

Good Samaritan starts Red Hat club

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

What do you do when you need a ladies' club in a community where most of the residents are well over 50? Start a Red Hat Society chapter, of course.

At least that's what Sherry Helton, activities director at the Good Samaritan Center, did. The Chatter Hatters started with an organizational meeting on Friday, Sept. 24, and plan to meet at 2:30 p.m. on the last Tuesday of each month in the activity room at the center.

One of the first orders of "business" for the chapter has been to make their hats, since few of the members are in a position to buy one. Several hats have been donated, Helton said, adding that her sister-in-law, Liz West, has also sewn several hats out of red felt.

Red and purple feathers and flowers, gold trim, earrings and other frivolities have been gathered to decorate the hats. Some of the donated hats weren't red when they were given to the center, Helton said, but that has been overcome.

Hats can be dyed or spray-painted red, she said, although the black ones were difficult.

The result is that the members have custom-made hats that they have been able to express their personalities through.

One member made her hat out of



Rick Reeser, administrator at the Good Samaritan Center, donned a red fishing cap when he stopped by a gathering of the Chatter Hatters chapter of the Red Hat Society last week. Dorothy Flori and Virginia Elliott were among the "Red Hat Ladies" at the session.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

a fishing cap dyed red and decorated with purple feathers and other touches. Another made a hat, but then her daughter gave her a red hat with purple feathers for Christmas.

Helton said she and others at the center were talking about starting a club for the women, since there was

a men's club, but the women didn't have one. They got the idea to start the Red Hat Society chapter, and Doris Bateman, a member, suggested the Chatter Hatters as its name.

The goal of the club is to have fun and be together, Helton said, and

family of the center's residents are encouraged to join them. Most of the gatherings will be in the activity room, she said, especially in the winter, but they hope that the members can also do some outings.

She said they will have to go a few at a time in order to have enough

helpers for those in wheelchairs. The group is planning to order pizza in for January, she said, and is trying to find out how to get in touch with a woman who does a show on hats for a future meeting.

The ladies met Tuesday for homemade candy by Catherine Hicks and Dorothy Akers, who do manicures at the center and have helped with the club. Joyce Lyman, Dorothy Flori, Bateman, Myrna Carson, Marian Allen, Anna Bohl, Ethel Russell, Gladys Nicholson, Virginia Elliott, Lola Hartley and Leandra Avelar, Dorothy Musil, Sherry Helton, Hicks, Akers and Betty Harden with her daughter Joyce Brown (from California) were present. Center Administrator Rick Beeser stopped in to try on a red hat and taste the treats.

When the group met Oct. 26 for doughnuts, Bohl, Opal Cogdill, Allen, Russell, Myrna Kelley, Flori, Elliott, Bateman, Musil, Helton, Hicks and Akers were there. The group decided to start decorating hats in November, and the decorating continued at the December gettogether.

Present at the organizational meeting were Wanda Adams, Allen, Lyman, Flori, Carson, Cogdill, Nicholson, Bateman, Elliott, Rita Ackerman, Minnie Peery, M.J. Black, Sharon Lightle, Helton and Bohl with her daughter Jean Amos.

Farm accident kills boy

A 10-year-old Wallace County boy apparently suffocated Sunday afternoon after climbing into a grain trailer and being pulled into the grain.

Wallace County fire rescue and ambulance volunteers were dispatched to the Leona Buell farm south of Wallace, in southeast Wallace County, at 4:17 p.m. Sunday.

A 911 call reported a child trapped in a semi load of corn being unloaded into a grain bin.

Officers said Denton Buell, son of Anthony and Louise Buell, had climbed into the grain trailer and was pulled into the grain as it was running out the bottom into an auger.

The ambulance crew rushed the boy to the Greeley County Hospital in Tribune, where he was pronounced dead.

Services are pending with Koons Funeral Home in Sharon Springs.

Genesis wiped out after Christmas food baskets

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

Despite more than two months of city-wide food drives, the Genesis food pantry is wiped out after providing 117 holiday baskets to Goodland's less fortunate this Christmas.

"You can't fill 117 baskets and have much left," said Pat Jordan, who along with her husband Clark directs Genesis. "There's not much left in the food bank."

Volunteers from 4-H clubs, Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts went door to door last month to collect food left out by Goodland people for the

Christmas baskets.

Food is collected for Christmas baskets through events like the Northwest Kansas Technical College's Halloween haunted house, Jordan said. The students asked for canned food or a \$1 donation for Genesis as admission.

The Sherman Theatre ran a special matinee in December, asking each person for a can of food for the program. In all, the drives were rated as a success.

"We were really pleased this year," Jordan said.

After the food was collected, more volunteers showed up to help

sort it and fill the Christmas baskets.

Jeff Mason, Genesis president, said filling the baskets went well this year.

"We had lots of help from the community," he said. "The community supports this Christmas food drive really well."

He said when families get together and bring their children to help pack boxes, it teaches them to appreciate what they have.

