

# County meeting needs of disabled

By Tom Betz  
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The money Sherman County contributes to the Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas helps meet the needs of clients here, commissioners heard on Tuesday.

Sherman County gives \$45,000 a year to the 18-county program, said Jerry Michaud, president of the group headquartered in Hays. He asked the commissioners to maintain that as they consider next year's budget.

Accompanying Michaud were Meripat Bowman, director of Golden West Community Services of Goodland; Ruth Lang, Michaud's administrative assistant; and Clarence Scheopner of Goodland, a long-time board and executive committee representative from Sherman County.

Michaud said the state Legislature has not met the needs of the disabled, and last session a petition drive was begun to urge it to act. He said more than 6,000 signatures were gathered from northwest Kansas, and statewide the total was more than 34,000.

"We have more than 3,400 people statewide waiting for services," Michaud said. "We want to get rid of the waiting list over a three-year period through a two-leg approach, and have the ability to handle this with increased state and federal funding."

Sherman County's money comes from the health services special sales tax, and Michaud said the \$45,000 ranks the county seventh in the region. He said Sherman County ranks 16th in total cost of services at \$263,744.

"We account for the individuals from this county," he said, "and the amount of money we draw from the state and federal and what we are short in covering the costs. In Sherman County, the shortage is \$28,926.

"We want to look at people, not just numbers, to put names and faces to services of those served in

# Harvest overflows

WHEAT, from Page 1

manager in Bird City, reported that this elevators filled up and they had to pile wheat on the ground. Yields are good, he said, though there was a little insect damage.

Manager Dale Weeks of the Wheeler elevator said the protein was "all over the board," ranging from levels of 9 to 13 percent. After seven years of drought and low-to-nothing yields, he said, farmers are happy to have a crop.

Northwestern Kansas' crop was 242 percent of last year's, according to the Kansas Agricultural Statistics Service, after two years of drought-plagued harvests. The report, however, predict the wheat crop will be just 3 percent above last year for the whole state.

"This harvest has just been excellent for our local farmers," said Steve Younger, manager of the Stratton Equity Co-op in Stratton and Burlington.

The elevator will hold about two million bushels when full, he said. Protein levels are averaging at high marks of 11 to 14 percent, he added.

Sherman County."

He said in the region last year, 164 people had been placed in jobs at more than 144 businesses. Bowman said Golden West serves 49 people in Sherman County. Of those, eight are from the county. Two live at home with their parents and two live at home with their spouses.

She said 14 of the 49 have called Goodland home for more than 20 years. All 49 have the opportunity to attend the day service program offered Monday through Friday.

Of the clients, 45 live in 10 homes run by her agency, including a farm north of town, Bowman said. Each home has three to six people, and the homes are staffed on a continuing basis to supervise and enable individuals to live in the community.

She said the homes are rented from area property owners, with the people paying their rent directly to the landlord.

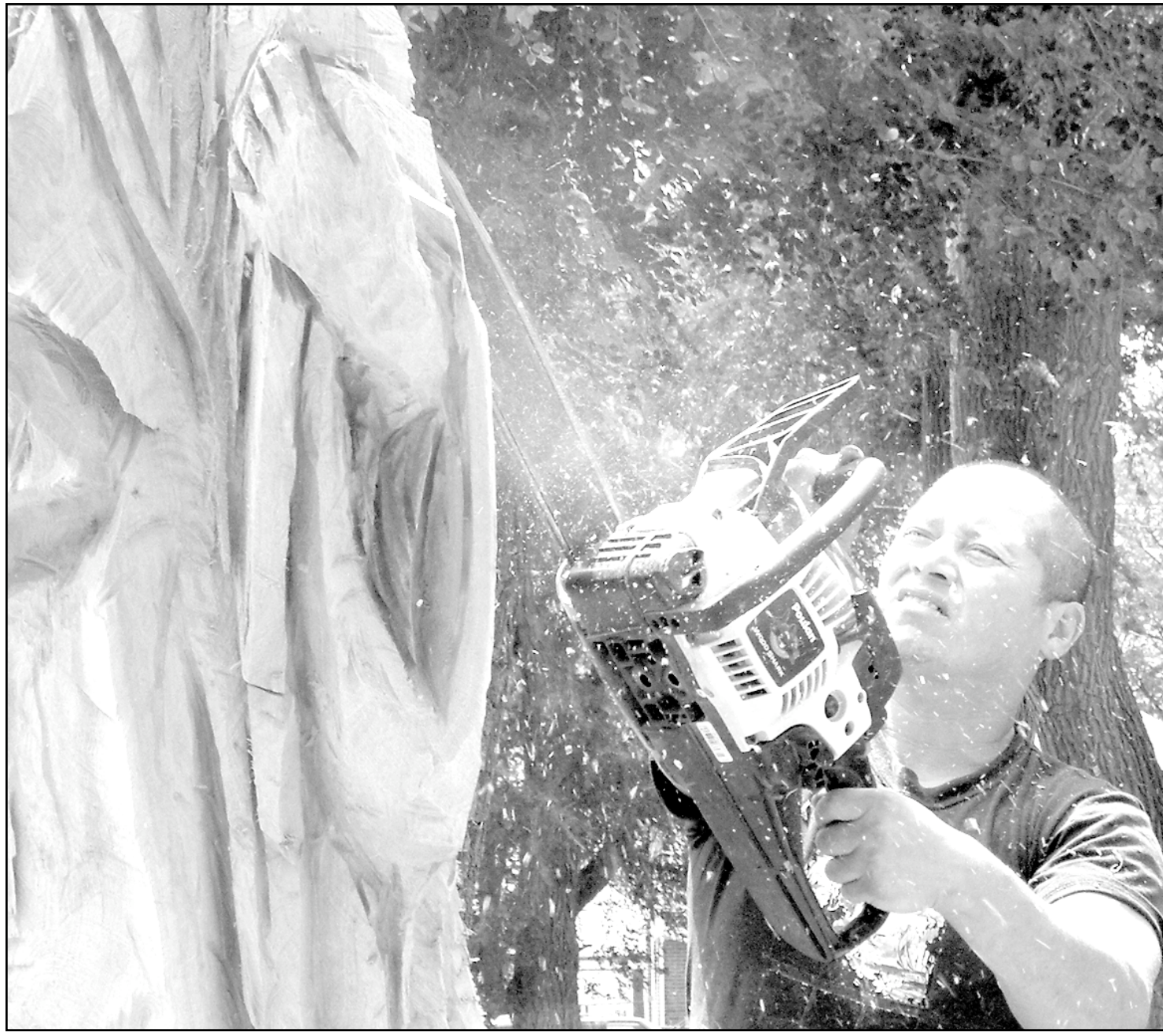
Bowman said Golden West employs 75 people in the homes and the center.

