

Alumni promenade



Dancers promenaded in a circle dance during a square dance session Friday night at Marie Edwards Hall. With the all-school reunion in town, there were a lot of visitors from other areas, including Topeka, Grand Junction, Colo., and Arizona. Over 30 dancers were there at a time, with many coming and going throughout the night. There were many seasoned square dancers and some who were dancing for the first time. Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

Businessman complains about out-of-town buying

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News
A downtown Goodland businessman appeared at the Sherman County commissioners' meeting on Tuesday to complain about the money being spent out of the county for supplies.

Keith Bracelin, owner of Shores Bumper to Bumper, 1615 Main, said he planned to be back if the county keeps buying things elsewhere it could get here.

The subject of purchasing out of county has come up at least once a year for the past two years. Bracelin said he came to the commissioners two years ago when Carolyn Applegate, then economic development director, brought the subject up.

"Guys I am here, and am not going to stop coming until there are some changes," Bracelin said. "I am going to be a thorn in your side until things change."

"If I can't compete, I will shut up. If I can compete I will not stop until we can get something started. I have talked to a lot of people and I will have them in here. I have been talking to people all over the place."

"You are elected officials, and here we are going out of county and buying things. I think it is time we did something about it."

Bracelin brought up a purchase of spikes by the road crew from Burlington Home Center in May.

He said invoice records checked by County Clerk Janet Rumpel show that Steve Goodman, road and bridge superintendent, signed at Burlington Home Center for 50 spikes at 80 cents each on May 11 on the road and bridge accounts, for 50 spikes at 80 cents each on May 24 for the landfill, for 100 on June 2 at \$1.25 each for road and bridge.

"That guy was so tickled to get rid of those spikes," Bracelin said. "He was even more tickled when you ordered two more boxes."

"Can you show me how much was saved with all those trips?"

Commission Kevin Rasure said he had talked to Chuck Bohme at Millers Home Center, and the price of spikes there was cheaper.

"I don't know about that," Bracelin said, "but Bohme will be with me

when I come back. This is not a popularity contest. I think it is important to spend the money in the county."

"I explained the nail thing to you," said Curt Way, county public works manager. "Now you are here telling a different story."

"I have learned a few more things since I was out to see you," Bracelin replied.

"You pay attention to what we buy out of town," Way said. "Do you look and see what we buy in town?"

"Sometimes there is a higher cost here in town or it is cheaper to get an item from another place."

"When it comes to tax money, I want a chance to get the business," Bracelin said. "I have a right to make a profit."

"Maybe you need to start ordering motor grader blades and parts," Way said.

"I don't know what all the answers are," Bracelin said. "I think there are things getting overlooked. This has probably been going on for 10-15 years. We are probably spinning our wheels."

"Do you want us to save taxpayer dollars or pay a higher price in town?" Way asked.

"In Thomas County," Bracelin replied, "the policy is that if it is 20 percent higher buy it in town."

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said he had suggested about a year ago having a form to show where things were bought and who was checked with in town for prices.

"I think that would solve a lot of the questions," Rasure said. "I think the businesses would like to have information on what was purchased in town."

"We can spend hours and hours checking when we need to have something right away," Way said.

"You say you are doing it (price checking)," Rasure said. "Then write it down. That is all I am asking."

"I don't think that would be a problem," Commissioner Mitch Tiede said. "I know they are checking prices."

"I would like to see what was paid," Bracelin said. "I would like

to have something to go back to my people to get a better price."

"We are not going to buy something without a spec sheet," Way said, "even if it is cheaper, and ruin one of those high-priced graders."

"I think you are implying that we are buying out of town because we don't want to buy locally."

"I want to stop and think about it," Bracelin said. "I had better go before I really blow up. I'll be back and bring some more proof."

Rasure said he would like to ask for the purchase form to be used.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas asked if it would be for everything that was purchased.

"It would not mean every place in town is called every time," Tiede said.

"We try to spread it around," Way added.

Thomas said that was not true for everything.

"There are only two bulk dealers on diesel," hesaid.

"What about the other places in town?" Bracelin asked, standing by the door. "All the places ought to have a chance to bid on the fuel. It is all tax money."

