

# Festival committee asks city for power help

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

With the Flatlander Fall Festival only a couple of weeks away — Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 23-24 — organizers asked the City Commission on Tuesday to help get electricity to vendors on Main.

The commission told City Manager Wayne Hill to try to help the committee, but if it is too expensive to come back to them in two weeks.

Brent Wood from the committee said vendors often blow the breakers on the current makeshift power supply.

“Every year, we are looking for sources

of power for the vendors,” Wood said. “There are two towers we borrow from the Chamber and use, but we continue to blow breakers on those towers.

“I was wondering if we could get more power to Main to allow for more power for the vendors.”

Wood suggested use the existing outlets on the light poles where the Christmas decorations plug in.

“I am asking if we can run a cord down to the street to help solve some of our electricity issues,” Wood said.

“I have talked to Wayne (Hill, city manager) about it. We have talked about the dif-

ferent issues, who will pay for the cords and who will put them up and take them down.”

Hill said Charlie Bandel, electrical distribution superintendent, he did not think that was a good idea.

Bandel said the problem is that there is no way to control what is plugged in by each vendor, and that it could end up blowing fuses and possibly burning up the wire.

“The light poles are not equipped for that now,” Bandel said.

“We would have to rewire the whole street. We can’t overload that circuit.”

Wood agreed that part of the problem is controlling how many items the vendors try

to plug in.

He said they have had problems with this in the past, and tried to run power from the businesses on Main.

However, he said that just blew breakers in the businesses.

“We may need to run more power to Main,” Wood said. “Electricity is always a problem for the festival.”

“I think the commissioners agree this is important,” Mayor Rick Billinger said. “I would ask you to work with Wayne and Charlie to work out something.”

Wood said the problem might be the cost to get the cables from the alley to Main.

Hill said the solution might be costly, but he would work with Charlie to come up with something.

The commissioners agreed the three blocks from 10th to 13th are where most of the electrical use is.

“If it gets to expensive, come back to us in two weeks,” Billinger said. “We need to try to find a way to help.”

“We are willing to help if a cost analysis is given to us,” Wood said. “We can find some support. Where there is a will, there is a way.”

# Christmas display to get permanent foundation

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

Goodland’s community Christmas display soon will have a permanent place in the ground at the Goodland Regional Medical Center.

The hospital’s board voted at its regular meeting Monday, Aug. 28, to allow the Goodland Rotary Club to put permanent mounts in the ground around the hospital to hold the annual nativity display.

The Christmas display has been put up around the hospital each year since 1988 until last year. Stakes holding the panels were driven into the ground to put it up.

Time, weather and wear had left many panels unusable. The Goodland Rotary and Lions clubs moved the pieces to the old Corner Garage paint shop in March for major repairs.

Josh Dechant, a Rotarian and vice president of Bankwest, has been in charge of raising money to restore the display, with the Sherman County Community Foundation handling the cash. Dechant asked the hospital board for permission to install a permanent structure in the ground to hold the pieces of the holiday scene.

The structure would make the display last quite a bit longer, Dechant said, and would make it so it “doesn’t take an engineer” to put the display up. With the structure, said Darren Neufeld, a hospital



Volunteers helped unload one of the panels for Goodland’s community Christmas display that will be restored. The display was put up around the Goodland Regional Medical Center every year until last Christmas, when damage and deterioration forced sponsors to shelve it. Workers (above, from left) include Koren Dechant,

Richard Stramel, Darren Kannady, Ed Carleton, Trevor Linton, Darin Neufeld and Josh Dechant. Ron Lucas, owner of Goodland Greenline, provided a truck to move the panels.

Photos by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

board member and engineer who is also a Rotarian, the scene wouldn’t be damaged when being put in the ground. It has not been in good enough shape to last this long, he said, and even with the permanent

mounts will not last forever.

“I don’t see us having an addition to the hospital during the time this would be around,” he said.

The foundation has collected just shy of \$14,000 so far for rebuilding

the set, said Kin Huang, president of the community foundation board.

