

## City workers start painting poles



Pat Thompson (left) and Kevin Kibel were up early Thursday painting lightpoles on Main. Dustin Bedore, electrical division supervisor for the City of Goodland, said they have been working on the pole project for three weeks. "It's a pretty long process," he said. It takes crews roughly an hour to paint each of the poles. They started by putting primer on the lower parts of many poles around town.

Photo by Kathryn Gurfinkel/The Goodland-Star News

# Minature Van Gogh replicas to go on sale

By Greg Stover  
The Goodland Star-News

In eight to 10 weeks, people will be able to buy miniature replicas of Goodland's Van Gogh painting at area businesses as part of the marketing campaign by the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau and Sunflowers USA.

Dale Neill, chairman of the bureau board, told the members at their monthly meeting Tuesday that the miniature paintings would be delivered within eight weeks after the order is placed.

A sample easel was shown to the board members.

Neill said the design was going to be changed to make the easel taller which will make it appear more like the actual painting.

Director Donna Price said the easels will cost between \$5-6 each with the change. She said the bureau and Sunflowers USA will each get a percentage of the profits earned

from the sale of the easels, after costs are covered, with an 8 percent royalty going to the artist, Cameron Cross.

Neill said the minimum order is 720, or 60 dozen. He also said the manufacturer was willing to arrange for payment to be delayed until December or January.

Price reported that only about \$600 has been recovered from the sale of Goodland pins featuring the painting. The cost for their manufacture, transport and distribution was \$1,069, Neill said *The Goodland Star-News* has sold the most pins so far.

Bill Stoick owner of the Super 8 Motel suggested that businesses associated with the bureau buy some of the easels outright when they come in. This way, the manufacturer could be paid, some profits distributed and the businesses could then sell the easels as they saw fit.

Board member Evelyn De Vol

said the light in front of the Van Gogh painting, installed about 45 days ago, looks good. She recommended those who had not seen it at night with the light to do so.

Price told the board that she has received some complaints about the attractiveness of the area around the painting. She said comments from some recent visitors were critical of the unkempt appearance of the field the painting sits in. She said they were offended to find the painting in such surroundings.

The field is supposed to get the excess dirt from Pioneer Park once construction on it begins, she said, and this could make any major effort to improve the attractiveness now futile. Linda Holton, an advisory member of the board, suggested getting with Darin Neufeld, the project engineer for the park, to see if grass could be planted to improve the field's appearance until construction begins.

In other business, the board:

- Heard from Donna Swager, president of the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce, about this year's Freedom Fest and how, primarily due to the weather and delay in the fireworks, the revenue the Chamber expected to raise from food sales fell short of expectations. The shortfall caused the Chamber to ask members for donations to help cover the cost of the fireworks.
- Voted to table until the next meeting the decision to proceed with the plan to buy welcome flags and the parts needed to mount them on the light poles on Main Avenue between 8th and 16th streets. The estimated cost is \$1,890.
- Heard from Price that the billboard near the Colorado border on I-70 was back after being down for about two months.

The next meeting will be 9 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 17. The location has not yet been determined.

# County may increase handicapped budget

By Tom Betz  
The Goodland Star-News

Representatives from Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas asked the Sherman County Commissioners on Tuesday to consider increasing the amount the county gives to help them serve the mentally and physically handicapped.

Executive Director Jim Blume, of Hays, said the agency has a waiting list, including three people from Sherman County. After the session, commissioners agreed to try to find \$5,000 to help cover the agency's shortfall.

Clarence Scheopner, Sherman County representative on the Developmental Services board, was present along with Colleen Rohr and Ruth Lang, parents of agency clients.

"I want you to know our mission is to let every person be as independent as possible," Blume said. "Letting them be independent lets them be their own person, and it is less expensive for our program."

"We want people to have the support they need to function, and we need to remember that we are dealing with people's lives."

"I want every one of our people to be safe, healthy and happy. I have been doing this for 30 years, and am seeing many people as the people get older. I have found myself recommending that people we had put in individual homes when they were younger should be moved back into group homes as they get older and start facing some health problems."

Blume said the agency has suffered a cut in state funds. He said the cut last year was about \$300,000, and they were able to survive an at-

tempt this year to cut the budget by another \$250,000.

He said some agencies can increase fees or go to other places to replace the lost money, but his agency is non-profit, which means they have to live with the federal, state and county money they receive.

The figures he presented show that there are at least 10 people being helped in Sherman County, and the total cost for those services was \$380,832 last year.

Sherman County budgeted \$40,000, from the health services fund, which is part of the special sales tax. When the federal, state and county money is subtracted from the total cost, there is an unmet need of \$4,074.

Blume said administration costs have never been over 10 percent of the agency's budget, and that now they are 8.6 percent.

