

County has a new sheriff, but he's a familiar face

SHERIFF, from Page 1a

Butts said he'll need more help. "I will be trying to get a deputy hired," Butts said. "We are short handed because we have one at the academy, and I will be doing both the sheriff's duties and the undersheriff's to keep enough people on the roads."

"We are short staffed, but I want to cover the needs of the citizens." He added that the deputy at the academy is not due back until the middle of December. "I will name Roger Studer as the undersheriff," Butts said, "but that won't officially happen until I take office in January." The resignation followed a series

of individual closed-door sessions held over the last week involving each commissioner. County Attorney Bonnie Selby. Selby said the individual sessions were held because Whitson is an elected official, and the full commission couldn't meet to talk about his situation behind closed doors. Commissioner Kevin Rasure acted as the

intermediary. There was no public discussion of the sheriff's situation. "Sheriff Whitson has agreed to resign from the sheriff's position effective today," said Commissioner Rasure at the beginning of the special meeting Monday. County Attorney Bonnie Selby and County Clerk Janet Rumpel were present at the special meeting

and Selby presented an agreement that Whitson had signed. The agreement makes the resignation official, and sets out the county will pay Whitson for the nearly two months remaining on his term plus two months of health insurance. Whitson will receive a lump sum of \$7,104 for his pay through Jan. 9, and \$1,745 for the two months of health insurance, which will be paid by the county as part of his extended coverage rights. "I think Whitson has done a good job as sheriff over the years," Rasure said, "but I think this will allow Butts to have a chance to do a smooth transition."

"I wish Doug well in whatever he decides to do." Rasure made a motion to accept the agreement, and it was seconded by Commissioner Chuck Thomas. It was approved unanimously with Commissioner Mitch Tiede voting in favor. Selby said under state law, when there is an undersheriff and the sheriff resigns, the undersheriff automatically becomes the sheriff so there is no break in law enforcement coverage. Whitson was appointed sheriff in 1995 when former sheriff Jack Armstrong resigned, and later was elected to two four-year terms.

Stabbing suspect appears in district court today

STABBING, from Page 1a

Whitaker "stabbed and sliced the throat and arm area of Rustin Leiker, toward the perpetration of the crime of second-degree murder." The charge is a level 3 person felony. A second, lesser charge of aggravated battery alleges Whitaker "feloniously and intentionally cause(d) great bodily harm or disfigurement to another person" against Leiker, a level 4 person felony. Leiker was flown to St. Anthony Central Hospital in Denver Nov. 8, where he was originally listed in criti-

cal condition. By Thursday, he had been upgraded to good condition. After the stabbing, Whitaker fled police. He was found on a roof at 706 W. 8th in Goodland. Police attempted to talk him down. He allegedly assaulted an officer after he came down from the roof, and was shot by a state game warden. That prompted the charge of aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer, a level 6 person felony. The charge alleges that Whitaker did "willfully and intentionally threaten or attempt to do bodily harm by assaulting or striking with

a deadly weapon ... a folding knife, a uniformed ... law enforcement officer ... Fish and Game Warden, Mike Hopper, who was engaged in the performance of his duty; Whitaker displayed the apparent ability to effect bodily harm and which did result in the immediate apprehension of bodily harm to the person of the officer." Judge Burr asked Whitaker if he could afford a lawyer or would need to have one appointed to him. He replied he did need a court-appointed attorney. Judge Burr gave Whitaker the paperwork and warned

him that if sentenced, the cost of the lawyer could be charged to him. Whitaker asked the judge if he could file for bond and Judge Burr responded that he could. Judge Burr told Whitaker that depending on his previous criminal history, he could be facing from 55 to 247 months in jail for the attempted second-degree murder. County Attorney Bonnie Selby was present for the hearing and asked Judge Burr to include versions of Whitaker's name. Whitaker's preliminary hearing is set for 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 30.

Donations can cut tax bills

SAVINGS, from Page 1a

member board that includes Ken Clouse, president of the technical college; Mike Briney, vice president at Bankwest; Dennis Daise, executive director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Sherman County; Pat Schiefen, copy editor at *The Good-*

land Star-News; Mark Scheopner, bookkeeper at Rhoads Construction; Linda Knott, owner of Knott Just Books; Jack Lucas, head of the physical therapy department at the Goodland Regional Medical Center; Daniels, a rental landlord and a city commissioner; and Huang.

