

Student serves as intern

By Greg Stover
The Goodland Star-News
Danny Rasure of Goodland began a four-month internship in Washington for U.S. Rep. Jerry Moran on Sept. 4.

"This is a tremendous opportunity to experience the workings of the House of Representatives," Rasure said. "I look forward to using my previous experience within the Senate and a lobbying firm to help others."

Before coming to Moran's office, Rasure was an intern with the National Association of Manufacturers in Washington and then with Sen. Sam Brownback. Rasure said those experiences helped him understand the culture in the capital and learn how things are done which will be a great help in his current position.

"The internship program is a good opportunity for young people



Rasure and Moran

to get a better understanding of the federal government," Moran said. "I am happy to have Danny working on behalf of Kansans."

Rasure, the son of Kevin and Christie Rasure, graduated from Goodland High School in 2001. He is scheduled to graduate from McPherson College in December with a Bachelor of Science in business management. While at McPherson, Rasure was a member of the Business Club and took part

in two community economic development initiatives, Mainstreet Strategic Marketing and McPherson Vision 2010.

Rasure is the intern outreach director for the College National Committee. As such he plans training and other events for interns in the Washington area. The committee is helping several candidates for the upcoming November election.

Rasure will assist Congressman Moran and his staff with legislative and administrative duties for Kansas' 1st Congressional District. He said that some of the issues he worked on for Sen. Brownback, such as the New Homestead Act, will overlap on to his work with Rep. Moran.

"Working for Kansans and helping Jerry represent their wants in Congress is a honor, and quite exhilarating," Rasure said.

Kidder dedication Saturday

The new silhouettes at the Kidder Massacre site northeast of town will be dedicated at 2 p.m. Sunday during the Flatlander Fall Festival. The free ceremony will last 15-20 minutes and cameras are welcome.

The silhouettes are of a cavalryman with a gun and an Indian on a horse, shadows of a battle that took place 136 years ago.

A Goodland man fashioned the life-sized silhouettes out of metal for the Historic Preservation Alliance, a group that has wanted to add a "visual element" to the site for the last 10 years.

Lloyd Harden of rural Sherman County finished the silhouettes this spring, said Marilyn Cooper, a

member of the alliance and a Kidder historian, but they were not put up until a committee chose just the right spot in the massacre site in August.

Cooper said she was on the committee along with Ron Harding, Bill Hartzler and Brenda Ross. Harden fashions artwork from metal, some of which is displayed on his property along K-27 north of town.

The Kidder site is north of Edson on County Road 28, where a memorial marker flags drivers at the corner of County Road 77. The silhouettes, 1 1/2 miles east of the marker on the north side, are best viewed with binoculars, since they are over 100 yards from the road.

A detail including Lt. Lyman S. Kidder and 10 soldiers died along Beaver Creek in July 1867.

The site was dedicated in their memory in 1967, Cooper said, and has seen its share of attention since. The Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau conducted tours last year, and in 1997, a pageant was held at the site to commemorate the 130th anniversary of the massacre. "Infantry" from Fort Larned came for the event.

The original dedication and the 130th anniversary celebration will be discussed during the dedication ceremony Sunday, Cooper said, and there may be someone from Fort Larned on hand.

Visitors bureau asks city to help clean up entrances

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News
The Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau board approached the city commission last Monday to meet with the board about ways to work together to improve the appearance of the city entrances.

Dale Neil, chairman of the visitor's board and owner of the KOA Campground, said the board is concerned that tourism tax dollars seem to be slipping. He said the tax, collected on hotel rooms and other lodging, is down \$3,500 so far this year.

"We are not sure why," he said, "but believe we are not getting the people to stop for overnight."

Neil said part of that may be there are more rooms in Colby, and the new truck stop there may be having some affect as well.

"Tourism is important to our economy because it brings in over \$10 million total each year in guest taxes, hotel costs and other spending," he said. "We are looking for ideas of how to turn this around. We can't afford to keep slipping backward."

Some things Neil mentioned were finishing the landscaping around the Van Gogh painting to make it more presentable.

City Manager Ron Pickman said the city has the finishing of Pioneer Park as a high priority, and that with all the permits and approval ready, they hope to have this done next spring.

