

Library puts in new entrance

Patrons must enter back door

The Goodland Public Library is working on putting new sidewalk in for their entrance.

A couple of people fell because of a lip in the cement, said Library Director Karen Gillihan, so the library board decided to replace the cement so no one would get hurt.

The library is still open its regular hours, she said, but patrons will have to temporarily use the back door. Their hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Monday through Thursday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.

"Hopefully we will be back to normal in another week," Gillihan said.



Martin McClure of Goodland smoothed cement in the new entrance at the Goodland Public Library. The library is open its regular hours, but patrons have to enter through the back.

Photo by Jessica Corbin
The Goodland Star-News

Smoking policy reviewed

By Sharon Corcoran
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Training was planned last week for Goodland Regional Medical Center managers to brush up on their knowledge of the hospital's no-smoking policy, so they can be sure everyone in their department is aware of what is allowed and what is not.

Administrator Jay Jolly told the board at its regular meeting Monday, Aug. 25, a member of the community had asked about the hospital's smoking policy. The hospital instituted a policy on tobacco use in 1995, he said, that states that employees, visitors and patients who smoke have to take it outside.

Employees are not allowed to smoke near the hospital's main entrance, Jolly said, nor by the entrance at A Hall or the entrance near the nurses' station. Employees are allowed only two smoke breaks a day, he said, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

Excessive smoke breaks disrupt productivity, he said, and exceed the number of breaks allowed to non-smoking employees.

If people smoke too close to a door, Jolly said, the smoke blows inside, and when employees are facing into the wind, they end up with the smell on their clothes. Jolly said he thought those were the issues that led someone to question the policy.

"The objective is to keep smoke away from patients," he said. "I think we have pretty good compliance."

The hospital works to promote better health, he said, and therefore doesn't want second-hand smoke to be a problem. Jolly said he has been talking with Dale Schields, director of human resources, about arranging for employees who smoke to be able to change into different lab coats afterward to avoid bothering patients and visitors with the smell of smoke on their clothes.

In other business, the board:

- Heard that four pieces of x-ray equipment were damaged by lightning and would be handled as a single claim with a \$5,000 deductible by the insurance company.

- Met the new director of patient care services, Lori Gaydusek.

- Heard that an attempt to redefine what would qualify as a rural, underserved clinic has been withdrawn, so the clinic's designation as a rural health clinic that qualifies the hospital for increased payments from Medicare will not change.

City, college to compromise on costs

By Tom Betz
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City commissioners want to develop an incentive package for future expansion projects involving public agencies, but agreed Monday to work with the Northwest Kansas Technical College to follow the existing ordinance which allows the city to do the work without charging labor on the projects.

College President Ken Clouse said he was back to the commission to look at the estimated costs for the water and electrical for the Village III student housing project the college has begun construction for this fall.

"I am asking for money from the city," Clouse said, "and feel the estimated cost is high for the proposed electrical and water systems."

Charlie Bandel, electrical distribution supervisor, estimated the electrical costs for the project at \$20,035, and said part of the cost was because the college had asked for the lines to be underground.

Rich Simon, public works director, estimated the water costs at \$8,525.

City Manager Wayne Hill said the electrical cost could be cut some if it was not underground.

"I would go with overhead if it is easier," Clouse said. "I see no reason why that would need to be underground. It would make sense on other parts of our campus."

Bandel said that could cut the electrical cost, but that it would not cut it that much as the cost would shift to buying power poles. He said there would probably be a savings

of a couple of thousand dollars by not going underground.

Commissioner Dave Daniels said with all the poles and wire it would not be that much different than the underground cost.

Commissioner Josh Dechant asked Simon if the water estimate included a fire hydrant.

Simon said it did at a cost \$1,647 plus the fittings.

Hill said he agreed with Simon that a hydrant is needed.

"You will have people living there," he said, "and we need to be able to flush the line. I think we have to go about 820 feet total and would put the hydrant about the middle."

Commissioner John Garcia asked about the future expansion as Clouse said this building would be the first of three to be built over the next few years.

Hill said that is why the city is suggesting a six-inch water line.

Dechant asked Clouse what he had in his budget for water and electrical.

"If you turn me down we are proceeding with the project," Clouse said. "The reason I am here asking for assistance is the high cost of the electrical and water lines."

"I don't feel we need a hydrant and this we can provide water over there with a four inch line. I don't see a need for the hydrant."

