

County discusses vehicles

The Decatur County appraiser talked with county commissioners last Tuesday about getting a vehicle or changing the way the vehicle his office uses is checked out.

Appraiser Alan Hale said transportation is a problem for his office. He said he has been using his own car. The next four years, he said, will give him an opportunity to do things and look at things a little differently.

Commissioner Ralph Unger said he was under the impression that if Mr. Hale wanted to use a county car he could. The county owns a Ford Taurus or the Dodge Caravan that employees can use to go to training or for work reasons.

Deputy Clerk Colleen Geihlsler said the car usually is booked up a month ahead.

The commissioners need to talk about the car, said Commissioner Doyle Brown. Maybe the county needs to get another vehicle.

Sport utility vehicles work the best for his work, said Mr. Hale. It is nice to have the four-wheel drive.

It doesn't make sense for another vehicle to just sit in the garage, he said. In other counties, the sheriff uses it sometimes. Mr. Hale said he doesn't mind sharing a car, but he needs to be able to use one.

Maybe, said Mr. Unger, the appraiser should be able to sign up for the car first and then everyone else is secondary.

The commissioners signed Mr. Hale's contract for four more years at the Tuesday, June 13, meeting, but he said he hadn't received it yet. The commissioners signed the contract again at the meeting with the same salary as the last one, \$27,000 a year, with him working in the county one day a week, but he is available if needed.

Mr. Hale is also the appraiser in Norton and Phillipsburg Counties.



Artist to sing Saturday

By KATHRYN BURKE

Goodland will celebrate freedom this year with a country music concert, fireworks and more.

The focus of this year's Freedom Fest and Fourth of July weekend is a concert by Tracy Lawrence, a DreamWorks recording artist, on Saturday.

Gates will open at 5 p.m. at the Sherman County Fairgrounds and Lawrence will take the stage at 8 p.m.

Lawrence is known for the hit songs "Alibis," "Can't Break it to My Heart" and "If the Good Die Young," among others.

A beer garden will be set up at the concert in a roped-off area at the grandstands. Courtney Warden, Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce manager, said the beer will be served in plastic cups. She said the alcohol will remain in the special section where participants will be able to see the concert. People will need to have a concert ticket to get into the beer garden.

The fairgrounds will be open to vendors Saturday, Warden said. She said the Sno Cone booth and a kettle corn booth are lined up, but they hope to have a Chamber concession stand to sell hot dogs, nachos, candy and more.

Tickets to the Lawrence concert are still on sale at \$25 for general admission and \$50 for VIP reserved seating. The tickets will be \$30 for general admission at the gate and \$50 for VIP. The Chamber can accept credit card payments, too, Warden said.

Tickets are available in Goodland at Bankwest, Dan Brenner Ford-Mercury, Finley Motors, First National Bank, the Chamber office, Hayden Inc., High Plains Office Supply, Hitchcock Inc., NAPA Auto Parts, People's State Bank, T-Bone Feeders, The Goodland Super 8, Truck and Tractor Repair, Western State Bank; in Burlington at First National Bank of Burlington; and in Colby at Farmers and Merchants Bank.

Fountain open at store

AT ADDLEMAN DRUG STORE Monday afternoon, Danna Rhein (above), 10, enjoyed a shake made by Kimberly Ketterl (left). The old-fashioned soda fountain, open only for the summer, offers lemonades, limeades, soft drinks, shakes, malts, sundaes and flavored sodas.

— Herald staff photos by Kimberly Davis

Sirens mean take cover

With thunderstorm and tornado season, the county emergency preparedness director wants to remind everyone that the all-clear is a solid tone that comes over the sirens.

A tone which warbles or varies in pitch means take cover.

Director Bert Cool said when the sirens went off recently for a tornado warning, the oscillating signal went off several times. Some people came out of shelter after it went off the second time thinking it was the all-clear.

The oscillating siren can go off several times in one storm, he said, as new funnels are sighted. It always means to take cover.

Make sure, said Mr. Cool, that you stay in your shelter until you hear the solid tone.

Soldier gets undersheriff spot back

The Decatur County commissioners and sheriff agreed last Tuesday that Deputy Randy McHugh will take back the position of undersheriff which he held when he left to serve with the National Guard in Iraq.

Sheriff Ken Badsky said according to the Soldier/Sailor Act, Mr. McHugh is entitled to the same pay and position he had when he left. Sheriff Badsky said Mr. McHugh

will move into the undersheriff job and will actually receive an increase in pay to what Michael French was making in the spot. Mr. French will now be a full-time deputy.

Sheriff Badsky said the officers will probably start running radar on county roads because they have received a lot of complaints about drivers speeding. Off state highways, he said, the speed limit is 55 miles per hour. People can choose

to go slower, but not faster.

The commissioners agreed to pay half for training for Deputy Barry Richards at \$572. The bill said the training was in 2002 although Sheriff Badsky just received it. County Attorney Steve Hirsch requested that Sheriff Badsky ask if the date can be taken off before it is paid so that it won't mess up the budget process and audit. It was for law enforcement training.

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