

By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Star-News

A Goodland woman is baking up a storm and raining samples on area businesses in an effort to establish a new business so she can work at home and keep an eye on the grandchildren she is adopting.

Judy Morris, 824 E. Sixth, says she started Baker's Dozen so she can watch her grandchildren, Bobby, 4, and LeAnn, 3, play while she works. The children, children of her oldest daughter Kim, live with Morris. She hopes they soon will be her adopted children.

They serve as taste-testers and critics along with Morris' youngest daughter Elizabeth, 15, and her friends. So far, Morris said, they haven't tasted anything they don't like.

She said her other grandchildren, Madeline and Madison, twin daughters of her middle daughter Veronica, were looking forward to a visit over the Fourth of July weekend.

"They love my cookies," Morris said, "and they found out 'Lolly' has a cookie business."

The business is the Baker's Dozen, she said, because when you order a dozen cookies, you get 13. Morris said she will deliver the cookies anywhere in Goodland.

"If people are in the office and want a 10 o'clock snack," Morris said, "I'll run it over to them."

Morris can get the cookies done quickly because she mixes the dough, rolls it into balls and freezes it, so she only has to put the doughballs on sheets and bake them when she gets an order. She said she doesn't freeze the cookies, though. You can always taste the freezer on

them if you do, she said.

The cookies can be delivered fresh out of the oven, and Morris said, she uses natural ingredients, giving them homemade flavor.

Morris has been baking sugar, peanut butter, chocolate chip and oatmeal cookies, and she'd like to add cupcakes and simple birthday cakes to order, as well as more flavors of cookies. She has already made a change; after she sent out her flyers, she decided to lower her prices because she got hints that the prices were too high.

The cook said she has wanted to start the business for some time, but couldn't because she had Madeline and Madison for about a year while her parents were serving in Iraq. Morris' daughter, Veronica Hooten, and her husband Chris are both sergeants in the Army. They were sent to serve in Iraq in March 2003; Veronica returned in January and Chris in April.

After the twins were back with their parents, Morris was moving from her house on Clark Ave. Now that she has been at her new address for two months, she has gotten the business off the ground.

"I couldn't ask for a better job," she said. "It's a good way to make money and be here for the babies."

Morris baked three dozen cookies for her first customer, she said, but has baked more for samples. She sent out flyers to businesses listing her prices and offering samples, and she has taken plates of a baker's dozen cookies to 10 businesses.

She said she has invested quite a bit of money so far but is hoping to make some soon.

"You have to have over \$600 for a home visit from (the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services)," Morris said. "I'm hoping this will help me to make the money."

After that, she said, the family should be ready to go to court for the adoption.

Bobby and LeAnn haven't seen their mother in a year and a half, Morris said, adding, "LeAnn has been with us all her life."

Morris said she doesn't regret keeping her grandchildren.

"I think the best thing I ever did was take them in," she said. "I enjoy being a mother all over again, even though I'm 53."

LeAnn is going to Head Start in the fall, Morris said, and Bobby is in his second year at the preschool.

Morris has lived in Goodland eight years, moving from Virginia. She is retired from the U.S. Postal Service and worked a year as a greeter at Wal-Mart when she first moved to town.

She said she came here because she wanted to live in a small town and she wanted to be close to her aunts and uncles, Marvin and Elsie Matthews of Kanorado, and Bud and Edna Matthews of Vona, Colo.

"This is my first small town," she said, "and I love it. People call you by your first name and say 'hello.'"

She said she also likes that people ask her about the kids, ask how the adoption's coming and say, "I see Elizabeth's driving."

She is eager to work again, but at her own pace and in her own home, and to be able to spend her time with Bobby and LeAnn.

"I want them to know someone is there for them all the time," she said.



Judy Morris packaged a "Baker's Dozen" of cookies on Thursday morning. She started the new business this month.
Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

Sherman County joins chamber, donates fireworks

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News

Sherman County commissioners agreed Tuesday to join the Goodland Chamber of Commerce and donated \$350 to the fireworks fund.

Chamber manager Courtney Warden told the commissioners that after falling to a low of 45 members, before she was hired, the chamber is now up over 100, and asked that the county consider rejoining.

She said the membership would cost \$600 per year, which is the same rate paid by the city, but if the county joined now it would cost \$300 for the rest of the year.

Warden said County Clerk Janet Rumpel has been asked to be a member of the Chamber Ambassadors, but for her to represent Sher-

man County, the county has to be a Chamber member.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede made a motion to donate \$350 to the fireworks fund, and to pay for the trash pickup at the fairgrounds after the Freedoom Fest if there are any charges.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure seconded and it passed unanimously with Commissioner Chuck Thomas voting in favor.

Thomas then made a motion to approve having the county join the chamber, and to pay the expenses for Rumpel to be an Ambassador and represent Sherman County. The motion passed unanimously.

City Manager Ron Pickman and Chuck Redlin of In the Can talked to the commissioners about the fees

for trash pickup for city buildings.

Pickman said when the county took over the trash service last year, the contract said the city would have free pickup the first year at the City Administration Building, the city shop and the power plant, and the rates would be negotiated after that.

Redlin said he has been picking up trash at the city building, the shop, the museum, the Carnegie Arts Center, the ball parks, swimming pool and the city impound yard at nor charge for the past year.