Christmas season kicks off today; Santa arrives at 6 p.m. Saturday

CHRISTMAS, from Page 1a

There are two craft fairs that day, the Nu Phi Mu at Max Jones Fieldhouse and We Did It at the Veterans of Foreign Wars hall. Cameron Pittman of Goodland won last year's Christmas on Us grand prize of \$1,500 and Stephanie Yarbrough, 412 W. 4th, won the \$500 first prize. "I think this program is a drawing point for the community, and makes Christmas exciting," said John Garcia owner of Garcia's Furniture and Appliance. "It is a great program, and we have participated every year. It works very well for us and our customers, and is an incentive for shoppers because they can get something back for their money. It is a blessing for everyone." The contest starts today, with

businesses handing out tickets to customers, and will end on Saturday, Dec. 18, when the grand prize of \$1,500 and second prize of \$500 will be given away downtown. Shoppers will have plenty of chances to win smaller \$50 prizes along the way. Participating businesses will hand out one ticket for every \$10 a customer spends, with a limit of 250 tickets per transaction. If you ask at *The Star-News* office, we'll give you one free ticket each week. The customer takes one half of each ticket and the other half is dropped into gift-wrapped collection boxes, which are emptied once a week into a large barrel. The *Star-News* staff will pick tickets each week and hide the winning numbers in "Christmas on Us" advertisements, which run every Tuesday.

Winners have four days to bring their tickets to *The Star-News* office, 1205 Main, and collect \$50 in scrip, which can be spent at participating businesses. Ten \$50 instant prizes will be given out over four weeks, for a total of \$500. Eight winning numbers will appear in ads on Tuesday, which means eight shoppers have a chance to win up to \$400 in the first week. Numbers will appear on Tuesday, Nov. 30, Dec. 7 and Dec. 14. It's simple enough, but there are a few rules. • You must be 18 to participate. • Employees of participating businesses are not eligible at their workplace, but can collect tickets from other sponsors. *Star-News* employees are not eligible. • All prizes will be awarded in scrip, which can be spent at partici-

pating businesses. • The last day to collect tickets is Friday, Dec. 17. • Winners must be present at the grand prize drawing and be able to show their winning ticket. • Winners of major prizes must provide their tax identification number, and agree to be interviewed and photographed for publication in the newspaper. Participating businesses so far are Garcia's Home Furnishings and Appliance, S&T Communications, Elliott's, Miller's Electronics, American Communications, Mann's Jewelry, Medical Arts Pharmacy, Knott Just Books, Mobile Connections, Jacque's Hallmark, Frontier Equity Exchange, Goodland Greenline, McClung's Appliance, El Dorado, Kear's Quality Liquor, Eagle Cable TV and *The Star-News*.

Fourth grade concert about school

CONCERT, from Page 1a

nas, Josh Whisnat, Adam Rust, Derek Matthews, Reilly Flodin, Stephanie Lee, Michael Mosher and Ruben Lazaro were in "I'm in a Daze." In the history skit were Tyler Raby as the teacher and Gage Owens, Paige Phillips, Nathaniel Smith, Stetson Johnson, Jed Gray, Chloe Goodwin, Tania Hernandez, Jeffrey House and Jacob Schnabel as students. For "Walk, Don't Run" Jazzmin Weis, Victoria Mouchette and Dustin Juleson were hall monitors and Brooke Lockhart and Jacob Becvar were runners. In the English class skit, Ashlee Roeder played the English teacher and Shayley Miller and Taylor Milke played the students. Milke also acted out the song "I love my locker." Amy Floyd, Holly Wilkening, Heather Heier, Paige Ford, Shirea Woodrow, Devan Johnson, Elizabeth Wellmann, Jordan McCombs, Robert Gutierrez, Tanner Jones,

Devan Johnson, Ray West, Brandon Sissel and Mario Flores acted out the cafeteria skit. In the junk food skit were Cy Paxton, Tiffany Charron and Kimber Linnell. Aaron Twombly played the weight lifter in "I'm Feelin' Good." Connor Gray and Luke Hunter were in the detention skit and Sadie Avila was the speaker. Other students in the chorus were Rachel Hageman, Michaela Langley, Bryce Moser, Shylene Sharon from Rebecca Musil's class; Gloria Bustillos, Jayme Davis, Gunner Helton, Andrew Sherlock, Spencer Smith and Kaleb Zwick from Virginia Palmgren's class; Lacie Cowan, Morgan Hand, Alex Nelson, Brianna Salinas, Cooper Slough and Trace Waugh from Marilyn Sowers's class; and Elias Flores, Belen Ledesma, Sheldon Nelson and David Rascon in Jan Wilson's class. Helping the production were Central School principal Sharon Gregory, school secretary Marshall Kennedy, Sandy Burr, John Cozadd, W.J. and Bonnie Trachsel, Curtis Duncan and Kenny Studer.

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