

# City awarded money for playground equipment

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as well as those moving into Kansas. He said one person told him the \$15,000 would pay about half of his student loans.

He said the county has to opt in to the tuition program and the state would pay 50 percent and the county 50 percent.

Solomon said the city had put a couple of businesses up for economic development awards and Mann's Jewelry and Smitty's Sports received a service award and SunOpta Sunflower was a regional award winner. He said the program is through the Kansas Department of Commerce and received the notice about the awards on Friday.

• Gerber said the state had announced a highway project under the TWORKS transportation program to straighten the curves in Wallace County south of Sharon Springs. He said he felt pleased this had been selected as it was a regional priority and he had gone to Hays to support it at the regional meeting in Hays.

• Abandoned vehicles was the topic Commissioner Bill Finley asked about. He said he had some calls and wanted to know what

the city policy was.

Acting Police Chief Joni Showalter said the police like to get approval before towing a vehicle. She said the officers usually gives the person notice about getting it off the street and to get it tagged and registered.

She said if they have it towed they turn the collection over to the person doing the towing. If the owner does not settle with the towing company the company can sell the car for the storage and towing costs.

Finley asked how long the police usually give a person.

Showalter said they give the owner a couple of days, or if they are waiting on a part we will give them some time.

Gerber said if Finley has a list he can give it to the staff.

• The utility rate at the shooting range was brought up by Commissioner Chris Zimmerman. He said he was confronted by a few individuals who want to reorganize the shooting range and want to talk about the utility rate. He said the group has lost some members and are on a commercial rate. He said they are having a hard time paying bills and was asking if there was any way to help

them out. He said it is a good organization and does hunter safety programs.

Gerber said the same people contacted him. The quick answer he said is those rates are set by the commission based on usage levels.

"We cannot change those randomly or take people out of a specific class," he said. "I guess the commission can, but be prepared for a long line."

• The city sign erected on K-27 was commented on by Commissioner Annette Fairbanks, Josh Dechant and Mayor John Garcia. Fairbanks and Dechant said the sign looks great. Garcia said he thought it needs to be raised a little, and needs some lighting at night.

Garcia said the city needs to go ahead and put up the other planned signs at the I-70 exits and on K-27 north of town.

Fairbanks said she agreed the city needs something at the dark turn on K-27 north of town. She said it is dangerous and the city sign with a light out there would help.

Gerber said when Oelschlager from KDOT in Atwood was in town he talked about that intersection specifically. Gerber

said Oelschlager said the accident numbers don't agree it is dangerous.

Fairbanks said the problem it is dark out there and the driver doesn't know where to turn.

Dechant suggested asking if the county would help with that.

• Selecting a new police chief was brought up by Garcia. He asked Gerber where the selection process was for police chief.

Gerber said he had about 50 applications and the review process is to begin on Monday.

Dechant asked if it was a good time to look at consolidating with the county.

"Now we have our new commission set," he said, "it is time to look at consolidating. I wrote 'Yes' next to mine."

Gerber said he would rather not get into it too deeply. He said he had some calls last week about consolidation and expected some people to come to the meeting.

"I am not an expert on this," he said. "An advantage is you probably get rid of one administrator. It would force the issue of all working together."

"I know there are some hiccups. It is

not a money saver or efficiency everyone believes it is. I am sorry the people did not come to the meeting."

Dechant said he felt it would be good to look at the process.

Finley said it was a way to test the waters with the county commissioners.

"I wonder if they are thinking that way," he said.

• Commission held two closed door sessions lasting 35 minutes with the commissioners, Gerber and City Attorney Jerry Fairbanks to discuss possible purchase of property. No action was taken when the meeting reopened.

• Commission held two closed door sessions on personnel matters. The first was for 25 minutes and the second for 15 minutes with only the five commissioners. No action was taken when the meeting reopened.

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m. The next meeting will be 5 p.m. on Monday, June 20 in the commission room at the City Administration Building, 204 W. 11th.

## State approves contract for bridge replacement in Sherman County

The Kansas Department of Transportation approved bids for state highway construction and maintenance projects including repair of a bridge in northwest Sherman County.

The bid letting was held May 18, in Topeka, and the state awarded a contract to Klaver Construction Co. of Kingman for \$158,196 for repair of a Sherman County bridge

15 miles north and 5.4 miles west of Goodland.

The bridge was the project on the Sherman County five-year plan to replace the bridge on the Sherman County and Cheyenne County line.

Another bid was approved for the northwest district to Interstate Road Management Corporation of Hazelton, Penn., for \$686,799. The

project is for pavement markings in Atwood, Goodland, Norton, Oakley and Oberlin.

A crack repair project was approved for the Southwest district on U.S. 83 from Scott City north to the Scott and Logan County line. The project was awarded to Huff Sealing Corporation of Albion, Ill., for \$114,851.

## County wheat tour on Tuesday

Join us at the Sherman County wheat plot tour on Tuesday, June 14th. The tour will start at 5:30 p.m. at the wheat plot. It is located 10 miles north of Goodland at the Fred and Jeanie Schields farm.

We will discuss 31 varieties, including SY Gold, Greer and Cedar. These are new releases from Syngenta (AgriPro) and WestBred. Discussing the strengths and weaknesses of varieties and their fit for our area will be Jim Shroyer, K-State wheat specialist, and representatives from AgriPro and WestBred.

We will have a presentation by Alan Schlegel, K-State agronomist at the K-State Research Center at Tribune. He will be discussing crop rotations with wheat and can answer questions about no-till wheat. Alan has several long term studies with crop rota-



jeanne falk

• extension district

tions and various tillage methods.

