

# New director wants input from public

By Pat Schiefen  
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If you want to meet the new High Plains Museum director there will be a meet and greet at an open house on Saturday from 7 to 9 p.m. She is Karen Anderson, whose family lives on a farm around Lexington, Neb.

Anderson wants people to come and learn about summer activities, internships, volunteer opportunities and behind the scenes tours. She also wants people to give her ideas about what they want their museum to be.

She wants the museum to be more active in the community, and her vision for the museum sees it transitioning into a cultural community center.

"The museum has a bright future and that starts with programming," she said.

Since her arrival in late May Anderson has hit the ground running. Her first program is for third graders to be guest curators from 10 to 11 on Saturday morning. She promised it would be followed by others.

Anderson got her Bachelor of

Science in History with a minor in Great Plains studies from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. She worked for the Nebraska State Historical Society in the Love Library special exhibit and archives. Then she got her Masters of Museum Science from Texas Tech.

She and her staff started out with a spring cleaning and effort to organize things better.

Anderson wants to upgrade the gift shop and would like to hear comments on that subject. They are also having a half price sale on current merchandise.

She wants to build strength through partnerships with historical groups, Goodland Public Library, the Carnegie Arts Center and Northwest Kansas Technical College. Anderson wants to maximize the use of the limited space the museum currently has.

One of her first projects was to update acquisition policies, employee policies and procedures.

She is planning to update the exhibits some. Anderson would like to have more objects from recent history.

Anderson would like to train curators in the future to be able to take video, photo and oral histories from people. She has been thinking about creating a timeline in one area that has exhibit spaces where objects could be changed.

"Museums are not libraries, people can be loud," she said. Noting a sign had been put up by one of the antique autos that said, "When you look at the car say: 'Vroom Vroom.'"

Another sign placed by a cardboard horse said to pet it. She said that most of the things in the museum shouldn't be touched, but she wanted kids to be able to touch something.

Anderson said she wants to the museum to connect more with the people that live here. She also wants to emphasize things that are directly connected to the history of Sherman County.

To check on upcoming events check on Facebook at High Plains Museum, the city website or call 890-4595.



New museum director Karen Anderson wants to encourage kids to have fun at the museum. She holds a sign urging them to say "vroom, vroom."

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

# Curves to be changed on K-27

A modernization project to straighten the curves on K-27 seven miles south of Sharon Springs are among the projects in western Kansas announced on Thursday by Gov. Sam Brownback at a media event in Dodge City.

The sharp curves south of Sharon Springs were the major safety concerns associated with this project. While public citizen participants and local officials would like to see the entire corridor modernized, they understand cost constraints and rated this section as a top priority, said Transportation Secretary Deb Miller.

Gov. Brownback flew around the state going to five cities to announce the highway projects being funded under T-WORKS, the transportation program approved by the state legislature.

The project on K-27 is expected to cost \$9 million and a contract will be let for construction under the program sometime in the six years from 2014 to 2020.

"This work will provide huge safety and economic benefits to those who depend on these roads for work, school and commerce," said Gov. Brownback. "The projects I'm announcing today are the ones you told us were most important to you during the Local Consultation process and I'm pleased we could address those concerns with the limited funding we have available."

Secretary Miller, who accompanied the Governor on the tour, said



Above are the curves the state wants to change on K-27. The work will be done in 2014.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland

T-WORKS is significantly smaller than two previous transportation programs. As a result, KDOT recommended lower-cost options such as expressways instead of freeways, and adding passing lanes instead of four-laning many highways.

"We call that 'designing to a budget,' much like you have to do when you think about home repairs and remodeling," Secretary Miller said.

"We're taking this approach because most Kansans we've heard

from have said some improvement is better than no improvement at all."

The other project in northwest Kansas is for alignment and shoulder improvements on 26 miles of K-383 in Phillips and Norton

counties. The list of expansion and modernization projects can be viewed on the T-WORKS website at <http://www.ksdot.org/t-works/>.

# Hospital board hears update on Family Health Clinic

By Tom Betz  
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April numbers were down at the Goodland Family Health Center the hospital board heard at their meeting, but the same day appointments are exceeding 30 to 40 percent for full time.

Lynn Hoelting, health center director, said the numbers in April were down due to vacation. He said the summer is usually a slower time for doctor appointments.

The physicians are on board for coding the patients, which means having the patient information ready when a patient checks in at

registration for an appointment to speed up the process, he said. The insurance prepaays are being collected and the request is being accepted by the community.

He is working with Kevin Sanderson on the clinic side to try to keep up with the hospital-side updates, the idea being to get dual coverage.

"It is ever changing, ever evolving," Hoelting said.

The clinic staff and doctors recently reviewed the strategic plan that was developed in September. He said the meeting was very positive and it was good to have all the

people come together and talk to each other so everyone hears the same message.

Board member Patty Eckhardt asked about the drop in clinic figures. She asked how long people have to wait for an appointment.

"People don't call to say how quickly they got in," she said. "I hear there have been some delays. Is that a problem or an isolated event?"

Hoelting said he felt it was isolated. The clinic opens at 8 a.m. and they try to have the walk-in patients through before the regular appointments at 11 a.m.

Eckhardt said the people she

talked to did not understand they could get an appointment by calling the clinic before coming.

Hoelting said if the staff has time available and the people show about 9:30 a.m. they are going to be seen. It is probably first come, first served.

Board member Doug Irvin said he heard Jackie Jorgensen has been sort of tied up, and some had said there was a two-week delay for an appointment. He said he was told this about two weeks ago.

Hoelting said he was not aware of that, and it is not what he has seen looking at her daily schedule.

Eckhardt said she knows to call and ask for an appointment.

Board member Harlan House said it was hard to talk about immediate care if the physician is tied up for two weeks.

People are being told to come to the walk-in to get in faster, Irwin said.

Eckhardt added that people can let the staff know about the urgency when they call in.

Board Chairman Brenda McCants said, "Most people understand they are not going to be seen immediately, but they will be seen."

Eckhardt said part of the scripting

is to let them know how to help make the system work.

"Maybe we need something like at Walmart," said board member Chet Ross, "that it will be 15 or 30 minutes before you are going to get your prescription."

"I want to know when I leave work I am not going to sit out here for an hour," Eckhardt said. "They have done some of that."

McCants said once the scripting is in place it might help reduce the wait times.

# Gardeners want nominations

The Master Gardeners are looking for the best yards, businesses and blocks for their summer decorating program.

Master Gardener Reva Bauman said the program went well last year and a lot of people decorated their yards, businesses and blocks to help

improve the appearance of the city.

She said the program will run through June, July and August this year with the Yard of the Year being awarded in September.

Special awards will be presented to the monthly winners, and a number of businesses are contributing to

the program.

Bauman said the gardeners are looking for nominations from the public when they see a home that has a good looking yard or has been improved. The same goes for businesses, and if there is a block where homes have great yards those can be nominated too.

People can contact any master gardener to make a nomination or call Bauman at (785) 899-2719 or Carol Topliff at (785) 899-5846.

## corrections

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