

Cheyenne County joins Sunflower district

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News
Sherman County commissioners heard Tuesday that Cheyenne County has passed a resolution to join Sherman and Wallace counties in the Sunflower Extension District this July.

Dana Belshe, extension agent for Sherman County, and members of the district board came to talk to the commissioners.

Marsha Schilling, board chair; Coleen Duell, district secretary; and Lynn Perry, board member from Wallace County, were at the meeting.

Schilling said the district is doing well, and they are working on joint events between the two counties. The district was formed last year and began operating in July.

Jeanne Falk, the agronomist for all three counties, is based in Colby. She said they have done a couple of joint projects over the past few months, including a weed identification program that brought out about 20 farmers.

"The attendance was great," Falk said, "and the farmers were pleased with the amount of individual attention they received on how to identify and spray weeds."

Melinda Daily, extension agent in Wallace County, said she has enjoyed working with both counties.

She said she volunteered to help at the Sherman County Health Fair, and has been coming up for programs.

Belshe said they held animal identification and irrigation programs in both Sherman and Wallace counties and had different groups at both programs. The question at the irrigation program was, "Can we afford to irrigate this year," he said and several experts were on the program to explore how farmers respond to this dry season coupled with low prices.

"We found out a farmer has to be right on in their operation to make it work with the high costs and low prices," he said

Daily said she would be helping kick off the Walk Kansas program this month.

"I am working on an Aging Strong and Well program," she added. "It is aimed at the older women and men who don't get out. I enjoyed the health fair, and met a lot of people."

Belshe said both counties have been doing some 4-H training.

"We do volunteer training for all our people," he said. "This year we have 37 people go through the training."

He said with Cheyenne County

approving their resolution, the district should add that county by July. He said the resolution has to be reviewed by the state attorney general.

Cheyenne will add another agent to the mix, Tye Faulkender, who Belshe said is strong in animal science.

Daily said they have keep the county fairs separate, but there are other things the counties can do together.

"We are keeping the 4-H separate," Daily said.

Schilling said they have been rotating the board meetings and have good attendance.

"This district is easy going and gets things done together," Falk said. "We are not having turf problems."

Belshe said there is a new web site for the district where people can find the 4-H calendar and information about programs. The site is www.oznet.ksu.edu/sunflowerdistrict. He said Terry Richardson is updating the site.

Schilling said Aaron Duell is working on a digital records program for 4-Hers.

"They can input information and then print it out," Schilling said. "This is a great improvement for the kids' records."

Learning a new skill



Marilyn Imel (right) helped Wilda Kalbach with the purse she was knitting Wednesday. Imel teaches a knitting class for adults on Wednesday evenings at the Carnegie Arts Center. The students are working on felted purses.
Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

Former area trooper gets promotion to lieutenant

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News
A Kansas Highway Patrol trooper who worked in this area and married a Goodland girl, has been promoted to lieutenant.

David M. Albers is a graduate of Colby High School and Colby Community College. His parents are Mike and Patty Albers of Colby. He married Lindsay Martin from Goodland, whose parents are Deb and Tony Martin.

Albers joined the patrol on July 9, 2000, working in the Goodland area. In

2001, he got a Kansas Highway Patrol Superintendent's Award for meritorious service and the Kansas Association of Chiefs of Police Gold Award for his action during a shooting on the I-70 near Goodland, the patrol said.

A 19-year-old Indiana man, Mark Christopher Palmer, rolled his car on I-70 between the exits in Burlington on Oct. 29 of that year. When people came to help him, he stole a pickup from a farmer, threatened officers and tried to run over Kit Carson County Undersheriff Hal Reeder. Palmer rolled that pickup a mile east of the Kansas-Colorado border in Sherman County.

When an Oklahoma man, Ronnie

Teakell, stopped to help, Palmer made off in his 1999 Ford pickup towing a boat. He lost the boat near the exit at I-70 and Ruleton and headed east on Old U.S. 24 toward Goodland. Deputies used "stop sticks" west of Goodland, blowing out the front left tire, but Palmer continued to the east exit of Goodland on I-70 and returned to the Interstate.