"They are not going to give you a set price for fuel," Tiede said. "I would go along with the form showing who was checked with and the price that was quoted."

"We do not buy that much out of town," Way said.

"This would help document where things are being bought," Rasure said.

"I know everyone is feeling a pinch," Way said. "I think I have a responsibility to save tax dollars. I try to buy what I can in town."

"A year ago, no one wanted to do that (use the form)," Rasure said. "I think the businessmen in town have a right to know what the cost is he is competing with."

"I will dig that form back out. It is a simple form."

"Do we want to do the form with all departments?" Thomas said.

"That is what it is for," Rasure said.

World War II hanger to be demolished soon

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News

An old barrel hanger at Renner Field dates back to World War II and the training of glider pilots, but the building is considered unsafe and will be demolished by the city.

City Manager Wayne Hill told the city commissioners at their meeting last Monday, Aug. 7, that he had talked to the airport board about the hanger, and the members agreed it was unsafe and should be torn down.

Hill said there was some discussion about trying to save the hanger for the historic connection, but the cost to strengthen the building would be more than it is worth.

"The airport board agreed that the hanger should come down," Hill said. "We will figure out how to get it down. Rich Simon, public works manager, has a pretty good plan."

Hill said the old concrete would be hauled to the city's pile rather than taking it to the county transfer station.

Hill told the commission the street sealing was done, and he is satisfied with how it looks.

Simon said the crew will be fog sealing the streets on Tuesday and Wednesday, Aug. 29-30, and that the streets will have to be closed for at least two hours. He said there would be notices again, and cars will have to be off the streets.

Hill said the street sealing program was one of the things he had noticed when he first visited the city over a year ago, and that it was one of the best street programs he had seen.

The new heat pumps are mostly in at Steever Water Park, Hill said, but the city is waiting on a power panel before installing the pumps.

Hill said he wanted to wait until the water park closes for the season to do the installation, which will require digging a trench across the street to where the heat pumps will be installed.

"We will run two six-inch lines for the incoming cold water and the outgoing hot water," Hill said. "There will be a one-inch line to allow the crews to clean the pumps."

Mayor Rick Billinger asked

about keeping water in the pools while the pumps are installed to see if they work.

"Got to leave it full or drain it out," Simon said.

"I'm just suggesting it," Billinger said. "We want to make sure they work."

Hill said a problem with keeping the water in the pools is that the city will have to continue to treat the water and spend extra time and money to maintain the pool.

"I've seen that it works," Hill said about the heat pumps. "I can tell you that Simon and the city crew want this done right, and will make sure everything is properly put in so we don't have any slippups."

Hill said he and Steve Criswell, city building inspector, had met with Jeff Mason, city attorney, about the problem of handling clean-up nuisances.

He said the three looked at a model ordinance that would change the present process and allow the city to cite people for nuisances without going directly to court.

Criswell said the new procedure would send a notice to the homeowner to clean up the property, and give them a specific time to have it done. He said the homeowner could request a hearing with the city commission.

He said it would be up to the commission to make a decision. The homeowner could appeal to the district court if they did not like the commission's decision.

"I think it is a way to help clean things up," Hill said.

"This is to clean up their yards?" asked Commissioner John Garcia.

"It is a lot more specific than the ordinance we now have," Criswell said.

Billinger said it sounded like a good idea.

Hill said he would have a draft ordinance back to the commission soon.

Garcia had asked Hill in July about getting the curbs downtown repaired, and at that time Hill had said he would see what could be done.

"It is usually the responsibility of the landowner to maintain the

curb," Hill said. "I asked Criswell to see what other cities are doing about curb and gutters."

"We are one of the few cities that require the property owner to do this. I want to get you thoughts, but I was thinking we could re-look at this."

Criswell said he had talked to code enforcement people around the state and found that most of the cities are taking responsibility for the curbs and gutters, but not the sidewalks.

He said Kansas City, Kansas, has an incentive program for replacing curbs where the city will pay half the cost. In Concordia, the city crew does the work and the homeowner pays for the concrete.

