

County agrees to joint emergency management plan

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News
 Commissioners from Sherman, Cheyenne and Rawlins counties agreed last Wednesday to a regional emergency management plan with the three sharing the cost. Sherman County commissioners Mitch Tiede, Kevin Rasure and Chuck Thomas drove to St. Francis for an afternoon meeting with Cheyenne County commissioners Jane Brubaker, Andy Beikman and Ray Lee, and Rawlins County commissioners Don Marshall and Wilber Henry. Cheyenne and Rawlins have been sharing Gary Rogers as the emergency management director. Sherman County got interested in a regional agreement after Mary Messamore, head of central dispatch and emergency management, quit and moved to Hutchinson this fall. Tiede had talked to Rogers about working with Sherman County. Rogers told the assembled commissioners the state would provide an incentive for regional cooperation, \$5,000 for the two counties and \$10,000 with the addition of Sherman County. He suggested three options for the counties, with a total budget of \$51,400. With the \$10,000 from the state, he said, the counties could split the remaining \$41,400

equally with each paying \$13,800 or \$1,150 per month. Rogers said there would be an assistant director in each county who would handle emergency responses should Rogers be elsewhere. He said the assistants in Rawlins and Cheyenne counties have been called a few times. In the past, he said, they have not been paid for their time, but Rogers said he would like the three counties to take half of the State and Local Assistance money and keep it in their counties to pay the assistant if they are called out. Rawlins and Cheyenne counties each get \$3,500 and Sherman County \$5,200. Under Rogers' plan, each county would keep half to pay the assistant in their county, and the other half would be put in a pool to pay for a part-time office person to help with paperwork for all three. Tiede said Sherman County had planned to have Crissy Conger, the new head of central dispatch, be the emergency management assistant. He said her salary would be covered. Rogers asked if Tiede meant she would be the part time helper or the assistant. Tiede said it had been the commissioners' thinking she would be both. Rogers said he was not sure Conger could be his assistant if things are as busy as they

were during the recent blizzard. He said the assistant should be a person who can go out to an emergency scene if needed. He said the part-time person would help with the paperwork for all three counties. Rogers did say he thought the part time person should be in Sherman County. Rawlins County Commissioner Marshall asked if adding Sherman County was going to make Rogers so busy that the other counties would need more part time help. Rogers said he was not sure how many hours the part-time person will be doing. Brubaker asked if Conger was doing the paperwork for Sherman County now. Rasure said Messamore did both jobs and the paperwork. Thomas said the county plans to hire an assistant communications director so Conger will have some time available and could learn about emergency management from Rogers. Rogers said he is going to be busy in the next few weeks because the web site for Homeland Security equipment grants opens in the middle of January, and he will have to find places to buy the equipment for the counties if it is not already listed. "It takes a lot of quick paperwork to get it done," Rogers said. "I have to have the vendor approved by the first of February."

Tiede asked how many hours the part time person will be working. Rogers said he is allowing \$6,000 for part time help. Brubaker asked why the part-time person should be in Sherman County. Rogers said he feels there is more work in Sherman County. He said the assistants in Cheyenne and Rawlins will not be doing the paperwork. He said the assistant in Rawlins County has been called out maybe three times in the past year. "Another difference is I have to handle the hazardous material spills in Rawlins and Cheyenne counties," Rogers said. "I do not have to do that in Sherman County because the fire department handles all of that and the paperwork." Marshall said they should determine who pays the part time person. He said there should be one county to pay all the program expenses. Rogers said that now it is all being paid through Cheyenne County. Rasure said Sherman County could pay the person as a county employee, and have Rogers approve the hours to be reimbursed by Cheyenne County from the pooled money. "Whether it is a part-time person or additional duties for another person, the benefits package is up to us," Rasure said. Rogers said he was thinking of asking Leann Taylor, public information officer

for the Sherman County local emergency preparedness committee and municipal judge and court clerk for Goodland, to be the part time person for emergency management. He said Taylor had gone to an emergency management meeting with him recently at Phillipsburg. Rogers said he expects to put a lot of time in Sherman County and will be trying to figure out a rotation schedule to be fair to all three counties. Brubaker asked about splitting the cost up on a population basis, meaning Sherman would pay more and the other two less.. Marshall said he was fine with the three-way split with all paying the same amount. He said the program should be reviewed after a year, but he did not see any problems. "As long as we get the job done," Tiede said. Rogers said that the potential grant for Homeland Security equipment and the operational disaster plan next year is about \$30,000 each for Rawlins and Cheyenne counties and about \$80,000-\$90,000 for Sherman County. Brubaker said the new plan would be a savings for all three counties. The three sets of commissioners agreed to have the Cheyenne County attorney draft a contract to begin in January.

