

Christmas Shoppe ready for kids

By Pat Schiefen

pjschief@nwkansas.com
Santa's elves, led by the energetic Jo Simmons, are readying the Goodland Churches Thrift Store for the Kids Christmas Shoppe from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. next Saturday, Dec. 8, at the store.

Any child 14 and under can shop for a gift for parents, grandparents and brothers or sisters. Gifts cost up to \$5 and are wrapped free. Special volunteer elves will be at the store to help kids choose.

The store has been doing the Kids Christmas Shoppe for five years. "It has gotten bigger every year," said Simmons.

Store volunteers clean toys, make gift baskets, make clothes for dolls and make wooden toys, plus gift cups filled with hot chocolate mix. Employee Ruth Ontiveroz takes the dolls home cleans and dresses them, Simmons said, while Mary Shippert and Bev Hurd made clothes for the dolls.

Glenda Parks, Connie Soellner, Fern Heckman and Lois Cossman help clean and box jewelry. Anita Coleman takes old candles and wax donated to the store and makes new candles to put in the Christmas baskets. The baskets have candles in them, along with health and beauty aids.

"It takes lots of hours to do that," Simmons said. "There are many others who also donate their time and energy. People from all over the country have brought in stuffed animals."

The Goodland Rotary Club, Knights of Columbus, Kiwanis Club and Lions give money to buy batteries for toys and stuffings for the baskets, she said.

Marie Johnson of the Stitch'n Place has made six Christmas stockings, two for babies, two for boys and two for girls, that will be given out after a drawing on Saturday, Dec. 22. Della Helzer will stuff the stockings with goodies.



Volunteer Virginia Warakowski hung a sweater at the Goodland Churches Thrift Store that will be available at the Kids Christmas Shoppe from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 8. The store will be

open to everyone after 1 p.m.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Clothes and household goods are also available. After the kids are

done next Saturday, the shop will be open to the public from 1 to 5 p.m.

"We have so much fun helping the kids shop for Christmas," said Sim-

mons. "The employees at the store spend all year collecting things."

Colby concert Sunday

The Pride of the Prairie Orchestra will begin its the new season with a "Cookie-Cutter Christmas" at 3:30 p.m. Sunday in the Frahm Theater on the campus of Colby Community College.

"The audience will follow Santa as he prepares his Christmas list with 'The Typewriter' and wonders 'What's Up at the Symphony?'" said Sharon Kriss, publicity chair. "Then Santa will take the audience on the 'Polar Express' as they experience many 'Christmas Favorites,' 'Carol of the Bells,' 'Winter Wonderland' and a Christmas-carol sing-along."

Andrew Salvador, band director at Burlington High School, will direct.

Members of the orchestra from Goodland are Renea Reasoner, David Younger and Birkley Barnes and from Kanorado, Danielle Pettibone.

Other members are Donna Engel, Kathy Spencer, Shannon Portenier, Mary Beth, Kendra and Josiah Akens, Becky Davison, Megan Gay, Mary Beth Myers, Jan Wolf, Haley Kistler, Carol Rahn, Crystal Hammond, Sharon Kriss, Leona Dickman, Anne Schalker, Chelle Shoemaker, Natalie Morris, Eileen Jones, Nathaniel Ekberg, Alexis Juarez, Leanna Larmer, Denise Shoff, Bruce Frahm, Bob Kelly, Jeffrey Heller, Steve Golden, Nick Larmer, Brad Herndon and Mary Shoaff.

The orchestra is supported by the Friends of the Orchestra, and admission will be by Friends of the Orchestra membership or at the door.

Hospital board working on budget, approves bonuses

By Sharon Corcoran

slcorcoran@nwkansas.com
Officials at Goodland Regional Medical Center have been working on next year's budget and planning equipment purchases, and Monday the hospital's board approved Christmas bonuses for the year.

Chief Financial Officer Jim Precht told the board that while working on the capital budget, he identified several minor equipment purchases the hospital needs. Minor equipment is anything under \$5,000, he

added.

