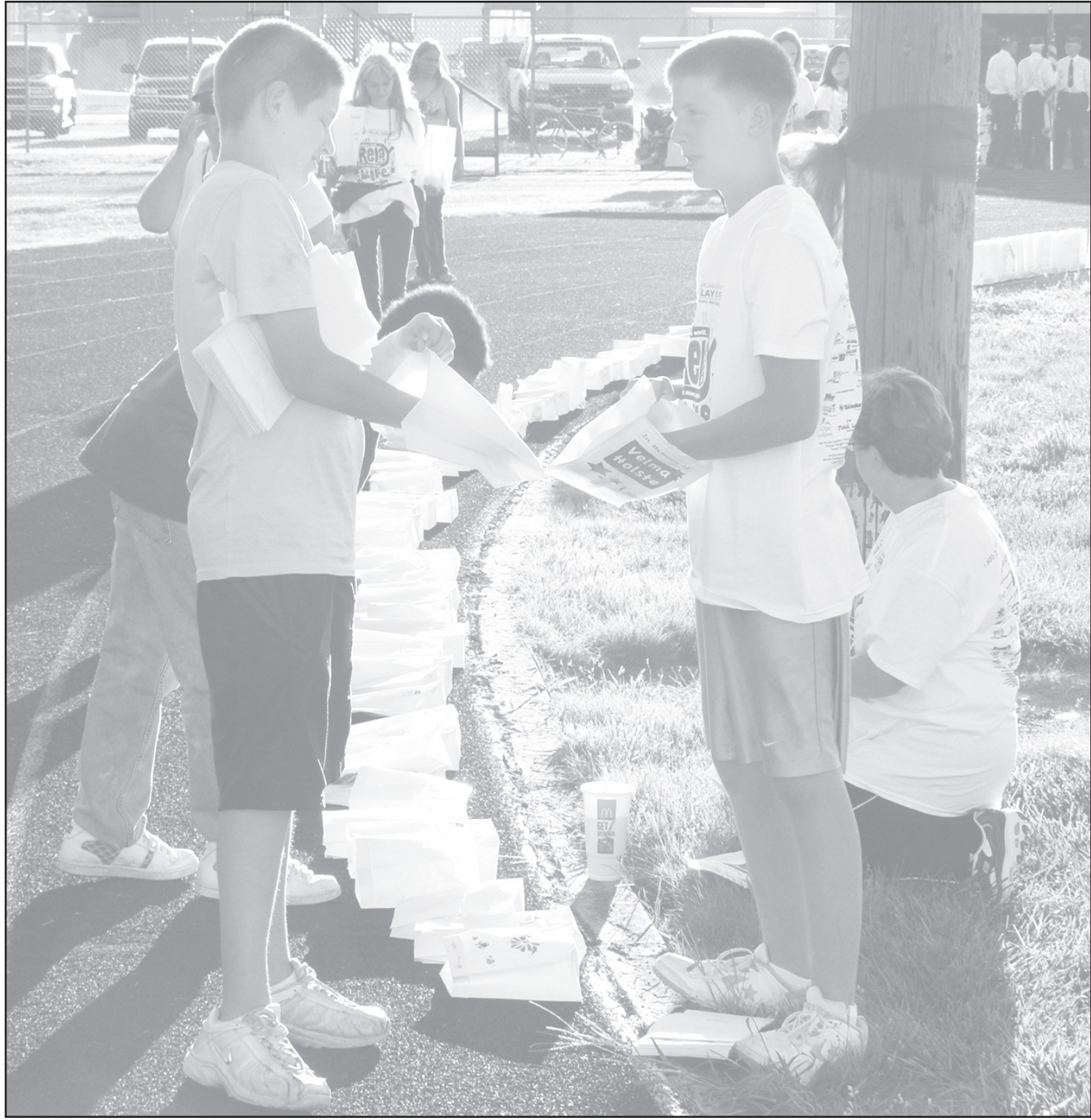


Relay for Life kick off



Pictures taken at the beginning at the Sherman County Relay for Life on Aug. 6 and 7 last year at the Goodland High School track. Ron Barkley (above right) takes pictures of wrestling team members from the Technical College who helped him with his tent. People (left) set up luminaries to be lit later that night.

Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

The kick off for the Sherman County Relay for Life will be at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday at Gambino's Pizza, 402 E. 17th. The event is planned to get teams signed up and anyone who wants to participate in Relay for Life is invited.

The organizers are working hard to make this year's Relay for Life lots of fun for the participants starting on Friday night, June 3 and running all night and ending on Saturday morning at the Goodland High School track. The theme for this year's relay is Lights, Camera, Cure.

Money raised from the Relay does help people fighting cancer in Sherman County. The American Cancer Society offers information at www.cancer.org. The society has housing available for patients undergoing treatment and their families at major cities. They also will give gas cards to help patients pay for gas to go for treatment.

Survivors that graduate from high school and go to college are eligible for a scholarship from the society.

Gambino's will donate 20 percent of purchases from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Thursday to Relay. There is a coupon that has been running in The Goodland Star-News that should be turned in when ordering.

For information about Relay call Ginger Chadwick at 890-2525.

City to purchase replacement for road grader

By Tom Betz
nt.betz@nwkansas.com

Purchase of a used 2009 John Deere motor grader with 186 hours for \$155,150 was approved by the city commission on Monday to replace a 1977 John Deere grader damaged in a snow storm early in January.

City Public Works Director Rich Simon told the commissioners the grader was working the four inches of snow on Jan. 10 when the blade hit a valve riser on Caldwell Ave. Simon said the grader has been temporarily repaired, but the parts to fix it right would be about \$7,000, and he was told the value of the 1977 grader is about \$5,500.

