regulations. “That is what this ordinance sets out. We have the control, not the provider. I think this is a good thing for the city. “We want to know what is in the right of way, and how we want things to be done.” Hill said City Attorney Jeff Mason had put the ordinance together after he reviewed the agreement that AT&T wanted the city to approve. Formerly known as SBC Corp. and Southwestern Bell, the firm wants to move into cable television this year. Hill said the Legislature — pushed hard by AT&T — is working on a statewide franchise system for cable, and that the city should have its ordinance in place before that is approved. Mason had told the commission the right of way agreement from AT&T looks like it would transfer cost of any damage to the city, and give the phone company control of where and how things were put in the right of way. Under the proposed ordinance, a business would have to apply for permission from the city to use the right of way. A homeowner can use the right of way for landscaping with the understanding that if there is a problem with a line, the city has the right to dig up the right of way. If the city digs up the right of way, damage to other lines, pipes, sprinklers, lights and fences, shrubbery and the like in the right of way is not the city’s responsibility. “Does this apply to a sprinkler system?” was the first question from Commissioner Dave Daniels, wondering if homeowners would have to apply for a city permit. Hill said it would depend if the homeowner’s sprinkler system is in the city right of way. “We might need to exempt that out,” said Steve Criswell, city code enforcement and building inspector. “Sprinkler systems are not included,” agreed Rich Simon, public works director. “We may need an exemption for personal sprinkler systems,” Daniels said. “We want to make sure we are not causing a problem,” said Mayor Rick Billinger. Hill said the ordinance was designed to cover commercial aspects of the use of the city right of way. Commissioner Josh Dechant suggested sending the ordinance back to Mason to find a way to exempt sprinklers, fences or lighting from the permit process. The homeowner would have to pay for repairs if the city had to dig up their yard. Contractor Mike Miller suggested putting all three under landscaping. The section of the ordinance dealing with repairs of damage to the city rights of way will be modified to require that anyone who installs anything in the city right of way will be responsible for any damage and repairs for 24 months after the installation is complete. Hill said this was to protect the city from having to pay for damages that might show up more than a year after the original installation was done. The company who did the installation would be responsible for repairing any damage. The commission agreed to delay the ordinance to allow Mason to

draft the landscape exemption. In other business, the commission: • Re-elected Billinger as mayor for the year, and Daniels as vice mayor. • Read a proclamation proclaiming April as Fair Housing Month to promote fair housing practices throughout the city. • Were invited to attend the Kan-

sas Crime Stoppers annual conference to be held at Howard Johnson Hotel April 23-24. Jim Wedermyer asked Billinger to welcome the group at 8:30 a.m. on Monday, April 24. He said the Goodland Crime Stoppers were organized in 1987 with a grant from the city. He said over the years, others have donated to the organization.

Crosswind runway project wins state money

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News
The city continues to improve Goodland’s airport, with plans to repaint the markings on the secondary, or crosswind, runway this summer. City Manager Wayne Hill told city commissioners on April 3, they have a change in the plans for the airport project this summer, and asked engineer Darin Neufeld of Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates to explain. Neufeld said the Kansas Department of Transportation has approved a project to repaint the crosswind runway — 5-23 — and repave a taxi way turn area. The work will be done this summer at an estimated cost of \$88,000. He said the state will pay for up to 75 percent of the cost up to a maximum of \$66,000. Neufeld said the Goodland project was originally below the cutoff line, but when the state had some money returned they were able to transfer the money to this project. Hill said he received a letter from Deb Miller, secretary of transportation, saying the city had received the money as part of the Kansas Airport Improvement Program, one of 28 projects selected from 77 applications. Neufeld said another part of the project will be adding some supplemental wind cones that had been part of the lighting project from last year, and will be paid for by the Federal Aviation Administration. Hill said he has been working with Goodland Energy Resources and ReNewable Energy Resources on the contracts for power from the coal-fired power plant and the proposed wind farm. He said the agreements take the new contract with Sunflower Electric Power into consideration, and he will be bringing them to the commission soon. Telephone franchise agreements with AT&T and S&T are in the

