

People can see state's offender list on Internet

By Pat Schiefen
The Goodland Star-News
If you have a suspicious neighbor, there's a way to check and see if he — or she — is on the list of registered offenders maintained by the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, which by law lists all violent and sexual offenders living in the state. People can also get to the site by going to the Sherman County website first at www.sherman.kansasgov.com, said Sheriff Kevin Butts.

To be listed as a sex offender, a person must meet the legal definition of a "sexual offender" or "sexually violent predator" or convicted of criminal sexual conduct with a person under the age of 18.

Kansas passed the Offender Registration Act in 1993 requiring sex offenders to register with the sheriff of the county where they live, said Sheriff Butts.

Under the law, a person convicted of a sex crime must register for 10 years after their conviction or 10 years after being paroled or released from jail.

If a person is convicted of rape when the victim is overcome by fear, is under 14 or consent was obtained by deceiving the person, the offender must register for life.

Anyone convicted for a second time of a crime included in the law also has to register for life.

June 1, the Legislature changed the law to require new sex offenders to get a driver's license or state identification card showing that they are a sex offender.

The state Motor Vehicle Department says it is trying to set up that system.

Offender are required to register twice a year in the sheriff's office, said Butts, on the month of their birthday and six months later. It costs them \$20 each time. If they move, Butts added they have to give written notice within 10 days.

Failure to register has been increased from a level 10 non person felony to a level 5 person felony, said Butts which means the crime went to a more serious felony.

Sherman County has 18 on statewide list of convicts

These offenders convicted of sexual or violent crimes are registered and listed on the KBI website as living in Sherman County:

- Brandon Baker, 20, 404 Harrison, attempted aggravated indecent liberties, lewd fondling and touching, with a child under 14.

- Jesus Balderas, 41, 324 Broadway, attempted aggravated indecent liberties with a child

- Evangeline Theresa Balik, 64, 1324 Texas, attempted aggravated indecent liberties with a child.

- James Maximo Barrera, 20, 404 Sherman, rape.

- Thomas Burnside, 54, 1619 Syracuse, attempted aggravated sexual battery.

- Marty Ray Cress, 31, 2810 Commerce Road Lot 1, attempted aggravated indecent liberties, intercourse, with a child over 14 but younger than 16.

- Raymond Dale Eli, 37, 1304 Cherry, sodomy in second degree and sexual abuse in first degree, both with a child under 14.

- Thomas Cloyd Farr, 27, 1104 Cherry, sexual battery.

- Eugene Fuller, 51, 2810 Commerce Road, Lot 16, involuntary manslaughter.

- Christopher John Gary, 790 D Lao Drive, Apt. 3, sexual bat-



Baker



Balderas



Balik



Barrera



Burnside



Cress



Eli



Farr



Fuller



Gary



Holmes



Hopkins



Neal



A. Pena



E. Pena



Potterf



Sanders



Vantleven

tery.
• Roger Dale Holmes, 39, 705 W. Eighth, sexual assault of a child under the age of 15.
• Peter Michael Hopkins, 34, 709 Grand, sexual assault on a child in a position of trust.
• Preston Dwayne Neal, 19, 1104 E. 13th, Box 34, sexual assault on a

child.
• Amador Mungilla Peña, 55, 504 E. 11th, attempted aggravated sexual battery.
• Emilio Peña, 27, 716 Clark, aggravated individual solicitation to commit or submit to sex act with a child under 14.
• Zachery Allen Potterf, 21, 216

E. Hwy 24, Lot C8, aggravated indecent liberties with a child.
• Richard Haley Sanders, 17, 926 Colorado, sexual assault of victim incapable due to mental disorder, drugs or alcohol.
• Robert Leon Vantleven, 31, 901 Caldwell, sexual battery.

City pay plan includes raises up to 5 percent

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News
City employees will be eligible for merit raises averaging 5 percent next year, based on a pay plan approved by the city commission last week.

City Manager Wayne Hill told the commission last Monday the only change he made to the plan was to eliminate the maximums for veteran employees and adjusted the entry and probation period scales.

"We had a maximum listing, and if you were here long enough you could not get any more raises," Hill said. "I felt that penalized the good people we have."

"I eliminated the maximum. We had budgeted 5 percent for merit raises, and that depends on their evaluations. Our people are our best asset, and I do not want to see them penalized for the good job they do."

"I agree you need to pay your good employees," Mayor Rick Billinger said. "I don't remember how that maximum process got set up, but I agree it is probably something we could do away with."

