

Chamber updates convention board about future

By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Star-News
 The Goodland Chamber of Commerce's new president stopped by a Convention and Visitors Bureau board meeting Thursday to talk about the Chamber's future. The board has decided the Chamber needs to focus more on services for area businesses, rather than on festivals, said Brian Linin, who became president after Donna Swager resigned at the end of August. Swager

resigned, Linin said, because she felt she had been on the board too long and it was time for change. The board has started nailing down the Chamber's vision and mission statement, Linin said, and expects to finish it in the next week. The Chamber had been spending its time and manpower mainly on festivals, concerts, Christmas and similar things, he said, but now businesses will be the priority. There will be a Chamber presence

for each business, he said. Toward the end of July, Linin said, the board discovered a shortfall in the chamber's budget of about \$19,000. The Chamber had been operating in the red for some time, he said; it was standard operating procedure. The board decided that needed to stop that, he said. The Chamber is making changes to get back on its feet. Board members have talked to creditors, Linin said, and some have agreed to

charge their cost or only 10 percent more on some things. The office has been moved from 1002 Main, he said, to the Sherman County Economic Development Council's building at 1208 Main. Officially, Linin said, the Chamber owes \$100 a month rent, but it doesn't have to start paying until its back on its feet. Then the Chamber will have to pay rent back to when it moved into the office. The Chamber has volunteers to run the office, Linin said, and most of the week is covered. Besides working on the vision and mission

statement, he said, the board is trying to sell the Chamber to businesses, trying to get money from businesses to help with the bills and working on a membership drive for next year. "We want a Chamber that sells the community and promotes the community," he said. The Tracy Lawrence concert was not profitable, Linin said, but that was not what put the Chamber in the hole. The main budget is the \$20,000 raised from dues, he said — festivals would usually break even, a few things wouldn't, while

others would make \$500 or \$1,000. The Chamber board is considering changing its dues, Linin said; some businesses have said they charge too much, while others have been surprised they didn't charge more. The dues are charged in four tiers, he said, individuals for \$50; small businesses, such as coin-operated businesses, barbers, etc., for \$200; professionals, chemical sales and applications, media, real estate businesses, etc., for \$350; and banks, public utilities and the like, for \$600. There is some gray area on the tiers, he said.

Visitors bureau gets new office

VISITORS, from Page 1
 move in, she said, and was interested in making changes in the place that would make nice offices. It has an entrance on Main, and there would be room for all three. But, she said, the building would have to be gutted, a floor plan would be needed and there would be a lot of work to make it an office. There's

just not time, she said. Though she hadn't negotiated with any of the landlords, Price said she had informal rent amounts and conditions. She said the price for space at the Minner building was the best deal among the offices that would work. In other business, the board: • Voted to accept the bid of \$1,633 from Joe Bellamy for the bureau's red

double-decker London-style bus. • Agreed to cover \$178 for office supplies bought for the Flatlander Fall Festival and to help with other expenses. • Heard Price report that the "Welcome" flags for Main are in, and she was able to get a better price than expected. \$1,300 had been set aside, but they cost \$850. The brackets and poles are also in.

Food bank set until Christmas

GENESIS, from Page 1
 items like milk and veggies, they bought gift cards for those. The cards have a restriction against tobacco and alcohol purchases. During the drive to collect money with the foundation, Mason said, Genesis took in \$2,800 in cash donations and \$3,200 in food. "We received a very good response," he said. Jordan said the economy is making it tough for families to makes ends meet lately. That translates into fewer donations and more demand. "We're still able to help people," she said, "but we don't want them

to call unless they really need it." Handing the food out takes judgment, she said, as they try to be responsible and help only families in need. Abusing the system is sometimes too easy, she said. Mason said this year, the need seemed heavier in April. "Things seem to be getting better," he said, noting that the new energy center west of town may improve the economy. While it would be great if the need for food disappeared, Mason said, "The need always seems to be there." Genesis volunteers will turn towards filling Christmas baskets in the next few months. Jordan said Genesis gives out around 100 holi-

day baskets each year. She said they start the drive the day after Thanksgiving, collecting donations through the Salvation Army and Genesis. "We're just grateful that people give enough to keep us going year around," Jordan said. Mason said the pantry is always collecting peanut butter, macaroni and cheese and cereal. Jordan said sometimes they will get a donation of hamburger or other meat, a welcome addition, since meat tends to be expensive. Donations can be dropped off anytime at the First United Methodist Church, 12th and Sherman, or at Jordan's house, 1121 College.

