

Commissioners hear budget requests

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News
Sherman County commissioners Tuesday heard requests for money from the Sherman County Historical Society and the Thomas Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council and received a letter from the Hospice Services asking for money.

The commissioners will meet at 8 a.m. on Tuesday to discuss the solid waste fee, and discuss appointments to the Goodland Regional Medical Center Board.

The solid waste fee must be set before July 1 each year. Currently the fee is \$150 a year for every residence in the county, and the commercial fees vary by the type of business.

Dave Branda and Lloyd Holbrook of the Sherman County Historical Society talked to the commissioners about the projects the society is involved in and requested the county continue their support with the .2 mills of property tax as they did last year.

The county money brought in \$11,500 last year, but County Clerk Janet Rumpel said since the county valuation will drop this year there will be a drop in the amount the society will receive with the .2 mill levy.

"We thank you for the county support," Branda said, "We know the times are tough, but without your help we probably would not have a historical society."

He said the society has been looking for ways to cut costs and be more efficient. He said they have cut staffing at the historic school



Saturday was a perfect day for the Sherman County Historical Society's garage sale at the Victorian House on 13th and Center, which raised \$700. Dave Branda and Lloyd Holbrook Tuesday asked the county commissioners to continue the county support for the historical society.

Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Star-News

house located north of the High Plains Museum, and reduced the staffing at the historic house on the corner of 13th and Center by using more volunteers.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked if the society was managing to keep up with the maintenance on the buildings, and Branda said they had a few projects to work on this summer, but that they were keeping

up with the maintenance.

Branda said the society has had some luck with some fund raising projects this year, and that the garage sale on Saturday brought in \$700. He said they have enough orders of the miniature pioneer statue to go forward with the project, and are still taking orders.

The commissioners received a letter in the mail from the Hospice

Services requesting the county continue budgeting the \$10,000 for their services as they have in the past year. Hospice deals with people and the families of those who are terminally ill.

The commissioners gave Rumpel the letter and the request from the historical society to include in the upcoming proposed budget.

The Thomas County Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council Executive Director Nina Carpenter asked the commissioners to continue the funding of their program, and that the organization served about the same number of people last year as the year before.

"The state is cutting our money," Carpenter said. "Or actually telling us how we can use the money they are giving us. They are requiring us to have a sliding scale for those who do not fit the 100 percent funding criteria."

The request to Sherman County is for 50 percent of the liquor and cigarette sales taxes received from the state. Over the past several years this has been about \$5,000 per year.

The commissioners asked Rumpel if the state was going to continue sending this money to the county, and she said it was one of the few that the state had indicated they would continue to send down to the counties.

County Attorney Bonnie Selby said it was a good program, but admitted she might be a bit prejudiced because she was a member of the council.

Asked about the type of drug cases she has been seeing Selby said, "I see it in the junior high and up to age 15, but not that much over that. These are the ones we are trying to help."

"We are working with some 14-15 year old girls in the program," Carpenter said, "and it is hard to work with them on some drugs. Many are able to get themselves straightened out, but there are some

who find it a real struggle."

The commissioners said they would probably continue this funding as long as the state was going to send the liquor and cigarette tax money back to the county. The other 50 percent of the money is given to an alcohol and drug abuse program operated through the Goodland Regional Medical Center.

On a money related issue the commissioners received a request from the Goodland Chamber of Commerce to give them \$1,000 toward the fireworks for the Freedom Fest to be held on July 4. The commissioners felt they could afford to give the same amount as last year and approved giving the chamber \$500.

Curt Way, public works manager, talked to the commissioners about repairing the roof of the county shop. He said he had bids on a special type of roof material which would have a 10 year warranty.

The commissioners ask Way to get more information about the roof material, and possible buildings where it has been applied to give them a chance to learn about it before making a decision.

The commissioners approved having Dorendo Harrel use some of the bio-terrorism money to purchase an emergency generator for the County Health Department. They suggested that as part of the generator project she find a way to store the generator near the health department building, and establish a maintenance program to make sure the generator is always in running condition.

Cause of fire being investigated by fire marshal

By Shannon Davidson
The Goodland Star-News
Police Chief Ray Smee had some details regarding the explosion and fire at 1606 Texas that occurred in the early morning hours on Wednesday, June 11.

The explosion damaged a pickup belonging to Mastec and the home owned by Marilyn Bohl.

Rod Oldridge from the Salina Fire marshal's office along with

Ron Harris of the Wichita Fire Marshal office came to Goodland to help determine the cause of the fire. Smee said they examined the pickup in detail and determined it was an incinerary explosion. They are still investigating the cause but believe it was deliberately started in the bed of the pickup.

Smee does not believe the three men in the house are involved. He said one of the men in the house

heard a noise that woke him up about 4:45 a.m. and found the truck on fire. He tried to move the vehicle, but the heat was too intense.

He then went back into the house to call 911 and wake up the other two men in the house to get out. As they were leaving the house a paint can from the back of the truck launched into the house through a window spreading the fire into the house.

The three men were renting the house and work for Mastec.

Smee said they are looking at specific types of explosive devices that would cause the type of destruction found in the pickup, and said they are looking at several leads.

Smee asked anyone who may have information about the explosion and fire is encouraged to contact the Goodland Area Crime Stoppers at 899-5665 or 1-800-KS-

Crime with any information. Goodland Crime Stoppers will offer up to \$1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those involved, and because a bomb was involved the state crime stoppers will offer a reward of up to \$5,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the person involved.

On an unrelated matter Smee said he received a check for \$1,000 from

Archer Daniels Midland Company. The check will be given to the Goodland Crime Stoppers as a specific reward for information about who was involved in the damage done to the Collingwood Grain Elevator on May 2. The \$1,000 will be offered for the information leading to the arrest and conviction of those involved. Anyone with Crime information can call the Goodland Crime Stoppers at 899-5665.

New student?



Animal Control officer Jim Gillespie held a three foot long bull snake found in the breeze way of Goodland High Wednesday afternoon. Photo by Shannon Davidson / The Goodland Star-news

corrections

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Newspaper welcomes new staff reporter

"Three years ago I was a college student without a clue as to what my career was going to be," said Shannon Marie Davidson. "Wandering through campus I strolled into the office of journalism and began to ask questions. I met the chair of the department, Kenn Bisio, and my life changed."

"I learned how to load film into a camera and see the world through a lens along with both eyes. From that point on I knew I wanted to be a photojournalist."

A recent graduate of Metropolitan State College of Denver's Journalism program, Davidson began looking for work. She had been working as an editorial assistant and freelance photographer for *The Denver Post* where the news editor suggested she get out and get some experience in a smaller newspaper.

"I sent my photography portfolio

to the vast amounts of newspapers in this country whose deadline I could make," she said.

"Then at a conference in a Denver hotel in February I passed out my portfolio to each table, only to find that most papers didn't want photographers they were looking for advertisers and reporters."

Much to my dismay I began to lose interest, then I saw a table off to the side with two people waiting for the next person to chat

with. Steve and Cynthia Haynes of *The Goodland Star-News* introduced themselves and told me about Kansas.

"Being a Denver Native It seemed as though Kansas was a whole different country. I smiled and said 'Sure I would be willing to give Kansas a try.'

"Then in a blink of an eye I had a degree in my hand and a career to



Davidson

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