Also at the meeting, the board said good-bye to Administrative Assistant Dianna Briney, whose last

day was Thursday. Briney has worked at the hospital six years, two at the outpatient clinic and four as assistant to Administrator Jay Jolly. “She has been a right and a left arm and will be very much missed,”

he said.

Briney has taken a job scheduling appointments at the cancer center at Hays Medical Center. The board’s next meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 25.

# Technical college starts with picnic

The school year started out with a picnic for the students at the Northwest Kansas Technical College, helping them ease the pain of having to crack the books.

Then hammers swung, scissors clipped, engines cranked and instructors droned as classrooms came to life.

The first day of classes was Thursday, Aug. 17, in the school’s 42nd year. A total of 259 students enrolled, down 27 from last year. The largest enrollment the school has had was 602 in 1999, when some electronics programs had four-year

waiting lists.

“We are very excited about the year,” said President Ken Clouse.



Clouse

Several programs are not full, Clouse added, so the college increased recruiting efforts and have added 1 1/3 more staff.

“We have increased our recruiting efforts in Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado,” he said. “Previously, we concentrated on 150 radius but have increased that to 200 to 225 miles.”

The college plans to have another new program next year.

“We are busy setting up for the

respiratory technology to open the fall of 2007,” Clouse said. “The instructor will start in October, getting the equipment lined out and get the accreditation started.”

Clouse said the program will start admitting students in January.

The school has worked hard, he said, to prepare for a team from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association for overall accreditation, due in February.

He said the college hopes to be fully accredited or at least a candidate. A trial run with a mock team in October will help the staff prepare, he said.

The diesel technology program is

planning a 11,000-square-foot addition, with construction beginning this fall, Clouse said.

“I am very excited that JoAnn Wahrman (former Goodland High School librarian) has come out of retirement to help develop our library,” he said.

The school has 15 departments, auto body repair, automotive, business, carpentry, communications network, communications, computer graphics, cosmetology, diesel, electrical, electronics and computer, medical assistant, welding, engineering, and heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration.

## corrections

An obituary for Glenn Amos in the Tuesday, Sept. 5, edition of *The Goodland Star-News*, said incorrectly that services would be at 11 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 11. They were at 11 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 7. This was a reporting error.

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A story about the closing of Conservation Service offices on the front page of the Tuesday, Sept. 5, edition, incorrectly identified the Sherman County district conserva-

tionist as Fred Hall. He is Fred Wedel. This was a reporting error.

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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.*

## matters of record

### District Traffic

The following fines were paid in the Sherman County District Court:

**July 3** — Linda B. Adams, \$126 for speeding.

Troy A. Gray, \$108 for speeding and \$10 for no seat belt.

**July 4** — Curtis L. Bartlett, dismissed for no liability insurance.

**July 5** — Garrett L. Johnmeyer, \$138 for speeding.

**July 9** — Nelson Millan Chavez, \$114 for speeding, \$20 for no child seat belts and \$10 for no seat belt.

Joel L. Murrieta, \$126 for no child seat belts.

**July 10** — Alberto O. Gonzalez, \$156 for speeding and \$20 for no child seat belts.

**July 12** — Stephen A. Scott, \$114 for speeding and \$10 for no seat belt.

**July 14** — Kelly M. Long, \$132

for speeding and dismissed for no liability insurance.

Charles B. Martin, \$126 for speeding.

**July 15** — Melissa G. Phillips, \$156 for speeding.

**July 19** — Alexis Wolfe, \$165 for speeding.

**July 21** — Paul B. Montoya, \$138 for speeding and dismissed for no liability insurance.

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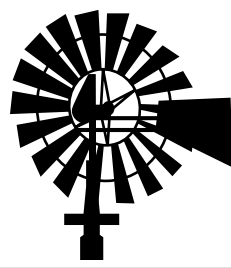
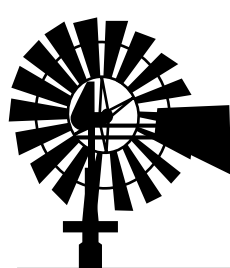
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