

Road projects lead Top 10 list

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hired to handle the sale.

The winner was UMB Bank of Kansas City with the low interest rate of 4.29 percent on the \$12-million bond issue.

Todd Loesch, bond consultant from Davidson, said the winning bid will mean a total interest cost of \$5,678,343 over the life of the bonds.

A Federal Express envelope arrived before the bidding, and when Rasure opened it, there was a check from UMB for \$240,000, the deposit required for the sale.

"They must have been pretty con-

fidant," Rasure said.

Charlie Langhoff of the Davidson office in Denver said the winning bid on investment of the county's money was from Aegon for 5.055 percent. He said the spread between the interest paid on the bonds and the interest the county makes on the money should add about \$125,000 to the road project.

Loesch said with the interest rates established, it would be critical to meet the spending dates for the projects set under state and federal law. The first will be in March, when 10 percent (\$1.2 million) of the project money has to be spent.

Commission split over design engineer

The results of the special sales tax election had barely been counted when the Sherman County commissioners split on hiring an engineering firm to design the county road projects, and the ensuing dispute turned out to be Goodland's second top story of the year.

The split brought out a room full of people, and created a four-way race for the Republican nomination for the commission seat held by Chuck Thomas. Thomas survived the primary by 14 votes, the pulled past a write-in campaign in November to win another four-year term.

Design plans for the city street projects were explained to the county commissioners April 11, and City Manager Wayne Hill said the city had given engineer Darin Neufeld permission to proceed with replacement of the intersections at Caldwell and Eighth and Armory Road with new concrete.

Neufeld handles the city's engineering work for Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates with offices at Renner Field.

County Commissioner Kevin Rasure said he thought it would be good to have one firm design and coordinate all the road projects.

Commissioners Mitch Tiede and Chuck Thomas said, however, it would be fair to give Penco, a Plainville firm which had worked for the county, a chance to do the projects. The commissioners agreed to have Public Works manager Curt Way contact Penco and have a representative at the next meeting.

About 30 people filled the seats and stood around the walls of the commissioners' room on April 18 to listen, ask questions and comment as the commissioners heard from Jerol DeBoer, an engineer and owner of Penco, and Neufeld.

Nearly everyone in the audience, it seemed, had come to support

Neufeld and urge the commissioners to choose the local firm.

Rasure made a motion to hire Evans, Bierly, but there was no second. Commissioners Tiede and Thomas decided to table the question until a special meeting the next Tuesday.

The tussle over the design contract was decided in favor of the Plainville firm on a 2-1 vote on April 25, with about 45 supporters in the room.

Things took another twist in early May when DeBoer told the commissioners the road projects could take a year or two longer because his firm did not have enough staff to get them all ready by the end of the year.

Faced with a two-year delay on a key road, the commissioners switched gears and split the contract.

The decision gave Evans, Bierly, which promised to do the work this year, a piece of the county's project, and accelerated the county's share of the work from a three- or four-year project to one or two.

County roads in the joint city-county program are old U.S. 24 across the county, five miles of Eighth Street west of K-27 to County Road 14, Road 14 from old U.S. 24 to Eighth Street and Road 16 from old U.S. 24 to Eighth Street.

The commissioners decided — after two hours of discussion — to give the asphalt work to Penco and the concrete work on County Road 14 to Evans, Bierly. All would be ready for bids by next spring.

The commissioners approved the design contract with Penco for old U.S. 24 for a cost not to exceed of \$125,000.

After the contract decision, Neufeld decided to run for the commission seat held by Thomas, but finished second in the four-way primary. Neufeld decided in October to run as a write-in against Thomas, but again finished a close second in a three-way race.

Youth elected national president

Hard work has paid off for Goodland High School senior Michael Smith, who was elected national president of the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America on July 12 at Nashville, Tenn.

Smith said after he started high school and found out about the group, he thought, "One day I want to be national president."

FCCLA, he said, is the only school club that has its focus on family values.

To apply for a national office, Smith said, you have to be a state officer, and Smith was state president for 2005-2006. The selection includes three days of interviews, a dinner interview and an essay, he said. Behavior interviews focus on how you have been a leader, Smith said. The committee decides if and what office you get, he said; you don't campaign.

One of the things he's done since taking office was attend a White House conference on school safety on Tuesday, Oct. 10, at a 4-H conference center in Chevy Chase, Md., near Washington. He got to make the final comments from the audience to President George Bush and shake the president's hand.

"I didn't know what to expect at the conference," Smith said, adding that the session really didn't come up with any plan, but meeting the people and the networking was great.

"I have gotten used to speaking in front of people," Smith said, adding that each speech is different but he always uses his two favorite quotes: "You must be the change you want



Goodland High School senior Michael Smith, national president of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, talked to Cecil and Wanda Schneider and Glenda Parks at the annual holiday dinner for senior citizens. The club helped host the event with the American Field Service and National Honor Society given by the Goodland School District. Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

to see in the world," by Mathatma Gandhi and, "I can do all things through Christ Jesus who give me strength," from St. Paul's letter to the Philippians 4:13.

Smith is taking a full class load, including English composition, calculus, physics, American government, Spanish 4, Xpressos, and independent study in leadership from Sarah Short, his sponsor for Family, Career and Community Leaders.

He said the teachers have been worked with him since he has been



These horses at Tim Armknecht's place at 6975 K-27 prompted an animal-cruelty case in March. Sheriff's officers found 10 hungry horses and four dead ones. The survivors were rounded up by

Ryan Hill, who works for Charley Herl, to be loaded into a trailer and taken to the Prairieland Animal Clinic.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Couple charged in animal-cruelty case

The third top story in the year was a tale involving a couple and 10 horses.

