

# Wal-Mart gives grants; staff volunteer

By Sharon Corcoran

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Imagine having a goal of giving away \$16,000 in one year and finding it difficult. If you succeed in giving it all away, though, someone will give you more.

Sound too good to be true? Laura Pope, manager of the Goodland Wal-Mart Supercenter, said that is what she is trying to do to benefit the schools, churches and civic organizations of the store's customers in Sherman County and surrounding areas.

The store has given over \$14,000 in community grants and over \$3,000 in matching grants so far and has more to give away before the end of the year. The store also gives cash and merchandise donations to area organizations that Pope estimates will amount to \$4,000 before year's end.

Wal-Mart's corporate office cuts the checks for community grants and matching grants, Pope said, but the money is from the Goodland store, and the store has a budget for it.

This year, she said, the store is shooting for \$16,000 for community grants and \$7,000 in matching grants.

"If we spend all of the \$16,000," Pope said, "our company will provide a bigger budget. We may have another \$2,000 to give out at the end of the year."

The store splits the grants out by quarter, she said, to be sure there is money to give throughout the year. To qualify for a grant, she said, an organization has to be nonprofit by federal guidelines and have documentation of that.

Some groups come in and ask for \$25 or \$50 or \$200, she said, and those are the easy ones. Sometimes it's difficult to come up with the bigger projects.

"The quarter ended in October," she said, "so I will be searching for organizations we can be involved with and contacting them about our grant program."

The store also gives two \$1,000 scholarships each year, Pope said; students can apply on-line, and



Goodland Wal-Mart Manager Laura Pope checked inventory and sales figures with Mary Redlin, an electronics sales associate, Friday.  
Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

they're open to the whole area. The decisions are made at the corporate office, she said, but Goodland Wal-Mart gives the checks and does a big presentation for the winners.

And Wal-Mart employees donate their time to area organizations as well. The store has the Volunteerism Always Pays program, Pope said, where if an employee volunteers a certain number of hours, Wal-Mart donates a check in their name to the organization.

"I'm involved with Big Brothers Big Sisters," she said, "and if I volunteer a certain number of hours, Wal-Mart will donate a check to them in my name. It's a cause that is very dear to my heart."

The store also rewards employees volunteering their time with matching grants. Five store employees

worked at the Goodland Senior Center's pancake feed, Pope said, and the store matched the money raised at the feed, boosting the center's fund raiser.

Other matching grants in the last year have included \$1,000 to the Technical College Endowment Association in April. They raised more than that at their auction, Pope said, but \$1,000 is the maximum for a matching grant. Also in April, the store donated \$500 in a matching grant to the Goodland High School DECA club, and in May \$500 to the music department.

In October, the store gave a \$1,000 check to the Northwest Kansas Area Medical Foundation Inc. for its Slice of Life fund raiser. Employees will also work at the Topsiside Tip-off Basketball Tournament, and the

store will give a matching grant for that as well, Pope said.

The store presented a \$1,000 check to the college Thursday for scholarships. The college may divide it into four \$250 scholarships, Pope said, so more students benefit.

Goodland Wal-Mart doesn't just donate to Sherman County organizations but to those in surrounding areas as well, she noted.

"Customers travel in from Colorado and Nebraska," Pope said. "We cover a wide area. They are our customers, so we want to give back to their communities."

There is no Wal-Mart at Limon, Colo., she said, so for many people in eastern Colorado, the nearest one besides Goodland is in Denver.

## West teacher named as Teacher of the Year

A West Elementary School teacher was named Goodland Teacher of the Year this year and received \$100 from Goodland Wal-Mart, along with \$1,000 for her school.

Pat Pickett, a second-grade teacher

at West, was named Wal-Mart's teacher of the year. Every spring, Wal-Mart has nomination forms in the store, said Manager Laura Pope, and students can write a story explaining why their teacher should be picked.

The teacher receives \$100, Pope said, and the school gets \$1,000. The store likes to give the teacher some money to spend, she said, because often they buy supplies for their classes out of their own money. They can spend that

money on themselves or buy more supplies, she said.

