

## New reporter to grace pages

Sharon Corcoran has joined *The Goodland Daily News* as a sports and general news reporter.

Born and raised on a farm northeast of Oberlin, Corcoran is a graduate of Decatur Community High School and Colby Community College.

A resident of Colby for nearly nine years, she has family in northwest Kansas. Her mother, younger brother, sister, and niece live in Norton, while her father and paternal

grandmother live in Oberlin. Her older brother lives in Fort Collins, Colo., with his wife and two daughters.

Corcoran is a volunteer minister as one of Jehovah's Witnesses.

In her spare time, she enjoys crocheting and watching television, especially Nick-at-Nite and TV Land.

She is willing to admit her age, 30, but her weight is off-limits. She will be covering sports and news around the area.



Corcoran

## Eight apply for seats on hospital board

By Tom Betz

*The Goodland Daily News*

Sherman County commissioners received eight applications Friday for three seats on the hospital board, including the three current members, Joyce Moore, Lynn Hoelting and Pete Whalen.

They decided to delay making a decision until they had a chance to review the applications. The decision should be on the agenda for the July 10 meeting.

The commissioners approved a software and hardware update for the county's central computer server. The hardware upgrade will include expanding the system's memory and installation of two additional hard drives for data storage. The cost of the project is \$7,473.

In other business, the commissioners: • Heard an update about the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council's workload in Sherman County. Nina Carpenter, executive director, presented the commissioners with an accounting of the past year's activity. Nira Barricklow handles the Sherman County clients. "She provides a very valuable ongoing service," said County Attorney Selby.

Barricklow said she is being kept busy in Goodland at least two to three days a week. She said one of her goals

is to help establish something for the junior high kids to go to and have fun. She said most of the young clients she sees are not involved in clubs or sports.

The alcohol tax money received by the county is split between the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council of Thomas County and the counselor at the Goodland Regional Medical Center, the two agencies which handle evaluations.

The commissioners heard from Nancy Rudy, an employee, with complaints about her pay and the management at the Good Samaritan Center. Rudy said she was not getting a good response when talking to Administrator Paul Rainbolt but admitted that she had not talked to the center's board. She said the state inspectors had been at the center recently and had found some problems. Rudy also said that Rainbolt would be leaving the Goodland facility at the end of July.

The commissioners said they would look into what she had reported. The commissioners decided to contact the members of the Good Samaritan Board as a first step.

• Approved claims vouchers totaling \$204,588.

• Decided to waive the \$15 electricity charge at the fairgrounds for Project

Graduation dances.

• Approved county sponsorship of a team in the Relay for Life in honor of former Commissioner Gary Townsend. The sponsorship costs \$100 and the event will be held Aug. 17-18. Crystal Linsner said they have a full team of county employees willing to participate.

• Commissioner Kevin Rasure reported he had visited with Tom Rohr of Dependable Glass about the locks on the courthouse doors, and that Rohr had agreed to look at them.

The next meeting will be 8 a.m. Tuesday in the commission room of the Sherman County Courthouse.

Main items on the agenda will include:

• Renewing a contract with Terry Ballard to be the county appraiser.

• Payment for the road and bridge service truck and deciding what fund will be charged.

• Sheriff Doug Whitson will talk about the county participating in a Quad County task force.

• Jay Jolly and Jeff Krall of the Goodland Regional Medical Center will meet with the board about the policy for helping to pay the cost for those in the emergency medical technician training program.

## County holds line on solid waste fees

By Tom Betz

*The Goodland Daily News*

Looking to open the new Sherman County landfill this fall, the county commissioners agreed to leave the annual solid waste fees at the current level.

The commissioners felt any cut in the rates at this time would be unwise with the number of unknowns about the operation of the new facility.

The solid waste fee is added to property tax bills, and by law the commissioners must set the level for the next year by July 1. The fees have been the same for the past two years.

The commissioners also discussed implementing a tipping fee once the landfill has opened, and said that Ron Pickman, city manager, and solid waste contractor Kevin Butts have been notified of the plan.