On Tuesday, Feb. 28, a man called the Sherman County sheriff's office to report that horses in a pasture north of town at 6975 K-27 appeared to be malnourished. Four had died and their bodies had been left in the pasture.

Deputy Jason Showalter and Undersheriff Roger Studer said they went to the Tim and Shauna Armknecht place, about five miles north of Goodland.

Showalter said they found 10 horses with no food or water. He said from their appearance the horses had none for several weeks.

He found four dead horses, including a mare and her foal.

"From the way two of the dead horses were sinking into the ground, they appeared to have been dead from three to four weeks," Showalter said.

Sheriff's officers loaded the hungry horses into trailers and took them to Prairieland Animal Clinic, where they recovered. Later, all of the horses were put on pasture under the care of the veterinarian as their condition improved.

The 10 were sold at the Colby Livestock Auction Monday, April 3, following an agreement by the parties, said Scott Showalter, who was handling the case for the Sher-

man County attorney's office.

The Armknechts originally were charged with 14 counts of animal cruelty, class A misdemeanors which carry the penalty of one year in jail and/or \$2,500 fine for each count. They were charged with four counts of unlawful disposal of an animal carcass, which carry a fine of \$100 for every 24 hours for each count.

Tim Armknecht pleaded guilty to three counts of cruelty to animals, a Class A nonperson misdemeanor, on Monday, Nov. 6. His wife, according to court records, is close to coming to an agreement with the county attorney similar to her husband's.

"I chose to plead guilty to three

counts of cruelty based on the fact that three horses were sick and hadn't received care from a veterinarian," he said. "That part of the Kansas statute doesn't require intent to establish neglect. I did provide reasonable care to the animals, including feed, but they were sick."

Tim Armknecht was placed on supervised probation for a year and unsupervised probation for another two. If he violates probation, he could spend 30 days in jail for each of the three counts.

He had to pay court costs of \$128, his attorney's fees, a fine of \$3,000 and a probation fee of \$25. Under the agreement, Armknecht cannot own, lease or board horses for 10 years.

Steel frames going up at Goodland Energy Center

The steel framework for the coal-fired power plant reaches skyward at the Goodland Energy Center at Caruso, five miles west of town, making work on the center Goodland's No. 4 story of the year.

Dirt work began in the spring, and a groundbreaking in May brought a celebration. About 170 people, including many of the investors in the three partnerships, gathered for the event.

Three separate yet interrelated businesses are building facilities in the complex. When the plants are in operation, officials expect 70-100 jobs will be created.

Goodland Energy Resources LLC is building the coal-fired "co-generation" power plant and will be providing wholesale electric power to the City of Goodland and steam to other plants in the complex.

E Caruso LLC has received an air

quality construction permit from the state Department of Health and Environment for a 20-million-gallon-a-year ethanol plant.

A third firm, Kanza Energy LLC, received an air quality construction permit and is ready to start construction of a biodiesel production facility.

Later, Roger Marsh, project manager for JMC Engineering, showed off progress at the plant to members of Connie Livengood's earth science class on Wednesday, Dec. 13, as they toured the Goodland Energy

Resources power plant and the E-Caruso ethanol plant.

He told the students the two plants are on target for completion by the end of 2007.

At the power plant site, Marsh explained that the steel framework, which reaches about 100 feet high, is being sand blasted, painted and reassembled from the parts that began arriving in Moorhead, Minn., earlier this year. He showed the students a huge coal bunker which will be installed in the steel

framework.

At the ethanol plant, Marsh said, foundation work is nearing completion and the students watched as cranes lifted pieces of the steel building frame to be bolted into place. Some tanks have been placed, Marsh said, and more are ready to be installed once the concrete stem walls are done.

Work at the center slowed to a crawl with the holiday and snow, but builders say they plan to resume construction in January.



The Goodland Star-News

and The Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce and Ambassadors welcome

McB's Scooters

421 E. 17th, Goodland, Kans. (785) 899-7375

When gas prices soared past \$3/gallon last summer, owners Virgil and Jackie Baumfalk liked the idea of being able to offer folks a way to get the most out of a gallon of gasoline. To them, the answer was in the Scooter. Scooters range in engine size from 50cc's to 500cc's. The 50cc model can reach speeds to 42 mph and the 500cc model can land you in traffic court!

Scooters come in all colors...even pink! McB's has models with sidecars as well which offer a passenger a thrilling adventure. McB's carries 3 lines of scooters: TGB, Genuine and Kymco (pronounced Kime-Co); all of which are economical considering they can go approximately 100 miles to the gallon! When asked why he chose the Kymco brand, Virgil stated that since 1964 Kymco has been building engines and engine components for Honda and they simply make an awesome product. All of McB's scooters boast a 2 Year warranty.

McB's also carries the Kymco line of 4-wheelers which range in engine size from 50cc to

500cc. The 4-wheeler offers a myriad of uses. Whether offering a helping hand on the farm or hauling an elk out of the high country, it offers a stable ride when put to use correctly. The 4-wheelers come with a 1 Year warranty.

Virgil and Jackie purchased Kline Motors in 1986 which puts them in business in the Goodland area for the last 20 years. They have been on the corner at 17th and Cherry streets for the last 10 years. In addition to their scooter and 4-wheeler line, they offer a Full Service gas station, U-Haul Rentals and Wrecker services for both passenger vehicles as well as semis.

Currently, McB's is offering \$200 off any scooter or 4-wheeler for a limited time. Financing is also available for the Kymco line through Sheffields. Look beyond the snow and plan on a greener future, higher gas prices and having tons of fun while keeping gas money in your pocket on your new McB's scooter or 4-wheeler.

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