Hill said it would be possible to set up a five-year plan where the city will replace curbs in sections of town. He said this would not address sidewalks, as those are considered the responsibility of the owner by every city that Criswell contacted.

"I want to have you kick that around and get our thoughts," Hill said. "We end up doing the curb and gutter in some areas where we have to have proper drainage."

Garcia said he brought up the repair of the curbs because he had been approached by people to have the city come in and fix them. He was glad that Hill was looking into this.

City Commissioner Josh Dechant asked City Clerk Mary Volk if the water park numbers had been down this year since the city was unable to heat the pool. The water was cold until things warmed up in July.

Volk said the money and numbers have been down a little. She said she did not have the specifics with her, but knew they were down.

Billinger said he wanted to give McB's a pat on the back after the company had bought all the unclaimed bicycles and parts from the city in July.

"I found they had given them to several kids who needed them," Billinger said.

"I have already had some of those stolen and we recovered them," Police Chief Ray Smee added.

The next city commission meeting will be 5 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 21. The commission meets upstairs in the City Administration Building, 204 W. 11th. To enter, push the button on the west wall inside the first set of doors.

corrections

A story about teacher negotiations on the front page of the Friday, Aug. 11, *Goodland Star-News* should have said that most of the new money the school district will get can only be used for at-risk or low-income students or to help students who do *not* meet the proficiency standards on state tests. The word *not* was omitted due to reporter error.

□□□□□
The Goodland Star-News *will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.*

Ride goes to Salt Lake

A motorcycle caravan of veterans will roar west along I-70, zipping through Goodland about 7 a.m. Sunday headed for Salt Lake City.

The riders are headed to the American Legion's national convention and raising scholarship money for children of U.S. military personnel killed on duty since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

It will be the third motorcycle caravan to go through Goodland on I-70 this summer, but this is the first one going west.

Tom Bock, American Legion national commander from Aurora, Colo., will lead the ride from the national headquarters in Indianapolis, to Salt Lake City for the Legion's 88th national convention

Senators plan stop here

Kansas' two U.S. senators will be in town Monday and next Tuesday as part of separate tours of western Kansas while Congress is in recess.

Sen. Pat Roberts will be in Goodland at 7:30 a.m. Monday at the assembly room in the administration building of the Northwest Kansas Technical College. The Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a coffee, and everyone is invited.

Roberts will be at the college for about an hour before he heads to Colby for another coffee at 10 a.m. Mountain Time at the conference

starting Tuesday, Aug. 29.

The riders will leave Indianapolis on Friday and arrive at Leavenworth on Saturday for a wreath laying ceremony at the Buffalo Soldier Monument. They will spend the night in Hays before heading for Bock's hometown. Sunday evening, the riders will travel to Longmont, Colo., for an evening.

Donations collected along the ride route will be presented to Bock at the national convention.

For information about the American Legacy Run and the American Legion Riders, call Bill Sloan at (317) 630-1321 or e-mail wsloan@legion.com.

room of the Thomas County office complex on Range Avenue.

Sen. Sam Brownback stop in Goodland at 2 p.m. next Tuesday, at the Chamber of Commerce office at 10th and Main.

Need a Ride?

Call General Public Transportation Bus Services are available within the City limits of Goodland, Kansas

To schedule a ride call:

Monday thru Friday
9:00 am to 3:00 pm MST
785-899-5082

Donations are accepted
Handicap Accessible

"Project Funded in part by the KDOT Public Transit Program"

EDWARD'S ANNUAL TRUCKLOAD FRUIT & VEGGIE SALE

*** ONE DAY ONLY! ***

Friday, August 25

"Starting at 7 a.m. sharp till Mid-Afternoon!"

Location: Junction of Hwy. 40 and Hwy. 27, Sharon Springs, Kan.



Dr. Brown and Staff would like to invite you to their 5 year Anniversary Party on August 18, from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. CST. Come meet our new Hygienists Lisa House and Mikayla O'Dea. Appetizers, dessert and drinks provided.

Great Plains Family Dentistry

201 W. Broadway - Leoti, KS
(888) 374-7900 fax (620) 375-4588