

# City, county added to list of storm-ready areas

By Tom Betz  
The Goodland Star-News

The city street crew drew thanks for its efforts to keep Armory Road open for the National Weather Service during winter storms at a City Commission meeting last Monday. Scott A. Mentzer, meteorologist in charge of the Goodland weather office, said he was not at the city meeting to brief the commission on the winter weather, but he did want to thank the city and the street crew for keeping Armory Road open during the storms.

"We appreciated the work the city crews did," he said. "They did a super job."

Mentzer said the real reason he was at the meeting was to let the city know they had qualified under the Weather Service's Storm Ready City program, and there would be a celebration in April.

"This is quite an honor being bestowed on the city," Mentzer said.

"There have been 21 communities across Kansas designated as storm ready, and Sherman County and Goodland were added to the list about two weeks ago."

He said four people were responsible for getting the city and county designated storm ready, including Gary Rogers, regional emergency management director; Crissy Conger, Sherman County dispatch director and assistant county emergency management director; Judy McKee, Sherman County assistant for emergency management; and David Floyd, severe weather coordinator for the Weather Service.

He said to qualify, the city and county had to demonstrate redundancy for emergency communications, provide severe weather education and improvements in severe weather notification beyond the city siren warning system.

"Five communities in western Kansas have been designated storm ready," Mentzer said, "and three of those are in the southwest."

He said the service is planning a public presentation in late April, and hopes to have signs to be erected on the entrances to town.

City Manager Wayne Hill thanked Mentzer for offering to have an emergency operations command center at the weather office.

Mentzer said he sent proposal to the regional headquarters about two weeks ago. He said someone from the office is coming out to talk to him.

"No red flags have been raised," Mentzer said, "and I hope to hear something in the next week or two."

In other business, the commission:

- Approved a request from the Goodland Girl Scouts to clean up and improve the bathroom and play area at the Centennial Ballpark Complex. Christine Krause, troop leader, said the girls wanted to do this as a community project, and that they would probably do the work after the summer sports were finished in August. She said they want to put a mirror in the women's

restroom and new curtains. Outside, she said, the Scouts want to improve the plants, grass and flowers. They plan to fill the sand box and put a wooden frame around the outside.

Mayor Rick Billinger suggested that Krause talk to Rich Simon, public works manager.

- Approved appointment of Garton Slovacek to fill out Garey Brouillette's term on the library board and then serve a four-year term. Brouillette's term ends on April 30.

- Approved reappointment of Bonnie Selby to a second four-year term on the library board.

- Approved reappointment of Roxie Cabral as the area representative on the Northwest Kansas Community Corrections board. Cabral, who is from Colby, has served on the board for two years and the city agreed to reappoint her for another term.

- Approved reappointment of Billinger as one of the city directors on the Kansas Municipal Energy Agency board. The other two city representatives are Rod Blake,

power plant superintendent, and Charlie Bandel, distribution system superintendent.

- Approved purchase of a camera and root saw for the city sewer department. Simon estimated the cost of the two at \$9,400. Hill said he felt this might save the city some claims for sewer backups. The manager said the city would clean the lines more frequently in the future.

Simon said the worst section is between Sixth and Eighth on Eustis. He said that while Midlands Contracting of Kearney, Neb., is here doing the 17th Street project, he would ask them to bid on replacing the line. He said that it might cost \$25,000 to \$30,000, but the insurance claims have been costly.

Commissioner Josh Dechant asked if there would be problems using a root saw in the old clay tile pipe.

Simon said the saw would work in the system, and if it is kept moving it will not hurt the lines.

Hill said it might help the city's insurance costs in the future if the city can get a preventive maintenance program in place. He said it

would not happen overnight, but would help in the future.

- Heard about plans to repair streets damaged by the winter weather. Simon said the crews were seeing what needs to be torn out and

replaced. He said APAC of Hays is going to have a plant in Thomas County, and the city won't have to haul asphalt from Hays. He said he would get some numbers together and prioritize the streets.

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## matters of record

### Goodland Police

The following crimes have been reported to the Goodland Police Department:

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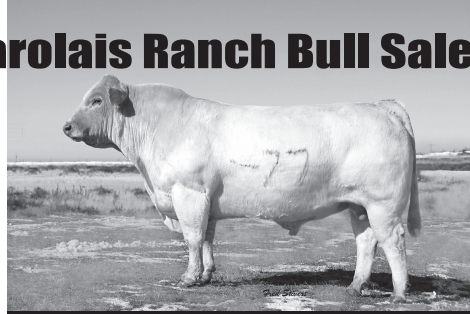
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