

# “Gypsies” pay visit to Goodland

By Kathryn Gurfinkel

The Goodland Star-News

Goodland had some unusual visitors Monday as self-appointed gypsies Roger and Cindy Pfalzgraf, of Staunton, Ill., cruised into town.

The pair stopped in their turquoise 1947 Chevrolet Suburban to catch a glimpse of the giant replica of the Vincent Van Gough sunflower painting. While in town, they stopped in to The Antique Warehouse and the High Plains Museum to see America's first helicopter.

“We love the museum,” Pfalzgraf said.

The couple said they had been to a show in Pueblo, Colo. with the National Streetrod Association. They stayed here on their way to the show, but fog obscured the sunflower painting that day, so they decided to stop on their way home.

They called the Suburban their “Florida Car” because of its beach feel. They said it was rebuilt in Chicago by a friend who wanted to have a Key West vacation whenever he pleased.

The car comes complete with an antique surfboard strapped to the top. Roger said the board is an old Dewey Weber brand that is probably worth more than the car. The car has a couple of matching turquoise suitcases strapped alongside the surfboard.

“It does make an interesting show car,” he said.

The group holds 11 shows a year, and the Pfalzgrafs try to go to as many as they can.

“We were the first people to drive to all 11,” Cindy said.

Although they are not actually gypsies, the couple embodies the gypsy spirit with frequent travel and



Roger and Cindy Pfalzgraf made a brief stop in Goodland on their way home from a National Streetrod Association car show in Pueblo, Colo. The show featured over 1,900 cars including the 1947 Chevrolet Suburban they drove all the way from Staunton, Ill. Since their stop in town, the couple can now add the world's largest Van Gough painting and America's first helicopter to the list of exotic attractions they've visited.

Photo by Kathryn Gurfinkel/The Goodland Star-News

a carefree existence. Since Roger retired 15 years ago, they have crisscrossed the country, visiting street rod shows in Florida, Vermont, California, Missouri, Oklahoma and elsewhere. Their show cars are labeled as gypsies on their personalized license plates, and Roger and Cindy even live at 2947 Gipse Lane.

“We have just a vagabond lifestyle,” he said. “We enjoy meeting people and seeing different places.”

They said they travel on secondary highways to get a feel for different places and to visit out-of-the-way spots. Roger said they were headed home, but first they planned to stop in McDonald at the Frosty Mug for supper Monday.

“The next stop on our trip could be anywhere,” he said.

Cindy does, however, need to be home to ride in the couple's psychedelic “Muppet” bus in a parade on

the Fourth of July. The extraordinary bus, she said, was featured in “Muppets from Space” and “The Muppet Movie.”

Roger said the Suburban helps the couple meet people on their trips because it draws attention. Newspapers will send out a reporter to cover the strange visitor in town.

“When you show up in an antique vehicle, people come over and stop,” he said.

# Edson gym goes on eBay Internet auction site

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

The Goodland school board voted 6-0, with Ron Schilling absent, Monday night to list the Edson gymnasium on the eBay Internet auction site for 90 days through a Salina real estate broker.

The broker, Dave Rose, has had some success selling off old school property. He met with board president Dick Short and Kenny Studer, the school district's maintenance supervisor, on June 18 to inspect the building.

Short said Rose was confident the building would sell for at least \$50,000, especially since he knew of businesses looking for this type of building.

Rose told Superintendent Marvin Selby there was a one-time up front fee of \$350 plus \$500 to list the property. Rose also will receive 3 percent of the sale price when the building is sold.

Approval of a 90-day listing was contingent on no increase in the listing cost and that the board will get a business plan from any interested buyer for final approval of the sale. Board member Danny Whalen

asked where the money from the sale would go. Selby said it would go into the capital outlay fund.

Selby credited Carol Applegate, Sherman County Economic Development director, for recommending Rose to handle the sale.

The board voted unanimously to accept the bid by Ecklund's First Insurance to provide workman's compensation coverage for the district starting July 1. A pool sponsored by the Kansas Association of School Boards had provided the coverage for the past five years, but projected cost increases and the need for a supplemental payment of over \$8,000 earlier this month prompted the district to look elsewhere. Going with Ecklund will provide the same coverage and save about \$1,400 next year.

