

# Television crew filmed snake show

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from Rhode Island and the camera and sound men were from Denver.

She said she's glad they choose to shoot Sharon Springs' event, because other roundups might not be quite as informative.

"We try to educate people about snakes," she said.

The crew, Withers said, interviewed the organizers, the hunters and the snake handlers who come to Sharon Springs from all over the state and county to perform.

Gary Bliss, a snake handler from Downs, said the crew followed him while he hunted for a rattler.

He said they asked him questions

about the weather and economy in northwest Kansas and the history of the roundup.

"They wanted to know about everything," he said.

Virg Pugh, a snake handler from Colwich, said a radio station from Salina and a crew with the Public Broadcasting System in Kansas City also covered the event.

Withers said she's not sure when the National Geographic documentary will air, but the crew said they would send her a copy.

She said she hopes the show will attract more people to the roundup, which started as an economic development project.

"That would be great," she said.

# School will raise rates to avoid making cuts

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be higher next year. They monitor what's going on in Topeka and they realize higher education isn't going to get a lot of money next year."

Gov. Bill Graves signed a law earlier this year that allows technical colleges to increase student tuition. In the past, technical colleges were only allowed to charge students 15 percent of the total cost of providing education and the state was supposed to supply the other 85 percent.

Clouse said the state has never paid the entire 85 percent, and plans to give even less this coming year. He said he thinks legislators realized that students were going to have to pay more for their education.

"I think there's a sentiment, if you will, that students should contribute more," Clouse said, "a pay-to-play kind of concept."

The board passed last week proposes keeping state aid for technical colleges at the same rate it was last year, Clouse said, which is actually a reduction.

He said the cost of other services will increase, and providers aren't going to charge colleges less because they're having a hard year.

"I haven't spoken with one business that's going to give us service for less money next year," he said.

Clouse said it's either charge students more or make cuts.

"In order to keep our doors open, we have to have a certain amount of revenue," he said, "or we have to cut services. One of the two."

He said the college isn't planning to cut programs, but is planning not to fill one instructor position in the Engineering Technology department that will be open next year because the current instructor resigned.

## Eat, drink, and be merry



Amanda Angelos (right), and Joyce Armstrong enjoyed a meal during the Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCCLA) banquet on Thursday at Goodland High School. Club members and their parents ate dinner and watched an awards ceremony during the annual event. Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

# Owners have to pay to pick up stray dogs

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Sheriff Doug Whitson and dog-catcher Scott Gilmer explained procedures for picking up stray dogs to Sherman County commissioners Tuesday, explaining that people who pick up their dog or have it returned are being charged for the costs.

At the April 30 commission meeting, County Attorney Bonnie Selby questioned a couple of "dog mileage" charges from Gilmer. The dogs had been returned, and she wondered if the cost had been charged to the owners.

Gilmer said he has returned three dogs to their owners over the past three years, including two in the first months of this year. He said he had contacted the dispatcher when the dogs were picked up and they had given him the name of the owner.

Whitson said the question had caused him to meet with City Police Chief Ray Smee to review how the process has been handled. The sheriff said the city has been billing the county for pound costs, and the county has been collecting separately for the pickup charge of \$20. He said he and Under-sheriff Kevin Butts are the only ones who can authorize a pickup.

Gilmer said he keeps track of the mileage on each dog picked up, and writes it on the ticket when he drops the animal off at the clinic. He said he did not want to be in the collection business. If he takes a dog back to an owner, the county could bill them based on 33

cents per mile.

Whitson suggested Gilmer drop a copy of the ticket at the sheriff's office and they would handle the billing, and notify the county clerk's office of the amount.

Once a dog has been picked up and taken to the clinic, it is kept for three days after which it is either turned over to the Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter to find it a new home or it is euthanized. If the dog is put down, the county pays.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Received a sealed bid from Stan Purvis for a farm lease at \$20 per acre for the land near the new county landfill southwest of Goodland. The commissioners accepted the bid and will propose a lease to Purvis.

- Heard a report from Susan Wegele of Oakley, Northwest Kansas Family Shelter representative for this area. She said the shelter helped 48 clients in Sherman County last year. Wegele said the shelter was asking for \$1,000 from the county, the same as this year.

- Reviewed preliminary drawings from Rhoads Construction to remodel the county transfer station to make room for a trash and cardboard baler. The commissioners said they felt some questions need to be answered and asked Public Works Director Curt Way and Phil Reitcheck of Rhoads to go back and revise the drawings again. No cost estimates were discussed.

- Went into closed session for 15 minutes to discuss a personnel issue. There was no action.

# Economic development group will meet with county

After establishing a steering committee Thursday, members of a citizens economic development group will meet with the Sherman County commissioners at 8 a.m. Tuesday to discuss options for organization and funding their effort.

The group is talking about organizing under the commissioners, or as a separate non-profit corporation which could accept money from the county

and city. Economic development money has been going to the Sherman County Area Chamber of Commerce.

The group is expected to ask the commissioners to set a property tax levy for economic development, which is allowed by state law. Commissioner Kevin Rasure was at the meeting Thursday and was named to the steering committee along with City Commissioner Curtis Hurd.

Steve Duell, county fair board chairman, will discuss repair or replacement of some bleachers and protective screening at the fairgrounds.

The bleachers, not part of the main section, are on the sides of the main grandstand.

Tom Baconrind of Baconrind Insurance in Hays will ask the commissioners for permission to canvass the county employees to see if there is any

interest in them taking out individual and family cancer insurance. The county would not pay for the insurance, but it could be taken out as an employee payroll deduction with a single check going to the insurance company each month.

Curt Way, county public works director, will ask for a closed session to discuss the possibility of the county acquiring a piece of property.

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