

Questions answered

MORAN, from Page 1

a stack of paperwork that they had to fill out for each patient.

"There is too much paperwork," said Moran. Medical people can't focus on the patient through all the paperwork that needs to be done.

An audience member asked about a prescription drug plan that would work with Medicare and whether there were any plans for one in the future.

"In an election year," said Moran, "everyone is playing to the voters, and the voters don't want to pay additional taxes."

Moran added that no one should have to chose between paying the light bill and paying for prescriptions.

"I know that I haven't answered your question," said Moran, "but that is because I don't know what the answer will be."

Transportation is important to Kansas, said Moran, who is working on a House Transportation Committee in Washington.

"Air service is important here," he said, noting that Goodland and Great Bend lost service from Great Lakes Aviation, operating as United Express, last year.

He said that he had mentioned the problem in other areas and he thought that something might be worked out.

"We need to find an airline to provide service to this area," said Moran.

Technology, he said, needs to be brought into the schools, libraries, and hospitals.

"We want to make sure that we aren't left behind," he said. "Technology is the future of our young people."

The final question of the day was on the federal estate tax, which is a tax that surviving members of a family have to pay on the value of a deceased person's possessions.

Congress has passed a bill that would phase out the estate tax over 10 years, said Moran.

"It looks like we are on track to reducing the impact of the tax," he said.

He said that the tax makes it hard to pass a farm or other family business on to the next generation, since a family often may be forced to sell assets to pay the tax bill. It costs 75 cents for each dollar collected to enforce the tax, which taxes up to 55 percent of the value of an estate.

With all the money spent to avoid paying the tax and to collect it, said Moran, it would be better not to collect it at all.



Congressman Jerry Moran presented a speech to the Rotary club on Friday and then took questions from the audience.

Photo by Dana Sulsberger/The Goodland Daily News

Colorful decorated bikes competed at festival for prizes

From Noah's ark to a rolling baseball field, they came to compete in the Sunflower Festival bicycle and tricycle decorating competition on Saturday.

A rainbow of bikes lined the sidewalks as eight kids from 2 to 10 years old showed off their decorating abilities.

The competition was sponsored by the Goodland Kiwanis Club, and all participants got a free ice cream certificate. Winners received gift bags for prizes.

Five kids in the 5 and up age group competed, and there were three in the 5 and under age group.

Dullas DeLaRosa and his sister Sephani had decorated their bikes alike. They peddled down the sidewalk to the competition with bright yellow balloons trailing behind them, and plastic sunflowers stuck on the handle bars.

No one stopped at just decorating their bikes, though; many wore costumes to complete their theme.

Zoe D'Annunzio was the youngest participant. She sat proudly on her plastic tricycle, which sported a giant sunflower in the back with her name emblazoned in yellow, green garlands hanging from the wheels and plastic sunflowers on the front.

Children have fun at festival

ROYALTY, from Page 1

cates, a tiara, and a sash and all the girls got a bag of goodies containing prizes from the businesses. All the contestants had a chance to ride on a sunflower float in the fair parade Saturday evening.

Afterward, children gathered in a semi-circle around a dangling yellow sunflower.

Starting with the younger ones, they were handed a wooden stick and had a blindfold placed over their eyes. Then they were told to take two swings at the sunflower, which was a piñata filled with candy and small toys.

City employee Abel Ontiveroz drove a truck with a bucket lift onto the grass at the park. The sunflower piñata was attached to the bucket and the lift was used to raise and lower it.

The sunflower queen took the first two swings. She was followed by the princess.

One boy created a lot of excitement when it was his turn, hitting the piñata like he was slugging a ball for a home run.

The kids under 5 had to hit the piñata several times before it began to break. The stick broke at one point, and a parent produced an aluminum bat so the

fun could continue.

Finally, the piñata was broken and the kids made a mad dash for the candy and prizes. A second piñata for kids over 5 was broken more quickly.

The piñata bashing was sponsored by First National Bank and Party Gras. Jacque Cooper of Party Gras said she ordered yellow piñata balls and decorated them as sunflowers for the activity.

Commissioners look at dates

Sherman County commissioners will look at a list of holiday dates for next year at Tuesday's regular meeting at 8 a.m.

The state Supreme Court has released its holiday schedule for next year, and the commissioners will review those date to see if they will work for Sherman County offices. They may

adopt the same dates as the court, but may also make some changes which would be better for Sherman County offices.

Commissioners will consider entering into a cooperation agreement with Sedgwick County for a single-family mortgage revenue bond program.



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