

# Chip sealing approved for section of U.S. 24

By Tom Betz

*The Goodland Star-News*  
The Sherman County commissioners approved a bid for chip sealing the west section of old U.S. 24 from Goodland to Kanorado and hope the work will be done the first week of June.

Curt Way, public works manager, said Heft and Sons of Greensburg had done the project before, and he was able to work out a good price because they were going to be in the area doing a state project.

Originally, they had said the cost would be \$166,158, but Way said because of the state project covered a lot of the cost for moving the equipment and the bid was \$129,404, a savings of \$36,754.

He said they will start at the cor-

ner of K-27 in front of Goodland Greenline and go west to Kanorado. The work is estimated to take three days.

Way said the Kanorado bridge is nearly completion, but does not expect it to be open until the end of next week. He said the pavement work has been completed, but the guardrails have to be installed, and the contractor hopes to do them next week.

The commissioners approved a letter to the state Department of Transportation adding the stretch of Caldwell from the airport north to K-27 on the county's five-year highway plan. Way said the project is expected to cost \$150,000 and the state would pay 80 percent of the cost.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said the commissioners had asked Amy Griffey of the Northwest Kansas Regional Planning and Development Commission if there would be any grants available for this project, but said he had received a letter saying it was doubtful because of the low income provisions.

Way said Griffey had told him the same thing. She said because of the location of the road near the airport, the whole city would have to be included in an income survey, and there was no way they were going to meet the low-income requirements to get a Community Development Block Grant.

Rasure said Tuesday he has decided to run for election, and will be getting his paperwork done in the

next few days. Commissioner Mitch Tiede said he has not made a decision, and will wait for a few more weeks.

The commissioners approved upgrading the county computer server at a cost of \$32,000 through Infinitec of Hays. They discussed going with a three-year lease option at an interest rate of 3.9 percent.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas said he felt it would cost more to do the lease than to buy the new system.

"I would rather not lease," Commissioner Tiede said.

"I agree it would be better to pay this up front," said Rasure who made the motion to accept the proposal from Infinitec.

The motion passed unanimously

and County Clerk Janet Rumpel said the money would come out of the capital outlay and computer capital outlay funds.

The commissioners asked Crystal Wright, county computer supervisor, to talk to the department heads who are using the computer system to coordinate a date for the upgrade.

Wright said she would contact them, and she anticipated it may be July or August before the update is done because of deadlines in the assessor's and the treasurer's offices.

On a related matter, Rasure suggested that the old computer supplied by the state several years ago be updated because it is not able to keep up with the system, and is us-

ing a Windows 95 system.

Mary Messamore, emergency management director, came in to tell the commissioners she has received a \$26,000 grant to help with the special emergency plans the county is writing. She said the money will help pay for a consulting firm to develop the statistics and analysis to help fill out plan requirements dealing with homeland security.

The commissioners held a 10-minute closed door session with Rumpel on a personnel matter. No action was taken when they returned to open session.

The next commission meeting will be 8 a.m. on Friday, April 30. There will be no meeting the next two Tuesdays.

## Control city moves to subcommittee

By Tom Betz

*The Goodland Star-News*  
An application to designate Goodland as a "control city" for distance signs on I-70 has been approved by the state and moved up to the national level, Sherman County commissioners were told last Tuesday.

Carolyn Applegate, economic development director, said the application has been forwarded by the state to the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials subcommittee on traffic engineering.

A task force selected by the chairman of the subcommittee will review the information and make a recommendation to the subcommittee either by mail ballot or at the panel's annual meeting which has not been announced.

Recommendations from the subcommittee will be presented to the association's standing committee on highways and board for approval.

Applegate said the fact the state has moved the application forward is a major step, but it could take a year or two for it to be approved at the national level.

In the meantime, she said, the state Department of Transportation is holding up some I-70 sign work to see if Goodland gets the control city designation.

Control cities on I-70 west of Goodland are Denver, Limon and Grand Junction. To the east, they are Hays, Salina, Topeka and Kansas City.

The control city designation would mean Goodland would be added to I-70 signs which now lists Salina heading eastbound and Limon heading westbound.

Applegate said a detailed presen-

tation was developed for the state explaining the reasons Goodland should be considered for the designation, and she was pleased the state has recommended the application to the national group.

"This is one of those projects that you hurry to get the presentation ready and then have to wait for the process," Applegate said. "We did not expect it to be a fast process, but having the state's approval and support is a big step."

