

# Artist paints outdoor scene for development office

**By Sharon Corcoran**  
*The Goodland Star-News*  
It's a doll's life. At least it is for Goodland artist Shirley Houston. Houston has been making dolls for more than 10 years, garnering a trademark and three copyrights related to her designs. A professional artist for 20 years, she also paints, does caricatures and works in other media.

Art has been a part of her life since she was young, and Houston says she likes to encourage children to develop their artistic talents. She painted a mural of Kansas country life that went up on the north wall of the Sherman County Economic Development office last week. She hopes it and a future project inspire more community art in Goodland.

She donated her time to paint the mural and plans another, working with young artists. Houston also will paint a horse for the carousel at the home-owned carnival, and she will display her work at the Carnegie Arts Center in October.

Houston plans to display a variety of media, including painting and soft sculpture, and she says she would like to do a caricature of someone that people in the area would recognize to include in the show.

But, she says, what she will display depends a lot on what she gets done between now and then. She doesn't hang on to a lot of her own work.

"Most of the dolls I've made," she said, "I have either sold or given to people."

She said her inspiration to begin making dolls was Xavier Roberts, creator of the Cabbage Patch Kids.

"I was fascinated by that," Houston said. "I started experimenting with soft sculpture."

Her experiments led to dolls so lifelike they catch viewers off guard — people often do double takes, she said — and disputes with Hallmark

and the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Houston has a copyright on the expression "basketcase," so anyone wanting to use the word to sell a product has to pay her royalties. Hallmark tried to use the expression to market a product, Houston said, and the Timberwolves had an ad campaign with "basketcase."

Both companies pulled their ads when contacted about the copyright infringement. All they had to do to keep their advertising, Houston said, was pay royalties, but they wouldn't do it.

She and husband Gary moved to Goodland about a year ago to be closer to their daughter in Denver without actually being in the city.

"Friends had traveled through this area," Houston said, "and they said, 'You've got to check out Goodland.' So we did."

The Houstons have three of their grandchildren living with them, which they are trying to get permanent custody of, and they are trying to adopt the kids' younger siblings, ages 2 and 5, who are still in Minnesota. All the proceeds from her art, when she's not donating her time, go to paying for the legal battle involved with that.

When the artist lived in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area, she said, she worked with children through United Way. Here, she has plans to work with kids in the Goodland Arts Council's summer art program, painting a mural on a building owned by Brian and Victoria Freeman, the old Moose Lodge at 16th and Main.

Tina Goodwin, director of the Carnegie Arts Center, applied for an economic development grant to pay for materials for the project, said Kay Younger, economic development director.

Younger said she envisions an "artists' walk" through the downtown area, an attraction that combines exercise with culture. People can walk, look at art and see what



Shirley Houston of Goodland last week put the finishing touches on the mural she painted for the Sherman County Economic Development Council's office. She plans to work with young artists

on an outdoor mural and to display her work at the Carnegie Arts Center in October. Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

the downtown stores have to offer, she said.

"I like to call it the mile-long artists' walk," she said. "I like that the downtown area is a mile long. We

should promote that, and one way to do it is through art."

Younger said she welcomes opportunities to display art in the economic development office.

Houston's mural, about 3 feet by 7 feet, depicts a barn door with the top opened and a cat looking out on a sunflower field and another barn. It took about 16 hours to create.

It looks so real, you have to resist the urge to grab the handle and try to open the door.

## Commissioners sign three-county emergency coordination plan

**By Tom Betz**  
*The Goodland Star-News*  
The cooperative emergency management program between Cheyenne, Rawlins and Sherman counties has been in operation for three months, but the documents were not signed by the Sherman County commissioners until Tuesday.

Gary Rogers, who was the emergency management coordinator for Cheyenne and Rawlins counties, added Sherman in October. Commissioners of the three counties approved the program in December. The Sherman County commissioners had been waiting for the Cheyenne County attorney to draft the papers.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said Tuesday the agreement seemed pretty straightforward.

Rogers asked if the commissioners needed to have him report each month. Rasure said that is in the agreement, but reporting would not be necessary unless Rogers had something to say.

"We can work you in if there is something you need," said Commissioner Mitch Tiede, "even if you are not on the agenda."

The commissioners approved and signed the contract, and Rasure asked Rogers if there was any possibility the county could get some grant money from Homeland Security to help with upgrading the rural fire and police radio repeater.

Rogers said the money is mostly gone for this year and there probably will be a cut next year, but that the money can be used for that purpose.

"To go to a tower system, we are

looking at quite a bit of cost," Rasure said. "We can get by with what we have now."

Rogers said he had been contacted by the company that loaned the county a repeater after the old one went down in November. The repeater is on the city water tower next to the power plant at 17th and Cherry.

"We can buy a repeater and put in on the city water tower," Rasure said, "or put a repeater on another tower where we have to pay rent. If we buy the repeater now, it will keep us in business."

