

Goodland man wins \$1,500

WINNERS, from Page 1a

back to the store to tell owner John Garcia the good news.

“I about fainted when I got my number drawn,” Rall told Garcia. “It’s all my daughter’s fault. She’s my good luck.”

He came up with several different ways he could spend his \$1,500. First he considered paying off a few holiday bills, but after visiting the television room at Garcia’s, he thought about some extra purchases.

“It’ll probably all get spent here anyway,” he said.

Kristin is getting married in July, he said, and the money could go for some wedding expenses. Although the wedding will be in Kansas City, he considered tuxedo rentals from Mr. Jim’s His & Hers Shop and extras from Jacque’s Hallmark or

Mann’s Jewelry.

He doesn’t really know what he will do with the money but Kirstin’s sure she can help him spend it.

“I’m gonna try,” she said with a grin.

The Goodland merchants’ seventh annual “Christmas on Us” promotion spread a total of \$2,500 around to 12 lucky shoppers this month.

On Nov. 19, participating businesses started handing out one ticket for every \$10 a customer spent, with a limit of 250 tickets per transaction. From the collected tickets, representatives of *The Goodland Star-News* estimated that 30,000 tickets were handed out, which translates into roughly \$300,000 spent in town and an economic impact of up to \$2 million.

The customers took half of each ticket and the other half was dropped

into gift-wrapped collection boxes, which were emptied once a week into a large barrel. The *Star-News* staff picked up tickets each week.

Along with the \$500 and \$1,500 winners, 10 shoppers took home instant prizes of \$50 each from ticket numbers matched up with winning numbers in the newspaper. Scrip prize money can be spent at any sponsoring business.

Participating businesses are Garcia’s Home Furnishings and Appliance, Mr. Jim’s His & Hers Shop, 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*.



Excitement was in the air as volunteers (from left) Bobby and LeAnn Crocker, Erica Hernandez and Page Seeger stirred the tickets at the “Christmas on Us” shopping spree giveaway. The kids helped out by making sure the tickets were stirred up well and Seeger even called out numbers later.

Photo by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News

Seniors enjoy music, dinner, time together at annual celebration

SENIORS, from Page 1a

“Jingle Bells” to “Silent Night.” Piano solos were dotted throughout the singing and the jazz band joined in with several selections.

One of the crowd’s favorites was a duet on “Unforgettable,” by Michael Smith and Jena McCall. The pair even danced through the musical interlude and McCall ended the song by giving Smith a peck on the cheek.

“The entertainment was superb,” said Etta Mae Keirns. She and her

husband, Larry, said they enjoy the dinner every year.

“The music,” said Alberta Hayden. “I come for that more than anything else.”

“The music is fantastic,” said Margaret Diaz, adding that she comes to the dinner in part because she is especially proud of her grandson, Michael Smith.

The program even included a special wish for Max Tedford, who celebrated his 80th birthday Wednesday. Guests chimed in for a verse of “Happy Birthday.”

“I can’t believe they did that,” said his wife, Bernice.

“I had a good time,” Tedford said. “The young people can put on a good program.”

While enjoying the music, seniors had a chance to check out the handmade placemats and book-marks, contributed by students from early childhood classes through the sixth grade. Guests were each given a wooden ornament made by Production I students and a piece of poppy seed bread baked by the Family, Career and Community Leaders

of America students.

At noon, dinner was served by an assembly line of students filling plates and taking them to the gym two at a time. The traditional Christmas dinner included turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, stuffing, green beans, a roll and pumpkin pie for desert.

“It was delicious,” said Elaine Larson. “It’s always delicious.”

Sarah Short, instructor for the Family and Consumer Sciences program and coordinator of the dinner, said they planned for about 350 guests. Around 150 meal were taken out to seniors’ homes and they made about 300 more for students and extra guests.

“We fixed 800 meals,” she said. “It just keeps growing every year.”

She said the annual dinner started in the mid 1970s with students from

the Family, Career and Community group sharing lunch with seniors in the cafeteria. It grew from there, she said, and they have done a large program for the past 10 years and been host to hundreds of seniors.

“It’s a way for (the students) to give back to the community,” she said, “what they have given to the youth throughout the year.”

Today the students will even pick up and drop off the seniors who don’t have a ride.

In between musical numbers, the seniors laughed and visited with friends. Some said they get a chance to reconnect with people they haven’t seen for years.

“I come for the program, the youth,” said Les Frazier, “and the camaraderie of the senior people we get to see.”

Lawrence Tedford said he keeps coming back because of the good music and the conversation.

“Everything’s good,” he said.

The program ended with Superintendent Marvin Selby giving away door prizes, four gigantic poinsettia plants. Some seniors got to take home the centerpieces and everyone got the handmade placemats, book-marks and ornaments.

The seniors all said they would be back next year.

“All they have to do is ask,” said Mrs. Keirns, “and we’ll be right here.”

“If we’re here,” said Elroy Fenner, “then we’ll come.”

“And we’ll be here,” added his wife, Lucille. “I’ve only missed one year.”

Schools want more involvement

SCHOOL, from Page 1a

basketball tournament was a success and complimented the high school about its “nice group of kids” and the spirit and good sportsmanship they showed during the tournament.

He noted that the boys basketball and wrestling teams have won each event they competed in, and that the girls only basketball loss was in the finals of the Topside Tip-Off. The day after the meeting the Cowboys basketball team suffered its first

loss in Hays.

The district’s headcount as of November 30 is 968, down from 977 at the end of September.

In other business, the board:

- Heard from Marty Melia, the board’s representative on the board at Northwest Kansas Technical College, about the college’s annual advisory board meeting held Nov. 17. He said the central topic was developing ideas on how to increase enrollment. Melia said state Reps. Jim Morrison and Ralph Ostmeyer, and state Sen Ruth Clark were there.

- Went into a five-minute executive session with Selby and Jeff Mason, the board’s attorney, to discuss personnel.

- Voted unanimously to hire Teresa Sieck as an assistant eighth-grade girls basketball coach and Barb Bedore as the seventh-grade girls basketball coach, with Cleve Trachsel as her assistant. Travis Witman will be the seventh-grade girls coach.

The meeting started around 6:05, after the board had its annual picture taken, and adjourned around 6:55.

Charges dropped agains former football coach

COACH, from Page 1a

assistant baseball coach and year-book advisor.

Until Friday, he was still being paid as a teacher.

Diehl’s case file included a letter from him to the Sherman County attorney’s office admitting that he

had tried to set fire to his home and expressing remorse for the incident.

“I wish to convey my profound regret...and assume my fullest responsibility for it as well,” Diehl wrote. “I’m sorry that I did it, not that I was caught.”

The letter included an apology for his state of mind leading up to the

fire and how he plans to prevent recurring incidents.

“It was the culmination of one of the darkest time periods of my life,” he said. “All measures to prevent any repetition of the events both leading up to and including the fire are being taken by my family and me.”



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