After discussion, the commissioners, Pickman and Redlin agreed to have In the Can bill the city for the administration building, shop, museum and power plant (as needed).

The commissioners agreed to pay

the charges for the ball parks and swimming pool, which are seasonal programs.

The impound yard dumpster will be eliminated, and Redlin said he is willing to pick up trash at the Carnegie Arts Center at no charge, but would like some recognition for his contribution.

Both sides agreed to have the contract modified to include the changes and provide a copy to the county clerk.

The commissioners approved appointment of Mike Briney and Commissioner Thomas to the Western Kansas Enterprise Facilitation board. They will replace members who have resigned from the Sherman County Enterprise Facilitation committee.

They held a closed-door session for 25 minutes on a personnel matter. Included in the meeting were the commissioners, clerk, Jena Roe, Erica Arntt a nurse at the Goodland Regional Medical Center and Sheriff's Deputy Jason Showalter. All three have been employed by central dispatch on a parttime basis. No action was taken when the meeting was reopened.

Lloyd Holbrook, Sherman County Historical Society president, met with the commissioners and asked that they consider continuing the .2 of a mill property tax.

The commissioners said they would look at the request during the budget process.

Nina Carpenter of the Thomas County Alcohol and Drug Abuse

Council appeared after the commissioners came out of a second closed-door session on personnel and had adjourned.

The commissioners had not left, and Carpenter was on the agenda, so they reconvened the meeting to hear from her.

Carpenter said the council has been working hard to handle the cases from Sherman County, and asked that the commissioners continue to budget for the program out of liquor tax receipts.

The commissioners have split the liquor tax money between the alcohol program and a program operated by the Goodland Regional Medical Center.

The commissioners said they would consider this request as well.

Nurses plead to keep hospital staffed for weekends

By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Star-News

The Goodland Regional Medical Center board got a blow-by-blow account of a recent weekend for the nursing staff during a meeting Monday, June 28, along with a plea to keep enough nurses on duty even when the hospital has fewer patients.

Debbie Hickman, director of patient care services, told the board the amount of care patients need is not reflected in the census because some need more attention than others.

But the amount of care the patients need is not reflected in the census, Hickman said — those are just numbers. Some patients in swing bed need to be fed and turned in their beds, she said, and many are receiving intravenous medication.

Obstetric cases are high liability, Hickman said, and when a patient is in labor, she needs one-on-one

care and other staff available in case help is needed. Other factors not considered in the census, she said, are the fact that nurse managers are filling in gaps in other departments, such as pharmacy, and the unpredictability of accidents.

On a weekend two weeks ago, Hickman said, there was an accident on Friday afternoon with three fatalities. A lot of time was spent trying to save a person's life, she said; the accident was something that required one-on-one care.

Besides the amount of attention the patients required, she said, it affected the emotions of the nursing staff because they knew the people.

The same weekend, she said, a 13-year-old near-drowning victim was brought in on Saturday. On Sunday, she said, someone came in with chest pains, and then another family was in an accident, and five

people were brought in.

While the staff was helping the emergency patients, she said, there were other patients who had already been admitted.

And nurses have the same problems that can happen with any staff. People call in sick, Hickman said, and those who have to work an extra 12-hour shift suffer from fatigue.

Nursing shifts are not easy, she said; nurses may not eat in 20 hours or may eat five times in one shift preparing for the possibility of not having time later. Nurses take breaks when they can, she said.

Hickman said the hospital needs to retain the nurses it has in order to build on the quality of its care.

Due to a lack of nurses, she said, the hospital had to send two patients to Hays during one shift. Colby was on divert, she said, sending patients elsewhere, and St. Francis could

only provide one bed.

Besides keeping up with the care it provides, Hickman said, the nursing staff is trying to improve. The managers are working on an obstetric team to address issues in that area.

In other business, the board:

- Agreed to continue in the community grant writer program with grant writer Penny Nemechek.
- Heard Jim Precht, chief financial officer, report that the patient account representative continues to contact those whose bills are over \$1,000. One person called, he said, and said his hospital bill had shown up with a credit agency when he was refinancing. The hospital was able to collect the full amount, Precht said.
- Set the next meeting for 6:30 p.m. Monday, July 26.

They held a closed-door session for 25 minutes on a personnel matter. Included in the meeting were the commissioners, clerk, Jena Roe, Erica Arntt a nurse at the Goodland Regional Medical Center and Sheriff's Deputy Jason Showalter. All three have been employed by central dispatch on a parttime basis. No action was taken when the meeting was reopened.

Lloyd Holbrook, Sherman County Historical Society president, met with the commissioners and asked that they consider continuing the .2 of a mill property tax.

The commissioners said they would look at the request during the budget process.

Nina Carpenter of the Thomas County Alcohol and Drug Abuse

corrections

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.

Sherman County Household Hazardous Waste Collection


Saturday, July 17, 2004
7 a.m. to 11 a.m. Mountain time
HHW Facility
1820 Cherry Street
Goodland, Kansas

For more information please contact Kenny Griffith at 821-1024.
No early drop off or no drop offs without personnel present.
There will be no **Used Oil** collected at this time.
For Sherman County Residents Only!



Fundraiser for Relay for Life July 13th

Twenty percent of all regular sales dine in, carry out or delivery will be donated to the American Cancer Society



1803 Cherry
Goodland, Kan.
899-3661