

Motels see increase, commission told

By Tom Betz
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Goodland motels are seeing an increase in customers and that translates into an increase in the special bed tax Sherman County commissioners were told on Friday.

Donna Price, convention and visitors bureau executive director, and Bill Stoick, board member and owner of Super 8 Motel, were at the meeting to present a list of board members for next year.

Price said the tax collections from the motels was up 5.65 percent.

Stoick said the motels were up about 9 percent from last year, which he said was a combination of a higher number of customers and the daily room rate.

"I am excited about it that people are stopping," Stoick said. "The Holiday Inn Express has helped everyone in the motel business."

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said he thought the new motel helps get people off the highway and gets them to stop and then they look around at the options.

Stoick said it was good to have the new

restaurant on Main Ave. — On The Bricks Cafe — to give people another choice. He said he tries to keep menus from the restaurants to give people a choice when they ask where to eat.

He said he tries to give them directions to get to the places to eat.

Rasure said he has had some people stop at the lumberyard who got lost trying to find a restaurant on Main.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas asked if all the motels had the menus.

Stoick said he thought most of them had some, and said it would be good for all the

restaurants to bring the motels menus to give people a choice.

Price said the visitor's bureau has a brochure with all the restaurants listed that is given to each motel.

Stoick said another thing he likes to have is a list of the churches to give people information when they ask about Sunday services.

The list of board members was reviewed and approved by Thomas and Rasure with Commissioner Mitch Tiede absent.

Price said Katie Hillmer at Comfort Inn

is a new member as is Chris Dickinson of Motel 6. She said Nicole Brack, the new manager of Sugar Hills Golf Club, is an advisory member.

The board for next year includes: Dale Neill, Flatlander Festival Committee; Stoick; Ryan Hageman, Wendy's; Lincoln Wilson, Howard Johnson's Hotel; Scott Angelos, McDonald's; Jeanne Irvin, Holiday Inn Express and Suites; David Branda, Sherman Theatre; Cindy Bowman, Van Gogh/gift shop; Hillmer; and Dickinson. Advisory members are Linda Holton, High Plains Museum and Brack.

Activities center director impressed with support

By Sharon Corcoran
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The Goodland Activities Center's director says if you know any kids who say they are bored, send them to her.

The center has many sports, exercise programs and activities for children and adults of all ages, and the director is working on a new web site to make it easier for patrons to access schedules and information on-line.

Cheri Donelson started as the director in September and has been impressed by the number of programs and activities available.

"I feel honored to be here," she said. "I hope people see what an asset this is. It is a good economic development tool that can be used to attract businesses and people to the area."

"It shows this is a close community, family oriented, which is one thing people coming to rural areas from cities are looking for. Yet it is also an amenity they are used to having in the city. Goodland should be proud."

Donelson moved from Rocky Ford, Colo., where she lived most of the last 26 years, to Kanorad with her fiancé David Pedersen, who works for Dorman Brothers in Burlington.

Donelson worked for the state of Colorado for 17 years, resigning when she got the job here. Rocky Ford, south and slightly west from Limon and east and slightly south from Pueblo, is a rural community, and Donelson said her experience there and in other rural areas has given her an understanding of what



Cheri Donelson, who moved here from Rocky Ford, Colo., to be the Goodland Activities Center director, worked on the center's new web site in her office Friday, e-mailing back and forth with Terri Richardson of VIP Video and Design, who is putting the site

together. Donelson will be able to update the team schedules and post weather cancellations on the site, so parents and participants can check on-line for updates.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

agricultural communities need. You don't find a center like this in many agriculture communities, she said, and you don't usually find

as much support for sports in other communities as in Goodland. All the recreation programs are supported here, she said; in some areas, softball is big but not flag football or soccer is big but not baseball, but here all the programs are big and well participated in.

and Tuesday nights. The Kansas Kids wrestling club will hold a clinic at the center from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, Dec. 1-3, she said, and registration has just started.

Starting Monday, Dec. 8, she said, there will be three weeks of dodge ball competition for grades 1-6.

"I didn't know you could play so many games of dodge ball," Donelson said. "There are 50 types on-line and leagues and organizations."

She may arrange an adult dodge ball tournament for a weekend when there isn't much going on, and she welcomes suggestions from anyone who is interested in an activity the center doesn't have.

In addition to the traditional aerobics programs the center has been offering, she said, the center now has boot camp style aerobics and also offers an exercise program for senior citizens.

"I'm also looking for a senior volunteer to teach chess or checkers once or twice a week," Donelson said, "someone to come down and spend time with the kids. I have a lot of kids who spend three to four hours here every afternoon. It would give them something different to do."

Donelson said she is impressed with the center's weight room and fitness room, the amount and quality of equipment available, and that besides the many team sports programs, the center has dance classes, tumbling and taekwondo.

That a town this size could come together and keep this up for over 25 years is impressive, she said.

Junior high and high school classes honored for state test scores

Goodland School District Superintendent Shelly Angelos told the school board at its meeting Monday night that a class in the junior high and a class in the high school achieved honors on the state assessment test last spring.

"We achieved the Standard of Excellence at the high school (building level) in both reading and math on the Spring 2008 state assessments. The state criteria for standard of excellence for high school reading is at least 15 percent of students must meet exemplary status and not more than 10 percent of the students can be in the academic warning category," said Angelos.

"The state criteria for standard of excellence for high school mathematics is at least 15 percent of students must meet exemplary status and not more than 15 percent of

the students can be in the academic warning category."

"We also achieved the Standard of Excellence at Grant Junior High in reading for our eighth grade class," Angelos said. "The criteria for eighth grade reading is at least 10 percent of students must meet the exemplary status and not more than 10 percent of the students can be in academic warning category."

