

Money, toys collected for needy 'tots'

By Sharon Corcoran

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Their motto is "Children — Priority No. 1," and the Goodland Kiwanis Club is proving it, gathering donations of toys and money amounting to more than \$2,000 per year to give toys to needy children.

Fred Studer started collecting for Toys for Tots with members of the Northwest Kansas Bike Show many years ago, said Brad Schields, lieutenant governor for Division 12 Kiwanis, and joined Kiwanis and asked the club for help four years ago. Kiwanis has been collecting and distributing toys through Genesis each year since, Schields said, with children receiving toys as Christmas gifts.

Kiwanis started the American flag project specifically to raise money for Toys for Tots, he said, and does a drive each year, getting donations from businesses and people in the area. People and businesses can pay the club \$30 a year, he said, to put up an American flag five times a year. There were costs to buy the flags, he said, but next year and from then on, the money will buy toys.

The bike club does a toy run at the Christmas parade each year, he said, and helps collect toys and donations. Kiwanis buys toys locally with the monetary donations, he said, and gives out \$2,000 to \$3,000 worth of toys each year.

Kiwanis has a basket at Wal-Mart



Don Newell (from left), Brad Schields and Dean Fenner collected games and stuffed animals, along with monetary donations, for Toys for Tots Saturday, Nov. 15, at Wal-Mart. Members of the Northwest

Kansas Bike Show helped Kiwanis with their toy drive that day.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

where toys can be donated, Schields said, and money or toys for the cause can be given to any Kiwanis member or mailed to the club at Box 56,

Goodland, Kan. 67735.

Toys are collected for children from birth to age 16, he said, adding there are a lot of children in need in

the county. Shirley Lamb, along with her mother, and sister, divide the toys up among age groups, Schields said, and get them ready

to give the the children.

There was a good turnout for the collection Saturday at Wal-Mart and the parade, Schields said, but

collection will continue until it's time to distribute the toys.

"Kiwanis' motto is Children — Priority No. 1," he said.

Schields said he puts about 15,000 miles a year on his car serving as lieutenant governor, as he watches over the seven clubs in the division. It's a two-year commitment, he said of the post.

But it's worth it, he said, as of the 96 clubs in Kansas, the most money is raised between Goodland and Hays. Hays is the biggest club in the state, he said, and Goodland is the fastest growing with 57 members, having doubled its membership in one year.

The Goodland club raised money for the gazebo at Pioneer Park and shelters at other parks and donates books to the elementary schools and gives to the community in other ways. Kiwanis gives about \$25,000 a year to the community, Schields said, including nearly \$6,000 in scholarships.

The club raises money with the flag project, Radio Days and concessions and the demolition at the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair.

"We call it the World Famous Kiwanis Burger," Schields said of the hamburgers served at the fair. "We sell 1,000 pounds of meet that week."

For Radio Days, members of Kiwanis sell advertising on the radio to area businesses.

Breakfast raises money for skate park



Corey Davis (left) and Garrett Geist served eggs and sausage patties at a breakfast to raise money for the Goodland Skate Park Saturday, Nov. 15, at the Rock House. The Shine on Sherman

youth committee raised about \$600 that morning for the fence and more equipment for the park.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

Visitors bureau approves budget

By Sharon Corcoran

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The Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau approved a \$141,000 2009 budget at its meeting last Tuesday.

The budget projects \$114,000 of guest tax collected at hotels, motels and bed and breakfasts in the county next year, compared to \$108,000 projected for this year. \$78,327 had been collected through September.

Next year's budget includes \$14,000 of carried over funds and \$13,000 of reimbursements from the Northwest Kansas Travel Council for trade show expenses and from Sugar Hills Golf Club for subleasing a billboard.

The bureau plans to use \$47,500 for marketing, which includes printing booklets and brochures and maintenance and leasing of billboards. Wages and payroll taxes are expected to amount to \$48,700,

\$7,000 is budgeted for auto expenses and \$6,000 for travel expenses.

The bureau plans to add \$5,000 to its capitol fund and to pay \$5,000 in rent for the year, \$4,500 for taxes, \$3,800 in telephone bills and \$3,000 for insurance.

The budget includes \$2,500 for printing, \$2,500 for dues and memberships and \$1,800 for office supplies, including services, such as accounting. The bureau plans \$1,500 for promotions, \$1,200 for education and \$1,000 for postage.

The budget was approved unanimously with Bill Stoick, owner of Super 8; Jeanne Irvin, Holiday Inn Express; Lincoln Wilson, Howard Johnson Hotel; Dave Branda, Sherman Theatre; Cindy Bowman, Van Gogh gift shop; Ryan Hageman, Wendy's; Chris Dickinson, Motel 6; and Board chair Dale Neill, Flatlander Festival Committee, present.

correction

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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.

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Mr. Russell Bell taught Vocational Agriculture at Goodland High School and was the advisor to the FFA from 1972-1990. Russell is now retired and living in Manhattan, KS with his wife Sharon. Their daughter, Loretta, and son-in-law live nearby. Mr. Bell is turning 70 years young on November 29th. As a tribute to Russell, we are inviting friends and colleagues from his teaching days to send cards, letters, or e-mails wishing him a happy 70th birthday.

You can reach him at:
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Manhattan, KS 66503
or by email at: rsbell4@yahoo.com
or by phone at: 785-587-8536.

Whether it's by phone, mail, or e-mail, it's certain that you'll make Russ's day memorable.

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