The store likes to do an assembly for the teacher when it's possible, she said, adding that the store has been selecting a teacher from the area each year for over 10 years.

## Museum primed for hot-air balloon exhibit

MUSEUM, from Page 1

Holton said she is working with the Sherman County Economic Development Council to garner money from foundations, grants and tax credits, among other things.

Once that is done, the balloon, dubbed "Glory B," will have a home. The balloon is currently housed in the Woodmancy's garage.

"I've been trying to find a home

for it for two years," said Gloria Woodmancy. "Our museum in our county is not interested in it, and High Plains was."

"I thought, they had that helicopter, and they're air-minded."

Woodmancy said she would like for the balloon to be displayed so she can share the experiences that she had with her husband Wayne, who was a licensed hot air balloon pilot. He died in 2005 at the age of 75.

"Just to spark an interest in it and to educate," Woodmancy said. "There's a difference between gas and hot air. A lot of people think you can go around the world in 80 days, but that's not true."

But the Woodmancy family did go everywhere from Fresno, Calif., to Jonesboro, Ark., to Boise,

Idaho in the 25 years they enjoyed the sport. Most of the time, Gloria Woodmancy followed the balloon in the family's pick-up truck because, "you never know where those things are going to land."

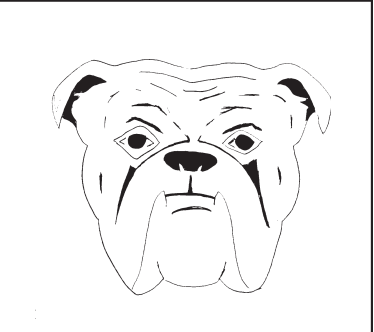
"On a windy day, you might go where you don't want to go," she said. "You don't have a steering wheel."

### Brewster All-Star Booster Club

#### Calendar for Nov. 6 - Nov. 12

- Tuesday** - Buffer Week. 1 p.m., Freedom League Vocal Clinic at Rexford. 6 p.m., vocal concert.
- Wednesday** - Buffer Week
- Thursday** - Buffer Week
- Friday** - Buffer Week. High school football playoffs
- Saturday** - Buffer Week. Basketball officials clinic at Brewster
- Monday** - 6:30 p.m., basketball parents meeting

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## Store has \$16,000 goal in giving to community

The Goodland Wal-Mart Supercenter gives out community grants each year and has a goal of \$16,000 this year.

Community grants throughout the year have included \$1,000 to the Sherman County Sheriff's Department in May for equipment, \$500 to West Elementary in May for school supplies and events and \$1,000 in May to the Guymon, Okla., Wal-Mart to donate to the Panhandle State University in Goodwell, Okla., at the store's grand opening.

Each store in the market area, Pope said, donated to the store, which in turn gave a big check to the college for scholarships and other needs.

In June, Wal-Mart gave \$500 to the Stratton, Colo., High School girls basketball team and \$1,000 to the Northwest Kansas Area Medical Foundation for the Goodland Regional Medical Center Auxiliary.

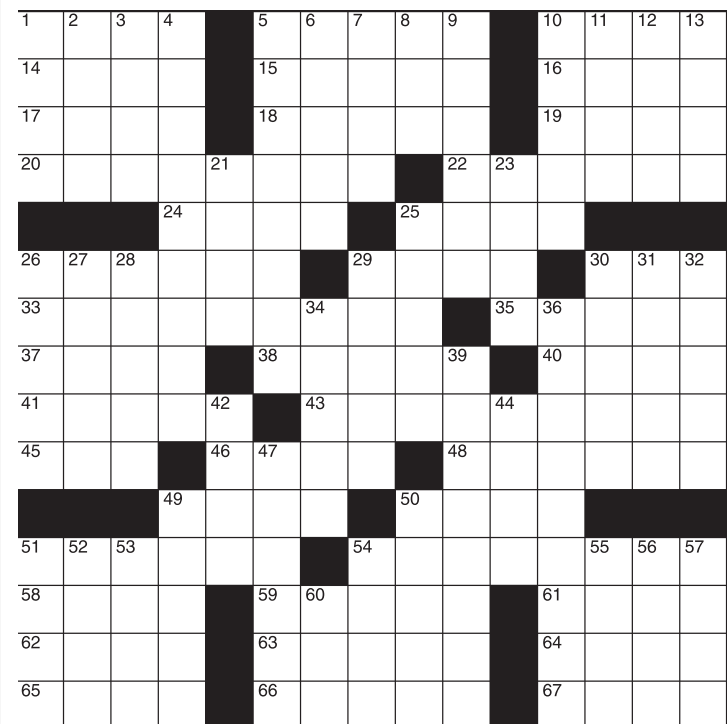
Wal-Mart gave \$1,000 to the Sherman County Community Foundation in July for Shine On Sherman County; \$500 went to the organization and \$500 to the skate park the youth group is planning and raising money to build.

