

# Playground grant sought for Smoky Gardens

COUNTY, from Page 1

with the appointments.

In other business the commissioners:

- Heard a report on the county liability, property, vehicle and errors and omissions policy from Larry Sharp of KCAMP. He said the county has had a good loss ratio for the past four years, and the premium has stayed level and even showed a slight decrease.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said the county paid \$81,315 for all the coverage, and that it has stayed about the same.

Sharp said the Sherman County loss ratio for the past year was 29 percent compared to an average of 66 percent for the 59 county members of the pool.

Linin asked about a local insurance provider, and Rumpel said the county had taken bids several years ago and that KCAMP was lower by

quite a bit. She said the KCAMP group has worked with the county to do safety training and provide assistance for almost any question. She said the county has contacted the KCAMP office for labor issues and other situations.

Sharp told the commissioners he was glad to hear they were taking interest in the condition of the county equipment and tires that could pose a liability issue if there was an accident.

- Opened bids on a furnace for the transfer station from Plains Heating for \$5,530 and from Richs Refrigeration for \$5,900 (plus \$300 to move it closer to the east door). No decision was made, but the commissioners were going to put it on the agenda for Tuesday's meeting.

- Heard from Goodland School Superintendent Shelly Angelos about the school facility issue to be voted on in April. Angelos gave the commissioners a shortened version of the background of how the school board decided to go for a two-school concept and to renovate North into a K-6 and update the high school to make it a 7-12 facility.

She said it was a split decision by the school board, and one of those who was in favor was killed in September making it an even more divided board.

Enfield said he did not know if Angelos had seen the letter about the bond issue he had signed, but wanted her to know he signed it as a private person and not as a county commissioner. He said he had some elderly people approach him saying they could not afford any increase in their taxes because of their fixed incomes.

Angelos said she understands that, but feels the bond issue is the best plan and with the possibility of the \$5.4 million in interest-free money and state aid it is the best financial opportunity the district has

to accomplish the project.

She said the renovated buildings would bring the school district up to the level of being able to provide improved education for the students and give the district a way to handle any future changes for many years to come. She said the upgrades at the high school would allow the junior high students to fit into the building and improve the technology and environment of the building.

"I am not sure there is ever a good time for this," she said, "but it is an investment in our schools, our community and our students. I am sure the decision to build the beautiful Max Jones Fieldhouse was not an easy one, but it has been a great facility for our district and our community."

She said it might have made some difference in the school board's thinking if they had known the county was going to raise the property tax by 13 mills.

Enfield said Chuck Wilkens, school board chairman, had called him and asked if the county was going to be able to drop the property tax level this year. Enfield said he told Wilkens he did not know what was facing the county with all the federal and state cuts coming down in the next several months.

- Approved the emergency management agreement with Cheyenne and Rawlins County to share the management services of Ryan

Murray.

- Went out to the transfer station to look at a vehicle Butch Vandiver, public works superintendent, was asked to change tires on plus a gravel truck he wanted to change tires on. The commissioners decided to put the purchase question on the agenda for Tuesday.

- Talked about the Southwest Bell building at 10th and Main. Enfield said he felt it would be a mistake for the county to move the records to the 17th Street building. The commissioners had been discussing selling the old telephone building. Enfield said after he looked at both buildings he felt it would be better for the county to keep the records in the telephone building.

- Decided to ask the Northwest Planning and Development group to come to a meeting and explain what they do for the county. The commissioners delayed consideration of the \$6,384 annual dues for the group.

Rumpel said the group from Hill City provides grant writing assistance and other programs for the county. She said the grant writer is working on a fire station with the Sherman County fire board.

The next commissioner meeting will be at 8 a.m. on Tuesday at the Sherman County courthouse, 813 Broadway Ave.

## Students research improving town



About 40 students from Central Elementary joined Goodland business owners for a Take Charge Challenge breakfast on Tuesday at the Goodland Elks Lodge. The young students who are part of the rich technology program got to have fun photographing, taping and videoing Travis and Shelley Brown about their decision to move from Hays to Goodland. The students are working on a program to help bring more business to town. Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

## Session hits turnaround point

The legislature reached the halfway point of the session, this week called Turnaround. Some of the committees met on Monday and Tuesday, before we turned our attention to the impending Turnaround deadline.

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday were all spent on the House floor. I was fortunate to carry three bills on the floor this week; one bill from the Commerce and Economic Development, one for Insurance and the other for Local Government. By the time we adjourned on Friday the House had debated and voted on approximately 65 pieces of legislation. It was a hectic week and some of the debates took hours.

Some of the legislation passed this week included: Repeal in State tuition for illegal immigrants; Union paycheck protection; strengthen late-term abortion reporting, requiring parental consent for minors to have an abortion; voters will be required to show a photo ID and raising the speed limit on 4-lane highways to 75 mph.

The House voted 72 to 50 to repeal the 2004 law that requires public colleges and universities to give in-state tuition to illegal immigrants who attended 3 years of high school in Kansas. The change would require students of families in the United States illegally to pay the same tuition rate as citizens from other states. According to Board of Regents 413 such students were enrolled at Regents Schools last fall.

