

# Visitors bureau approves budget

By Sharon Corcoran  
The Goodland Star-News

The Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau board approved a \$127,000 budget for next year, which includes an increase in promotions and a raise for the bureau's director.

The board planned less money for marketing and postage but increases in taxes, office supplies and telephone. The board projected \$127,000 total income for the bureau, including \$105,000 from guest tax. Some felt \$113,000 income from guest tax was likely, but overall, decided to be more conservative.

"I'm optimistic," said Secretary Bill Stoick, manager of Super 8 Motel. "My projections were \$113,000, but I'm happy with \$105,000."

Some wanted to know what would happen if more money came than was in the budget.

The county will hold it until it's put in next year's budget, said Director Donna Price.

"If we budget and it doesn't come in," said board member Ryan Hageman, "we will be broke next year paying old bills."

Price's raise is still below industry standards, Stoick said; the board

went with what wouldn't be embarrassing. The budget for her wages and payroll taxes this year was \$31,500 and for next year will be \$45,000.

The bureau had \$47,820 in the budget for marketing this year but cut that to \$38,700 next year. Hopefully, gasoline prices will stay down, said board member Lincoln Wilson, owner of the Howard Johnson Hotel, and they won't need as much.

The budget for postage was \$1,600 this year, but the bureau has used only \$375 so far, so it was reduced to \$1,000 for next year. There were increases in taxes from \$2,500 to \$4,000, office supplies from \$1,200 to \$1,800 and telephone from \$3,500 to \$3,800.

There was no budget for promotions this year, but there will be \$2,500 in next year's budget. The board is asking Price to go places to promote Sherman County, Stoick said, so she will need to have things to show them why they want to come here.

Several areas of the budget will stay the same: printing, \$2,500; dues and memberships, \$2,500; education, \$1,200; rent, \$5,000; insurance, \$2,500; auto expenses, \$6,500; and travel, \$5,000.

# Goodland native named as new sheriff

By Jan Katz Ackerman  
Colby Free Press

Sheridan County residents will see a familiar face when their new sheriff, a Goodland native, takes office next week, but they can expect some changes in how the office is run.

"The good 'ol boy days are gone," Undersheriff Brian Fenner said. "I'm not going to be putting up with that."

Fenner, the only applicant for the job, was given five minutes to tell Republican Party county committee members why they should appoint him to fill the unexpired term of Sheriff Jim Johnson, shot and killed by a man he was interviewing in his office on Oct. 26. Fenner is the son of Vola Fenner and the late Albert Fenner of Goodland.

"I feel it would be beneficial to the county that I serve as sheriff," Fenner said.

The committee met Monday to appoint someone to replace Johnson, a Republican who served as sheriff for 18 years. Party Chairman Doren Follis of Hoxie conducted the special convention, during which Fenner was appointed by unanimous vote.

Fenner, 50, who worked with Johnson for the past 17 years, said changes are needed to avoid another tragedy.

Johnson was talking with Steven Reitcheck about a voluntary commitment to a mental facility. Apparently distraught over his father's 2003 death, Reitcheck was accused of trying to dig up Leroy Reitcheck's grave. Shortly after agreeing to commitment, Steven Reitcheck pulled a gun and shot Johnson. The sheriff returned fire, and Reitcheck was shot and killed by a part-time deputy, Brandon Fenner, Brian Fenner's son.

At the time, questions arose as to how Reitcheck got a concealed weapon into the sheriff's office. The next day, Kansas Bureau of Investigation Deputy Director Kyle Smith commented that small-town offices tend to get too relaxed and do not take all the precautions when they should.

Fenner said the sheriff's office already is being made more secure. He said the public will no longer have direct access to the office, including the area directly off the parking lot which houses the dispatcher's office.

"The state has required it for several years," Fenner said, "but it just didn't get done."

Fenner said from now on, everyone being transported by the sheriff's office will be searched for weapons.