Applegate said she has talked to school Superintendent Marvin Selby about marketing the Edison gym. She said several firms who were looking for buildings have been given information about the gym, but they did not think it fit their needs.

Applegate and County Treasurer Shelby Miller talked to the commissioners about a problem they are facing on the micro loan program. Miller said when the state sends the money for the loans, it is put in the county account, but it is supposed to be transferred out within three days.

Applegate said they set up a special account with the bank where the business does business and it is then run through the economic development office so there is a paper trail on how the money was spent.

Applegate said loan papers on K and J Radiator were to be signed on Thursday.

On a related matter, the commissioners approved the appointment of City Commissioner Dave Daniels to the micro loan committee.

He has been serving on the committee, but when the members were reappointed in March, Daniels' name was missed, Commissioner Kevin Rasure said.

## Man shoots himself

A St. Francis man apparently killed himself Wednesday night with a .22 caliber rifle after an argument with his former girlfriend at her home about six miles southeast of Goodland.

Sherman County Sheriff Doug Whitson said Roger Curry, 42, shot himself in the head sometime around 8 p.m. at 2560 Road 62, where Curry and Tamara Espinoza, 45, lived together until they split up about two weeks ago.

Whitson said it appeared the two were arguing and Espinoza witnessed the shooting. The sheriff said the report from Undersheriff Kevin Butts, the first law enforcement officer on the scene, said that Espinoza told him Curry had pointed the gun at her before shoot-

ing himself.

Butts reported that he found the man with a single gunshot wound to the head bleeding from the mouth, nose and ears, and had no pulse. Deputy Roger Studer arrived a short time later and the two conducted an initial investigation.

Sherman County emergency medical service was dispatched and emergency medical technicians started cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Curry was taken to the emergency room at Goodland Regional Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead by Deputy Coroner Travis Daise. Dr. Daise ruled the death a suicide.

Curry's body has been taken to St. Francis for funeral services.

## Memories from World War II



Pictures of Freddie Harrison (father of Nancy Cole, owner of Klip 'n Kurl Salon), who served in the Navy on the submarine U.S.S. Red Fish during the war, pictures of his wife and of those he served with and memorabilia are among the items in the salon's

window during the "Produce for Victory" exhibit's display at the Carnegie Arts Center. A story about displays in Goodland businesses and more photos to come.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

## Courthouse floor to undergo major cleaning

The terrazzo floor on the main level of the Sherman County courthouse is being readied for a major cleaning, commissioners were told at their meeting last Tuesday.

William McKnight, building maintenance supervisor, said he has been stripping the wax along the edges to get the main floor. That has left a narrow strip of clean floor which is much lighter and brighter than the main area, giving visitors an idea of how dingy the floor has become over the years.

McKnight said he hopes to have the floor ready for the main cleaning by the end of the month. He'll start on a Friday afternoon and the building will be closed until Monday to allow him to strip and resurface the floor, and let the finish dry.

McKnight said he had a bid from Fixsen's to upgrade the sound system at the fairgrounds, including 580 feet of cable to run a new line around the outside of the track. The new cable will replace one that goes through the rodeo arena which has been cut several times.

The commissioners told Knight it was OK to get a trencher to lay the line. McKnight said Fixsen's will connect the new line to the system.

He reported at the meeting Tuesday that the line had been donated by S&T Telephone and the trench were dug, the line laid and filled the end of last week. He said he thought Fixsen's would have the new line connected in time for the tractor pull on April 24-25.

The supervisor said it is time for

the courthouse boiler inspection, and that he has a bid to replace the condensation pump for \$2,000. McKnight will get more prices for the commissioners to review.

The commissioners approved a stack of orders to correct tax rolls, which are adjustments to property taxes. Most of the corrections were on state-assessed gas and oil leases, with subtractions of \$8,100 for 2001 and \$7,100 for 2002.

The board approved a request to hold the World Day of Prayer ceremony on May 6 in front of the courthouse.

County Treasurer Shelby Miller met in closed-door session with the commissioners to discuss personnel.

When they came back, the com-

missioners agreed to hire Wynta Johnson in the treasurer's office at \$8 per hour, and gave Iris Scheopner and Carole Farris raises to \$8.50 per hour. They had been receiving \$7.25 and \$7.75 per hour.

### 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 want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

**First National Bank employees  
will be attending a  
Spring Conference on April 21,  
therefore we will be closing early on that day.  
Please note the following  
closing time on your calendar:**

**Wednesday, April 21, 2004  
FNB will close at 2:00 MT.**

*Thank you!*

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