Michaud said the state Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services went through quite a change over the past year. The state was not able to put an additional \$19.1 million into the system, he said, but replaced what was taken away by changes in federal requirements.

He said the state General Fund was supposed to have \$10 million earmarked to eliminate the waiting list, but the state was able to put in only \$4 million.

"We appreciate what you do and what Golden West does for our community," Commissioner Kevin Rasure said.

# Finishing Lady Liberty



Jessie Martinez used his chain saw Thursday to add detail to the Lady Liberty sculpture on the corner of 15th and Broadway. Martinez said he started carving on the old elm stump at the end of May, then had to take a few weeks off because of a funeral. The sculptor, from May Valley, Colo., a few miles north of Lamar, said he expects to finish both Liberty and the Sacagawea sculpture near 16th and Texas in a few days. Martinez said the last step will be to stain the sculpture to make it look more like the statue in New York. Melody Knudson, who owns the home on Broadway with her husband Joe, said she knows a way to light the torch.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

# Road 16 last on list

ROAD, from Page 1

leave enough room along the road for proper ditches.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said getting the ditches dug out will help the drainage, and it will be a much better road for the winter. Way said having proper ditches will give the graders a place to push the snow.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked DeBoer when he can have the plans ready.

DeBoer said he probably would not have them until fall. Rasure said he would prefer to see the plans go out for bid while the large asphalt contractors are in the area.

DeBoer said he would do his best. He said it is possible that Venture Corp. of Great Bend has decided not to do the work on Road 65 this summer. He said he has not heard that from the company, but was surprised that none of the base rock material had begun to arrive at the construction site about three miles west of K-27. He said under the contract with the county, Venture could delay the job until March.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas said in that case, it would be good to have the Road 16 project ready for bids this fall.

Way said the Road 16 project will be done in two parts to allow access for the homeowners and the golf course. He said if Venture was the successful bidder, they would be able to do the Road 16 project either before or after Road 65.

He said because of the need for access while Road 65 is under construction, the contractor couldn't work on Road 16 at the same time.

Sugar Hills representatives asked how moving the road would affect their entrance. DeBoers said it would move the ditches to the east and improve the drainage around the south part of the road.

Commissioner Rasure asked DeBoer about his estimate of the cost. DeBoer said he thought it would be around \$750,000 for the whole project. He said the original estimate done for the sales tax election was \$300,000, but that was just to put down asphalt.

The commissioners agreed the road should be done right before it is paved. Rasure said the cost may stretch the county, but he feels they can find ways to fill a money gap. He said the need won't be known until the contract is put out for bid.

The commissioners asked about the old U.S. 24 project.

DeBoer said the job is under budget about \$300,000, and the county saves an additional \$150,000 if the contractor is allowed to wrap more of the millings into the top asphalt lift.

"People want that road to last," Thomas said. "I don't think saving \$150,000 is as important as getting it done so it will last."

DeBoer said the contractor, APAC Shears, had asked about the option because they are having trouble getting material.

## Eat Pizza Hut

### Tuesday, July 17<sup>th</sup>

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**NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING**

The governing body of  
City of Kanorado  
will meet on the 6th day of August, 2007 at 6:30p.m. at the City Hall for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax.

Detailed budget information is available at the City Office and will be available at this hearing.

**BUDGET SUMMARY**

Proposed Budget 2008 Expenditures and Amount of 2007 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2008 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

FUND	2006		2007		Proposed Budget 2008		
	Prior Year Actual Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Current Year Est. of Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate*	Expenditures	Amount of 2007 Ad Valorem Tax	Est. Tax Rate*
General	57,791	51.209	58,975	51.759	111,121	28,453	51.638
Employee Benefit	7,215	9.713	7,500	9.818	17,561	5,397	9.795
Special Highway					27,607		
Capital Improvement Fund					30,024		
Utility Fund	54,853		61,700		126,658		
Water Improvement Project			1,004,050				
<b>Totals</b>	<b>119,859</b>	<b>60.922</b>	<b>1,132,225</b>	<b>61.577</b>	<b>312,971</b>	<b>33,850</b>	<b>61.433</b>
Less: Transfers	5,000		9,900		5,000		
Net Expenditure	114,859		1,122,325		307,971		
Total Tax Levied	33,850		33,850				
Assessed Valuation	555,628		549,985		551,011		
Outstanding Indebtedness,							
January 1,							
G.O. Bonds							0
Revenue Bonds							0
Other							0
Lease Purchase Principal							0
Total	0		0		0		0

\*Tax rates are expressed in mills

City Official, Title