

County agrees to help sponsor car races

By Tom Betz

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The Flatlander Fall Classic stock car races will be a bit different this year, the Sherman County commissioners heard Tuesday before agreeing to help sponsor the annual races.

Tom Colby, president of the Sherman County Racing Association, said he hopes the weather is a bit warmer this year and there is less wind, as he is expecting a larger field.

He said the BST (Blood, Sweat and Tears)

modified racing class is going to use the Flatlander races on Friday, Sept. 26 and Saturday, Sept. 27 as the final race for its championship. He said he expects up to 75 cars for those races.

Colby said another reason he is anticipating more cars is the move to the International Motor Contest Association level, which should draw drivers from that circuit.

He said the races will be different. Instead of having a qualifying round on Friday and the finals on Saturday, they will split the prize money and have a complete set

of races each night. He said the top prize of \$5,000 will be split, with \$1,500 going to the winner on Friday and \$3,500 to the winner Saturday.

Colby asked the commissioners if they would be willing to help sponsor the event as they did last year.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said he thought the county gave \$1,000 last year and waived the electrical and rent fees at the fairgrounds. His motion passed unanimously.

Colby asked that the fees for the last set of races be waived because the original

night for the Bill Gray Memorial had been rained out and had been moved to the last date on Aug. 30.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said he felt that would be good because the commissioners had already agreed to waive the fees for the Bill Gray Memorial. He asked Colby if the races had been good that night. Colby said they had a good car count and actually made a little money.

Race expenses have gone up a bit this year, Colby said, adding that the ambulance cost was raised to \$50 per hour beginning

in August. He said in the past, the ambulance service was paid by the evening at a flat fee.

He said another expense this year is replacing the pump on the water trailer at a cost of about \$800.

Tiede asked about rebuilding the pump, but Colby said it is beyond being rebuilt. He said the new pump will include a new motor.

After approving the \$1,000 for the races, the commissioners made a motion to donate \$1,000 to help out the Flatlander Fall Festival Committee.

Seeding planned to stop erosion

By Tom Betz

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Recent rains have caused some erosion along the shoulders of the newly paved County Road 65 west of town, and Tuesday commissioners approved seeding the shoulders with grass to preserve the grading.

Curt Way, public works manager, said the seeding on the road, also known as Eighth Street, west of K-27 to County Road 16 would cost about \$19,000. He said the contractor plans to do the seeding about the first of November, which, he said, is when the state Department of Transportation recommends.

"We don't necessarily conform to the weather for the rest of the state," Commissioner Kevin Rasure said.

"That is the state's recommendation," Way said. "They want the seed is down to catch the winter moisture."

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said the worst erosion is west of County Road 17.

Way said a contractor who is coming back to seed a mile on County Road 16 can do the seeding on Road 65.

Rasure asked who would do the dirt work on the edges to have

them ready. Way said that will be up to the county, as the edges and seeding were not part of the paving contract.

Tiede said the new asphalt surface is higher than the old road, causing the erosion, but they did not think about that when the contract was first approved.

"We need to do the edges and seeding, or the road is going to fall apart," Rasure said.

He said the cost could be paid out of the road project money, but wondered if the county work could be paid from that fund.

Way said he would have to come up with an estimate for his crew's work. Tiede said he should come up with a figure for fuel and labor at least.

Way said the seeding will cost \$19,000 on Road 65 and \$7,000 for Road 16.

Tiede made the motion to do the seeding on Road 65, and Commissioner Chuck Thomas seconded. The motion passed unanimously, and Way said he will let the commissioners know by Tuesday if the seeding is covered in the contract on Road 16.

Masonic Lodge holds essay contest

Juniors and seniors can compete for scholarships by writing an essay on positive role models.

The Masonic Grand Lodge of Kansas is holding its 49th annual essay contest for juniors and seniors in public schools. Contestants are to write on the subject "Do positive role models exist in today's society? Explain."

Winners from the Goodland lodge will compete against those from across Kansas for the state scholarships, said Mason Ken Baum. Winners must enroll in a Kansas tax-supported college, junior college or vocational-technical school, he said.

A total of \$12,000 will be awarded on state level, Baum said. The first-place winner will receive \$4,000, second place \$3,000, third place \$2,000 and fourth place \$1,000. Four honorable mentions will be awarded \$500 each.

Juniors and seniors are urged to contact any Mason for details, Baum said. Essays must be no longer than 500 words, and only winners at the local level are eligible to represent a lodge in the state contest.

Essays must be submitted to the Goodland Masonic Lodge by Friday, Oct. 24. Call Baum at 890-7364 for information.

correction

In the information included under the sports photo of the eight grade Mustang football team on Page 10 of Friday's *The Goodland Star-News* it was reported the seventh grade Mustang football team had lost to Colby. That was incorrect, and after a couple of calls we were able to verify the seventh grade team defeated Colby 14-8. This was a reporting error.

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The Goodland Star-News will

Seeds produce giant sunflower



Hazel Estes of Kanorado said she got a few sunflower seeds from the Home and Garden Show in April and planted them in her garden. Thursday she brought in one of the heads from one that grew about 110 inches tall. The head was 16 inches across and

weighted about 8.5 pounds. She said she cut it down to let it dry out and will put it back up this winter to help feed the birds.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Visitors bureau promotes sites to media

By Sharon Corcoran

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The Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau director got a chance last week to promote the county's sites and events to magazine and newspaper writers and editors as well as broadcast travel journalists.

Director Donna Price met with travel writers and editors, broadcast travel journalists and Internet travel journalists last weekend at the Travel Media Showcase in Kansas City. Price said told the visitors

bureau board at a regular meeting Tuesday she had appointments with writers and had lunch with writers and bounced ideas off them.

"I knew it was going to be good," she said, "but we ended up having appointments with 29 writers."

Writers from across the country attended, Price said, and they were mostly interested in road trips. They are trying to get families off of airplanes, she said, so their kids can see the United States.

One writer from Silicon Valley, Calif., wants to do a story on the

I-70 Association, she said, and another writer had done a story on the Beecher Island battleground west of St. Francis which won an award. He wants to do a story on Kidder Massacre Site in Sherman County and the trail to Fort Wallace, she added.

Price said she shared a booth with several representatives from the Kansas I-70 Association, which was paid for by the association along with \$200 from each community who sent a representative.

In other business, the board:

- Voted to donate up to 50 of the recently ordered lapel pins with the Van Gogh painting on them to be handed out at the regional library meeting if the pins arrive in time.
- Got copies of the new "Ultimate Guide to Northwest Kansas."
- Heard that the I-70 Association's cookbook is expected by Oct. 19. It will have about 300 recipes, Price said.
- Scheduled the next meeting for 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 14, at the visitors bureau office.

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Front view

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