The group planned on up 109 boxes, but with last minute requests, Mason said, that number went up by eight families.

Each family got a turkey or a ham

along with the box of canned foods. Jordan said they provided cereal, canned foods, dry beans and a lot of extras in the boxes to ensure the families have food not just for Christmas, but through the holidays. "They should have stuff for two or three weeks," she said.

Jordan said they had plenty of food to fill up the extras, but they don't have much food left.

Jordan said that, like the Salvation Army slogan, in Goodland, "Need knows no season."

"We do maintain a year round food bank," she added.

Genesis is asking for donations to

restock the bank, either food or money.

"We're really depleted," said Mr. Jordan.

Mrs. Jordan said they normally get donations, including meat from people who buy a side of beef.

"We would be glad to have any food," she said.

Although they are short now, both Mason and Jordan said they are happy with the way the baskets went this year. Jordan added she knows as soon as the word gets out, they will have a full pantry again.

"We never are without food," she said, "because as soon as we say we

need it, we get it."

Jordan said they just trying to restock the basics. She said if people want to donate food or money they should call her at 899-5073 and she will meet them at the First United Methodist Church, 12th and Sherman.

Mason and Jordan both said they attribute the program's success to the community.

"It's a big thank-you from the board to the community for helping," Mason said.

"I just want to thank everyone that showed up to help," Jordan added.

County adds new member to Convention and Visitors Bureau

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Some familiar names remain on the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau board, but county commissioners added one new member when they reappointed the board at their final meeting of the year on Thursday.

Current members reappointed were Dale Neill, who works at Wal-Mart; Arlo Hansen of Goodland Sinclair; Marilyn Collett of Butterfly Aviation; Ryan Hageman of Wendy's; Scott Angelos of McDonald's; Evelyn DuVall of the Buffalo Inn; Bill Stoick of Super 8; Judy Siruta of Comfort Inn; and Brenda McCants of the Goodland Regional Medical Center.

Lincoln Wilson, owner of Howard Johnson's Motel, replaced Don Newell of S&T Communications, who had stepped down.

Donna Price, director of the visitors bureau, told the commissioners that Chamber of Commerce Manager Courtney Warden is the vice chair of the board under the bylaws, but has no vote.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said he was glad to see the board trying to work with the Chamber, the economic development office and other boards.

"Good communications is important between all three organizations," Rasure said.

Rasure encouraged Price to invite the new owners of KOA and other businesses to attend the board meetings and find out what is going on.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said it would be good if one of the commissioners could make the board meetings, and Rasure said he would.



Wilson

Price agreed the three promotional agencies were trying to work together, and said there were several areas where it was probably important for more than one of the organizations to be involved in.

She said an agritourism program is being established by the state Division of Commerce, and that it will be important for both the visitors bureau and the economic development to work together on it.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Reappointed Jackie Elliott and Robert Moyer to the Good Samaritan Center advisory board and appointed Bill Bishop as a new member, all for three-year terms. Tiede said that leaves one vacancy for a two-year term, and Rasure said he may have someone interested it that seat.

- Sheriff Kevin Butts told the commissioners that Dependable Glass has been working on the jail to improve the windows and eliminate drafts. Butts said he has completed his interviews of candidates to be a secretary, and was asking the commissioners if he could hire two because his current clerk, Raenita Artzer, is going to retire at the end of March.

He said is planning to pay the two secretaries at total of \$41,600 for the year, and that with the three months

of salary for Artzer, he would be under budget.

He said he would like to have both new secretaries would be cross trained before Artzer left.

- Sheriff Butts asked the commissioners to consider raising Deputy Roger Studer's pay as he has been the acting undersheriff for the last month, and will become undersheriff Monday, when the newly elected officials are sworn in.

The commissioners said they would consider giving Studer a raise. Butts said Studer did well while he was away at the academy, and that hiring Brad Parker from the city had helped a bunch. After Butts left, the commissioners agreed to raise Studer's hourly wage from \$12.72 to the \$14.45 that Butts was getting when he was the undersheriff.

- Tiede reported he had an update on the planning process for the replacement of the county bridge on West Eighth Street, over Beaver Creek near the golf course, and that the contract should be let in March. A contract to replace the bridge over the North Fork of the Smoky Hill River on K-27 was to have been awarded in December, but Tiede said when he checked with the Department of Transportation, they did not have who had received the contract.

- Approved signing a lease with the Sherman County Stock Car

Racing Association for the next year. Alex 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. The commissioners agreed to renew the contract for next year, leaving 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.

- Approved year-end bills totaling \$125,698.

- Decided to recommend that all computer purchases come out of the computer fund, which is part of the general fund.

- Signed a letter of agreement between the Sherman and Thomas county health departments to help

each other in the case of an emergency in either county.

The next commission meeting will be at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Jan. 11, in the commission room on the main floor of the Sherman County courthouse, 813 Broadway. The commissioners plan to wait until that day to be sworn in by County Clerk Janet Rumpel.

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