

## Chamber to update city board

The Goodland City Commission will hear from the Chamber of Commerce Economic Development committee and approve requests to the state for reimbursement on two projects at its regular meeting at 5 p.m. Monday.

The economic development committee will provide the commission with a report on its activities to promote business expansion and development in Goodland. The city and county help finance the work.

The commission will approve a request to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to be reimbursed for expenses incurred in their water improvement project and one to the Kansas Department of Transportation for the cost of replacing bricks in three intersections on Main.

The commission will also approve a payment to APAC for construction on the brick intersections and will appoint a director and alternate director to represent the city on the board of the Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska.



This is the night-scene painting Jerry Beltz did for the First Baptist Church congregation on Thursday. Beltz, an international artist and evangelist, first did the painting as a day scene, but switched it to a night scene using black and colored lights.  
Photo by Eric Yonkey/The Goodland Daily News

## Disaster officials shift gears from tornadoes to terrorists

WICHITA (AP) — Disaster kit? Check.  
Home emergency plan? Check.  
Business evacuation plan? Another check.

Here in the heart of tornado alley — where emergency preparedness for natural disasters is already a way of life — government officials are mobilizing to prepare residents for a terrorist attack.

On Thursday, Sedgwick County officials unveiled their “Ready to Respond” initiative — a combination of government, individual and community preparedness plans reminiscent of civil defense efforts during the Cold War.

County officials are urging Kansans to prepare home disaster kits with food, water, clothes, bedding and first-aid supplies.

They are scheduling a series of two-and-a-half-hour classes taught by emergency management personnel, firefighters and paramedics.

The classes will teach citizens how to create a home emergency plan, how to take shelter at their homes in the event of a hazardous chemical attack, how to prepare a home escape plan and what to take on an evacuation, among other things.

On the 11th day of each month — in remembrance of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks — government and citizens are being asked to practice for their own preparedness.

Setting an example for other government agencies and businesses, county commissioners evacuated hundreds of people Thursday from the county courthouse. The drill came minutes after they announced their community

response plan to reporters in the building.

“Although we are thousands of miles away from the tragedies of New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, our Sedgwick County community has changed. And we will continue to see changes in the way we go about our normal daily lives,” said County Commissioner Carolyn McGinn.

The individual and community response programs add to government preparedness plans now in place, and under review, to deal with terrorist threats and attacks.

Part of the government role includes greater use of mental health counselors in the community, known as its COMCARE program.

“We are aware of the stress and anxiety present in our community as the result of these terrorist attacks,”

McGinn said.

Sedgwick County also plans to work with smaller communities to help them prepare not just for natural disasters but for responding to weapons of mass destruction, said Sedgwick County Emergency Preparedness Director Randall Duncan.

County employees learned of the

drill from e-mails. But the evacuation announcement over the intercom heard by the public didn’t indicate a drill.

That did not bother people such as Jason Snider, who was in the building with his family to handle a ticket. The evacuation was orderly.

“I figured it was a drill,” Snider said as he waited to get back inside.

### Hansen gives \$50,000 to college

For the second consecutive year, the Dane G. Hansen Foundation of Logan has contributed \$50,000 to Colby Community College.

“The Dane G. Hansen Foundation once again has helped improve and enrich the lives of our students and the community,” said Dr. Mikel Ary, college president. “This grant, which is to be utilized at the discretion of the col-

lege, will allow the college to extend its resources and services to benefit those in our 14-county area.”

The Hansen Foundation was established in 1965 following the death of Dane G. Hansen. In addition to interests in ranching, road and bridge construction, Hansen became one of the largest independent oil producers in Kansas.

school students. It affects every one of them a little different, Goodland High School Principle Harvey Swager said, but they go on with their everyday activities and homework.

The students are informed and aware of what is going on, he said, but don’t dwell on it. They do the flag salute everyday, the principal said, and are still collecting money for the red cross disaster relief for victims of the Sept. 11 attacks.

As for the military attacks, the sheriff said, he supports the president 100 percent.

“I believe they’re doing it right,” he said, “in hitting the military targets and dropping humanitarian aid to people most affected by the attacks and in the most need.”

The principal supports the attacks on Afghanistan, he said, but wishes the U.S. could find those responsible for the terrorist attacks and bring them to justice without hurting innocent people.

“I think it would be a mistake to do nothing,” Swager said.

She supports the attacks, Blume said, and has heard comments from customers in support as well. Blume has noticed, she said, that more of the comments are from people from the older generation.

“It doesn’t seem to faze the younger generation,” she said.

The attitudes of people have changed in recent years, said Richard Bouzidan, presiding overseer of the Goodland Congregation of Jehovah’s Witnesses, and that is in line with what the Bible says.

“What happened Sept. 11 was shocking and devastating,” he said, “when you consider the innocent lives that were lost without reason.”

And in response to these problems, Bouzidan said, Jehovah’s Witnesses around the world are trying to share words of comfort from the Bible.

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