Fenner also said talks with Hoxie city officials about the sheriff's office providing law enforcement under contract have been put on hold. Hoxie Chief of Police John Bieker will retire Dec. 31, and the city has talked about contracting with the sheriff rather than replacing him.

Fenner said he met with Hoxie Mayor Lori Horesky last week and advised her his first priority as sheriff would be to get the office "up and going and in shape." He said he hasn't decided who will replace him as undersheriff.

Sheridan County Clerk Paula Bielser notified Gov. Kathleen Sebelius' office Tuesday about Fenner's appointment. Sebelius has seven days to confirm the appointment.

Swearing Fenner into office will be scheduled after the governor makes a decision at the Sheridan County Courthouse, 925 Ninth St.

## Goodies for sale



Linda Koons visited with Christie Rasure and Joy Hayden, members of the Nu Phi Mu sorority, at their bake-sale table at the sorority's craft show on Saturday at Max Jones Fieldhouse. It

was the 29th year for the show, which drew about 800 people. Proceeds are used by the group to help area families and organizations.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

# County to build garage in Kanorado

By Tom Betz  
The Goodland Star-News

The Kanorado firehouse is full, and Sherman County commissioners agree they need to build an addition to house the ambulance.

One problem is where to store the ambulance or the rural fire department's tanker while the addition is built. Neither department wants to give up space in the firehouse.

Kanorado Mayor Bob Helderman said he has called fire board members in the past few days to try to work out a way to keep the ambulance in town.

Bruce Gleason, director of the county ambulance service, which operates through the Goodland hospital, said the ambulance was bought from Thomas County in 1998 for duty in Kanorado. That was when it was put in the fire station.

Gleason said years before a suburban that the county had was out of license with the state, but could be used as a first response vehicle and was sent to Kanorado. He said before that the medical supplies were on a fire truck, and those were moved to the suburban.

The ambulance was upgraded, and emergency medical technicians were recruited to man the ambulance that has been in Kanorado since 1998. Gleason said it has been good to have the people for the ambulance, and is hoping to get a couple more to share the load.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas

said Thursday the mayor told him the city wants to keep ambulance in town. Helderman told Thomas the city would clean the city building out so they to keep the ambulance there until the addition is built.

"He said the town would do anything they need to do to keep it in Kanorado," Thomas said.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said Thursday he had been told by Gleason that the city building would not pass the state emergency medical service inspection because it was not clean enough and not heated.

Rasure said he was pleased to hear the Kanorado mayor was willing to clean the city building and was hopeful that would be a temporary solution until the addition can be built to solve the ambulance problem.

Citizens from Kanorado had met with the county commissioners on Nov. 1 to try to find a solution.

One option was to house the city fire truck in the city building. The Kanorado City Council would rather house the ambulance than the fire truck, Gleason told the commissioners, because there would be fewer people with keys.

"Nothing was put down in writing about where the ambulance would be stored," Gleason said. "It was a gentleman's agreement about where it could be stored."

The director said he would have to check with the emergency management people at the state Department of Health and Environment to

see if they would approve an alternate location. The department licenses the ambulance service.

"The problem I see is that the city building is used as a maintenance building and garage," he said. "The state of Kansas may not approve that location. The building where the ambulance is stored is ... used only for fire and ambulance vehicles."

Another potential problem with the city building, he added, is that the ambulance would have to be in a position to get out first.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas said the city did not want to store its fire truck in the city building because each volunteer would have to have a key.

Gleason said he has some of the same concerns about storing the ambulance where more people might have access to it.

"We want the ambulance to stay where it is," Gleason said. "and I have had people from Kanorado tell me they want the ambulance to stay in the present garage."

Marvin Duell, chairman of the Sherman County fireboard, said the Kanorado rural fire department has a new truck, but with the ambulance taking up a slot in the firehouse, one of the trucks has to be stored outdoors.

Thomas asked if the fire department got a new truck, what happened to the old one?

