

Carnival gets OK on credits

State grant allows big tax deductions

The Sherman County home-owned carnival has been awarded \$87,500 in state tax credits to buy land and put up a building to store some of the carnival rides.

The group requested \$125,000 in tax credits to purchase 3.2 acres south of the fairgrounds to be used for parking and the storage building.

The Community Development Division of the Kansas Department of Commerce announced Tuesday awards of \$4.13 million in Community Service Tax Credits to 27 non-profit organizations around the state.

These future Kansas income tax credits can be a major fund-raising tool for community organizations engaged in services for children and families, health care or crime prevention. Businesses and individuals that contribute to the organizations are able to receive a 70 percent tax credit in rural areas, or a 50 percent credit in urban areas.

"These tax credits will generate almost \$7 million in donations that will directly benefit Kansas citizens through improvements in health care and services for children and families," said Lt. Gov. John Moore, who also is secretary of commerce.

Harlan House, a member of the carnival board, and Penny Nemecek, county grant writer, explained the grant proposal to the Sherman County commissioners in May, and the commissioners added their endorsement to the project.

House said the land would be available for fair parking, and possibly a future carnival attraction, a train that would circle part of the fairgrounds.

Mervin Jensen, president of the carnival group, said the \$87,500 in tax credits should be enough to buy the land, but was not sure it would be enough for the building.

Nemecek said the carnival group will have 18 months to raise money using the tax credits, and the project must be completed within that time.

Nemecek said a staff person from the state had reviewed the land purchase and suggested adding the building.

House said anyone who donates to the project can get a 70 percent credit against their state taxes. He said several people and businesses had indicated they would make donations.

House said the land cost is about \$59,000 and \$65,000 should be enough to build a 60 x 120 steel building.

He said one reason to use the 3.2 acres for parking was to reduce the number of kids running across Main Avenue from the parking west of the fairgrounds. He said the carnival group wants to add a train that would circle the grounds and pick up people from the new parking area and bring them into the fairgrounds. He said the land could be available for parking by fair time.

"This is an example of how the community can pull together and what can be achieved," House said. "We have had a lot of people step forward to help."

Maid charged in jewelry theft

A Kanorado woman has been accused of stealing \$10,000 worth of jewelry from a guest at Economy 9 Motel in Goodland.

Court records show that Dalia Rivera Hernandez, 42, a maid at the motel, faces charges for allegedly taking an engagement ring, necklace and watch from Room 118 and placing the items in a wash cloth and hiding them under the mattress in room 111.

She was arrested on Tuesday, May 27, on a felony theft charge. Her first appearance was Wednesday, May 28. A continuance was requested Thursday, June 5, due to scheduling conflicts.

The jewelry, belonging to Karen Satrang, was recovered. Hernandez was released on a \$2,500 appearance bond.



These flip-flops are just a bit ducky

Students (left) decorated newly made duct tape sandals as a part of the summer reading program Monday at the Goodland Public Library, which gives students fun and educational things to do over the summer. Jessica Geist, 11, (above) cut out the outline her foot to turn into duct-tape sandals.

Photos by Shannon Davidson/The Goodland Star-News

Teachers get raise under new contract

By Shannon Davidson
The Goodland Star-News

Teachers in the Goodland School District will get a pay hike averaging 3.3 percent under a new master agreement approved by the Goodland School Board.

The agreement between teachers and the board was approved on a 7-0 vote after a closed session at a board meeting last Monday, June 23. The amount was also approved by the majority of the teachers on June 23.

Superintendent Marvin Selby said the agreement will result in an increase in base pay of \$1,000. A teacher's experience will allow them to move down and across the base pay board.

Classified staff movement on the salary schedule ranges from a 2.7 percent increase and up to a 6 percent increase, said Selby.

Receiving a lower percent raise but the same insurance is the administration. Administrators will receive a 2 percent raise but stay

with plan C from Blue Cross Blue Shield. Teachers accepted a less expensive insurance plan with Blue Cross under Plan D and have the option to buy up to plan C.

One insurance company still is trying to bid on the school district's medical coverage, Southwest Plains. The board set an Aug. 15 deadline to decide whether to switch from Blue Cross to Southwest Plains.

If Southwest turns out to be a better plan for less money, the money saved will go into the salary schedule, said Selby.

Should Southwest come back with a better plan that is more expensive, the school board has set a dollar amount to spend on insurance at the level of the Blue Cross plan D.

If Southwest insurance is, for example \$40 dollars more a month than Blue Cross D, the individual would be responsible for paying that \$40.

Fireworks, fun, food on Friday

Freedom Fest, a celebration of the birth of our nation, is planned for the Fourth of July at the Sherman County Fairgrounds.

Justin Bentzinger, interim chamber director, said there are several changes in the Freedom Fest this year. There is more variety of food, for one thing; vendors will be serving crab legs, chicken wings, hamburgers, hot dogs, baked beans and beverages.

The home-owned carnival will open many of its rides at 6 p.m., at 50 cents per ride, and the Chamber directors and volunteers will be serving food until it gets dark enough (about 9 p.m.) for the fireworks display.

The Goodland Rotary Club will be handing out free slices of watermelon.

Bentzinger said the Chamber is charging \$1 admission to the grandstand to see the fireworks. The show, put on by Goodland native Joe Diaz, will have a large ground display this year which Bentzinger says will not be visible except from the grandstand.

"We want to encourage people to come to the fairgrounds and spend \$1 to help fund the fireworks show," Bentzinger said, "and to enjoy the

rides and the food."

The Freedom Fest will continue on Saturday with Goodland merchants offering a Freedom Fest Fun Sale. Participating businesses will have special sales as well as special pinwheels.

Participating in the sale are Garcia's Home Furnishings and Appliance, Aten's Department Store, Jacque's Hallmark, Wal-Mart Supercenter, Mr. Jim's, Sight and Sound Entertainment, Cobblestone Floral and Garden Center, Subway, Butterfly Cafe, Kears Party Mix, Goodland Machine and Automotive and Knott Just Books.

Check The Goodland Star-News for the special sales the businesses will be offering.

Saturday night, there will be a full schedule of races at the Sherman County Speedway.

The rain date for the fireworks show will be Saturday, and they will be handled as part of the racing program.

Diaz, who has been doing the fireworks for several years, has promised another big show. He says that it again will be the biggest and highest fireworks show between Hays and Denver.

corrections

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