Film may be shot here in spring

FILM, from Page 1

les and Kansas, is taking donations for the project. They need money by the end of December and plan to shoot the film in May, McCants said. They will also need workers, caterers, woodworkers, all kinds of skilled labor, she said, and the more that is donated, the better. The budget for the film is \$70,000, McCants said, adding that she does not know how much has

been raised so far. It is an opportunity for people who believe in the arts to bring filming to northwest Kansas, she said, and help a young producer and director to get something going. The film commission helps with finding local talent, staff and so forth, she said; tried to help make a film a success. Keenan is vice president of the Kansas Connection, and Miller is on the board. Keenan was born and raised in Wichita and studied tele-

vision production and theater at Colorado State University. She has used her Kansas background in several projects, including "Loaves," a dark comedy about love, a murder plot and bread. It received critical acclaim from film magazines, such as *Film Threat*, and won the 2000 Always Independent Films Audience Awards. Miller attended Washburn University and earned a post-graduate degree in cinematic production.

City zoning changes being proposed

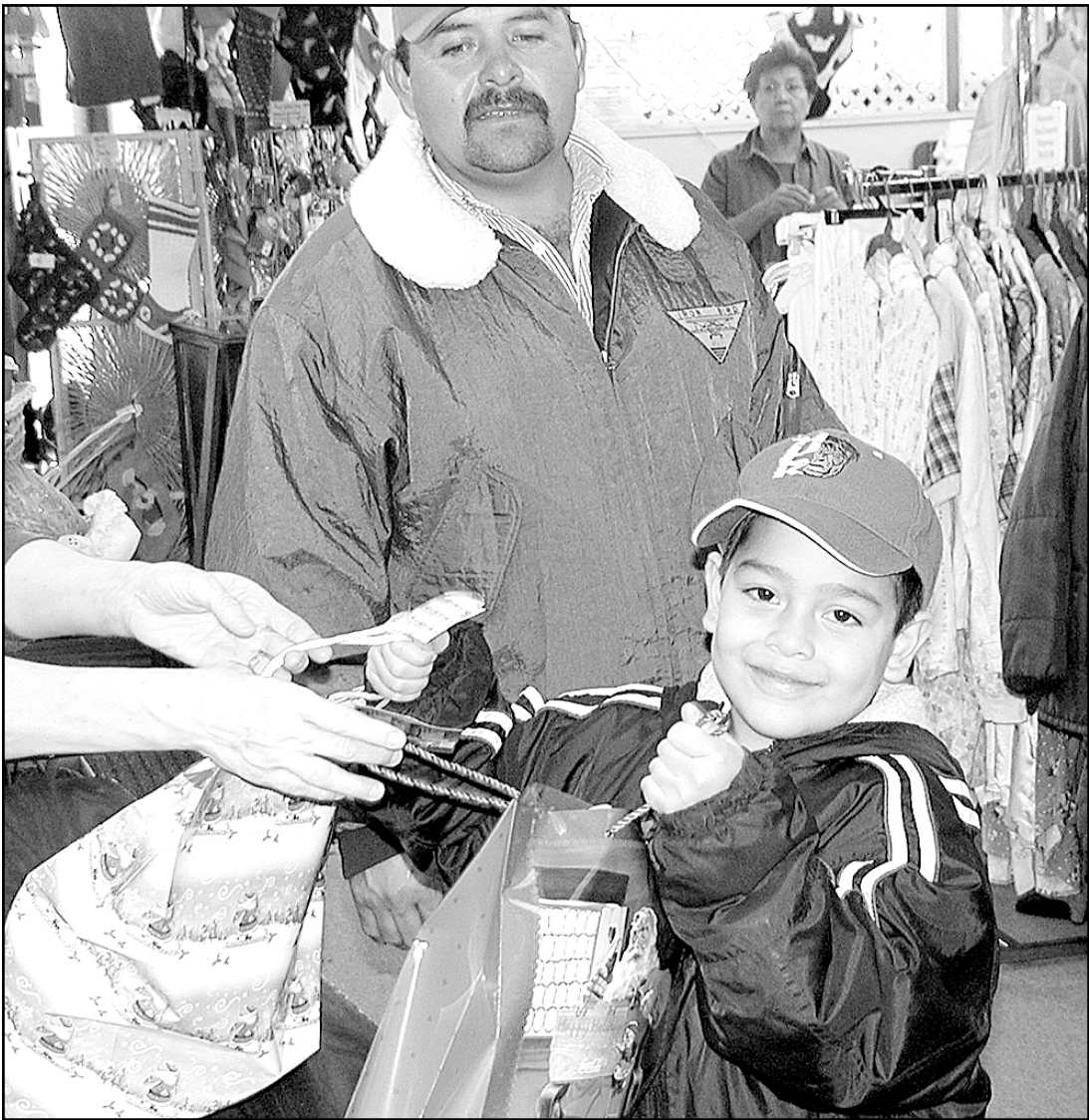
CITY, from Page 1

the property could be determined then. He said the ordinance says that any land to be re-classified after annexation will have to have a public hearing by the planning commission and recommendation to the city commission. Hill said the planning commission had looked at the city zoning definition for the "I-2" Heavy Industrial District and suggested changing the uses permitted, and to clarify the maximum height of structures.

The permitted uses will include "Heavy manufacturing, salvage yards, quarrying, wholesaling, trucking and warehousing." Hill said the ordinance says the permitted uses will be determined based on the compatibility with other uses in the specific district. The height requirement will be 45 feet if within 150 feet of a residential district, and Hill said the limitation for other areas will be those specified in the airport zoning plan which has been approved by the Federal Aviation Administration. Hill said an agreement with the Goodland Activity Center has been