Among them, Precht said, are a table-top autoclave, a steam-heated vessel used to sterilize instruments; three digital scales; five recliners for the patient area; three sleeper chairs on wheels for the obstetric wing; four patient beds; gas valves and other items to help the hospital to be more energy efficient; a Pilates Reformer for the physical therapy department; and a pulse oximeter, a device that measures oxygen saturation of arterial blood.

The total is about \$54,000, he said, and it will be on this year's cost report.

Precht said he has noticed incremental increases over last year's budget and is identifying the driving factors. Low volume is causing some problems, he said.

The expense of head-hunters and consultants is up, he said, and the employee recruitment expense is up quite a bit from the last two years.

Precht said he is checking areas where the hospital charges below

the Blue Cross Blue Shield reimbursement rate to see where rates can be raised.

The finance committee will meet at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 10, in the large board room to kick around the budget, he said, so they will have it ready to recommend to the board.

The board voted to approve Christmas bonuses of \$100 for full-time employees and \$50 for part-time. Last year's bonuses amounted to \$14,000 with taxes figured in, Precht said. There were 106 full-

time employees and 48 part-time, and the money was handed out as cash at the Christmas party.

correction

The obituary for Donna Rhoads on Page 2 of the Tuesday, Nov. 27, issue of *The Goodland Star-News*, omitted the name of Barbara Gard's husband Richard. Mrs. Gard is a sister of the deceased. This was due to incomplete information given to the newspaper.

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The Goodland Star-News will

correct any mistake or misunderstanding 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.

Clinic gains patients, plans flu shots for Tuesday

By Sharon Corcoran

slcorcoran@nwkansas.com
The Goodland Family Health Center is gaining patients, and the clinic's manager said a lot of the gain comes from improved customer service.

The clinic recorded 36 new patients in October, Manager Pam Kinsinger told the Goodland Regional Medical Center board Monday, with only nine transfers out during the month. By the end of November, she said, the clinic will probably have seen more patients this year than in any of the past three years.

When patients transfer out, Kinsinger said, she contacts them to find

out why. If they have complaints, she said, the clinic can improve by knowing what they are. Of the nine who left, she said, eight moved away, and one started going to the Burlington clinic since her daughter lives there.

Board members asked why the numbers are up, and Kinsinger said she hopes it's the good service.

"My door is always open," she said. "We get a lot of comments from people about being visible to the public."

The clinic is seeing a lot of patients from St. Francis and Burlington, she added, and has had good responses to its evening flu clinics.

Offering the flu shots at nights has

been working better than being open Saturday morning, she said, because people can come in after work.

The center is planning another, she said, from 5 to 6 p.m. Tuesday at the clinic, 106 Willow Road. No appointments are necessary, she

said. The vaccination costs \$18, which can either be paid at the time or submitted to Medicaid, Medicare or patient insurance.

For information, call the clinic at (785) 890-6075.

student of the week



Name: Jonathan McClung
Parents: Gary and Laura McClung
Grade: 12
Age: 17

We've nominated this student because: Jonathan does an outstanding job in class, in the DECA Chapter and at his on-the-job training station (Taco John's). He was last year's Kansas State DECA Reporter and is this year's Kansas State DECA Western-Region Vice President. As a state officer for DECA, he has proven his leadership skills, presentation skills and professional attitude.

Student Comment: I enjoy being with my friends and participating in the local, state and international DECA activities. I really enjoy being a state DECA officer. I have really enjoyed the marketing classes that I have taken. I will remember all the fun I had in DECA, after I graduate.

Activities involved in at school: DECA, Science Olympiad, Yearbook, Golf.

My choice of movies, books, and games: I enjoy movies with comedy and country music. My favorite book is "Hatchet" by Gary Paulson and my favorite game is Monopoly.

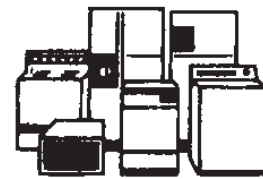
After I leave Goodland High School I intend to ...: attend the Northwest Kansas Technical College in Engineering Technology.

And 10 years from now, I think I'll be ...: happily working in an engineering field.

Favorite Quote: "Dare to be yourself!" by Andre Gide.

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