

Clinic to accept walk-in patients

You can't plan when you'll be sick, and the Goodland Family Health Center is offering a solution for people who wake up sick and don't want to wait for an appointment to see a doctor.

The clinic will begin accepting walk-in patients from 8 to 9 a.m. starting Monday, Jan. 14.

This early-morning clinic is ideal for patients who become sick overnight and want to see a medical practitioner before heading to work, said Tina Goodwin, director of marketing for the clinic and the Goodland Regional Medical Center, or for parents trying to decide if a child is well enough to go to school that day.

No appointment is necessary for this clinic, she said; patients who show up between 8 and 9 a.m. will be seen first-come, first-served by one of the interim physician as-

sistants working through the Docs Who Care program, but the health center's physicians will be available for consultation if necessary.

The center plans to offer the morning clinic until the end of February, Goodwin said, but if the program is a success, it may be extended.

"We hope this walk-in sick clinic will be a convenience for our patients," said clinic manager Pam Kinsinger. "I think it will be great for those people that want to get in to see a doctor early and don't have time to make an appointment."

The center is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 to 11 a.m. on Saturdays for walk-ins. To make an appointment during regular office hours with Drs. Moe Shafei, Travis Daise or David Younger, or Jackie Jorgensen, a nurse practitioner, call (785) 890-6075.

Council approves furniture purchase

By Sharon Corcoran

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The Sherman County Economic Development Council voted to approve spending \$2,731 on furniture from High Plains Office Supply for Executive Director Jeremy Jennings and Executive Assistant Helen Dobbs.

The council also bought a rocking chair at the Chamber of Commerce's annual dinner and dance and paid for advertising in S&T Communications' phone directory at the meeting Dec. 18. Part of the furniture bill will be paid in December and part in January.

Five board members voted to approve the purchase, and one voted against. Yes votes were from Don Newell, Nancy Cole, Chance Schilling, Darwin McClung and Steve West. Harlan House voted no.

"I think we have too many things on here that should have been approved ahead," he said. "I think we need to look at this."

House said he thought the board's function shouldn't be just to automatically approve expenditures that have already been made.

"We didn't know about the rocking chairs ahead of time," Newell said, "but we need to look at this. I think we did approve taking the lowest bid on the furniture."

The furniture includes a desk for each office, two chairs for Jennings' office, a dry-erase board and bookshelves. Jennings said they got a break buying desks that had been displayed in the store. It was the lowest bid, he added.

The council bid on two rocking chairs at the dinner and thought they would be buying both. Jennings, Dobbs and Newell went to the dinner and had set a maximum amount they could spend. Jennings started the bidding, and after he left, Dobbs continued. They bid \$75 for each, Dobbs said, but the Chamber called them and said they were offered

more for one, so the council may only buy the Goodland Cowboys chair, decorated by the Goodland High School Art Club.

"The one we were outbid on is in our office and on the bills," Jennings said, "but it will go to them."

Dobbs said they paid for the chair and the Chamber will reimburse them if the other party goes ahead and buys it.

The Cowboys chair will be used to display baskets, shirts and other memorabilia, he said, adding they are changing the look of the office, putting up area nostalgia and memorabilia to give it a home-town feel and to reflect what Goodland has to offer.

The board approved spending \$186 on advertising in S&T Communications' area telephone directory. The ad is in the budget, Newell said. It includes advertising in the yellow pages and bolding the name in the white pages, Dobbs said.

More people are coming in to use the new workforce center at the office, Jennings said; some who have never had a resume in their lives have gotten some help with putting one together. People have asked about jobs, he said, and the web site has a listing at www.gogoodlandks.com.

The board talked about advertising the center on the "roll around" ads on S&T and Eagle Communications' cable systems and in *The Goodland Star-News* but tabled a decision to January's meeting to get actual cost figures.

corrections

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Let it snow. . . oh, but then we have to scoop



Dan Cullens, with his granddaughters Paige (left) and Erica Walnut Monday. Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

County finds collections tough on rescue runs

By Tom Betz

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Collecting bills for fire-department rescue calls has proven to be tough, Sherman County commissioners heard last Tuesday before they approved a recommendation to try sending two letters from the county attorney and then using a collection company.

Goodland Rural Fire Chief Alan David, who had been at the previous meeting, said the department has made 49 rescue calls on highways this year and 38 last year after taking over the rescue work from the city fire department.