During the public forum, Gene Becker of Goodland, Mark Becker of Liberal and Robert Becker of Hoxie thanked the board for the use of Max Jones Field for the memorial service for the three members of their family were killed in an accident on June 11. They said the family was grateful to the district for all the support they gave before and

during the ceremony. Two of the women worked for the district.

During the superintendent's report, Selby said the parents of the students of Mary Wyant, who was a paraprofessional at West Elementary, raised money to plant a tree in honor of her and her daughter, Christine Williams, a science teacher at the high school.

Selby said since Kendall Cooper was donating a tree and Kevin Zimmerman will plant it for free, the parents wanted to use the money for a plaque to be placed near the tree honoring the two and a separate marker honoring Marshall Snethen, who was a first-grader at West when he was killed in a car accident on April 19, 1998.

In other business, the board:

- Voted unanimously to continue its participation agreement with Northwest Kansas Technical College for another three years at a cost of \$150. The agreement allows qualified high school students to take vocational education classes at the college.

- Voted unanimously to raise the mileage reimbursement rate for employees a penny to 37 cents a

## corrections

An article in the June 29 issue of *The Goodland Star-News* about Ryan Scheopner and Brandon Sissel, members of the Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Sherman County, said that the organization was plan-

ning to hear a presentation on fire safety from the Goodland Fire Department. The presentation will be given by the Sherman County Rural Fire Department. This was a reporting error.

☆☆☆☆  
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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# ‘511’ new hotline for road conditions

Travelers have a new, quick and simple way to get road information in Kansas: just dial 511.

Barb Blue of the Kansas Department of Transportation said the 511 system replaces the old Road Condition Hotline.

Dialing 511 inside Kansas, or 1-866-511-KDOT anywhere in the U.S., travelers can get road conditions, construction detours and travel weather information for state highways and the Kansas Turnpike all day, every day. The call is free from a land-line

phone. The call may count against cellular minutes, but no roaming fee should be involved. The system updates every 15 minutes.

Calling 511 before hitting the road, travelers can find out if the routes they plan are affected by road work and can make alternative plans. Information is entered by transportation department crews across the state.

The information also is available on the Internet at [www.kanroad.org](http://www.kanroad.org).

# First West Nile virus case confirmed in Kansas this year

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment says the first case of West Nile virus this year has been confirmed in a bird found in Sedgwick County.

The disease is carried by birds and transmitted by mosquitoes that bite the infected birds, which then transmit it to horses and people.

“Every Kansan should take precautions against West Nile virus because we know the virus is in the state and will be here throughout the summer,” said Gail Hansen, acting state epidemiologist. “While some people are more at risk than others, we have no way of knowing how our body will respond to the virus. For some individuals, it can be an extremely difficult illness, with long-lasting side effects, and in rare cases it can lead to death.”

Hansen said people can protect themselves by avoiding mosquito bites. Use an insect repellent with DEET, and eliminate mosquito breeding grounds.

“We cannot wait until the virus is found in the area where we live before taking precautions against it,” Hansen added. “We must protect ourselves and our families every day through simple actions that reduce our likelihood of getting bitten by a mosquito and reduce mosquito breeding grounds.”

There have been no human cases reported this season, either through the state laboratory or through positive lab results from private labora-

tories in the state.

The health department wants physicians to report West Nile cases with neuroinvasive disease to the state. Doctors may call the epidemiology hotline to report suspect cases at (877) 427-7317.

Kansans can report dead birds to the state by calling the West Nile hotline at 1-(877) 228-2287. Birds being tested include crows, blue-jays, magpies or birds of prey (hawks, owls, eagles).

Birds should not have been dead longer than 24 hours, and should be intact. They should be placed in double plastic bag and frozen until submitted.

K-State Extension agents will ship the specimens to a testing lab. Test results will not be released to individuals submitting birds, but birds testing positive will be reported on the West Nile Web site.

Last year, 90 human cases with neurological illness were confirmed through state laboratories. Seven deaths were confirmed. Private labs confirmed 731 human West Nile virus test results.

Three additional deaths were attributed to the virus, but unconfirmed through lab work. In 2002, 22 human cases with neurological illness were confirmed through the state laboratory and no deaths reported.

For more information on West Nile virus, go to [www.westnileks.com](http://www.westnileks.com).

**Beautification and Revitalization Committee**

will be meeting Tuesday, July 6, 7 a.m. at the Northwest Kansas Technical College conference room.

Anyone interested please come to the meeting.

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