Rasure said there are two towers available, and the new repeater will be a 100 watt, more than twice the power of the existing 45 watt one.

"We are not without coverage where there is a dead spot," he said. "The rural fire department can use the sheriff frequency."

Sheriff Kevin Butts said the only problem is there would not be any dispatch page out for Kanorado, but the fire chief could notify the firemen individually to keep their radio on.

Undersheriff Roger Studer said having a higher-power repeater would help reach Kanorado, but the radios from Kanorado would not be able to hit the repeater to call back to dispatch. He said the answer may be to have the antenna higher than the water tower.

Rasure asked where the sheriff's repeater was located. Butts and Studer said the repeater is on top of

the elevator at Northern Sun Industries, west of Goodland, 360 feet in the air.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas asked if they pay to have the repeater there. Butts said no, the firm is happy to help the department.

Rogers also asked the commissioners about the office space.

Rasure said using the law library upstairs would work as far as he knew. The only question was about the Internet connection. He told Rogers to talk to Kay Barton, the clerk of the district court.

Rogers said it was getting to the point where he was needing a place to work.

"In time, how about a computer?" he asked. "I have a person who is really interested in being my part-time person."

"I will probably know later this week what the expectations are for planning. I will need to talk to you about the part-time salaries and details."

Updating the commissioners on a visit from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Rogers said they signed off on the report, but the county did not have enough expenses during the blizzard to get anything back. He said the city will get a check, but did not know how much they were going to get.

### correction

The Cowgirl in the first picture on page 9a in Friday's Star-News was incorrectly identified as Kaylee Billinger. The photo was of Junior Alicia Studer who looked for an opening through the Lady Beavers' defense in the second half. This was due to a layout error.

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The Goodland Star-News will

*correct any mistake or misrepresentation 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.*

## S&T adds wireless service

S & T Communications began offering a new wireless phone service on Wednesday.

S & T, with offices at 1318 Main in Goodland and 320 Kansas in Brewster, became authorized agent for Nex-Tech Wireless.

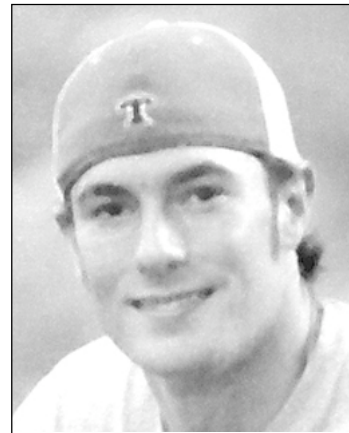
Nex-Tech is building its network to give people of central and western Kansas the best wireless service possible, said Dorothy Stieben of Nex-Tech. They have the latest technology for mobile and data sys-

tems, the newest wireless equipment and competitive plans with nationwide coverage, she said.

"We are looking forward to giving everybody superior service," said Don Newell, office manager and head of marketing for S & T.

Nex-Tech Wireless is owned by three regional companies, Rural Telephone of Lenora, Golden Belt Telephone of Rush Center and Mutual Telephone of Little River offering service in 27 western counties.

## student of the week



**Name:** Derek Fenner  
**Parents:** Dean & Donna Fenner

**Grade:** 12  
**Age:** 18

**We've nominated this student because:** he has consistently been committed and supportive to the band program and the students.

**Student Comment:** High school is full of living & learning, full of lessons & choices. And if I had to give advice to someone going through high school now I would tell them, live it up and don't do anything your going to regret & to be involved in everything that you

can be, because it is high school memories that you will remember and live with the most.

**Activities involved in at school:** Football, basketball, baseball, G-club, band & STUCO.

**My choice of movies, books, and games:** Any good comedy movie, Out Cold is probably my top movie. I listen to just about any music, just as long as it carries a good beat. My favorite games are playing Halo on X Box, paintball, and the board game Risk.

**After I leave Goodland High School I intend to:** play baseball & study Agriculture in college while getting my pilots license.

**And 10 years from now, I think I'll be :** raising a family & enjoying a great career, who know, that might even be in the major leagues.

**Favorite Quote:** Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson

## Butterfly Aviation



602 E Renner Field Rd  
Goodland KS  
(785) 890-7531

## NOTICE TO ALL SHERMAN COUNTY VOTERS

Special Sales Tax Election  
Tuesday March 28, 2006

1% Sales Tax Question  
for City and County Streets  
and Roads Project

**FORUM**

**MONDAY, MARCH 13TH  
7:00 PM**

**HOWARD JOHNSON DINING ROOM**

*SPONSORED BY LEADERSHIP SHERMAN COUNTY CLASS OF 2004*

**USD 352  
Board of Education**

cordially invites you to attend an  
Open House in honor of  
Shelly Angelos,  
newly appointed  
Superintendent of Schools  
March 8, 2006 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.

District Office ~ 1312 Main  
Goodland Kansas  
Hosted by the  
Goodland Ambassadors