County baler project delayed by a month

BALER, from Page 1
 was a way to move the baler into the building without using a crane. Way said once the baler is on the pad it can be rolled into position. Dennis Malsom of Malsom Welding and Custom Fabrication, was at the meeting to submit a bid to erect the steel building. He said he could be done in two to three weeks once the county is ready. The commissioners thanked Malsom for his bid and said they would consider the erection at an upcoming meeting.

Way asked the commissioners if they could choose the electrician for the project. Commissioners Mitch Tiede and Chuck Thomas said they had agreed on Shad and Marty Electric at a cost of \$4,681. Way said he had talked to Charlie Bandel of the city electric department about upgrading the power line into the transfer station, and they had worked out an agreement. Way said he would talk to Bandel about putting the lines underground, though would make it more expensive. On a related subject, Way pre-

sented the commissioners with a copy of the specifications from Mark McMullen of American Environmental of Denver, for excavation of a second cell at the landfill southwest of Goodland. Way said he would be back at today's meeting to discuss the details and that McMullen would be there to answer questions. "I would like to get the excavation done this year," Way said. "I am not sure about the liner, but having a new cell ready when the baler is put into operation will give us a good base to begin placing bales."

First weeks smooth for most school kids

SCHOOL, from Page 1
 ents have complained that they are too early. Raymer said the times were moved up by the league so that teams in the Central time zone can get home earlier. Varsity football games, for instance, start at 6 p.m., which is 7 p.m. Central Time. That is the same time they start at most other schools. Jim Mull, Grant Junior High and North Elementary principal, said so far the year has been good. The start of Brenda Linin as counselor has helped out, too. "She's been a big, big help," Mull said. Central Principal Sharon Gregory said the year started with the Jerry John's Diagnostic Reading test. She said the fourth grade will be piloting math and reading assessment tests. The high school, junior high and North School will be piloting tests, too. Gregory said two of her staff members went for English as a second language courses. "It was really good," she said, adding that the courses help teach-

ers do a better job with all students. West Principal Shelly Angelos said the all-day kindergarten classes are running smoothly. "I'm really pleased with how we've opened," she said. The school now has 262 students, all 8 or younger. "That's a lot of little bodies," she said. Students started working on reading rotations that should help them test better in reading, she said. In other business, the board: • Approved the financial reports. Selby said the local option budget is reported as negative on the reports since the district will not receive the money until later this fall. He said money in the contingency reserve may need because of the increase in fuel costs. Board Member Amy Sederstrom asked if Selby budgeted a cushion in case prices rose. Shelby said he put in a 25 percent cushion, but fuel prices are expected to go up as much as 71 percent. • Approved bills for \$120,444. Board Member Fritz Duke asked

Selby about a check for a laptop computer. Selby said they were one short for teachers signed up for the laptop program. He said they have 22 teachers and administrators in all. "It very popular," Selby said. "It's really been a good program." Forty-five teachers participated last year, he said. After the program, teachers get to keep their laptops for school use. • Approved the 2005-2006 Headstart agreement. Selby said the agreement means the school gives the program, run by Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center, meals and space and in turn counts students toward the budget. • Approved the employment of Dennis Stone as G-Club sponsor; Estefan Sandoval, custodian at Grant; Joyce Armstrong, Katie Bulinski, Jennifer Riedell and Brandy Ray as kindergarten aides at West; Michelle Kaiser, speech aide at West; Kim Tompkins, library technician at the high school; Ctaci Slovacek and Patti Purvis, aides at the high school; Mary Isaac, bilingual tutor at the high school; and Gwen Cebula as junior class sponsor.