delayed until the first meeting in January. He said the agreement has been drafted, but he wants to meet with Rich Simon, public works director, who has been out of town because of his wife's health. "I think we have a good agreement," Hill said, "but I wanted to talk to Simon before we too it to the commission. There is time to wait, and it will be on the agenda in January." The commission meets at 5 p.m. on Monday in the commission room upstairs in the City Administration Building, 204 W. 11th. To enter the building, push the button inside the doors.

Kids shop for Christmas



Alfonso and his father from Burlington were part of the crowd that shopped for Christmas Saturday at the Kids Shoppe at Goodland Churches Thrift Store.
 Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Seniors enjoy food, special show

DINNER, from Page 1

The Black and Gold Choir, Men's Chorale, Les Chantes, X-Pressos and the Mass Choir performed during lunch. Jazz Band played next. Members of Jazz Band include Lauren Abernathy, Tyler Anderson, Jonathon Beesom, Nathan Brady, Kylie Buller, Josh Cech, Brennan Clouse, Katrina Cotter, Alicia Felver, Derek Fenner, Erica Fenner, Kaitlin Fugleberg, Josiah Goodley, Bryan Gray, Jared Hall, Christopher Irvin, Mindi Keith, Jessica Lu, Mangus, Kerek Mason, McCall, BreAnna Nemechek, O'harrah, Parker, Andrew Pettibone, Danielle Pettibone, Andrew Philbrick, Sami Philbrick, Reasoner, Lacey Ridder,

Matthew Rohr, Lea Shores, Grant Wilkens, Witzel and Brandon Zelfer. Selby drew names for door prizes. Wal-Mart Super Center had donated \$1,500 for the dinner and they used \$500 to buy \$20 gift certificates from Hank's Cafe, Howard Johnson Restaurant, Butterfly Cafe and Wal-Mart. Winners were Leila Davisson from Hanks, Pat Jordan from Howard Johnson, Lavonne Glasco from Butterfly, Elmer Duell from Wal-Mart, Ron Engleman from Wal-Mart, Neva Jones from Hanks, Jennifer Matthews from Butterfly, Duane Hall from Wal-Mart, Arlene Beneda from Howard Johnson, Denny Finley from Hanks, Cliff Bosworth from Butterfly, Gay Day

from Wal-Mart, Betty Barkley from Wal-Mart, Robert Kinderknecht from Butterfly, Sherri Whitmore from Butterfly, Ilene Nemechek from Wal-Mart, Christie Schiefen from Howard Johnson, Walt Rohr from Hanks, Dorothy Palmer from Wal-Mart, Mona Huscher from Butterfly, Joyce Daniels from Howard Johnson, Mildred Gutsch from Wal-Mart, Bonnie Duell from Wal-Mart, Dale Stephens from Wal-Mart and Margaret Diaz from Wal-Mart. Guests who won the poinsettias were Norma Crouse, Lucille Nash, Cecil Schneider, Greg Sorwell, Delmer Musil.



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