David said he had been talking to County Attorney Bonnie Selby about billing for the calls, noting that he's had little luck collecting from individuals or insurance companies.

The commissioners approved a resolution drafted by Selby that sets up a listing of rescue, fire and hazardous material equipment used by Sherman County and the price for use of each piece. She said the bills are sent to out-of-county people involved in rescue runs on I-70 and for hazardous spills anywhere in the county.

She said the only time a Sherman County person would be billed is if they were involved in a hazardous material spill which has to be cleaned up under federal regulations.

The resolution lists the basic price for the use of rescue equipment like the spreaders, cutters, rams or air bags at between \$250 to \$350. The list for hazardous-material work includes absorbent material (\$17 per bag), disposable coveralls (\$22 each), gloves (\$17.50 per pair), drum liners (\$10 each) and disposal of the material (\$150).

Selby said her office has been sending out bills, but has not recovered much money. She said it seems to make no difference whether the bill goes to a person or an insurance company.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas said he was surprised the insurance companies were not paying. Selby said she knew of three bills that have been collected, but thought there was about \$15,000 that is not paid.

David said some of the bills are for hazardous material spills that should be "a guaranteed pay."

Selby said she was not opposed to

trying a company which specializes in this type of collections. She said the company would take 20 percent of what is collected.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said she thought three bills have been paid. She said if the county receives payment for rescue and hazardous material runs, the money goes into the Rural Fire budget.

Thomas suggested the county could give the firm, Revenue Rescue, a try. He asked David what they would have to do.

David suggested letting the county attorney's office continue to send out two bills, and if there is no reply, he would

turn it over to Revenue Rescue.

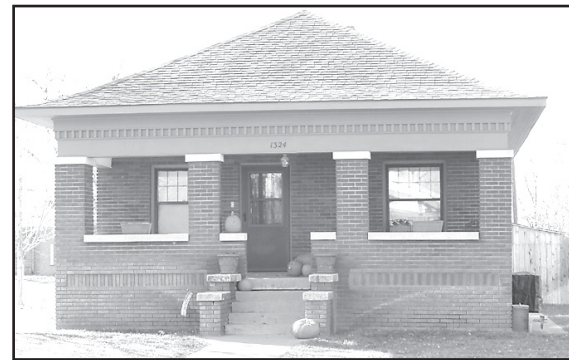
The chief said the firm uses an electronic process. It would get all the information and follow up with the county's collection work.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said it might be better than not collecting. Commissioner Mitch Tiede agreed, saying it was worth giving it a try.

The commissioners plan to meet with the rural fire board and rural firemen at 6 p.m. on Monday to discuss the new full time fire chief position in the commission room at the Sherman County Courthouse, 813 Broadway Ave. The meeting is open to the public.



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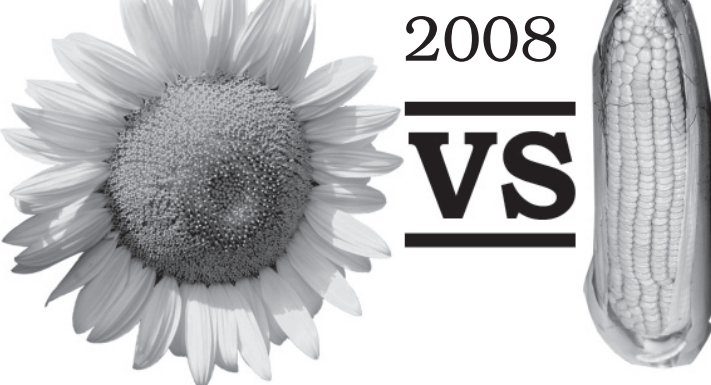
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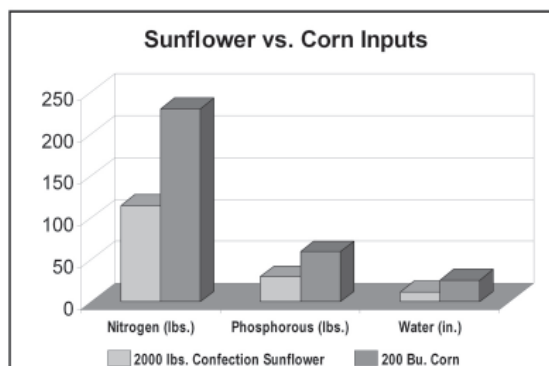
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