hands of City Attorney Jeff Mason, Hill said. Hill thanked the commission for sponsoring him in the Leadership Sherman County program. “I think it was very good for me,” he said, “as a new person to learn all those things about the county and school district and to meet the people.” Commissioner Annette Fairbanks said she has been walking her dog around the city parks and thinks it is becoming disgraceful that people don’t pick up after their pets. She wanted Steve Criswell, city code enforcement officer, to check and see if there is an ordinance, and to see if the city could put a “dog-poop-bag dispenser and receptacle” in the parks. Criswell said he thought there was an ordinance requiring owners to clean up after their pets, but would check it out. Commissioner Josh Dechant asked who was responsible for the benches on Main. He said he has been asked about the way they face in toward the buildings, and wondered if some of them could be turned to face the street. Commissioner Dave Daniels said it would be easier if the backs were cut off so people could face either direction. Mayor Rick Billinger said he thought a beautification committee put the benches in, but agreed they could look at turning every other one around. He asked Pubic Works Manager Rich Simon if they could be turned around. Simon said he would have to look, but thought it could be done. Billinger said he is wondering if there is a place on city property where a pet cemetery could be established. “I think we can find some property for a pet cemetery,” he said. “I think we have run into some problem with the disposal of animals. People want a place to bury their

family pets.” Criswell said he was surprised someone hasn’t stepped up to do this, and asked if anyone had talked with the Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter organization. The meeting started at 5 p.m. and adjourned at 8:10 p.m. The next meeting will be 5 p.m. on Monday, April 17, at the City Administration Building, 204 W. 11th. To enter the building press the button on the wall inside the main front door.

Brewster All-Star Booster Club

Calendar for April 12 - April 18

Thursday: High school golf at Hill City, 3 p.m.

Friday: Good Friday; no school

Monday: No School

Tuesday: High School varsity golf at Scott City; 3 p.m.; junior varsity golf in Goodland, 2 p.m.; junior high track in St. Francis, 2 p.m.; Board of Education meeting, 7 p.m.

The Goodland Star-News

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Crossword Puzzle

		1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8
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59						60				

CLUES ACROSS

1. Gaze
6. School organization
9. Luminous intensity unit
11. Cleaning implement
12. Tinge or color
14. Humorous uses of a word
16. ____rina: wind instrument
17. Arabian marketplace
18. Nursery tale heroine
21. Hovel
22. Singular of have
23. Prong
24. Painfully tender
25. To keel over
27. Surely (archaic)
28. Left a mark on
30. Current units
33. This (Spanish)
34. Luggage deliverers
38. Trips around a track
41. More impoverished
42. Vestments
43. Superficial, nonchalant
44. Government revenue
45. Magnetomotive force, abbr.
48. Characters with 18 across
52. ____tha: Bewitched child
53. Affirmative
54. ____ngton: famous Duke
55. Quality of color
56. Stuff
57. Threatens
59. Omaha Public Schools (abbr)
60. Weird and scary

CLUES DOWN

1. Fire
2. Explosive
3. Promotion of a product
4. Finds a state of rest
5. 12th Jewish month
6. Goes ahead
7. Stable gear
8. Turkish leader title (plural)
9. English King 1016-1035
AD
10. As well as
12. Thyrotrophin
13. An informal debt instrument
15. Indian instrument
18. ____baldi: Italian patriot
19. Former Italian currency
20. Singleness, wholeness
22. To what extent
24. Heartbeat
25. A radio band
26. Remaining after all deductions
29. Delaware (abbr.)
30. Associated Press (abbr.)
31. Item for cleaning floors
32. Software systems
35. Shallowest Great Lake
36. Jewish spiritual leader
37. Not junior
38. Comfort station
39. Expression of sorrow or pity
40. Telephone switch
45. Netherlands river
46. Million barrels per day, (abbr.)
47. Expresses distaste, disgust
48. Beginner
49. Pile
50. Threatened tree
51. Away from wind
52. You
55. ____-fi (slang)
58. A noble gas

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