He turn around, crossed the median, and started driving west in the east-bound lanes. Palmer jumped out of the truck and wrestled with Albers,

Undersheriff Kevin Butts and Sheriff's Deputy Bob Lamb after sideswiping a Sherman County couple's truck.

Palmer managed to take Albers' car, dragging Albers and Butts for a short way and hitting Lamb as he drove off going west. He was shot by a trooper. He drove the car across the median and westbound lanes, hitting a fence in the north ditch and tried to cross back over the median when another trooper crashed into Palmer's car to stop him.

Officers said later Palmer tried to get into the driver's seat of the other patrol car. Albers and the other trooper wrestled with him and when he was trying to get the other trooper's gun, Albers shot him.

Palmer was dead by the time he reached the Goodland Regional Medical Center.

Albers transferred in April 2003 to the Wichita area, working on the Kansas Turnpike until his promotion. He received an Above and Beyond Award from the Kansas Turnpike Authority in 2003 for trying to save a heart attack victim. He received that award for a second time in 2004 for leading an investigation into who was placing objects on turnpike. He is a certified child safety seat technician.

Albers, who received his promotion on Sunday, Dec. 18, will be a zone supervisor in Pottawatomie, Wabaunsee and Nemaha counties in eastern Kansas.

The couple is living in Wichita but will soon be moving to Bellvue, near Manhattan, said Deb Martin.

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. 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.

Visitor board buys new van

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

The Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau board chose a new work van for the bureau director and got a discount on an ad in a publication that reaches nearly half a million homes at a special meeting.

The board had requested bids from Goodland car dealers and had two vans to choose from at Herl Chevrolet, a van and a sport utility vehicle from Finley Motors and seven vans from Dan Brenner Ford.

The board compared details on the options at its regular meeting in February and formed a committee to go to the dealers with Director Donna Price to check them out.

The board voted at a special meeting Thursday, March 2.

They chose a 2006 Ford Free Star from Dan Brenner Ford. It cost \$15,715 with the trade in and had zero miles, gets 23 miles per gallon on gas and has 130 cubic feet of space.

It replaces a 1994 Chevy Astro van that Price has been driving to trade shows.

The available storage was one of the features the board requested

because Price hauls several cases of brochures to hand out at the trade shows.

Other choices ranged from \$13,600 for a 2005 Free Star with 19,800 miles to \$20,825 for a 2006 Ford Free Style with zero miles.

The board rejected a Trail Blazer from Finley because of gas mileage, and several members said they felt the decision should be at least partly based on how well the vehicles met the specifications they requested from the dealers.

The other vehicle from Finley's was a 2006 Montana van with zero miles for \$18,313.

The vehicles from Herl's were a 2005 Town and Country with 21,000 miles and a 2005 UpLander with 16,000 miles.

Each were around \$16,500 with \$2,000 allowed for the trade in. The bids included a reduced price for the county.

The board had voted at the February meeting to approve an ad in

the May/June issue of Midwest Traveler, which is sent to 473,462 AAA households in Missouri, eastern Kansas, southern Illinois and southern Indiana. The issue will have an editorial story on the 50th anniversary of I-70 in Kansas and Missouri.

The board voted to approve an ad, asking that Price see how good a deal she could get on a 1/8-page four-color ad with a listed price of \$1,184. Price had been offered a 1/12-page, four-color ad for \$592.

When Price called to ask about the bigger ad, she was offered a larger, 1/6-page, color ad for \$900. Besides the ad, the bureau will benefit from a listing on the magazine's web site, she said, and Sherman County information will be offered on a reader reply card.

Readers who check the box for information will be referred to the bureau.

"They worked with us very well," Price said. "It's a nice publication."

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Notice:

As of March 7, 2006, the Board of Sherman Co. Commissioners issued a total burn ban for all of Sherman County outside the city limits of Goodland. This ban includes the city of Kanorado and prohibits any open burning, burning trash in trash barrels or any container of any type. Due to the dry conditions the Commissioners felt this was necessary to protect lives and property in Sherman County. This ban will be remain in place until conditions improve. It is illegal to burn in the city of Goodland without a permit issued by the Goodland Fire Department.

Sherman County Commissioners

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