Museum, society preserve history

MUSEUM, from Page 1a

When the museum first opened, Holton said, people were loaning things, but that presented a problem: sometimes, they would just decide to come get their stuff, leaving empty space.

Eventually, she said, the museum set a date for people to either get their things or donate them outright, and it has been encouraging donations ever since.

Now the museum doesn't have to decide whether the glass is half-full or half-empty — it's overflowing.

The museum has been forced to rent off-site storage for the past seven years, Holton said, and now far more stuff is in storage than is displayed. The museum lacks space to change its exhibits for variety and to allow the artifacts a break from exposure to light and damaging elements.

The historical society looked for room for volunteers to work until the Parker Research Center became a reality, Wright said.

The society began renting the building, at 620 Caldwell, across from Rasure Lumber, in June 2000 from Kevin Rasure. The society stores its extensive collection of early newspapers from the county of photographs and information center is not manned daily.

donated by the center's namesakes, Marion and Betty Parker.

Marion Parker made arrangements years ago to send all the old newspapers to the state Historical Society, Wright said. After they were put on microfilm, the state group decided a few years ago they didn't have room to store all the papers, she said; they told all the counties to pick them up if they wanted them.

Volunteers from the historical society took a U-Haul to pick them up, Wright said; now the newspaper room is the historical society's pride and joy. It and the Parker photos are its most treasured research materials, she said

The newspapers, especially those from the turn of the 20th century and before, and are very fragile. They were published around the county, including some from towns that no longer exist.

All the small towns had their own paper, Wright said. The collection includes the Sherman County Dark *Horse*, published in Eustis, in the 1880s, along with newspapers from Kanorado, Ruleton, Goodland and others towns.

there, along with a large collection an appointment, since the research come here, Price said.

four Sherman County men, several from neighboring counties, nearly all of the settlers' livestock and many jackrabbits and birds. Two young men robbed the

A killer blizzard in 1886 froze

First National Bank of Kanorado was just before noon Tuesday, May 12, 1925, the first ever bank holdup in Sherman County.

Two fires wiped out whole blocks of Main Street in Goodland in the early 1900s. A fire in 1900 destroyed most of the west side of the street between Eighth and Ninth, and a January 1903 fire destroyed all of the west side between Ninth and 10th.

These and many other notable events in Sherman County history have been recounted in issues of the Sherman County Historical Society's quarterly newsletter. It is sent four times a year to society members, and older issues can be bought in spiralbound books for \$25 per year for June 1975-Nov. 1984, Feb. 1985-March 1997 or June 1997-April 2002.

Society newsletters, brochures recount storys

The hard work of volunteers, as well as historical materials in the Parker Research Center and things contributed by members and others, have provided information and pictures for the newsletters and for several books published by the society.

Everything from the coming of the Rock Island Railroad, its events and continued importance to the county, to the first library in Goodland, the beginning of the country club and the construction of the Pavilion at the fairgrounds have been detailed in the newsletters.

A notable area citizen made the front page of the November 2004 newsletter. Jim Gernhart planned

and held his own funeral, which he attended, in 1951. Fed up with opposition from Burlington, he decided to hold the funeral in Goodland and have the "burial" in the Goodland Cemetery.

Gernhart, born in 1876, started planning the funeral after being upset that his sister did not receive a proper service. He held another funeral the following year, and it wasn't his last. His final burial was in the Goodland Cemetery in 1980.

Some Gernhart quotes from the newsletter:

June 1971: "I'll never vote for President Nixon again." (After learning Nixon would not be able to attend Gernhart's June 6 funeral.)

In "Life" magazine June 18, 1951: "I wouldn't be caught dead in Burlington."

Sept. 20, 1973: "Die? That's

the last thing I'm going to do." Gernhart was referred to as the 'living corpse."

Besides the bound newsletters, the historical society has been working on brochures detailing the history of several buildings in Goodland. Quite a few have been published, and there are many more to come, said Millie Wright, a society board member.

