

# Courthouse smoking moved to sidewalk

By Tom Betz  
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Complaints about cigarette smoke wafting up from the front of the Sherman County courthouse to the third floor caused the commissioners to put a restriction on how close smokers could be to the building at the meeting on Tuesday.

Smelling cigarette smoke on the third floor was checked out by a county employee on Tuesday, and he reported it was not coming from any of the bathrooms, but appeared to be coming in through the front door and being carried up to the second and third floors.

Commissioner Cynthia Strnad suggested banning smoking from county property as the best way to solve the problem.

Commissioner Larry Enfield said that would include the Bastille and some property east of the Bastille. He suggested making it no smoking within 30 feet of the courthouse building.

Commissioner Max Linin said he felt it should be at least out to the sidewalk running around the courthouse.

Strnad made a motion to ban smoking within 30 feet of the courthouse, and it was passed unanimously.

The commissioners suggested signs be posted saying no smoking within 30 feet.

In other business the commissioners:

- Approved an agreement with Denver law firm of Wheeler, Trigg, O'Donnell to pay \$325 an hour to assist Sherman County in the legal matters dealing with Rocky Mountain Chip Seal.

- Talked with Brock Abby, who has been hired as a temporary legal intern in the county attorney's office. Abby said he was hired on a temporary basis until he gets the results of his bar exam. Abby said he is working in her office, and hopes to be full time once he has passed the bar exam.

Enfield said it would be a part time position until the county knows what is happening.

Abby said he should know the results by mid September. He said his commitment is to be here long term.

- Accepted a letter of resignation

from Brenda McCants from the Goodland Regional Medical Center board effective Aug. 30. The letter said she and her husband were moving out of their house and would be relocating to Colorado.

McCants said in a phone conversation last week the new Goodland Superintendent Bill Bierman had purchased their home, and they were packing up to move out quickly. Bierman confirmed the purchase and said he was looking forward to moving his family into town this month.

The county commissioners voted to accept the resignation with deep regret.

- Accepted a low bid of 3.35 percent interest from Western State Bank on a lease-purchase for \$200,000 over five years to partially pay for the new courthouse heating and air conditioning system. The other bid was for 4.25 percent from People's State Bank.

- Heard a report from Enfield that the motor grader engine taken to Colby would be rebuilt by CAT, and the company would agree to credit a portion of the cost to reduce the cost to Sherman County. He said once the engine is rebuilt the CAT people will bring it back to Goodland and have the county people install the motor.

- Heard a report from Petty Pratt of the Northwest Kansas Juvenile Services out of Hays saying they are not changing the program and not asking for money. She said four from Sherman County have been in the first time offender/diversion program.

She said in that program the person has to be passing in school, and if they have not met that requirement at the end of the school year they have to be in the program through the summer and the first three months of the next school year until they have a passing report card.

She said about 13 kids from Sherman County have been in the diversion classes, and sometimes the classes are held in Sherman County or they are taken to Colby. She said they feel the classes have been a success and they make sure the kids get to the classes.

She said one girl who had been in the class said she had learned about

what her actions were causing and that she needs to think before she reacts.

Pratt said the girl was facing a judge and he was asking questions and she was getting mad, but said the girl told her she realized getting upset was not going to do anything but get the judge upset, and she decided to stay quiet and the court session went better than it had in past appearances.

Another program is the intake probation program, and Pratt said they usually have six or seven kids on that program. She said one success story was a girl who is now in college and continues to go to class.

She said they have gotten some kids out of Colorado in a program, and the kids say Kansas is more strict than what they saw in Colorado.

"We continue to follow up on their progress," Pratt said, "and I tell them coming to a small town makes them more visible and more people take notice."

She said the other program is Thinking for a Change, and there is no charge for the class designed to help the kids find better choices.

Strnad asked how the program is funded.

Pratt said through the state and the juvenile justice system. They have to do juvenile intake reports and do have intensive supervision of some of the juveniles. She said the group covers 17 counties.

"Being mobile has helped us keep from having to ask for additional money," she said. "We do have to drive a long way for placement—as far away as 300 miles. She said they do have some group home placements in Oberlin and Quinter."

She said they do not have treatment facilities such as can be found in the eastern part of the state.

Linin asked what the oldest age the program takes.

Pratt said they take kids from 10 to 18, and if in custody until they are 21. She said it is based on the crime and what the judge determines. Pratt said the kids seem to do the best in the smaller schools.

Strnad said she was glad to hear about the success stories.

Enfield thanked Pratt for coming to the meeting.

## Newest art in park



The latest painting on an easel was done by Travis Scollard, Spencer Windell and Toby Hurst as part of the effort of the Carnegie Arts Center to provide art instruction to school children. The painting was done in June as part of the Summer Art Institute and has been erected at Steever Park near the Skate Park.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

# State treasurer wants to return lost cash

Kansas State Treasurer's office is currently safeguarding over \$230 million worth of unclaimed property for their rightful owners or their heirs.

As a part of the Treasurer's "Unclaimed Property Returns" tour Treasurer Ron Estes and staff members will be in Goodland on Wednesday, Aug. 24, from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. mountain time at the Goodland Public Library on 812 Broadway Ave.

Estes and his staff will be in St. Francis on Wednesday, Aug. 24, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. central time at the Cheyenne County Courthouse on 212 E Washington.

"We encourage everyone in the area to stop by and check their name and the names of family

and friends," said Estes. "In this economy everyone could use a little help and we feel it is important to be sure these resources get back to the rightful owners. The Unclaimed Property Returns tour is a wonderful opportunity for us to connect Kansans with cash and property currently being held by our office for free," Estes said.

Unclaimed property includes inactive savings and checking accounts, uncashed checks, stock shares and bonds, dividend checks, insurance proceeds, mineral royalties and utility deposits.

In addition to cash, stocks and bonds, safe deposit boxes are turned over to the State Treasurer's office. There are currently over 15,000 safe deposit box properties on file.

Approximately 600 new boxes are turned over to the treasurer's office each year.

"As a native of Wichita I enjoy my time in all parts of Kansas," said Estes. "I am proud to offer one of the most vital functions the treasurer's office provides directly to people in their towns," stated Estes.

Making a claim is free and easy. There are no fees involved in searching for or claiming cash and property. To search, a last name is required and a first name is recommended.

Kansans who can't make it to the event may call the State Treasurer's office at 1-800-432-0386 or log onto www.KansasCash.com to search for unclaimed property.

## 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.

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PARENTS: You can spend more time with your kids and be a hero to other kids by becoming a coach. Please become a coach or a referee as we can't have a flag football league without you.

Game nights are tentatively scheduled for Monday evenings at 5 p.m. and 5:45 p.m.

REGISTRATION:  
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**Saturday, Aug. 20 @ 6:30 PM MT**  
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Hot Laps: 5:30 p.m. MT  
Pit Gates Close At 5:30 p.m. MT

**Contact Information:**  
Tom Colby (Promotor): 785-399-8041  
Dale Davis (Co-Promotor): 785-821-1246 Or 785-890-8426  
Tammy Colby (Secretary/Treasurer): 785-399-8009  
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