Duell said Kanorado has two brush trucks, the new pumper, the city fire truck and the tanker. He

said the rural fire department needs the water source that is built into the fire house, and that putting a fire truck in another building won't work.

County Commissioner Mitch Tiede asked Gleason if he knew Kanorado was getting a new brush truck.

"No," Gleason said. "We knew about the new pumper fire truck, and that they were going to trade a fire truck."

"We did not know about the new fire truck until we went into the fire station," said Deb Fahey, one of the emergency medical technicians from Kanorado.

The question of housing the ambulance came up over a year ago, and at that time county commissioners decided it should stay put.

"If we add on to the back of the fire station, would that solve the problem?" asked County Commissioner Kevin Rasure.

Tiede said he thought there was plenty of room.

"We have money to get the addition started," Rasure said, "but what do we do with the storage problem until it can be built?"

He noted that the ambulance might have to be pulled back to Goodland until the addition is built unless they can agree on a place to put it.

## corrections

A story about the Veterans Day ceremony on Page 10 of the Tuesday, Nov. 10, issue of *The Goodland Star-News* misspelled Bob Schindler's name. He received a 60-year pin from the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

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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.

## matters of record

### District Traffic

The following fines were paid in the Sherman County District Court:  
**Dec. 19, 2004** — Jose M. Acuirre-Baraaza, \$175 on judgment on plea of guilty for speeding.

**March 20, 2005** — Raul F. Paredes, \$90 reinstated for speeding.

**Jan. 11, 2006** — Perry W. Epley Jr., \$138 for speeding.

**April 21** — Shane Allan Diekman, \$160 reinstated for motor carrier safety rules and regulations and \$60 reinstated for speeding.

**May 1** — Ului L. Satuala, \$159 reinstated for speeding.

**June 3** — Kimberly D. Poore, \$154 reinstated for speeding.

**July 9** — Benjamin D. Schulze, \$174 reinstated for speeding.

**July 19** — Daniel H. Dewilde, \$156 reinstated for speeding.

**July 21** — Kimberly L. Link, \$188 reinstated for motor carrier liability insurance.

**Aug. 1** — Oscar D. Simon, \$201 reinstated for speeding.

**Aug. 4** — Jason E. Bennett, \$120 reinstated for speeding.

**Aug. 8** — Raymond J. Rager, \$54

reinstated for speeding and \$126 reinstated for unlawful acts with vehicle.

**Aug. 22** — Kaitlin M. Harol, \$156 for speeding.

**Aug. 24** — William M. Lorenti, \$183 for speeding.

**Aug. 25** — Cecilio Orona, \$126 for speeding.

**Sept. 1** — Sharon B. Stuart, \$132 for speeding.

**Sept. 2** — Eric W. Dobbs, \$132 for speeding.

## matters of record

### Real Estate

The following real estate transactions were reported by the Sherman County Register of Deeds:

Connie S. Emig to ZWZ, LLC, NW/4 Sec. 9, T10S R40W.

Marsha Ann Batt and Howard Batt Jr. quit claim to Carol Jean Hemken, SW/4 Sec. 32, T6S R38W.

## Need a Ride?

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Northwest Kansas Technical College is seeking comments from the public about the college in preparation for its accreditation evaluation by its regional accrediting agency. The college will host an evaluation team, representing The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools, on its campus on February 12-14, 2007. This team will review the institution's ability to meet the Commission's Criteria for Accreditation. The public is invited to submit comments regarding the college to:

Public Comment on Northwest Kansas Technical College  
The Higher Learning Commission  
30 North LaSalle Street, Suite 2400  
Chicago IL 60602-2504

Comments must address substantive matters related to the quality of the institution or its academic programs. Comments must be in writing and signed, and include the name, address and telephone numbers of the person providing the comments. The Commission cannot guarantee that comments received after the due date will be considered. Comments will not be treated as confidential. All comments must be received by January 12, 2007.