

# Pint-sized shoppers get started at thrift store

**By Sharon Corcoran**  
*The Goodland Star-News*

Nice weather last weekend may have kept some out on the playground, but a steady stream of children bought 425 gifts at the Goodland Churches Thrift Store's Kids Christmas Shoppe on Saturday, Dec. 11.

The total was down from last year, Store Manager Jo Simmons said, when 617 gifts were sold, but given the weather, that was no surprise.

"When I heard how warm it was," she said, "I expected that."

Last year, Simmons said, it was cooler and there was more of a "Christmasy" feeling.

This year, she said, it was too nice a day; people were going out of town or working on their houses.

Plus, she said, two families with several children who shop regularly at the store said they would not be able to make it.

Nonetheless, Simmons said, the shoppe was a success.

People were waiting for the store to open at 9 a.m., she said, to get a good selection of gifts.

There was a steady stream of customers all day, and 46 volunteers helped sell and wrap gifts and restock the store.

They put out really good presents all day, she said, and the store still



Jo Simmons, Erin Floyd and Lorie Lawson made up price tags and put them on gifts Friday to stock the Kids Christmas Shoppe for Saturday. Floyd wrote prices on stickers to be placed on the potential gifts.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News



during the shoppe Saturday for volunteers to restock and arrange things.

Two rooms were opened up for the shoppe, Simmons said, so there were two rooms for toys and two for adult gifts.

Besides the 46 volunteers Saturday, Simmons said, others helped get ready for the shoppe. She said many came in she hadn't planned on.

Individuals and groups donated merchandise, toys and money, she said, including the Goodland Kiwanis and Rotary clubs.

Thanks to Kiwanis and Rotary, she said, batteries were put in all the toys that needed them.

Money donations exceeded last year's, Simmons said. People donated boxes and gift wrap, and a lot of help came from board members.

Election of board members was held in November, board President Deb Boyle said; other officers are Anita Coleman, vice president; Linda Chaffin, secretary; and LaVaughn Becker, treasurer. New board members include Gail Walter, Denise Floyd and Lynn Swayne, and Judy McKee was re-elected.

Potential members are recommended by their churches, Boyle said, and then are voted on.

## Rollover sends one to hospital



Firemen had to use hydraulic tools to pry a Louisiana woman out of this sports utility around noon Friday after a rollover roughly three miles west of Goodland on I-70. The driver, Alina M. Verbois, 19, was taken by ambulance to the Goodland Regional Medical Center. Trooper Bryon Wilson was taking measurements later. The Kansas Highway Patrol reported that the accident happened when Verbois, eastbound on I-70, drove onto the north shoulder, then overcorrected. The report said the car swerved into the south ditch, where it rolled several times, coming to rest facing north. The car, a 1998 Mitsubishi, was towed by Alex's Radiator.

Photo by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News

## Stock car racing set for next year

**By Tom Betz**  
*The Goodland Star-News*

The stock car racing season got off to a rough start this year, but Sherman County Speedway leaders told the county commissioners Tuesday they ended up in good shape with a little in the bank for next year.

Alex West and Patsy Gresty met with the commissioners to review use of the fairgrounds and dates for next year.

West said race dates will be May 7, June 4, 18, July 9, 23, Aug. 20, Sept. 3 and 23-24 for the Flatlander Fall Festival.

William McKnight, county building and grounds superintendent, said he had checked the dates and they were OK.

Mary Ann Snethen, deputy county clerk, reported that the new contract rates had made the rental bill at the end of the racing season much smaller than in recent years, and that all the bills had been paid. She said after the final races, the association owed \$152 to settle the account.

Gresty said the group had done well despite some bad weather.

"We had a couple of rainouts," she said, "but we needed the moisture. If the weather had cooperated during Flatlander, we would have done even better."

West asked the commissioners if they would continue helping with the electrical costs. Commissioners Kevin Rasure and Mitch Tiede said they thought the county could continue to pay half the demand meter bill using money from the economic development fund.

The commissioners agreed to renew the contract for next year, leav-

ing the deposit for the electrical fee at \$300 per event and the rental charge at \$200. Final electrical charges are to be settled after the last races.

West asked the commissioners to waive the rental fee on the Bill Gray Memorial race Aug. 20. West said this race raises money for a charitable cause. The commissioners agreed to waive the fee and the electric deposit for this race.

Gresty said the association hopes to have more cars next year, and with the closing of Rocky Mountain Speedway near Denver, Colorado drivers are talking about coming to Goodland. She said this could bring as many as 30 more cars.

"We hope it goes better next year," she said. "We got all the bills paid and have a little to start with. We will be getting our schedule and advertising started earlier."

Rasure asked about the condition of the track, and West and Tiede said it will need some work, but is in pretty good shape.

The commissioners said they would approve the contract and have the county attorney draft an updated version for signature.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Approved a resolution returning expired mineral rights to the land. County Attorney Bonnie Selby drafted the resolution. She provided a list of 30 mineral leases which have expired over the past few years.
- Approved giving employees who have been with the county for at least six months the same Christmas bonuses as last year. The full time employees will get \$100, and part-time employees \$50.

- Signed a contract with Lake Mellott, who is taking emergency medical training classes.
- The county will pay the cost on the basis that Mellott will work with the county ambulance service for two years.
- Discussed upgrading electrical service at the fairgrounds to provide outlets in the picnic area west of the ag building. McKnight asked the commissioners to consider extending the electrical lines to this area to reduce the number of extension cords that cross the picnic area. The commissioners told McKnight to get with the people who use the area and with electricians to work up a plan and estimated costs.
- Approved a contract with the state for Central Voter and Election Management System software which is part of the Help America Vote Act pilot program. The federal government will pay 95 percent of the software cost, County Clerk Janet Rumpel said. Commissioner Rasure said the hardware costs may be paid by the state or could be up to the county.
- Approved payment of \$250 for dues to the Western Prairie Resource Conservation and Development agency.
- Approved payment of the first half of the month's bills totaling \$86,396.

The commissioners will hold their final meeting of the year at 8 a.m. on Thursday, Dec. 30.

The Sherman County courthouse will be closed on Friday for the Christmas holiday, and will close at noon on Thursday, Dec. 30 for the end of the year. The courthouses will reopen at 8 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 3, 2005.

## corrections

In the Friday, Dec. 17, edition of *The Goodland Star-News*, an article on chances for a white Christmas reported that Alberta Hayden had been separated from future husband, Ed, for a few weeks due to the weather.

Hayden's future husband's name was not Ed, but Bill. This was the reporter's error.

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In the Tuesday, Nov. 30, edition of *The Goodland Star-News*, an article on a missing man included an error on Page 9A where it reported that Jimmy McClelland's sister was Tami Skrdlant. Leonard and Tami Barnes were married in March 2002, and she changed her name at that time. This was a reporting error.

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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.*

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News tip? Story idea? 899-2338