The House voted 76-45 on Thursday for the Paycheck Protection bill. This bill will prohibit unions from automatically withdrawing dues from union member's paychecks to be used for political action commit-



**rick billinger**  
state rep.

tees. This legislation protects workers from being forced or coerced into political contributions. The union members may still contribute but not with an automatic withdrawal. This bill gives union members the freedom to choose how they would like their contributions to be spent. If unions use an employee's paycheck deduction improperly the bill allows the employee to sue the union for damages. Seven other states have passed similar legislation. Before the final vote some union members made a disturbance in the gallery trying to intimidate legislatures voting on the bill.

On a vote of 96 to 25 the House passed legislation placing further restrictions on late term abortions. The bill will expand parental consent requirements for minors seeking abortions and strengthens the state's partial birth abortion law to where it better aligns with federal law. This bill is similar to legislation passed in prior sessions but was vetoed by Sebelius and Parkinson.

The fetal pain abortion bill passed 91-30. This bill restricts abortions after 21 weeks when medical research indicates a baby can feel pain.

Voter identification was passed 83 to 36. This legislation will insure the voters of Kansas are protected from being canceled out by ballots cast illegally. The bill will require voters to show photo identification

at the polls. The bill strengthens the penalties for voting without being qualified, voting multiple times during the same election, tampering with elections, falsely impersonating another voter and illegally handling advance ballots.

Friday we voted to raise the speed limit on 4-lane highways to 75 mph. This vote passed 95-23. The new law applies to 4-lane divided highways and simply allows the Department of Transportation to raise the limit in areas they deem safe to do so. Rural areas will probably be the first to see this change.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 1605 was passed. This resolution urges United States Congress to fund the construction of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility (NBAF) in Manhattan. Senate Concurrent Resolution 1605 passed the Senate on Thursday by a unanimous vote and passed the House unanimously. This facility should bring hundreds if not thousands of good paying jobs to Kansas.

As you may have heard the good news, Boeing announced this week they had won the \$35 Billion contract to replace a fleet of aging Air Force Mid-Air Refueling Tankers. This will also bring thousands of jobs to Kansas. The economic impact is projected to be \$355 million a year.

Thank you again for allowing me the honor to represent the 121st District. If you have any input on any issues which will come before the legislature this year please contact me at; rick.billinger@house.ks.gov or call me at (785) 899-4700.

## Goodland welcomes Heartland Animal Hospital!



The Goodland Star-News and the Goodland Ambassadors would like to welcome Heartland Animal Hospital P.A. to Goodland!

Mariah L. Berry, D.V.M., is the new owner of Goodland's veterinarian clinic, Heartland Animal Hospital P.A..

Mariah is a graduate of Kansas State, and she cares for both small and large animals.

Her first order of business in the new practice will be to renovate the office to accommodate patients with a larger waiting room.

Mariah and her husband, Kevin, are glad to purchase the practice in Northwest Kansas.

They have two children: a daughter who is a junior in high school, and a son who attends Colby Community College.

Stop by and welcome Mariah to Goodland. Next time your loved pet needs a veterinarian visit, be sure to call Heartland Animal Hospital P.A.!

Business location: 204 N. Caldwell  
Business phone: (785) 899-6166

## Citizens ask tough questions

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ing energy sustainable buildings.

Joy said all the designs were LEED acceptable. The project would use the 2006 energy codes.

LEED certification is Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design from a third party. Earlier it was explained to the board of education that to have LEED certification cost money and the board decided it would rather spend the money on the district itself.

Topliff also asked if the project could cost more than \$14.9 million? Ayars said the contract was for not more than \$14.9 million. He said materials for construction would be purchased early so to guard against material price increases.

Ron Barkley asked if the project allowed for consolidation of district to the south and northeast of Goodland.

Superintendent Angelos said having good facilities puts them in a better position.

It was asked how the district would handle cuts in aid from the state? Superintendent Angelos said that the district could only make cuts in facilities, staff and programs. The largest share of the district's budget goes for staff.

Board Member Amy Sederstrom asked about the bill in the Kansas Legislature that would cut in half its aid to district on bonds. The Goodland School District at the present is eligible for the state to pay 15 percent of the interest in a bond. The bill


would cut that to 7 percent. She was also concerned that the state would not make those payments.

Superintendent Angelos said historically the state has always paid their share of the interest in school bonds.

Avey said that if the bill in the legislature was passed it would apply to bonds passed after July 1. If the Goodland bond passes it would not be affected.

Dale Stephens commented, "That people just needed to quit bickering and get this thing done."

He said that when the district has built before was not a good time referring to droughts and money problems. "It's never a good time."