In August, the store gave \$1,000 to the Sherman County Rural Fire Department, Pope said, half of which helped pay for a fire demonstration trailer and half for smoke detectors. And the store gave Goodland High School \$1,000 for the band and \$1,000 to the school's Family, Career and Community Leaders of America.

September's community grants include \$500 to the Northwest Kansas Technical College's cosmetology department for student field trips, \$1,000 to the Goodland Activities Center for equipment, \$1,000 to Hi Plains High School in Siebert, Colo., for publishing a yearbook and newspaper and other needs, and \$1,000 to the Western Plains Arts Association to bring cultural events to the area.

In October, she said, the store donated \$1,000 to the Cheyenne County Historical Society for renovating a church as a historic site. And on Nov. 1, the store donated \$1,000 to Big Brothers Big Sisters and \$1,000 to the Regional Prevention Center to help pay for the after-school program at Goodland and Colby elementary schools.

## Crossword Puzzle



### CLUES ACROSS

1. Cartel
5. Pole (Scottish)
10. Adenosine diphosphates
14. Coconut husk fiber
15. Dep\_\_\_\_: valproic acid
16. Indonesian island
17. About aviation
18. More bald
19. W. Asian country
20. Pumpkins rock group
22. A gradual decline
24. Hypostasis
25. Bleats
26. Disparaging terms for a small person
29. Scoundrels
30. Video storage term
33. Bitter bark of a S American tree
35. Short-tailed weasel
37. Actor in a principal role
38. Scornful expression
40. Romanian dance
41. A woman's sleeveless undergarment
43. Step recorder
45. Many not ands
46. Honeybee genus
48. Supreme Allied Cmdr., Europe
49. Rom\_\_\_\_: Star Trek alien
50. Semitic fertility god
51. Federations of Native Americans
54. Strangles
58. Not difficult
59. Bones of the ankle and heel
61. Philosopher Mokeun, aka Yi \_\_\_\_
62. \_\_\_\_ Erikson, psychologist
63. Fill with high spirits
64. Syrian tablets found here in 1974
65. Openwork fabric
66. Flanks

### CLUES DOWN

1. Org. of Central Am. States
2. Ode or verse
3. Mammal genus
4. Puzzle type
5. Kitchen cupboards
6. Largest clan in Ghana
7. Floating ice mountain
8. Midway between NE and E
9. Examine written material again
10. 7th Hebrew month (pl.)
11. One of the Persian dialects
12. Devise a scheme
13. Produce music with the voice
21. In a way, tills
23. Largest member of the violin family
25. Bleated
26. Galeras
27. Go into
28. Good Gosh!
29. One of the Algonquians
30. Andrew \_\_\_\_: Union commander
31. Polynesian wrapped skirt
32. Green Bay QB Bart
34. Take off a brooch
36. Kyra Sedgwick show
39. Religious beads
42. A university in Connecticut
44. Picasso's mistress
49. Caucasian language
50. Loose temporary stitches
51. Abound
52. Recurring only at long intervals
53. Egyptian goddess
54. Alum
55. Excluded from use or mention
56. Snakelike fishes
57. 32 card game
60. 4th caliph of Islam

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