"I wish all the campus electrical was underground, but we have overhead all over the campus and I would rather spend the money at other places."

"If the city is looking to expand to the east I think these are things to

look at, but there are issues on the east side like 13th Street. We have a drainage issues and purchased property to get the water out of there.

"I don't see the city growing to the east. Maybe there are visions I am not aware of. For economic development purposes in Goodland I would encourage this commission and any others that we think about these things."

"I believe the college is one of the major aspects that is influencing the future of the community. We are tax supported and operate off tuition and state aid. Anything you can do would be appreciated."

"I think we ought to do anything we can to help the college," said Mayor Rick Billinger. "The city is in a rough time right now and the college is in a rough time."

"I know we can not do it all. Maybe we ought to look at the overhead it might be a savings of \$1,000 or more."

"I think we need a hydrant. I don't want to spend all this money and short change it by \$1,500."

Simon said the city was not gaining by putting in a four-inch line, and then having to come back and do a six inch like they had to do for the fire sprinkler system in the new Diesel Technology building.

"I think it is a good plan," Billinger said, "to put in the better service and the fire hydrant. We are going to have to be a little more flexible if we are going to grow. We have to make it more friendly for people to build things."

Daniels asked what the city labor cost would be for the projects.

Bandel said the electrical would be about \$5,000 and Simon said it would be \$2,000 for sure for the water project.

"I agree we need to do some economic development enticement," Daniels said. "I think if we do this we have to do it for everything."

"I think in the past we have turned people down. I think we have to be ready to handle these and not set ourselves up for a discrimination suit. I think we need to do this with our eyes open."

Commissioner Annette Fairbanks said the city needs to put a package together for the amount and what they can do in these cases.

"We need to have a policy for the city to be a guideline when groups like the college or the hospital come to us," said Commissioner John Garcia. "Anything we can do to stimulate the base is good. What if we threw in the labor."

"I said you have to be visionary and like what Rich and Charlie are saying."

"I think we can do about 25 percent when we are talking about the college and feel that is a precedent we can set that would be part of the policy for everyone."

"We have to be willing to do this for anyone," Billinger said. "For individuals I think we need to have a policy. We are setting a precedent."

corrections

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

matters of record

District Traffic

The following fines have been paid to the Sherman County District Court. All ages are at the time of the ticket.

July 15: Kulwant Singh Bains, 50, Surrey, British Columbia, Canada, \$175 for violating motor carrier safety rules and regulations, not paying United Carrier fees.

Valerie T. Deschepper, 44, Colman, S.D., \$175 for violating motor carrier safety rules and regulations, not paying United Carrier fees.

Kevin L. Graham, 40, Dodge City, \$165 for speeding, 60/40.

Patricia R. Holt, 40, Red Hook, N.Y., \$175 for violating motor carrier safety rules and regulations, not paying United Carrier fees.

July 16: Dan D. Atwood, 66, Houston, \$147 for speeding, 87/70.

September 5-11 Momma Mia!

(PG-13): Some sex-related comments.

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Elks Ladies Luncheon

Saturday, Sept. 13 at Goodland Elks #1528, 1523 Arcade, Goodland.

Wives and Widows of Elk Members and Female Elk Members are invited!

RSVP with \$8.50 to Zona at the Elks, Box 146, Goodland, Kan., 67735 by September 6!

8 Wonders of Sherman County!

Which Would You Choose???

Local residents know the best spots tourists should visit while in our area. That's why the Sherman County Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Economic Development Council and the Goodland Star-News are asking you to help name the 8 Wonders of Sherman County. This unique marketing effort will help direct tourists to the top eight attractions we have to offer.

We need your help to identify the best of the best. Whether it be a building, museum or a place of business, a remote rural location or an in-town hot spot, Sherman Countians are the best source of knowledge.

Voting will take place in two stages. In stage 1, we're asking for you to name your own top 8 list. Either fill out the form below and return it to The Goodland Star-News or vote online at www.8wonders/hdnews.net/sherman/. Voting will take place until Sept. 15th.

Stage 2 will feature the top 16 sites voters have selected as finalists. From that list, you will determine the 8 Wonders of Sherman County. Stage 2 also will be conducted with your choice of paper or online ballot starting Sept. 26th.

The 8 Wonders of Sherman County winners will be announced in Oct. 24th.

8 Wonders of Sherman County Ballot:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
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