

Burton Pianalto, Sherman County Deputy Sheriff, leads a horse trying to get it into a trailer to be transported to Prairieland Animal Clinic. Roger Studer (behind horse), Sherman County Undersheriff, and Sheriff Kevin Butts helped load the animals into Charley Herl's horse trailer.  
Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

## Paperwork signed for March 28 election

ELECTION, from Page 1a

"We feel it is best to use the conservative figures as the base," Rasure said, "but with the increase in sales tax the bonds could be paid off in 10-12 years."

Commissioner Chuck Thomas asked if there were any prepayment questions?

"We haven't gotten to that yet," Cowan said. "We may want to look at that when we actually come to issuing the bonds. We may want to

issue 18-year bonds to give us a cushion. We could then be able to call the bonds early if we have enough to pay them off in 14 or less years."

Rasure said that would not have anything to do with planning the special election.

"That will be after the election," Rasure said.

Cowan agreed that was something for after the election. He said he would rework the figures and use the lower interest rate.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said it was time to get the resolution passed and get things moving forward.

Thomas made the motion to approve the resolution setting the special election for Tuesday, March 28 at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall at 824 Main. Tiede seconded and it passed unanimously.

Rasure said he was not going to be able to be at the Kiwanis on Tuesday, but would have City Commissioner Josh Dechant handle the pro-

# 14 cruelty charges filed

HORSES, from Page 1a

It took officers awhile to find enough hose to get water to the horses, said Sheriff Butts. One of the water tanks had the plug out and water was hauled by bucket to another horse.

Showalter said when he went in to give one some water the horse thought he was going to take the little water he had and tried to bite him.

In a couple of the corrals where the horses were in better shape there were bales of hay. When officers checked, the hay was moldy, said Butts, and horses will not eat moldy hay.

"From the way two of the dead horses were sinking into the ground they appeared to have been dead from three to four weeks,"

Showalter said.

The Armknechts had moved from the house across from the corrals to a new modular house on top of the hill looking down on the corrals.

Sheriff Butts ordered the arrest of Tim Armknecht when he came home and was in the Bastille on Wednesday. Showalter said he expected County Attorney Bonnie Selby to charge the Armknecht's each with 14 counts of animal cruelty. The Armknechts made their first court appearances Thursday afternoon.

Tim Armknecht told Butts the horses were sick and he had no money to feed them.

Showalter, Butts, Studer, Burton Pianalto, Charley Herl, Ryan Hill, who works for Herl and Gary Smith, veterinarian from Prairieland Animal Clinic, loaded

the horses into a trailer owned by Herl and took them to the animal clinic.

Some of the horses loaded easily and some had to be encouraged.

Showalter said he had been interviewed by KBSL and ABC TV.

"We've had calls from all over the state," said Butts. "Citizens have been offering from pasture land to food for the horses."

Smith said they expected the horses to recover. They were very malnourished but not injured.

"Three of the horses were in good condition, four were in fair condition just slightly thin and three were in poor condition," Smith said. "I am most concerned about two yearlings."

Butts said the county will pay the vet bill and hope to recover the costs. They will petition the court for restitution.

## New service best option for racetrack

By Tom Betz

*The Goodland Star-News*  
Adding a circuit to the north end of the racetrack pit area is turning out to be more complicated and expensive than the Sherman County commissioners first thought.

Alex West of the Sherman County Racing Association and Harold Snethen, who is contracting to provide concessions in the pit area, were at the meeting Tuesday to ask what the plans are.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said he had been out at the fairgrounds Monday, and was not sat-

isfied with the proposed plan.

"Yes we can run power to the north," Rasure said, "but we may or may not get what we need."

"We could cut more lines trying to get the new line out there."

"We could spend the money and not gain anything," Commissioner Chuck Thomas said.

Rasure said the best alternative he sees is asking the city to put in a separate service to handle the north including the pit area lights.

"I am not crazy about digging a line that far," he said. "It makes more sense to bring power to a pole

that is closer to where we want it."

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said it would be more costly to dig the line than doing a good job.

"Having the city bring in a new service to a pole shed area gives us more options in the future and give us the power we need," Tiede said. "Makes more sense this way."

Rasure said with a new service they would take the north area and put it on a separate circuit.

Rasure will call the electrician. He told William McKnight, building maintenance supervisor, to have the electrician touch base with him.



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# DEADLINE

for the Country Advocate for the Week of March. 22 will be noon on Thursday, March 16. This is one day early; our staff will be at a training session on Friday.

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