



Marvin Seaman shows some of his selection of horn, bone and wood knife handle blanks he has in his cabinet at his home in north central Sherman County. The blank he is holding is made from

cactus. Seaman has been making knives with purchased blades since 1995 and in the last two years he has started to grind his own blades.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Knifemaker wins award

By Pat Schiefen
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Marvin "Pepper" Seaman, who has been grinding his own knife blades and finishing them for less than two years, won the Best New Knifemaker award on Aug. 20 to 22 at the Professional Knifemakers Association 18th Annual Denver Custom Knife Show. The knife that won was a hunting knife with a desert iron wood handle.

Seaman said this was the first time he had taken knives to a knife show. Most of the time he takes his knives to sell at gun shows. His busy time is in the fall around hunting season and then he's busy with Christmas orders.

"I ground my first knife blade in October 2009," said Seaman. He wanted a hunting knife and wanted to get one from his brother, Mark, who also makes knives. While he was visiting Mark, Mark gave him a knife blank, got him started grinding and went to work at his job. When he finished that step Mark started him on his next step.

Seaman started making knives with purchased blades and putting handles on them in 1995. He makes cooking knives, hunting knives and letter openers.

To make a knife he starts out with a piece of stainless steel bar stock a little longer than the finished knife would be. Seaman then marks the shape and the pin holes using a sprayed on prussian blue marker. The next step is to grind the blade into the proper shape. He also heat treats the blade as he grinds it.

Once the blade is ground and polished the next step is to pick a material for the handle, get it ready and pin it to the blade.

Seaman said he favors using natural materials including stabilized woods, stabilized camel and giraffe bone, sheep horn and water buffalo horn. He has several places he buys his handle blanks from. After the wood or horn is dyed, he said, then it is placed in a vacuum with resin. The material becomes impregnated with the resin making it water proof and prevents cracking and warping. The blanks are pinned to the blade. The blanks are shaped to fit the type of blade it goes on. Polishing finished the process. The pins can be made from different materials as well as the treated paper product between the blade and the handle.

He and his wife, Charlie, moved back to Goodland in 2004.

"It's only been in the last couple of years that I've really started making my own knife blades," said Seaman.

Seaman makes eight different knife designs with blades from 2 1/2 to 5 inches long. His knives cost from \$195 to \$300 a piece. The blades can have a satin or mirror finish.

He said he goes to about 15 gun and knife shows in a year, two in August, three in September, two in October, two in November and three in December.

Seaman said he will make the knife with the blade the customer wants and will let them pick out the handles.

Building to be developed in park

By Tom Betz
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Plans are being developed for a new 500 foot by 150 foot building to be erected on the south part of the Goodland Industrial Park for grain storage and eventually manufacture of wind turbines.

City Manager Doug Gerber said he had been working with Danny Rasure on behalf of GT Wind and the Goodland Industrial Park to develop an agreement for extension of city utilities to the property.

Rasure was at the meeting on Monday and said the plan is to build the building for grain storage immediately, but to convert it to a manufacturing plant in the future.

The Goodland Economic Development Corporation is deeding the land to Rasure on the understanding the building will be erected by Dec. 1.

Gerber said the city has an three-way agreement between Rasure and the development corporation with the city agreeing to provide electrical service by Jan. 15, and water and sewer service in the future.

"What we have agreed to is the city is willing on an as need basis extend the city utilities to the property," Gerber said, "by January, it might be sooner, but Rasure knows we will work on it if possible to make it earlier. The water and waste water will be extended in the future.

"Rasure will have the use of city right of way for egress and ingress. He will put down the appropriate road surface to get trucks in and

out. It would be constructed as a street in the future."

Gerber said if the building is not built by December the property reverts to the development corporation, and the corporation had the first right of refusal if the decision is made by Rasure to sell the property.

Billinger asked who is paying for the sewer extension.

"I think Rasure knows that is the responsibility of the landowner," Gerber said.

"We would like to work it into an over all development," Rasure said.

"That is not what this agreement says," Billinger said.

Looking at section seven of the contract the paragraph says the city would "provide utilities to Rasure on an as-needed basis within a reasonable time after a reasonable request. Rasure and the city agree the only utility necessary at this time is electricity to be provided by Jan. 15. Sewer and water will be provided on an as-needed basis upon reasonable time and notice, and agreement at to who will pay for the construction of said utilities."

Rasure said it meant the city would provide utility service.

Gerber said it said the city will provide service an agreement at the time sewer and water are needed.

