

Tour of homes shows holiday traditions

Do you ever wonder if other people "hang their stockings by the chimney with care?"

What do other families put up when they are waiting for "St. Nicholas" to arrive?

Or do some focus on Christ in the manger?

Anyone wanting to see how the "other half" celebrates gets their chance to see three area homes decorated for the holiday on the first Sunday in December.

The Goodland Arts Council has organized its Holiday Home Tour for the fourth year, and Sunday is the day to tour homes, sip cider at the Carnegie Arts Center and shop the center's Christmas gift shop.

The tour is from 1-4 p.m. Sunday, and the arts center will have a holiday open house from 1-5 p.m. The newest gallery show, featuring the work of Goodland artists, will open that day.

It's not too late to get tickets. They can be bought at the center as late as Sunday during the tour, said Director Tina Goodwin, and there will even be a few available at the homes.

It is a self-guided tour, she said, and people can start at any home.

Council members will be on hand at each site to check tickets.

Homes to be toured this year are those of Terry and Marilyn Imel, 716 Grandview Lane; Darin and Jona Neufeld, 659 W. 31st; and Fred and Jeanie Schields, 7315 K-27.

Having the tour the first Sunday of December gets it in before the big rush of Christmas activities, she said; it's a busy month.

In the past three years, Goodwin



Terry and Marilyn Imel's home at 716 Grandview Lane looked like a "Winter Wonderland" Monday after the snow storm. The house is one of the homes on the Goodland Arts Council's Holiday Home Tour Sunday.
Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

said, 11 homes have been on the tour, including three public sites, Wheat Ridge Acres, the Ennis-Handy House and Four Sisters Bed and Breakfast.

No public site came to mind this year, she said, so the three on the tour are all family homes.

In 2001, the board members were looking for a fund-raiser, Goodwin said, and the home tour was an event they wanted to try.

A committee works on the tour for several months, she said, beginning with brainstorming about homes to consider.

They make a list of potential homes, she said, and ask the owners if they are willing to open their houses to the public.

They look for three homes, she said, and try for a variety, old and new, large and small.

But in the end, she said, it's up to the homeowners.

It's generous of them to open their homes to help the council raise money, she said.

Some homeowners do the same decorating they do each year, Goodwin said.

The council doesn't ask any more, she said, but some go to a lot of extra effort when their homes are on the tour.

The council is always looking for homes for the tour, she said; if anyone wants to suggest a home they would like to see or is willing to offer their home for next year, that would be welcome.

Ticket sales have been good so far, Goodwin said, adding that she expects a good turnout.

Traditionally, she said, a lot of tickets sell in the last week.

Snow piles up on driveways, sidewalks



Teresa Willis, manager of D'Lao Apartments, braved the cold Monday afternoon to scoop snow at the complex.
Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

County commissioners give salary, raise to new sheriff

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Sherman County's new sheriff now has a salary to go with his duties.

The Sherman County commissioners met with Sheriff Kevin Butts on Tuesday, and discussed his pay and the staffing of the sheriff's department.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede asked Butts about his pay situation, and what he would like to change.

"I know you are doing double duty," Tiede said, "and we need to compensate you for doing both jobs."

"What do you feel would be fair?" Commissioner Chuck Thomas asked.

"I think it would be fair to put me on salary," Butts said, "to keep the budget in line. The overtime costs are higher because we are already short handed."

Thomas asked if the sheriff's budget is in good shape for next year, and Butts said the budget would allow him to hire the people needed to bring the staff up to full

force.

Butts, who became sheriff after the resignation of Doug Whitson on Nov. 16, said he is going to hire Brad Parker from the Goodland Police department this month to help.

"I will be gone for two weeks the first part of December," Butts said. "It is for the training session for all newly elected sheriffs. On top of that, Deputy Jason Showalter will not complete his academy training until the 18th."

"Hiring the other deputy will give me three men to cover the office while I am gone for the two weeks." Current deputies are Roger Studer and Burton Pianalto. Butts said he has not named a new undersheriff because of the ambiguity of his authority under state laws, but expects to name Studer to that job after he is sworn in as the elected sheriff in January.

Butts said he had a call from Harlan House, a member of the Republican Central Committee, saying he would nominate Butts if it was necessary to get him appointed by the governor.

However, Butts said he understood that the process takes so long, it wouldn't be done before he is sworn in next month.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel said the county salary resolution passed two years ago lists a salary range of \$25,000-\$45,000 for the sheriff. She said former Sheriff Doug Whitson was at \$38,950.

Butts asked for a 10-minute closed session to discuss other personnel matters dealing with the department.

When the meeting reopened, Thomas made a motion to change Butts to salary at the same level as Whitson had been paid effective that day. He was making \$14.45 per hour as the undersheriff.

Curt Way, public works manager, met with the commissioners to recommend 40-cent-an-hour raise for two of employees who have been with the road and bridge department for over six months.

The commissioners approved the raises for Sam Zelfer and Erick Bergquist, bringing their hourly wage from \$8.10 to \$8.50 per hour.

Mary Messamore, head of central dispatch and emergency management, asked for a 10-minute closed session to discuss a personnel matter.

Messamore left the session, and the commissioners asked Rumpel to come in to answer a question. No action was taken.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said he had asked Tracy Purvis, a computer technician from S&T Communication, to give the commissioners a proposal for providing technical support for the county computer system.

Purvis said the hourly rate for technical help is \$80, or the county could purchase maintenance hours

in a block at a lower rate. He said if the county bought four hours per month, it would be \$65 per hour (\$260 monthly), or if they bought seven hours a month it would be at \$60 per hour.

He said he is already working with the county health department, which is purchasing two hours a month at \$65 per hour.

Purvis said he could provide computer training and would be able to help the staffs with hardware and software problems.

The commissioners felt it was a good idea to purchase two hours per month in addition to the two being purchased by the health department, and asked Purvis to provide

a written agreement to be reviewed by the county attorney.

Rasure said all calls for computer support for county departments should be run through him and he will be the contact person with Purvis.

The commissioners approved the reappointment of Marsha Schilling to a three-year term on the City-County Recreation Board.

Vouchers for the end of the month were approved totaling \$88,800.

The commissioners will not meet on Tuesday, Dec. 7, but will meet at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 14, in the commission room on the main floor of the Sherman County courthouse, 813 Broadway.

correction

In the Tuesday, Nov. 30, edition of The Goodland Star-News, two lines were omitted from a story about the disappearance of Jimmy McClelland because of a makeup error.

The paragraph which split from Page 1a to Page 9a should have read: "Many people, including members of his family, now believe McClelland is dead, but that his

body may never be found. Family members have ideas about who was responsible, and feel that the former sheriff did not do everything he could have."

☆☆☆☆

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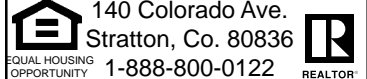


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