"We are unhappy this has been

allowed to drag on," Pickman said. "It is a priority to be completed."

Brenda McCants, a visitor's board member and customer relations manager at Goodland Regional Medical Center, said she has been part of the regional Prosperity Summit, and this has been a positive part of the economic development effort.

"We need to be more proactive about what people see when they come into the city," she said.

Neal asked to have a joint meeting with the visitor's board and the city commission. A special work session with the commission was held at 9 a.m. Thursday with all members attending.

At the work session, the convention and visitor's bureau board members said they felt the city needs to look at a way to improve the streets and the appearance of the city to make it more attractive to the people who are coming into town.

Some specific eyesores were discussed, but city officials said handling those would be a legal problem.

A suggestion from the visitors board was that the city consider asking the people to pass a sales tax to be used for streets and beautification projects.

Pickman said it would be next year before a sales tax election could be held, and members of the visitor's bureau said they needed to put together an overall program to present to the citizens.

At the city commission meeting last Monday, Commissioner Dave

Daniels had asked about the status of Pioneer Park, and about moving the power line that runs in front of the Van Gogh painting.

Commissioner Dean Blume asked about the status of the park survey and the park committee's recommendations.

Pickman said he had not heard anything from the committee.

Blume said that if they did not come up with the recommendations soon, maybe there should be a new committee or a staff proposal.

"This has to come to a head," Bume said. "We need to have some direction about what to do with the city parks."

He turned to the streets, saying he felt more needed to be done, and that the city should let the voters be part of the decision.

"The whole system needs to be put before the voters," Blume said.

corrections

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Smoother start to the day



Students who arrive by bus at Goodland High School have a new sidewalk leading to the front entrance. The project should be completed by the end of the week and provide a new sidewalk along with curb and gutter for the whole block.

Photo by Greg Stover / The Goodland Star-News

Trooper shoots at driver after shots fired in chase

Kansas Highway Patrol troopers shot at a fleeing driver Monday, ending a chase that roared down I-70 from Colby to Oakley, then wound around country roads northeast of Oakley for more than half an hour.

Officers believed they had shot the man, who told a passenger he would not be taken alive. His vehicle wrecked in a field near the Oakley exit on I-70 on U.S. 83 north

Soldier serves tour in Iraq

Sgt. Amador Peña III of Goodland departed two weeks for his second tour of duty in Iraq.

The son of Amador and Marcy Peña, 504 E. 11st, Peña studied automotive technology at Northwest



Peña

Sgt. Peña went to Fort Eustis, Va. for training in aviation maintenance. He then was sent to Fort Benning, Ga., for airborne training and then reported for duty with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C.

He is assigned to Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 82nd Aviation, of the 82nd Airborne.

of town.

The man's condition and identity weren't known. Dozens of troopers, sheriff's deputies from at least two counties and city police officers descended on the area as the chase developed.

Troopers first reported they were being shot at by the driver about 12:50 p.m. Mountain Time, eastbound on I-70 near the main Colby exit. Officers pursued the car at speeds over 100 miles an hour as the man shot at them.

All available troopers along I-70 were directed to head for the freeway and prepare to set up road blocks. A patrol aircraft was called in from Hays, and was airborne within minutes. A supervisor was called from Goodland.

The car, reportedly a 2000 Dodge Stratus, left the freeway at the east Oakley exit, speeding east on Old U.S. 40. At Campus, location of a new alcohol plant, the driver stopped, backed up and turned north on a Logan County road. A few miles north of Campus, on Tho-

mas County Road 36, near Road B, the car slowed and a passenger bailed out, running into some trees.

Officers surrounded the passenger, who reportedly told police the driver had at least two pistols, a .38 caliber and a 45 caliber. He said the man vowed not to be taken alive.

The car sped on north on Road 36 to Road H, where the northbound road turns to the west. The chase wound around on country roads, back south and then west across U.S. 83. Several more shots were fired in this area, officers reported at 1:07 p.m.

More shots were fired west of the highway and at one point, the car was reported westbound on Road C under I-70. The car went into a wheat field and was reported going north on or near U.S. 83 near the I-70 exit. At that point, an officer reported that he had shot the driver and the car was wrecked.

As officers in the area zeroed in on the scene, others were directed back to their home districts.

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