



Patrick Zollner (left) of the Kansas Historical Society met with Sherman County Commissioners Chuck Thomas, Mitch Tiede and Kevin Rasure and grant writer Penny Nemechek about renovating the Southwestern Bell building the county owns at the corner of 10th and Main. The main floor features decorative ceiling beams (above), and Zollner said the front parapet (right) on the building could be repaired with a Heritage Trust Fund grant.

Photos by Tom Betz  
The Goodland Star-News



# County could apply for grants on repairs

By Tom Betz  
The Goodland Star-News

Placing the old Southwestern Bell building at Main and 10th on the National Historic Register will allow Sherman County to apply for grants to renovate the structure.

Patrick Zollner of the state Historical Society from Topeka explained the procedure to county commissioners at their meeting on June 14, and toured the building to take photos.

Penny Nemechek, the joint grant writer, offered her help getting the nomination ready to send to the state.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked about regulations the county would have to follow if the building was on the national register.

Zollner said once a building is on the register, a plan of the improvements is sent to the state for review.

"All we do is comment on the plans," he said. "We do not have a final say."

"Once it is on the list, can you take it off?" Commissioner Mitch Tiede asked.

"No, once it is on it stays on the list," Zollner said, "unless the building is torn down."

Once the building is on the national register, he said, the county could apply for Heritage Trust Fund Grants to help with some of the interior remodeling and exterior repairs. Zollner said this an 80 percent grant with a 20 percent match, and about \$1 million is given out each year.

When the county decided on the renovation plan, he said, they can apply for rehabilitation tax credits up to 25 percent of the total cost. Zollner said the county could sell the credits, which provide a deduction on state taxes only.

Rasure asked whom the county would be dealing with.

"I am the one who puts buildings on the register," Zollner answered.

Rasure said the county has a plan to add bathrooms, and elevator to the second floor with a separate back entrance to allow public use of the building.

Zollner said if the work amounts to an addition to the building, it would not qualify for the grants, but might be OK as part of the tax credit program.

The commissioners, Nemechek and Zollner walked over to look at the building, and Zollner took photos of the interior and exterior for historical society records. He said the photos would be used if the county submits a nomination.

"We have already surveyed the building and recommended it be placed on the historic building list," he said. "If you get us the nomination this summer, the application can be reviewed and approved at the November meeting. If the nomination does not arrive in time for the November meeting, it would have to wait until the February meeting."

He urged the commissioners to get the nomination done quickly because the deadline for the Heritage Trust Fund grant is April of

each year.

Nemechek offered to help with the nomination form, and the commissioners told her to work with the county clerk's office to get it prepared.

"I am willing to help because I feel it is a building that deserves to be preserved," Nemechek said.

After seeing the building, Zollner said problems with the parapet on the top walls could be covered as part of a grant, and that renovation of the interior would most likely qualify.

"It is a great building," Rasure said. "Our concern is money."

Zollner said replacement of the heating and air conditioning would qualify for the grant program.

"We need to get an architect to get

the plans drawn up," Tiede said.

Zollner said that would be a good idea, adding that the society has a lot of architects who do historical restoration.

The commissioners thanked Zollner and said they would get the nomination process moving.

The Heritage Trust Fund was established in 1990, and the money comes from a one-cent increase on mortgage registration fees—from 25 cents per \$100 mortgage registered to 26 cents. The filing fees are collected by each county register of deeds, said Carol Armstrong, Sherman County register of deeds.

The Carnegie Arts Center, which is on the national register, has received Heritage Trust Fund grants to repair the roof and the front steps.

# Paper wants to improve quality of all photos

By Tom Betz  
The Goodland Star-News

The explosion in digital photography and the Internet provide a wonderful way for people to exchange photos with friends and family.

However, problems can develop when people send the same photos to the newspaper expecting them to be published.

The Goodland Star-News welcomes people to send information about things that are going on in town, many of which otherwise could not be covered by our small news staff. Our policy is that pretty much anything readers send in will get in the paper in some form.