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October Consultant Schedule

Allergist	Jeffrey Rumblyrt, M.D.	October 13
Audiologist	Sherrri M. Beck, M.A., CCC-A	October 7, 14 & 28
Cardiologist	Barry Smith, M.D.	October 12 & 26
Cardiologist	Vijay Sabbarao, M.D.	October 13
Dermatologist	Charles Ruggles, M.D.	October 13 & 27
Dietitian	Sarah Linton, RD, LD	Monday thru Friday
Ear, Nose and Throat	Alfred N. Carr, M.D.	October 7, 14 & 28
Endocrinologist	Gerald Poticha, M.D.	October 14, 20 & 21
Gastroenterologist	Jeffrey D. Huston, M.D.	October 10
Gynecology	Laura Rokosz, M.D.	October 12 & 26
Neurologist	Steven J. Gulevich, M.D.	October 12, 14 & 26
Obstetrics/Gynecology	David Forschner, M.D.	November 16
Oncology/Hematology	Martin Rubiniowitz, M.D.	November 1
Ophthalmologist	Kent Bashford, M.D.	October 6 & 20
Ophthalmologist	Brian Joondeph, M.D.	October 19
Ophthalmologist	David Pfoff, M.D.	October 4 & 11
Orthopedist	John Gargaro, M.D.	October 3
Orthopedist	Tim Birney, M.D.	October 10
Orthopedist	Armond Hatzidakis, M.D.	October 10
Orthopedist	James Holmes, M.D.	October 24
Orthopedist	Edward Parks, M.D.	October 17
Pediatrician	Raymond Ketting, M.D.	October 25
Psychiatrist	John C. Faul, M.D.	October 5, 7, & 21
Podiatrist	Erik Ouder Kirk, D.P.M.	October 3
Pulmonologist	Ken Weisiger, M.D.	October 3
Pulmonologist	Val Linquist, M.D.	November 10
Radiologists	Professional Radiology Services	Week Days
Rheumatologist	Karl Chambers, M.D.	October 20
Speech Therapy	Lisa Paxton	By appointment only
Substance Abuse Dir	Fred Waters, CADC III	Mondays
Urologist	Darrell D. Werth, M.D.	October 11
Urologist	Wallace Michael Curry, M.D.	October 25

If You Bought Copenhagen, Skoal or other U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Products in Kansas

You may benefit from a class action settlement.

There is a proposed Settlement of a class action lawsuit, *Chance and Osborn v. UST et al.* in the District Court of Seward County, Kansas. The lawsuit concerns U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Company's moist smokeless tobacco products purchased in Kansas.

What is the Litigation About?
 Plaintiffs allege that U.S. Smokeless Tobacco engaged in sales practices that made it possible for U.S. Smokeless Tobacco to monopolize the market for moist smokeless tobacco products in violation of antitrust and/or consumer protection laws. U.S. Smokeless Tobacco denies all claims of wrongdoing made by Plaintiffs.

Who is Involved?
 You may be a member of the Settlement Class if you are of legal age to purchase tobacco and purchased U.S. Smokeless moist snuff tobacco products, including Copenhagen and Skoal, at any time from January 1, 1990 to the present in Kansas. U.S. Smokeless Tobacco, its parents, subsidiaries, affiliates and employees are excluded from the Settlement Class.

What will Class Members get?
 If the Court approves the proposed Settlement, eligible Class Members will receive a package of coupons worth approximately \$650.00 in discounts for future purchases of Copenhagen, Skoal, Rooster or Red Seal moist smokeless tobacco products. In order to file a Claim Form and receive these coupons, please visit the website or call the toll free number below.
 Class Counsel will petition the Court for reasonable attorneys' fees, in an amount not to exceed 33% of the total value of the settlement.
 Class Counsel's fees, costs and expenses will be paid by

U.S. Smokeless separately and will not reduce the amount of benefits to Class Members.

What are My Legal Rights?
 • **If you wish to remain a member of the Settlement Class,** you do not have to do anything. However, to receive the coupon package, you must file a Claim Form. If the Court approves the proposed Settlement and you submitted a valid Claim Form, you will receive the coupons. You will also be bound by all the Court's orders. This means you will forego any claims you may have against U.S. Smokeless Tobacco that are covered by the Settlement.
 • **If you wish to get coupons,** you need to complete a Claim Form. You can get a Claim Form by visiting www.kssmokelesstobaccosettlement.com, calling 1-877-874-7560 or writing the Claims Administrator at the address below. Claim Forms must be signed and postmarked by September 16, 2006.
 • **If you do not wish to be a member of the Settlement Class,** you must sign a Request for Exclusion letter as outlined in the Notice of Settlement. Your request must be postmarked by November 11, 2005.

When Will the Settlement Be Approved?
 The District Court of Seward County, Kansas will hold a Fairness hearing to decide if the proposed Settlement is fair, reasonable and adequate on November 30, 2005. The hearing will be held at 1:30 p.m. at the District Court of Seward County, 415 N. Washington Street, Liberal, Kansas 67901.
 If you remain a member of the Settlement Class, you or your counsel have the right to appear in Court and object to the Settlement. However, in order to object, you must file a written objection, as described in the Notice of Settlement. Objections must be filed by October 29, 2005.

For Information on the Proposed Settlement, Your Rights and a Copy of the Notice and Claim Form:

Visit: www.kssmokelesstobaccosettlement.com Or Call: 1-877-874-7560

Or Write: Claims Administrator, Kansas Smokeless Tobacco Settlement, P.O. Box 1752, Faribault, Minnesota 55021-1752

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