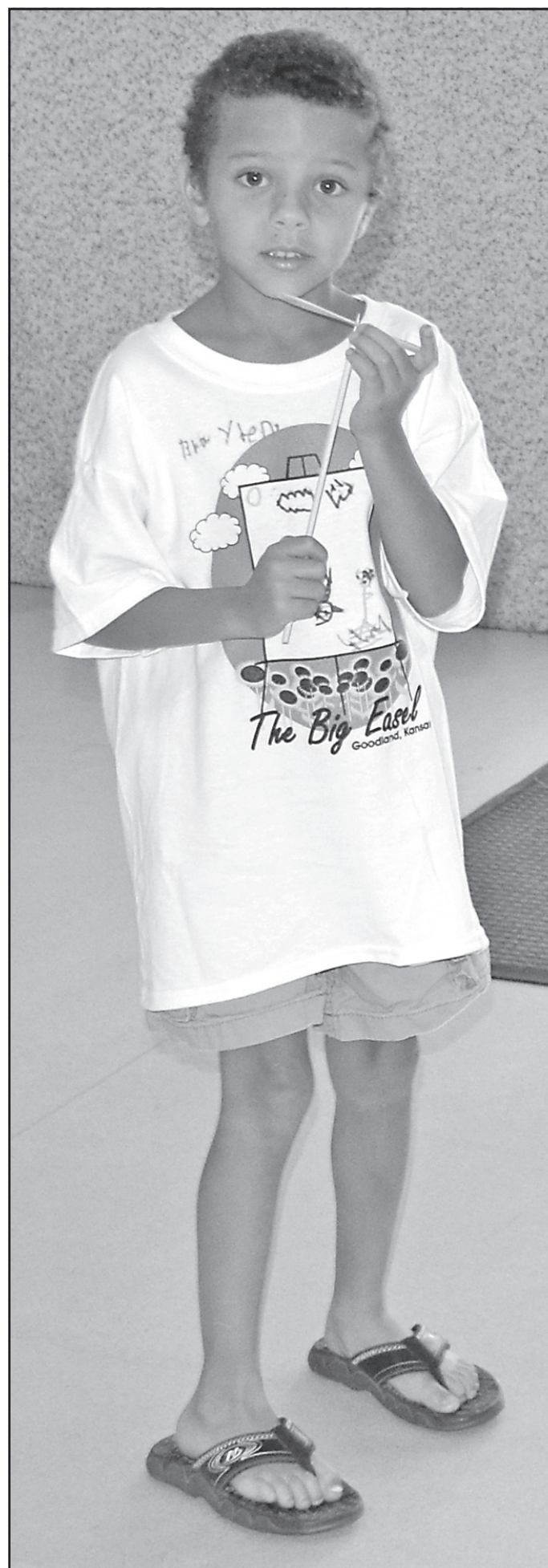




Cross got into town last week, and over the weekend the museum held a paint-your-own-Van Gogh event, where people could come to the museum and use fabric markers to paint their own version of Van Gogh onto a special T-shirt, using pictures of the painting and tips from Cross. Diann Bottrell from Loveland, Colo., (above) and this young boy (right) were two of the people who came through. The event was popular, and the museum ran out of T-shirts.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News



County takes closer look at IGA building

COUNTY, from Page 1

appear to be no structural problems.

The building will require lots of work, however, including overhead doors for all the vehicles, moving some of the overhead sprinklers to accommodate the taller vehicles, sleeping quarters, training rooms, storage rooms and offices. There are currently two restrooms which are Americans with Disability Act compliant, Hall said, and can be kept intact. The radiant heaters on the main floor could also be kept. Hall said that the electrical service looks good, and would likely not have to be moved or upgraded.

On the interior, the columns holding up the roof could pose a problem when creating truck bays. Hall said the space between the columns – 20 feet – is larger than needed for one truck, but not big enough for two. James said that in addition to the two ambulances, the city and county would need to house a total of nine vehicles in the station.

The IGA building would not need a safe room – a reinforced concrete shelter to safely house emergency responders in a tornado or other type of emergency – since the shelter at City Hall is nearby.

Hall said that although the commissioners wanted a bottom-line cost estimate, he couldn't have that for them until he had more exact measurements and drew up some preliminary plans. He said he would use some of the things the commissioners had him design for the new building to help determine what the cost of some items would be.

Hall brought his latest plans for the new building, in case the commissioners end up wanting to go down that road. He said he could be back with an estimate on Tuesday, July 24. The commissioners voted unanimously to have him proceed with work on the IGA building.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Discussed the wear and tear on County Road 11. The road leads from a sand and gravel excavation site to the I-70 road project, and is used by Koss Construction to ferry material to the construction site.

The dirt road has been heavily affected by the heavy trucks. Commissioner Cynthia Strnad said four county road department crewmen put in more than 100 hours of overtime repairing the road last weekend. The crews used two road graders, a water truck and a paver. Shirley Anderson, who was there on other business, said she often uses that road. After the work done on the road on Saturday, she said, the road was great. Several days later it was damaged again.

Strnad said the county is now questioning whether it can maintain the road at a level safe for drivers. The county's contract with the Kansas Department of Transportation allows \$56,000 for quarry road support, but, Commissioner Larry Enfield said, the county could use that up very quickly. With the project going on for multiple years, the commissioners said they would not have the money to continue maintaining the road.

"They're caught with a deadline and we're caught with a road we can't maintain," she said.

The commissioners called the Department of Transportation. The department representative said he would look into the matter, but he did not know if anything could be done.

- Heard a request for funding from the Sherman County Historical Society. The county contributed \$9,000 to the society this year. Strnad said the commissioners will be going over next year's budget soon, and that there had been no discussions about reducing the society's funding.

Giant Van Gogh taken down for maintenance

VAN GOGH, from Page 1

Cross said he expects it to take more than a week to get the painting ready to be put back on the easel.

City Manager Doug Gerber said the city has purchased a series of spikes to be attached to the top to discourage pigeons and other birds from landing.

Bryant Nemechek said it was tough to get the welds to pop loose, but it will be easier to put it back up and weld it back into place.

The Van Gogh sunflower painting was erected 11 years ago under a state grant obtained by a local group Sunflowers USA. The group had some financial difficulties and last year agreed to turn ownership of the painting and

the viewing area over to the city.

The Goodland Rotary Club made the painting their Rotary Centennial project and established the light in front of the painting and all the brick areas and sidewalks as well as the benches and visitor log.

The Sherman County Resource Development Committee helped start the trees around the painting, and get the ownership turned over to the city to make it part of the city parks system.

The city already owned all the land around the painting, and in the past year have brought water and electricity to the area to allow the trees to be decorated for the Christmas holiday season.



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