Some of the digital photos we get have enough quality to be published, but a lot of them do not.

We appreciate the efforts of the people sending photos, but some of the ones we get — both digital and film — would be nothing but black-and-gray blobs by the time we get them into print. There are some technical steps people can take to ensure photo quality.

One problem we see often is photo prints developed at Wal-Mart's one-hour photo with a pebble surface that is difficult to scan into the computer. To avoid this, bring the photo *and* the negative, which can be scanned in to the newspaper system to provide better quality.

Snapshots from cheap film cameras, especially disposable cameras, usually won't make it to print. Same is true for photos where the faces are small or in shadows. Get close, and use your flash. Use the best camera you have.

Digital photos can be sent to the newspaper as e-mail attachments in a JPEG format. However, there are problems when the digital camera either is not set on a high enough resolution or does not have a high enough resolution to begin with.

Over the years, newspapers have been experimenting and learning about what digital quality is needed to provide good reproduction. The resolution of a digital camera is as important as the quality and speed of film in past years.

Settings on a digital camera should be at the highest quality available when the photos are something the photographer wants to have published. The same is true if you're thinking about having enlargements and copies made. On many cameras, this is designated as "SHQ," for super high quality, but whatever the terminology, choose the highest setting possible on your camera.

You'll have fewer shot on a card, but a lot more quality.

The Star-News staff uses digital cameras with a minimum of 2.1 megapixels. These are always set to Super High Quality to get the best image.

Many cameras today offer 4 or 5 megapixels, and when used with the

highest quality setting, these make enlarging and publishing easier and provide better results.

The newspaper can process digital photos stored on a compact disk, and as long as the original quality is high, the photo usually will work.

We can answer questions about individual photos if you bring them to the newspaper office. We try to

apply the same quality standard to anything which is to be published in the newspaper.

Most stories, including obituaries, can include a "mug shot" of one or more people involved. Larger photos need to show people doing something, not just lined up against a wall. For space reasons, we do not publish photos of people holding a

plaque or award or passing a check or certificate, but in many cases we can use head shots or "mugs" of the person.

With a combined effort of the newspaper staff and our subscribers, we hope to improve the quality and number of photos we get into the newspaper.

## 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.

## FOR SALE

Northwest Kansas Technical College Carpentry House

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### Open House

Sunday, July 10, 2005

1-4 p.m. M.T.

The house may be viewed

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1:00 to 3:00 in the Bank Lobby.

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Bird City, Colby, Goodland, Kirk, Oberlin, Quinter,  
Sharon Springs, St. Francis

The Sherman County Conservation  
District will conduct a sign up  
June 22nd through July 6th for both  
Non-Point and State Water  
Resources Cost Share Programs.

Some of the State Water Resources Cost Share Program practices eligible for cost share include Contour Buffer Strips, Critical Area Planting, Diversions, Fencing, Grassed Waterways, Pipelines, Terraces and Livestock Wells. The Irrigation Practices will include Subsurface drip, Irrigation Water Conveyance, Irrigation Water Management and Irrigation System, Sprinkler. Cost Share is NOT authorized for nozzle upgrades (example 9 to 2 ft.) Exceptions shall be allowed for spacing modification (example 10 to 7.5 ft or 5 ft or less) if NRCS determines significant efficiency gains will be achieved. Non metered systems will incur a state cost share limit of 50% or less up to landowner limit of \$1500. Systems with end guns will not qualify for cost share. All other irrigation practices will be cost shared at 50% not to exceed \$2500. You will be required to provide water right information. The other non irrigation practices will be cost shared at 70% of average cost or actual cost whichever is less with a \$5000 landowner limit.

The Non Point Source Funds can be used for FAILING on site waste water systems and plugging abandoned wells. KDHE will have to evaluate and rank the applications and there will be a \$50 fee upfront for these services. Last year we were only able to fund three systems.

For further information call Sandy Rodgers at the Conservation  
District Office 785-899-3070 extension 35.  
210 W. 10th St. • Goodland, Kan. 67735