Commissioner Daniels said he wants to make it clear that Rasure was asking for the utilities and the city will provide that based on city policy.

Gerber suggested taking the last part of the sentence out about the sewer and water.

"That is all negotiable," he said.

"To me it is a lose end," Billinger said. "I want to make sure it is clear."

Rasure raised a question about section two which says "no other structures will be built on the property, including wind turbines, without the written agreement of Goodland Economic Development and the city.

"I don't want to have to come back every time we need to do a remodel," he said.

Gerber said remodeling of the main building would not require commission approval, but city approval by building inspector.

Commissioner John Garcia said the contract says no other building may be built without approval.

Gerber said once the main building is erected there will not be a lot of space left, and any wind turbine would have to come back to the city commission for approval.

Daniels said the Federal Aviation Administration and the city.

Rasure said he knows he could not get a city permit for a wind turbine without approval from the FAA.

Gerber said the biggest obstacle Rasure was facing is completion of a site plan. That has to be stamped by an engineer.

Rasure said Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates were going to do the site plan.

Billinger asked how tall the

building will be.

Rasure said it will be 36 feet high because it is being built as a manufacturing plant, but for grain storage right now.

Billinger said the city could offer Rasure the same deal on electrical service as offered to Frontier Ag and ADM of 70-30 with the city paying 70 percent and the owner paying 30 percent.

Rasure said he would estimate the electrical use would be about \$70,000 a year.

Billinger asked how far the city will have to run electricity.

Gerber said it will come from the same place as Frontier Ag, and will be underground.

"I think it will be a nice addition out there," Billinger said.

With the sentence about the sewer and water removed Gerber said the extension would be paid for under normal city policy.

Billinger said he would accept a motion to approve the contract as amended and to offer Rasure the same electrical extension deal as the others.

Daniels said he was a little confused as to why the city was included since the city did not own the property.

"It is in the city limits," Gerber said. "We maintain the street that is out there. It was platted with city streets back in 1980."

Daniels made the motion to accept the agreement as laid out by Billinger. Commissioner Annette Fairbanks seconded. The vote was 4-0 with Mayor Josh Dechant absent.

Cancer group to start meeting

A new cancer support group will hold its first meeting at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 14, in the Large Boardroom at Goodland Regional Medical Center.

The group is open to any cancer patient, survivor, caregiver, or family member. Initially the support group will meet at the hospital on a monthly basis depending on the desires of the group members.

Hospital staff, community members and personnel from The American Cancer Society and Midwest Cancer Alliance worked together on the formation of the local cancer support group.

A variety of resources available through the American Cancer Society and Midwest Cancer Alliance will be used to help support the group as well as to offer education on a number of topics. A survey was conducted at the Relay for Life and is currently online at www.

goodlandregional.com to gather information on areas of interest for future meetings.

Ron Barkley, a cancer survivor, recognized the need for a cancer support group in Goodland and was instrumental in the development of the group. Daryl Miller and Ann Hadaway, students in the Masters Degree program at The University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, which provides counseling services at the Goodland hospital, will serve as the group facilitators and Mindy Greene, Goodland hospital Social Worker, will offer support resources for the group.

For more information about this support group or if you would like to be placed on a mailing list to receive meeting notices, please contact the Tina Goodwin at Goodland Regional Medical Center at (785) 890-6036.

Sheriff accepting drugs

Do you have bottles of expired, unwanted or unused medications?

The Sherman County Sheriff's Office will team up with the Drug Enforcement Agency for the National Drug Take-Back Day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday at the Walmart Supercenter parking lot.

The collection is an opportunity for people to turn in expired, unwanted, unused pharmaceutical controlled substances and other medications, said Sheriff Kevin Butts.

The service is free and anonymous, he said. No questions or requests for identification will be made.

People will be able to spot the collection site with the Sheriff's Office pickups with their flashing lights.

If someone cannot make the drop off by 2 p.m. on Saturday, contact the Sheriff's Office and make arrangements for a pick-up (785) 890-4835.

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In this class, we will create an invoice and learn how to do various formatting tasks, basic calculations, page setup operations, and printing.
Provided by:
Western Kansas Business Consulting
When: September 30 from 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Where: Goodland Public Library
To register contact:
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Phone number: 620-874-0771
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This program is funded in part by USDA Rural Development. Wichita County Economic Development, Inc. dba Western Kansas Business Consulting is an Equal Opportunity Provider.