### ANNUAL SPRING CONSIGNMENT AUCTION

**Saturday, March 19th, starting at 10 a.m MDT**  
At the Homestead Auction Lot, E. Hwy 24, Goodland, Kansas

**This will be another large auction so plan on 2 rings running.**

**TRACTORS, TRUCKS, TRAILERS:** IH 806 diesel, W/GB loader, 18.4 x 34 tires, 3pt, dual speed pto, 6500 hrs; IH 400 tractor W/loader, propane; JD 8430 bareback, pto, 24.5x32 single tires, 3 hyd's, showing 5225 hrs; 1991 Case W14P wheel loader, looks and runs good; Ford 9N tractor W/2 speed high-low transmission, excellent condition; IH 4386 tractor, 18.4 x 38 duals, 3pt, runs good; Datsun 8000lb all terrain forklift, side shift, propane, showing 1825 hrs; Toyota 5000lb all terrain forklift, side shift, propane, showing 5823 hrs; Case 585 C all terrain forklift; 2000 Freightliner; 1999 Volvo, N-14 Cummins 10sp; 1999 Peterbilt 385, M-11 Cummins, 10sp, air ride; 1989 IH 8300, 350 Cummins, 10sp, air ride; 1988 Volvo, N-14 Cummins, 10sp, air ride; 1982 IH dump truck, 10' gravel box, auto, diesel; 1967 Chevy C50, 16' box & hoist, 4 & 2 trans, 327 motor, only 38,000 actual miles; 1978 Dodge crew cab 4x4 powerwagon, 3/4 ton, no bed; 1972 IH dump truck, gas; 1997 Daco 48' drop deck trailer, spread axles; 1994 Jet 42' grain trailer, RO tarp; 1988 Tempte 42' grain trailer, new RO tarp, new springs, exc. condition; 1982 - American 42' hopper grain trailer, RO tarp, ; 1999 Fruehauf 45' FB trailer, air ride, aluminum decking; 2000 CPS belly dump gravel trailer; IH 1600 Loadstar W/BJM Feeder/Mixer, new chains, works good; 24' GN trailer, dove tail, ramps, tandem axle duals; Rhome 20' steel GN trailer, tandem axle duals; 83' X 12' single axle trailer W/ramp Hale 24' GN stock trailer; 16' BP trailer, 1/2 top, new floor. **EQUIPMENT:** E-Z Trail mdl 3400 grain wagon; 36' Header trailer, handles draper or 12 row corn heads; Sunflower 21' chisel; Orthman 9 shank inner-row ripper, like new; Kewanee 20' Tandem disc; 1000 gal nurse tank on trailer W/transfer pump; Grain-O-Vator feed wagon, pto, works good; 8' 3pt disk; 8' rear blade; Woods 5' 3pt mower; 72" - 3pt finish mower; Wire roller on trailer; Hutchinson 48' x 8" pto auger; Speedking 50' x 6" pto auger; General 40 KW pto generator, like new; Generac 30/60 KW pto generator; New 10' box blade; 2-New Stout 72" grapple forks for skid loaders; 14' Utility box. **VEHICLES:** 2002 Ford Escape, XLT, 4x4, power seats, V6, 166,000 miles, looks & runs great; 1992 Chevy 3500, auto, 350, service bed, only 74,000 miles; Ford F-350 dually, 4sp, W/8' dump box, Western snow blade; 1993 Ford F150, 6cyl, 4 sp; 1981 Chevy 3/4 ton, auto; 1971 Custom Cadillac W/removable hardtop, 472 motor, auto.; 1992 Oldsmobile 88; 1995 Chevy Lumina; 1994 Pontiac Transport; 1967 Ford Mustang; 1999 Ford Windstar; 1990 Ford Probe; 1991 Chevy pu - 4x4; 2001 Chevy S10; 1996 Subaru Legacy GT; 1999 Mitsubishi Eclipse GS; 1984 Ford Ranger F250; 1992 Honda Prelude; 1982 Honda 900 motorcycle; VW Dune Buggy; 1971 Ford Iton dually, no box, 4sp.. **MISC ITEMS:** NEW JD air ride seat for tractors; Miller 225 amp portable welder/generator W/110 & 220 outlets; Trailer load of new parts from the former Clawson Elect ; 2-JD 440 snowmobiles, 1 with new motor; Snowmobile trailer; Grazer mdl 1250 mower W/36" deck; Trailer load of shop tools; Small Homelite generator; Titan gas portable air compressor; 1000 gal poly water tank; 24' hay rack, mounts on flatbed; 10 metal feed bunks; 5 poly feed bunks; 15 tractor tire feed bunks; Shop cabinets; Makita chop saw; Welders; Floor drill press; Welding benches; 8hp wood chipper; Slide-in pickup stock rack; Dodge PU box, like new; 7' side pickup tool box; Several pu tool boxes. **TIRES:** 8-11R 24.5 traction tires; 8-28.5/75r24.5 traction tires; 8-11R22.5 traction tires; 8-295/75r22.5 traction tires; 4-445/65r22.5 tires; 16-11.2 x 24 used sprinkler tires. **ANTIQUES:** 1915 JD manure spreader, original; Buggy running gear, 4 spoke wheels; 3 corn shellers; 2 Avery steel wheels; JD 14' hammer mill W/books; Several pieces of antique machinery.

**The lot will be full so plan now to attend. For more information or to consign contact Terry Richardson at Homestead Realty & Auction, 1023 Main, Goodland, KS. 785-899-8094 cell, 785-899-2328 office, 785-899-3093 or 800-974-2426**



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