



The bus that is used to show tourists and residents around Goodland parked in front of the National Weather Service on a tour so passengers could look at the radar dome. Photo by Rachel Miscal/The Goodland Daily News

Tours offer different view of town

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Thursday and Friday at 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Judy Siruta, assistant director of the bureau, said there will be four routes, which will each offer a different view of Goodland and Sherman County. She said the tours include the town tour, agriculture/nature tour, architecture tour and history tour.

Since it was her first go-round, Walter combined the history, town and architecture tour, throwing out facts and quirky stories for an hour and a half while leading passengers through

Goodland.

Some of the stories were apparently true, while others seemed questionable.

Driving over the bricks that form Main Street, Walter said in 1921 a crowd gathered on the dirt road to watch an Indian named Jim Brown lay bricks.

They weren't interested in the street, Walter said, but the speed with which the man worked.

Hunched over, with four men handing him bricks, he was said to have laid 125 to 150 bricks per minute and 36,000 a day. Walter said he was so

accurate, no adjustments were necessary.

Siruta said the stories come from history books and older residents of Goodland, so passengers get the facts along with the stories and myths that have been passed on.

She said on the tours, people will see buffalo, llamas and wild turkeys, learn about the "coffee mill" houses and early buildings and experience the Kidder Massacre and National Weather Service office.

"I never knew a lot of this stuff," said Walter, who has lived here for 15 years.

Nation's spotlight on Texas execution

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (AP) — There's no question Gary Graham was a street punk responsible for a crime spree 19 years ago. But he insists his weeklong rampage of robbery, rape and theft did not include the fatal shooting of an Arizona man outside a Houston supermarket.

His execution, scheduled for Thursday evening, had drawn exceptional scrutiny, largely because of Republican Gov. George W. Bush's presidential bid and a national re-examination of capital punishment.

The fate of Graham, his court appeals exhausted, rested early Thursday with the 18-member Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles, which could recommend that Bush issue a 120-day reprieve, a commutation or a pardon.

"I'll treat this case no differently than any other case that has come across my desk," Bush told the National Association of Hispanic Journalists in Houston late Wednesday. "I'll ask two questions: Innocence or guilt, and whether this person has had full access to the courts of law."

The governor appoints the parole board, but is barred by law from halting the execution without a majority nod from the panel. The governor does have the power to grant a one-time 30-day reprieve in death penalty cases, but Graham received one in 1993 from Bush's predecessor, Democrat Ann

Richards.

Texas has executed 22 inmates this year and 134 during Bush's 5 1/2 years in office.

Two years ago, Bush told the parole board to review the case of serial killer Henry Lee Lucas because of questions about the slaying for which Lucas was about to die. Lucas' death sentence eventually was commuted to life. And earlier this month, he authorized a reprieve for inmate Ricky McGinn pending DNA tests.

He has sent no similar messages about Graham's case.

The debate over Graham's case comes amid growing questions around the country about the death penalty. Illinois Gov. George Ryan has placed a moratorium on state executions and Bush and Vice President Al Gore have been forced to deal with the issue as they campaign for president.

The case has prompted the loudest protests since convicted pickax killer Karla Faye Tucker was executed in 1998, the first woman put to death in Texas since the Civil War era. Death penalty opponents have adopted Graham's claims of innocence and his contention that he unfairly was convicted, primarily because of testimony from a single eyewitness.

"The Gary Graham case is significant because if he is executed...he will be the case that will be the most frail,

Man pays; stays in hotel improper

TOPEKA (AP) — A man who once held two jobs in state government will pay a \$500 fine to end an ethics case involving allegations that his stays in an upscale New York City hotel were improper.

The state Governmental Ethics Commission initially imposed a \$3,000 fine as part of an agreement with William F. Caton. However, the

commission waived \$2,500 of that amount because of what members said was the adverse publicity and media scrutiny Caton's case received.

Caton served as both consumer credit commissioner and president of the Kansas Development Finance Authority until May 1998, when he was forced to leave both positions because of the allegations against him.



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Television tries to help kids

Kansas Kids is an outreach initiative by the public television stations serving Kansas.

The Kansas Kids project improves quality of life and health for children in Kansas and is the subject of a new initiative conducted by all four public television stations serving the state.

"Kansas Kids: Healthy Caring and Responsible" is a programming and outreach initiative funded by the Kansas Health Foundation. Partners in the project include Smokey Hills Public Television, KCPT/Kansas City, KPTS/Wichita, and KTWU/Topeka.

"The purpose of 'Kansas Kids' is to serve our communities by providing information about children's health and to initiate community-wide responsibility for the quality of life for Kansas children," said Barbara Baldwin project director.