A big thank you goes out to Fred and Jeanie Schields for being the plot cooperators.

A hamburger fry will follow at the Sherman County 4-H building in Goodland approximately 7 p.m. It will be sponsored by the First National Bank and served by the Ruleton Eager Beavers. Beverages for the plot tour are sponsored by the Kansas Wheat Alliance.

Please feel free to stop by the plots at any time to look. If you have any questions, please contact the extension office at (785) 890-4880.

## City, FAA reach lease agreement

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work on the repairs and upgrading.

Brian James, city building inspector and fire chief, said he was fine with delaying the demolition, but felt the city should give the new owner a specific time to get the work done.

"I am not in to demolishing houses," he said. "I want to get houses fixed up."

Dechant asked if the city has to change the process.

Garcia said he could see giving the new owners 90 days because that has been the city policy.

"I have no problem giving them 90 days," he said. "They need to start immediately to fix it up, and stay in touch with Brian."

Fairbanks said she was OK as

long as the city knows a decision on the sale by the close of business on Friday.

Finley said he was not comfortable with this, and said he would feel better if they make the delay contingent on the Friday sale and if that falls through to proceed with demolition.

Barnhart said she could agree with that option.

Finley made the motion to accept the low bid for demolition from B&K Pump, but it would be contingent on the sale by Friday of the house. The other bid was from Mike Yarger for \$6,995.

The motion passed unanimously and Barnhart thanked the commissioners for giving her another chance to sell the home.

• Accepted the bill of sale for the Van Gogh painting and viewing area

from Sunflowers USA to give the city ownership of the property and the painting and easel.

Gerber said the bill of sale formalizes the deeding of the painting and viewing area to the city.

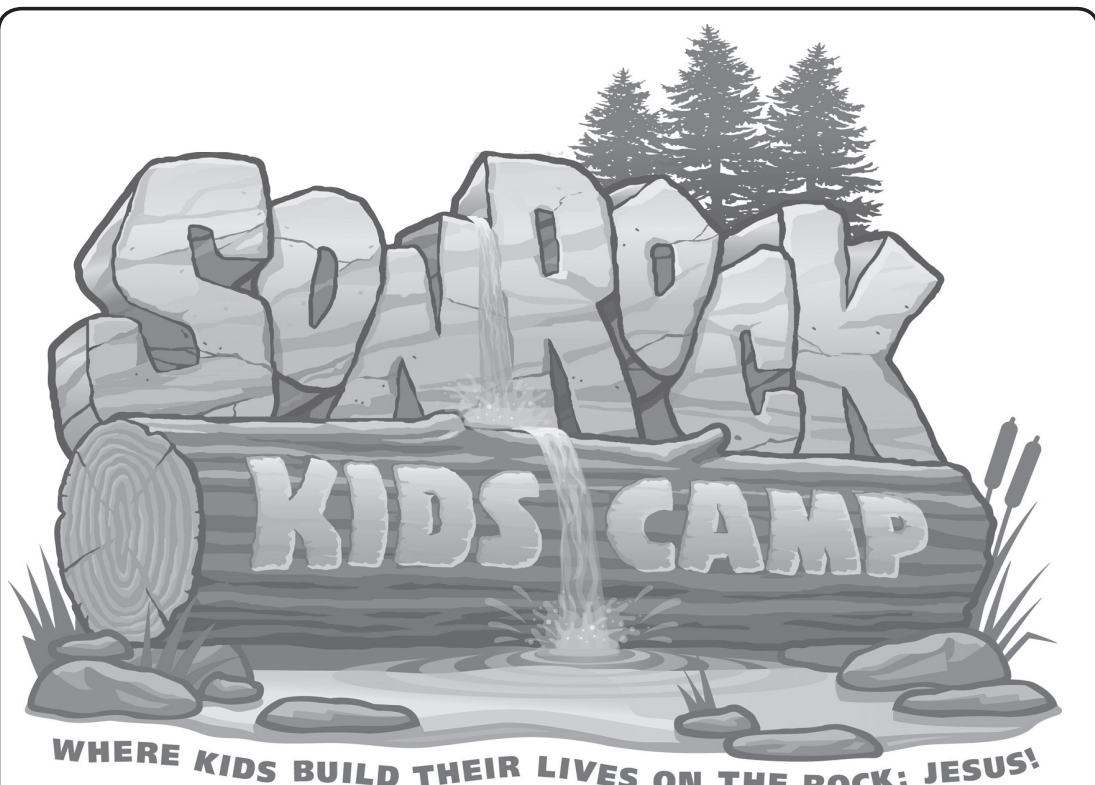
"Then the real work begins," he said. "We have been in contact with Cameron Cross, the artist, about potentially coming to Goodland to do some restoration."

"We do not have a price yet, but hope to have him come here in the fall."

Garcia asked about the marketing agreement with Cross and the Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Gerber said he was finishing it up and would have it ready for the next meeting.

The motion to accept the bill of sale passed unanimously.



**Harvest Evangelical Free Church in Goodland will be having vacation bible school (for kids 3 yrs. through 5th grade) from June 20 through the 24th, from 9-11:30 a.m. MT. Join us for a week of fun at "Son Rock Kids Camp" VBS at 521 E. Hwy. 24 in Goodland. For information call the church at (785) 890-6423 or Brandi Jones at (785) 821-3546.**

## Good luck on your next adventure!



Betty Morris will be retiring on June 10, 2011, after 28 years with our company!

We have enjoyed every minute of your time here, and cannot express how much we will miss you! You will always be in our thoughts and prayers!

And PLEASE come back and visit us sometime!!!

The Goodland Star-News

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