

# City approves runway crack repairs

By Tom Betz  
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The Federal Aviation Administration is out of money, but Goodland has been given permission to proceed with a contract for crack sealing and repair on the crosswind runway and taxiway the commission heard on Monday.

Darin Neufeld, engineer for Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, who is the airport consultant for the city told the commissioners the FAA is giving permission for this kind of project on the hope that Congress will give them money in the spring.

“The FAA has given permission for this to go forward for crack sealing and crack repair on the crosswind runway and taxiway,” he said.

City Commissioner Dave Daniels asked when the project would be done.

“The FAA has no money,” Neufeld said,

“but expects to have money by the first part of the year. If Congress gives them the money it could be done by summer. If not it will be bid, but not awarded if they don’t get the money.”

“We are going to spend \$13,000 for design, but not sure the project will be done,” Mayor Rick Billinger said.

Neufeld said the design work would be completed and if a construction contract is not awarded it would be put on the shelf and be ready for next year.

He said the project is to seal small cracks and repair wider cracks on the runway. He said some of the cracks are wider than what can be sealed and have to be repaired.

Daniels asked if the city would have to pay the design costs if the project is not funded.

“If it is not awarded the city would be responsible for the fees to date,” Neufeld said. “We expect our fees to be about half of

what is listed. The maximum for design is \$10,000 and construction inspection would be \$15,000. Both are the worst case, and we don’t expect the actual to come close.”

He said if the project is shelved the city would be responsible for 5 percent of the design cost, which would be a maximum of \$500.

Billinger asked how much was spent on cracks when they were fixed about four years ago.

Neufeld said it was about \$150,000 and expects this to be about the same.

“That is part of the problem with asphalt,” he said. “We are planning with the city to do a phased replacement of the asphalt with concrete.”

Commissioner Josh Dechant asked how much concrete \$150,000 would buy.

Neufeld said it would not be a large section, and that the plan is to start with the first piece next year that will cost about

\$300,000. He said that will take about two years of the FAA money, which is \$150,000 a year for Renner Field.

“We need to ask Congress to do a bailout for the FAA and our airport,” Daniels said. “We do not need billions, just a million or two.”

Neufeld was asked why the repairs need to be done, and he said they have to be done to allow planes to use the runway.

“Are these the same cracks we fixed before,” Daniels said.

“Not exactly,” Neufeld said. “They are different cracks and some are the ones we sealed last time and now they are big enough to have to do repairs. We have to do repairs on any crack that is wider than one inch.”

Commissioner Annette Fairbanks made the motion to approve the design contract and Daniels seconded. The motion passed 5-0 with Commissioner John Garcia joining the others in voting to approve.

Billinger said the city cost is \$500 for

design, and City Clerk Mary Volk said that is something the city will pay and get reimbursed by the FAA.

City Manager Wayne Hill asked Neufeld to explain the airport consultant selection process the city recently completed.

Neufeld said the city selects a consultant for a five-year period, and that the last five years was up. He said the city has gone through the process and asked for consultant proposals.

“Wayne and two members of the airport board reviewed the proposal and EBH was selected,” he said. “Selecting a consultant saves the city from going through the selection process for each job. It does not tie the city to our firm only, but we are the first place for the city to go for projects.”

“We went through the process and signed off,” Hill said. “Rich Weigand and Larry McCants were the airport board members.”



Santas Christian Michaud (left), Marco Magana, Rudolf Arron Arteaga and Santa Daniel Cepeda were in the fifth grade’s Christmas program on Tuesday night at the Goodland High School Auditorium.

The Santas were trying to convince Rudolf to lead the sleigh.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

## Handy House update given

By Tom Betz  
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The 101-year old Ennis-Handy House has had some unscheduled repairs to the west basement wall and foundation to save the house city commissioners heard at their meeting on Monday.

Dave Branda, president of the Sherman County Historical Society — which owns the antique home — was at the meeting to explain what happened and what is being done to repair the problem.

“I want to inform you about things that have happened,” he said. “We are not asking for a bailout, but we would appreciate any consideration you might do in the future.”

Branda said the unscheduled repairs had to do with the sewer line, and that a couple of years ago when it plugged up they knew there might be a problem. He said when McClure’s routed out the line they found some dirt, and knew this meant a future problem.

“We did not know how bad until this year,” he said. “When the line plugged up again we called McClure’s and they were unable to open the line. They discovered the line under the basement wall had collapsed.”

He said Mike Yarger came to dig a hole to find the line, and when they were digging the basement wall buckled in.

“The state historical society was called,” he said, “because the house is on the historic register and we have to do things properly to preserve the historic appearance.”

“It had to be repaired, and the options were to rebuild the wall as it was, pour a concrete wall with bricks outside or build a block wall and have bricks on the outside. We did the block section and did a larger area than was involved.”

He said the original wall was built on dirt with no footing.

“We poured a footing, laid the blocks and put the layer of brick on

the outside,” he said. “We are waiting for a window to finish.

“I want to thank Yarger for coming to help us, and he put other things on hold.”

Branda said sometime in the future the rest of that wall will have to be replaced because of the weather.

“We did not know the condition of the walls because the inside of the basement was furred out and covered with paneling by the Handy’s in the 1950s,” he said.

“We are going to take care of the house and we wanted you to know because we do get some money from you,” he said. “We went to the county commissioners and they were helpful and are giving us \$7,500 toward the project and for ongoing work.