"The only thing I can remember the commission was worried about was the lower positions and getting them raised up to keep the good ones."

"I think that is true," Hill said. "We need to get a good lineman, and it is tough to keep them."

City Commissioner John Garcia asked if the pay plan reflected the 5 percent Hill had mentioned.

"That is the total," Hill said, "but it depends on the evaluations how much each one receives."

The commission unanimously

approved the revised plan.

Starting pay for animal control officers, meter readers, police records clerks, city laborers, utility computer operators and utility customer service agents would be \$8.95 per hour or an annual salary of \$18,616. After the probation period, the pay increases to \$9.40 an hour or \$19,547 a year.

A starting power plant operator would get \$9.47 an hour, \$19,697 a year, and after probation \$9.94 and \$20,682. A power plant operator II, who has more training, starts at \$11 an hour or \$22,880, and after probation goes to \$11.55 an hour or \$24,024.

A power plant operator III, wastewater system manager and police corporal start at \$12.54 an hour, \$26,083, and after probation jump to \$13.17 per hour or \$27,387.

For a division manager or municipal court judge, entry wage would be \$13.58 an hour, \$28,241, and after probation \$14.26 and \$29,653.

The public works superintendent, chief building official, electric production superintendent and electric distribution superintendent positions have an entry level of \$15.62, \$32,490 a year, and after probation \$16.40 and \$34,114.

In other business, the commission:

- Heard that January meetings will be on Monday, Jan. 8 and 22, because of holidays. Because of the change, the commission gave City Clerk Mary Volk permission to write checks through the end of the year. She said otherwise the checks would be held for an extra week.

She said she would get the commissioners a copy of the bills, and they could be approved at the next meeting.

- Approved payments to Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates of \$1,893 for the final inspection and to Maxwell Asphalt \$16,066 for the crack fill and runway painting project.

- Approved a reimbursement request from the Federal Aviation Administration of \$15,545 for the federal share of the project, and approved a reimbursement request from the Kansas Department of Transportation for \$510.

- Heard from Mayor Billinger that Jack Sanderson of Clawson Electric, who died recently, had been on the city airport board for years. Volk said commissioners could sign a card for the Sanderson family.

- Heard that Ken Clouse, president of the Northwest Kansas Technical College, had sent a thank you to the city police for their response to a bomb scare.

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.

Carnival to get new building



Lowell Lambert and Raul Hernandez stretched lines to make sure the footings were square for a new 60-by-150-foot storage and repair building for the home-owned carnival going up south of the main fairgrounds. Dennis Malsom of Malsom Welding, who is putting up the building for Sherman County, said the footings were poured and are ready for the building, which he expects to be delivered in mid January.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

"Lending a Helping Hand"



In times of medical emergencies, we all want the fastest medical care possible. However, if the emergency transport vehicle isn't reliable, time lost may be the difference between life and death.

The Northwest Kansas Medical Foundation is requesting financial assistance via their 2006 Caring Kind campaign to help with the purchase of a "Life Line" ambulance to be used in the Tri-State Area.

This is your opportunity to show your support with a tax-deductible gift to the NW Kansas Area Medical Foundation on behalf of a new ambulance!



Northwest Kansas Area Medical Foundation
PO Box 661, Goodland, Kans 67735

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

The KUHRT RANCH HISTORIC DISTRICT will receive sealed bids for the KUHRT RANCH HISTORIC BARN RESTORATION at KUHRT RANCH, 2735 Road 75, Edson, KS 67733 until 3:30 p.m. MST, Thursday, January 11, 2007. Bids received after this time will not be accepted. Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud immediately after the specified closing time.

Major items of work include: 340 cubic yards of Rock Excavation, 219 cubic yards of compacted fill, 300 feet of 8" Stem Wall with Stucco Finish, 16 Concrete Piers, 3104 square feet of 4" Concrete Floor, Reconstruct 9 Wooden Doors, Reconstruct 23 Wooden Windows, Paint 700 square feet of Lap Siding & Eaves, Paint 6000 square feet of Metal Tile Roofing, Paint 3000 square feet of Asbestos Siding, Install 14 Cable Anchoring Systems, Lifting and Reseting the Wood structure, Perimeter foundation drainage system, and various other appurtenant work.

This facility is located within the Kuhrt Ranch Historic District and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. All work performed on this facility will be in accordance with the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation. Any and all changes to these documents or the work contained herein must be approved in writing by the Owner, Engineer, and the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Bidding Documents may be obtained by contacting EBH Engineering at (785) 899-7019.

Owner reserves the right to waive irregularities and to reject bids