"District wide we have 194 certificates of outstanding academic achievement for students achieving exemplary scores on the spring 2008 state assessments."

"Our students made gains in every subgroup from 2007 to 2008 on the tests," said Angelos. "Some of the growth being very significant."

Josh Dechant from Frontier Ag gave the district \$3,452 for its literacy project made from Frontier's Chili Cookoff during the Fall Flat-

landers Festival in September.

Superintendent Angelos said the auditor from the state was here for unofficial full time equivalency count.

She said that teachers and staff got flu shots at the Sherman County Health mass flu shot clinic on Tuesday.

Grant Junior High teachers Tonya Gray, Toni Becker and Amity Ihrig were there to show the strategies being used by the school to help with the state assessments. Becker showed how they were using the individual data from testing to identify where students need help to succeed on the test. She said the seventh and eighth grade tests were similar.

Gray said the math tests for the seventh and eighth grade were completely different.

The school board made committee replacements that LeAnn

Friedrichs held. On the board policy review committee replacement Gary Slough would do the job with Dick Short being the alternate. That committee takes about five hours a year and no travel is involved.

Board member Amy Sederstrom would take the position on the calendar committee. This committee would take about five hours a year in two meetings and involved no travel said Superintendent Angelos.

Board member Andy House would take Friedrichs' place on Northwest Educational Service Center at Oakley. This group meets the third Thursday of the month. Board president Chuck Wilkens volunteered to be the alternate.

Wilkens said he would fill the slot on the health insurance committee. Jane Philbrick volunteered to be the board delegate at the Kansas Association of School Board meeting

on Friday to Sunday, Dec. 5 to 7, at Wichita. Wilkens said he would like to go and would be the alternate delegate. Board member Dick Short said he would also be going.

In other business:

•The roof at North Elementary School has been replaced at the cost of \$32,400. Angelos said the

district had received \$19,000 from the insurance company already. She said they should get all of the rest of the cost except for the \$1,000 deductible.

•Paid \$110,317 in bills.

Board members absent were John Hendrich and Andy House. The meeting ended at 8:30 p.m.

correction

In the list of Moonlight Madness costume contest winners printed on Page 5a in The Goodland Star-News edition on Friday, Oct. 31 the name of the second place winner in the 0 to 4 age group was incorrect. The second place winner was Barrett Schlosser, 2, who was dressed as Bam Bam.

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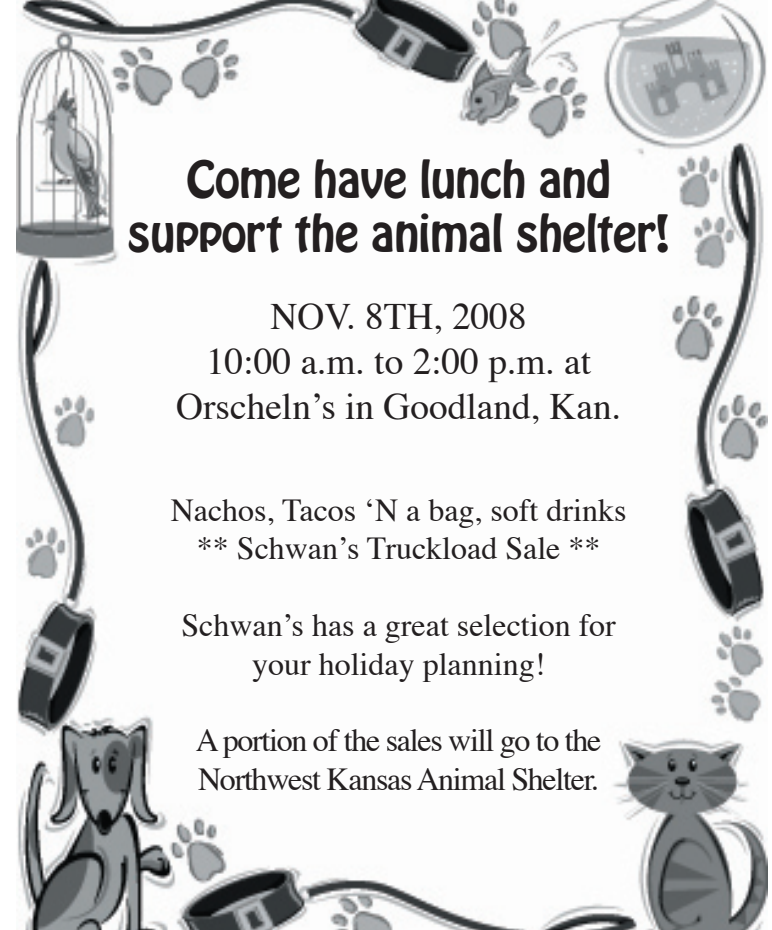


Cynthia Strnad

Sherman County
Commissioner
District 2

Honesty Accountability Integrity

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Come have lunch and support the animal shelter!

NOV. 8TH, 2008
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Orscheln's in Goodland, Kan.

Nachos, Tacos 'N a bag, soft drinks
** Schwan's Truckload Sale **

Schwan's has a great selection for your holiday planning!

A portion of the sales will go to the Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter.



Be Inspired Everyday!

November 7 and 8-Holiday Open House.
We will show you the latest in holiday home fashion. YOU WILL BE WOWED! Load everybody up and come on over!

Friday the 7th-Two demonstrations at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.- Seasonal Circle-Crete a cheerful holiday wreath! We'll help show you how with your own kit (fee charged).
Unforgettable Cocktail Party 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Saturday the 8th-Two demonstrations from 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.- Gift Giving Guide and Unforgettable Gift Wrapping- We have come up with some delightful ideas to help make the holidays more merry and bright! We will also show you unforgettable ways to wrap it all up in fabulous festive styles.

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