“We estimate it is between \$7,500 and \$9,000 for the block and wall replacement.”

He said the historical society is going to put up some guttering to help take the moisture away from the house.

Commissioner Dave Daniels asked if the money from the county is for the work already done.

Branda said it was for the repairs that have been done.

City Commissioner Josh Dechant asked if Branda was asking for the same amount to finish the wall replacement.

Branda said he would guess it will cost at least \$5,000 or more to do the rest of the wall, but he does not have a solid estimate on that cost.

Mayor Rick Billinger said that is not anything the city has budgeted, and that he did not feel the city had any money to help at this time.

Branda said he understood, and was at the meeting because he wanted the commissioners to know what was happening.

“We will have a holiday open house from 2 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 14, and I invite you to attend,” he said.

## Fifth graders present holiday concert

By Pat Schiefen  
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Tuesday night North Elementary School fifth graders’ voices filled the air with sounds of the season from traditional to disc to rap at the high school auditorium. Santa and the Grinch showed up.

Even the dreaded fruit cake showed up delivered by the postman from grandma to her family. The family members all told Grandma how much they liked her fruit cake but had to talk fast to not get sent more. Cast included Braxton Redlin, Marissa Bustillos, Takoda Turner, Molly Bollig, Trista Ravenstein and Taitem Jones.

Tone-chimers played by students gave the audience a taste of bell music in “Silent Night.” Players were Sasha Medrano, Orlando Wooten,

Shelby Johnson, Quynnalyn Meyer, Savannah Bassett, Ruby Smith, Alexis Bergquist, Jordan Siruta, Mary Yarbrough, Jovanna Nunez, Skylar Thompson, Kyndell King, Alinexis Castillo-Lozano, Amber Chaffman, Dayne Webring, Cienna Brannick, Katlyn Seeger, Tiffani Benavides.

Disco Santas conferred with Rudolph about delivering Christmas goodies. Aaron Artega was Rudolph and the Santas were Luke Avila, Brevin Bergsma, Daniel Cepada, Alexander Douglas, Marco Magana, Kelbey Smith, Brock Butts, Mario Lazo, Riley Lopez, Yidam Mendoza, Jacob Stasser, Genaro Herrera, Christian Michaud and Hunter Harkins.

Tristan Cooper and T-Aera Abbott added insights into Mr. Grinch

portrayed by Meyer. A group of elves catered to Santa’s whims. Santa was Drew House and the elves were Koal Artzer, Grace Cole, Tanner Gastineau, Austin Hernandez, Dani Mangus, Austin Shelley, Trey Teeter, Saige Vandiver, Mason Fritz and Zachery Walls.

Jaycinda Mireles and Sophia Williams proudly held up American Flags for a patriotic song. Brannick also played a couple of piano solos.

Also singing were Ethan Clemmons, Cole Knitig, Heather Moyer, Chandler Pettibone, Richard Ratcliff, Lacie Siruta, Alec Gonzales, Sarah Johnson, Patricia Ledesma, Sebastian Linnell, Jade Petrachich, Cheyanne Bowers, Lindsey Geeseka, Rheagan Hageman, Heath Johnson, James Julin, Danielle McEl-

haney, Mallory O’Brien, Ethan Black, Rachel Mickelson, Alexis Sampson and Mary Schnabel.

Char Avila was the music teacher for the group Fifth grade teachers include Anne Coon, Jona Neufeld, Paula Fisher and Myron Tedford. Jim Mull is the principal of North Elementary School.

### corrections

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 your calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

## Christmas Open House

**Smitty’s Sports**  
1105 Main  
Downtown Goodland

**Christmas Open House**  
Saturday Dec. 6 from  
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- \* 20% off Storewide!
- \* K-State & NFL Jerseys
- \* Buy 1 get 2nd 1/2 off on Black & Gold apparel
- \* Many other specials throughout store!
- \* So many great gift ideas!

Happy Holidays from all of us!

## High School Holiday Dinner

Mrs. Angelos and the USD 352 Board of Education cordially invite you to attend our Holiday Dinner on December 10, 2008.

11:00 AM-Entertainment by GHS Students  
12:00 NOON-Dinner at Goodland High School

The members of The Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), National Honor Society (NHS), and Girls’ Athletic Association (GAA) will serve as the hosts and hostesses.

Please RSVP before December 8th by call 890-5656. If you need transportation, please call. We will also deliver meals to those who are not able to leave their homes. PLEASE RSVP! Enter through the south doors on 13th Street and don’t forget: valet parking will be available!



To whom it may concern:

This letter is to inform you of the Toys for Tots program for the Goodland Community. As you may know in the past the Goodland Kiwanis Club and the Motorcycle Club have been involved in the Toys for Tots program and are planning on continuing that joint venture. The one thing that has changed is, the Kiwanis Club has done a flag project starting in 2008. The proceeds from this have been earmarked towards the Toys for Tots.

But if you so desire to still participate financially in this wonderful program in helping out with the kids that are not so fortunate at Christmas time, please feel free to send your contributions to:

**Goodland Kiwanis Club/Toys for Tots**  
**P.O. Box 56**  
**Goodland, Kan. 67735**

We will make sure that the kids will be taken care of. Again all funds received and proceeds from our flag project stays here in Sherman County.

**Classified ads work!**  
**Call 899-2338 to place yours.**