Simon said he had contacted Murphy Tractor and had a mechanic come to help with the repairs. He said Ron McFarland, salesman is the one who said the old grader was worth about \$5,500.

He said McFarland said he knew of a 2009 John Deere that was in warranty in Springfield, Mo., and had been one purchased originally from Kansas Department of Transportation in Salina.

Simon said he had gotten information on two Caterpillar graders a used 2006 with 1,700 hours and a new one. He got the price on a new

John Deere for comparison. The new John Deere would be \$202,151 and a new Caterpillar would be \$169,250. The used Caterpillar was \$155,250.

Simon recommended the used John Deere for \$155,150.

City Manager Doug Gerber agreed with Simon and told the commissioners he felt the option Simon was recommending was the best for the city.

Commissioner John Garcia asked about the older grader and if it was the only one the city has.

Simon said the 1977 John Deere is the oldest and the other is a 1984 that was purchased through KDOT.

Garcia asked about how many hours the city puts on the graders not counting the snow plowing.

Simon said it is about 300 hours a year. He said the one the city has 4,500 hours.

Garcia asked about an extended warranty and McFarland of Murphy Tractor said it would be possible to add two more years for \$3,180. He said the company has a service tech who lives in Colby.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked if the price included getting the grader to Goodland.

Simon said that is a delivered price.

Garcia asked if the city buys the other grader would it be worth repairing the old 1977 and keeping it.

Simon said the city has a smaller blade they are using and did not believe it would be beneficial to keep the other grader.

McFarland said his company has a salvage price, and feels the old one the city has is not worth the cost of repairing.

Gerber said he agreed and that if the city kept the old one it would probably just sit around.

Simon said he would not be confident enough to keep it or take it to a sale. He said he would be concerned about the grader breaking down and the city being blamed.

Garcia made the motion to approve the purchase and seconded by Commissioner Annette Fairbanks. Garcia suggested buying the extended warranty, but Simon said he would rather get the grader to Goodland before making that decision.

The vote was 5-0 and the grader is expected to be delivered in about 10 days.

In other business the commissioners:

- Approved a bid from Miller's Home Center for \$4,973 to replace

carpet in the basement area of the administration building. Gerber said the main floor and upstairs were replaced last year. Miller's bid was below the bid from Wane's Carpet and Drapery of \$5,630.

He said money had been set aside for the carpet replacement. The commissioners voted 5-0 to approve Miller's bid.

- Approved an ordinance for low income utility rates. The ordinance is similar to previous ones approved by the commission, Gerber said. The ordinance sets a low income utility rate for homes with an annual income of \$15,000 or less. Homes with the low income would be eligible for a rate that is 15 percent lower than the current city water rates, and there is no meter charge for the low income customers.

Gerber said it is a potential cost of about \$2,200 for a year for electric and water.

Rasure asked what the income level had been before.

Gerber said it has been \$13,000 and the recommendation was to raise it to \$15,000.

Garcia asked if there are a lot

of customers on the low income rates.

City Clerk Mary Volk said the city has a lot who are right on the edge with what little income they get.

Commissioner Dave Daniels asked if the loss would be similar to the past year.

Volk said she thought it would be about the same.

Daniels made the motion to approve the ordinance and it passed 5-0.

- Approved renewal of the cereal malt beverage license for Goodland Bowladium Lanes, 507 Caldwell Ave.

- Received a letter saying the city had been selected to receive a Small Cities Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$386,300 for the housing project. The letter says the money should become available after a regional technical assistance meeting to be set up in the future.

- Approved moving the next commission meeting to 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 22 because of the federal President's Day holiday on Monday, Feb. 21.

- Heard that the new electronic kiosk is up and running at Goodland Cemetery. Gerber said it is in a temporary location while they get the Eagle Scout project moving.

- Heard the city has a new web site address, and Gerber said with the interactive addition the city is getting questions they did not get before.

- Mayor Josh Dechant asked about the signage at the armory. Gerber said the signage is to put the name of Derrick Lutters on the front and is something the city should have taken care of months ago.

- Held a closed door session for 20 minutes to discuss possible acquisition of real property with the five commissioners, Gerber and Michael Solomon, economic development director. No action was taken when the meeting reopened.

- Held a closed door session for 20 minutes for personnel matters with the five commissioners and Gerber. No action was taken when the meeting reopened and the commissioner adjourned.

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

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Kindergarten Round-Up

Kindergarten Round-Up for next year's Kindergarten class

February 15 & 16, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Catholic Church (307 W. 13th)

For children entering Kindergarten in Fall 2011. For appointment, contact Judy Herl at West Elementary. (785) 890-6163.

****IMPORTANT**** Bring to screening: certified copy of birth certificate, immunization records and copy of social security card!

TAKE CHARGE CHALLENGE

GOODLAND EVENT • FEBRUARY 15, 2011

At the COWGIRLS/COWBOYS BASKETBALL GAME from 5 p.m.-8 p.m. at the Max Jones Field house.



Stop by the Take Charge Challenge booth and learn how you can help our community win \$100,000 efficiency prize, by just making the switch! Sign up for a home energy audit. **For more information please contact the City Office 785-890-4500.**

Soup Supper Silent Auction

Emmanuel Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall
(222 W. 13th, Goodland)

Saturday, February 19 from 4-7 p.m.

Adults \$6.00 • Child \$3.00 • 6 yrs. & under: FREE

Door Prizes

Walmart gift certificates: \$50 & \$25