The society also sells books detailing the history of education in the county; listing obituaries and cemetery and marriage records; the account of prisoner of war Dale E. Rauscher; "They Came to Stay," three volumes of county history; J.B. Moore's Diary 1886-1894 as a Sherman County farmer; oral history with seven interviews per volume; and the marriage, cemetery and obituary books on compact disc.

Special program would spotlight county

SHOW, from Page 1a

Sherman County's air time may be shared with Cheyenne and Wallace counties, she said. There was Anyone can look at the papers, concern we'd show viewers so Wright said, but they need to call for much they would have no reason to

"Our decision is on whether or not to spend the money," said Lincoln Wilson, owner of the Howard Johnson Hotel, "not on how many minutes. That decision will be made for us."

The project may cost the bureau \$1,000 to \$1,500, Price said, but it is constantly changing. Also, she said, the board may need to make a put out. It's top-notch work."

decision later about hiring someone to do voice-overs.

It would be better if the state Travel and Tourism Office, which is involved with the project, hired someone to do all the voice-overs for consistency in the shows, Price said, but if they don't, then the Sherman County bureau will need to decide whether to hire a professional or to find someone here.

But first the board had to decide whether or not to proceed.

"It is an opportunity for Goodland," Wilson said. "This is not the time to skimp. I have seen the preliminary program Geary County

That one cost \$1,500, Price said, and the one here would be filmed with the same cameras.

Wilson suggested approving the project up to \$1,500 and then having a special meeting if it would be until the wheat is taller and things more. Chairman Dale Neill said that wouldn't be practical, since the may not get that much time. The board has to give a week's notice to hold a special session.

The project is progressing so fast, Price said, there won't be time to vote on decisions later.

Filming was planned for late March, she said, but has been delayed because of the blizzard. The film crew couldn't get here last to be done as soon as possible. week, Price said Tuesday, and ev-

erything was covered with snow. "I would like it if it's really pretty here when they come," she said.

"The moisture will help with that." Price said she would like to wait are green before filming, but she film is supposed to be to the station by April 28, she said. After the filming is done, it will take time to do the voice-overs and editing before sending it to them.

Unless Sherman County can swap filming schedules with another county, she said, it will have

Voters give roads big win

ELECTION, from Page 1a

and paperwork ready to start the tax. Rumpel said a total of 1,371 people voted for a 36 percent turnout Tuesday. She thought that was a good turnout for the single-question special election. The vote was 77 percent in favor and 23 percent against..

Advance voting mirrored the margin across the county, with 171 voting yes and 50 voting no. In the city, Wards 1 and 2 combined had 285 vote in favor, and 73 against. Wards 3 and 4 combined had 313 for, 95 against. The City of Kanorado and the outlying townships voted 261 in favor and 83 against.

Rumpel said there were 33 provisional votes that the commissioners will review during the canvass, counted.

Sherman County voters approved a quarter-cent sales tax in 1998 to repair old U.S. 24 across the county. Results from that election had 942 voting yes and 444 no. 1,388 people voted in that election with a margin of 68 percent in favor to 32 percent against.

Rumpel said that vote was at a primary election in August that year, with candidate races on the ballot along with the sales tax ques-

The passage of the sales tax allows the joint city-county road program to rebuild the listed projects at an estimated cost of \$12.2 million. The county won an economic development grant of \$800,000 to help rebuild County Road 14, which is the access road for the Northern Sun sunflower plant and and felt that most of those will be the new Goodland Energy Center.

Richardson's Homestead Realty Open House

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Pins on sale!



Special color souvenir pins featuring the giant Vincent van Gogh sunflower painting on the big easel in Goodland are now on sale.

The pins are ${}^{\$}3^{49}$ each and are available at The Goodland Star-News office, 1205 Main. Pins are on sale at Stagestop Sinclair station, Goodland Regional Medical Center Hospital Auxiliary gift shop, KOA Kampground, Bowmans Heating and Air Conditioning and at The Total Look beauty shop.



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