The commissioners agreed that if the tipping fees bring in enough money, they may be able to lower the county solid waste fees next year.

William McKnight, county building manager, reported a new air conditioning compressor had been installed which cools the first and second floor. He said there is a leak in the third floor system which the repairmen have not been able to find.

He said that the air conditioning sys-

tem is on a central thermostat which is in the main hallways, and that there are no individual office controls.

"We freeze in the summer," said County Attorney Bonnie Selby. "We were fine with the air conditioner off, since we keep our vents closed because it gets so cold in our office."

McKnight said that the air conditioners are not actually engineered for the best efficiency, and that it would be better if the air conditioning was pushing air down to the main floor instead of trying to push all the air up to the second floor.

The commissioners suggested McKnight contact the air conditioning businesses in Goodland and ask them to suggest ways to improve the system, and to give estimates of what it would cost.

McKnight also reported that there is a problem with the hot water heater in the basement because it is vented through the same system as the boiler. There is not a problem when the boiler is in operation, but when it is shut down, there is not enough exhaust from the hot water heater to pull all the fumes out.

The commissioners agreed to replace the gas hot water heater with an electric model, and for McKnight to get bids on getting this done as soon as possible.

The commissioners approved the

resolution allowing the sheriff to charge a \$10 fee for handling work release clients. The fee is to be paid in advance, and any collections will go into the general fund.

Selby told the commissioners she is waiting for abstracts on the property being listed for possible tax sale, but has not received any at this time.

"We will need a resolution detailing all the procedures of the tax sale," she said, "including all the details about who can bid on the property."

Selby said there are quite a number of parcels because the county hasn't had a sale since 1993. She said if the value of the property is under \$300,000, and there is under \$10,000 in outstanding taxes, the commissioners may decide not to sell that property at this time.

She recommended that the county not pay an autopsy bill for a person from Wallace County who died in Sherman County.

The law says the autopsy is to be paid by the county for which the cause of death was established, not necessarily where the person eventually died, she said.

She said she sent the bill to the new Wallace County attorney, but he suggested it was not up to his county to pay the bill. Selby suggested that it be sent to the person's estate.

## Baby left at fire station under new protection act

TOPEKA (AP) — A young man gave up custody of 5-month-old at a Topeka fire station Sunday, one year to the day after the state's Newborn Protection Act became law.

The law that went into effect July 1, 2000, allows parents to drop off any

infant up to 45 days old at any Kansas hospital, health center, health department or fire station.

Under the law, as long as the child is unharmed, the parents aren't charged with abandonment, which is a felony in Kansas. The law was meant to save the

lives of newborns who otherwise might be left to die by parents who didn't feel they could handle parenthood.

Although the baby in this case was older than the 45 days specified by law, officials considered it in his best interest to place him in the custody of social services.

## Commission to approve S&T franchise

The Goodland City Commission plans to approve an ordinance today for a franchise agreement between the city and S&T Communications for a cable television system.

City Manager Ron Pickman will give an update on the project to expand Cherry Street south from the railroad tracks to K-24 west of the sunflower painting.

In other business, the commission will:

• Amend cemetery rules and regulations to return to the old rule concerning grave markers. The new rule requires a six- to eight-inch molding at ground level on all stones. The old rule to be re-adopted did not allow any molding around the base of stones.

• Decide whether to purchase surrounding land for development of the airport.

• Hear two ordinances adopting current state uniform traffic regulations and

criminal offenses. These annual revisions from Topeka include changes in the penalties and regulations for drunk driving, approaching an emergency vehicle, passing an emergency vehicle, and driving with a suspended or revoked license. Violations for possession and use of alcohol by a minor and furnishing to a minor beer and liquor will be

combined into one section.

• Discuss the purchase of a new pickup to replace an old one used by the electric department.

• Schedule budget work sessions.

• Hear an update on the street sealing project.

The commission will meet at 5 p.m. on the second floor of the city building.

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