As part of the initiative, the public television stations will disseminate information, effect change through awareness and create a call to action. Each of the participating locations have made it a practice to be in the forefront of innovative programming and creative outreach. Therefore, the mission of "Kansas Kids" is to use public education components to increase



cris lovington

- prevention center

awareness of services available, to promote the use of those services/resources and to activate community-wide thinking and planning to identify what children need to be healthy, caring, responsible individuals. "As stations, we can do this by sharing information on potential solutions and by sharing successful community models which others can replicate," Baldwin said.

Together the PBS stations will produce a television documentary and a regional or local call-in show where communities can share ideas for healthy communities.

Also included in the project will be a campaign of short televised (interstitial) messages about the importance of adult involvement in children's lives, a website (www.kskids.org) describing health and social service resources and containing an interactive on-line

forum, and print a resource guide (English and Spanish) to be distributed to libraries and other child-related organizations.

Two educational programs that already exist at all four stations will also incorporate "Kansas Kids" information into their services.

The Ready To Learn (RTL) coordinator at each station will incorporate project content into workshops for child care providers. The stations' First Books program, which provides books on a monthly basis to all area children, will provide at least one selection to workshops to focus on children's health issues.

Because of the cooperation of the four stations, the project will have an impact throughout Kansas. As project director Baldwin is leading a steering committee made up of one representative from each participating station.

Book markers with the projects website are available at the Goodland Public Library, 812 Broadway or Goodland Regional Prevention Center 1701 Main.

County held spending better than others

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state average of 47 percent. On a per capita basis, the county's expenditures increased by 32 percent while the state average increased by 43 percent.

Leatherman said the figures show the county has been able to hold the line on spending better than many.

In looking at the three major areas of spending, the report shows the general fund increased by 2 percent while road and bridge increased by 19 percent and law enforcement increased by 94 percent.

Leatherman said the law enforcement increase can be accounted for by the addition of the dispatching department.

He said many counties have seen expenditures for things other than general fund, road and bridge and law enforcement grow and the money available for these getting squeezed.

However, Sherman County has been able to hold the line on the other spending, seeing general fund and road and bridge spending decline

while law enforcement grew. General fund accounted for 19 percent of county spending in 1989 and had dropped to 16 percent by 1997. Road and bridge spending had been at 25 percent in 1989, and had dropped to 24 in 1997. Law enforcement spending increased from 6 percent in 1989 to 10 percent in 1997.

Total revenues for the county have increased by 12 percent in inflation-adjusted dollars compared to the state county average of a 41 percent increase. The real revenue was \$3,775,321 in 1989 and \$4,231,313 in 1997. Revenues show a large increase in 1993 when the county received a \$2 million grant for the sunflower plant, Leatherman said.

The report shows that property tax revenues have grown by about \$250,000 over the nine years, a 15 percent increase. Sales tax has increased by 51 percent, and special highway dollars have increased by 46 percent.

In looking at the overall performance of Sherman County over the five years from 1993 to 1997, the report shows the county has a higher-

than-average ability to raise money through property taxes, but is actually collecting about the state average.

On the sales tax, the report shows that the county is taxing the retail sales at a higher than state average, but because of the growth in total retail sales the overall impact has declined by 46 percent over the five years from 1993 to 1997.

Commissioners Chuck Frankenfild and Kenny Davis thanked Leatherman for his presentation and said they would be interested in having a report done next year on solid waste spending.

Leatherman said he has held meetings with about 88 of the 105 counties, and that after each meeting, he goes back and reviews the county information to see if it can be adjusted for any special factors that were not apparent from the annual figures submitted to the state.

"I hope that this will be of value in the future, and that we can be of assistance to cities and counties on a nearly no-cost basis," Leatherman said.

Naked woman visits governor

TOPEKA (AP) — A woman returned to jail after visiting the Statehouse grounds naked for a second time in three months.

Elaine Upchurch, a 54-year-old Topeka woman, already faces misdemeanor charges of lewd behavior and illegal weapons use in connection with a March incident. Naked and carrying scissors, she tried to enter Gov. Bill Graves' office at the Statehouse and got into the governor's outer reception area.

After weeks in jail, Upchurch posted bail and returned to the Statehouse grounds Tuesday, again naked. Capitol Police arrested her outside the building's east entrance. Graves was not at the Statehouse.

She also made verbal threats toward Graves, said Sgt. John Eichkorn, a spokesman for the Kansas Highway Patrol, which oversees the Capitol Police.

However, no criminal charges have been filed in connection with the second incident. Shawnee County District Attorney Joan Hamilton said Wednesday she still was waiting for a report from the Capitol Police.

Shawnee County District Judge Thomas Conklin revoked Upchurch's

bond Wednesday and increased her bail from \$1,500 to \$7,500. She remained in jail.

She also had her first court appearance in the criminal case stemming from the first incident. Conklin sched-

uled a hearing for June 28, at which time a trial date could be set.

Don Brown, the governor's chief spokesman, said Graves is "not losing any sleep" over the latest incident.



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