### Ag Expo highlights related industries



Michelle Shoff, receptionist for Goodland Energy Resources, talked to Steve Riebel of First National Bank at the Energy Center booth at the 16th annual Ag Expo on Thursday at Max Jones Fieldhouse. The center was one of the sponsors of the annual event, put on by KLOE/KKCI/KWGB Radio and the National Sunflower Association.

# County promises help to operate museum

MUSEUM, from Page 1

Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked if there would be enough display space, and Holton said it would be about three times what they have in the current museum.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas asked where the new museum would be.

Holton said the board had planned to build near the east Goodland exit from I-70, but found that the cost to extend the utilities would add \$300,000 to the project. She said the museum has been offered land to the north and back east of the new Holiday Inn Express being built south of the west Goodland exit from I-70, where there are existing utilities.

"What we need is to see if you are interested in partnering with the city on the museum," McMinn said.

She said that she and Holton had talked to the City Commission last Monday, and the commissioners had agreed to support half the operating cost for a new museum.

'Without you, we will not be able to do what we are thinking," McMinn said. "The budget is about \$100,000 each for the city and county. We would hope to have the museum open in two years.

"We know for you it is a giant step. For the city, it is an increase of about \$20,000 a year.'

'Who would own the land?" Rasure

"The city would," McMinn said. "The Irvins (who are building the new hotel) would donate the land."

"You would not need the money for two years?" Thomas asked.

"Yes," McMinn said. "What we need from you is to have a letter saying the county would be willing to help with the operating costs.'

Thomas asked about the matching money for the grants to build the facility.

McMinn said she was looking at several ways to handle that. They might be able to

match some grants against another grant to do this.

Holton said they museum has set up an account through the Sherman County Community Foundation to accept dona-

Rasure asked County Clerk Janet Rumple if a vote would tie the hands of

future commissions. She said the museum would have to make a yearly request to the commissioners, and is the way the county handles all

the organizations. Holton said the museum is wondering about a line item or mill levy so they did not have to come back every year. Rumple said she would have to do some checking.

"At least your are giving us some time," Thomas said.

"I think it is something we should be involved in," Rasure said. "It is a countywide project. I think it is too early to commit any money, but we could support the

"Are you wanting to wait for Commissioner Tiede?" McMinn asked. (Mitch Tiede was absent from the morning meet-

"When do you need a decision?" Thomas asked.

"As soon as possible," McMinn said. 'We are in limbo until we have the support letters. We are applying for tax credits and some grants. We have some time, but we need to get moving soon."

"What was the city reaction?" Thomas

"They were wanting to hear what you had to say," McMinn said. "If you agreed, they would write the letter of intent for the

"I think we are supportive of the project," Rasure said. "I am not sure of the level of support."

The commissioners agreed to put the letter on the agenda for the next meeting.

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