"I told the board they would never exceed 10 percent," Blume said. "I said if they ever got that high, I would be gone."

"We would ask you to consider a small increase to help with the unmet needs, but we do ask that you not cut the budget below what you have given us the past year."

The commissioners said they would do the best they could in the budget process.

While discussing the budgets later in the meeting, Commissioners Kevin Rasure and Chuck Thomas agreed to try to add \$5,000 to the developmental services budget.

The next commission meeting will be 8 a.m. on Friday, July 30, in the commission room on the main floor of the Sherman County courthouse, 813 Broadway.

## matters of record

**Goodland Police**  
The following crimes have been reported to the Goodland Police Department:

**July 16** — Archer Daniels Midland Grain reported the theft of cash in the amount of \$384 at 17th Street and Wyoming.

Ann M. Melton backed her 1995 Mercury into a parked 1999 Dodge owned by Albert L. Ree at 16th Street and Cattletrail.

**July 21** — Maria Hernandez, 41,

was arrested and charged in municipal court for the battery of Jesus Garcia, 40, at 1616 Wyoming.

**Sherman County Sheriff**  
The following crimes have been reported to the Sherman County Sheriff's Department:

**July 17** — Steven A. Sandoval, 20, was driving a white 1998 Ford Ranger west on old Highway 24 about 2 1/2 miles east of Kanorado when he entered the north ditch and struck a sign. He then reentered the

# County votes to remove mold

By Tom Betz  
The Goodland Star-News

The Sherman County Good Samaritan Center still needs a new fire sprinkler system, but the priority now is to stop a mold problem that showed up in the past two weeks.

The new director, Rick Reeser, planned to talk to the county commissioners Tuesday about the cost for a new sprinkler system, but changed plans when he returned from Denver on Monday to find he was facing a mold problem.

"I know we have to do something about the fire sprinkler system," he said, "but right now my priority is to stop the mold and get it removed for the health of our residents and our staff."

"I had planned to talk to you about the estimates on the cost of the sprinkler system, but the mold put a monkey wrench in everything."

He said the mold problem has affected one resident and two nurses so far. Reeser said his maintenance man, Neil Starr, found the mold, and the staff had been trying to find someone to handle it while Reeser was in Denver. Reeser said the assumption is the mold was the result of a sewer backup a few weeks ago coupled with the recent rains and higher humidity.

He said the best firm they had found was Medallion Professional Home Services from Hays, which sent someone out Tuesday.

Reeser said the man told him there is an extensive mold problem that would probably cost \$20,000-\$40,000 to remove, and it will take about two weeks to get it removed and sprayed.

Contacted Thursday morning Reeser said the men from Medallion had arrived and were making a careful examination of the problem.

"They tell me it is more limited than first thought," Reeser said. "We expect the men to begin the removal on Monday, and we will not have to move any residents out."

Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked Reeser if he had checked the references and license of the firm from Hays, and if he had contacted the insurance company about the situation.

Reeser said he knew the county had pledged \$20,000 to help install a new nurse call system, but was asking if the money could be used

on the mold problem instead.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas said he had no problem with using the money for this, and Rasure agreed. Commissioner Mitch Tiede was absent.

"I am OK with shifting the money," Rasure said, "but want to check the insurance about the sewer problem that might have caused the mold problem."

Rasure asked County Clerk Janet Rumpel to check with the county insurance since the building belongs to the county.

Reeser said he has an estimate of \$72,702 for the sprinkler system, but there was a suggestion that he add \$15,000 in case there are problems with the installation of pipes.

He said a state fire marshal dropped in recently and said everything was OK except that they needed to get the sprinkler system installed. He told Reeser they have a year from the original inspection, which was in April. The fire inspector told Reeser that there is a new requirement for all nursing homes to have sprinkler systems to help suppress fires. So far, Reeser said, he has been talking to Jayhawk Fire Sprinkler out of Topeka, and Eagle Life out of Great Bend. He asked the commissioners to see what they could do to help with the cost of the sprinkler system.

Rasure had Rumpel check the balance in the home funds, and she said it appears there is about \$40,000 that might be available, but since they are working on the budget, they will see what can be done.

In other business the commissioners:

- Approved the appointment of Glendon Price, a carpenter for Paxton Construction, to the Smoky Gardens board for a four-year term. This fills one of two vacancies on the board, Rasure said, and the board is talking to some people about filling that spot.
- Heard a request from Register of Deeds Carol Armstrong to have more book shelves built in her office. She said she had two bids, and the commissioners suggested she check with Curtis Hurd and Gary Gregory as additional contacts.
- Called the Area Agency on Aging in Hays to discuss a request for an increase of about \$1,000 for next year for handling the senior citizen meals in Kanorado.

## corrections

The Goodland Star-News *will correct any mistake or misrepresentation in a news story.*

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