

# County visitors board member appointment decision today

COUNTY, from Page 1a

“He is a strong supporter,” Neill said, “and it is what it is.”

Rasure said he had a couple of names the commissioners had thought about. Tiede suggested holding off on the appointments to the next meeting.

Neill said the board was trying to get members seated by the first of the year so they could vote on the budget. He said it could be difficult if the old board created the budget and the new board did not get to vote on it.

Someone asked about having one of the Sheldon’s on the board this year.

“We are worried that they might

not have the time for the meetings,” McCants said, “as they are working on their business and we want them to succeed.

“We have taken care of a lot of important issues this year as a board, and feel we have taken some good steps.”

“I think we have shown growth,” Neill said, “and tried different options.”

“I would remove my name,” McCants said, “if you can find someone who would do a better job on the board. I would step aside.”

Collett said the attendance problem is bad, and even if members send a proxy, they sometimes they get upset because the members they give them to don’t vote the way they

wanted.

Rasure said it would be good to wait until the next meeting to make the appointments official, and the other commissioners agreed.

He said it was good to see the guest tax up.

“We had a better summer than we thought,” Neill said. “We had Howard Johnson on line for the whole year, and Motel 7 is back open. The rooms are clean and the price will meet a need in the community.”

Collett was asked why her name was not on the list.

“I felt it was time to let someone else do it,” she said. “I have enjoyed serving, but feel I have done enough.”

# New communications director named

By Tom Betz

*The Goodland Star-News*

Sherman County commissioners hired a new dispatch director following a special closed session Wednesday morning.

Chairman Mitch Tiede said the decision was unanimous to appoint Crissy Conger, who has been the interim director, to the position.

“We felt she has been doing a great job,” Tiede said. “We had some good candidates, but we thought that because Conger is a

lifetime resident, there was less of a chance she would leave us.”

Tiede said Conger’s new job is effective immediately, and she will be the assistant emergency management coordinator.

He said she will be paid \$38,000 a year.

Conger was selected from seven candidates to fill the vacancy created by the resignation in September of Mary Messamore, who took a job in Hutchinson. Messamore was making \$42,621 after nine and

one-half years.

The commissioners made Conger, who has been a dispatcher for two years, as the interim director while they interviewed for the position.

She was one of the five candidates the commissioners chose to interview.

The commissioners held a 15-minute closed session during the meeting Wednesday, and held another special session at 11:45 a.m. to make the final decision.

# Two more Christmas shoppers collect \$50 prizes

PRIZE, from Page 1a

dropped into gift-wrapped collection boxes, which are emptied once a week into a large barrel. The *Star-News* staff picks tickets each week and hides the winning numbers in “Christmas on Us” ads, which will run every Tuesday.

Winners have four days, until 5 p.m. each Friday, to bring their tickets to *The Star-News* office, 1205 Main, and collect \$50 in scrip, which can be spent at participating businesses.

Ten \$50 prizes will be given out over four weeks, for a total of \$500. Winning numbers appear in ads each Tuesday, which means shop-

pers have a chance to win up to \$250 over the next two weeks. Numbers will appear in today’s edition and next Tuesday.

There are a few rules.

- You must be 18 to participate.
- Employees of participating businesses are not eligible at their workplace, but can collect tickets from other sponsors. *Star-News* employees and their immediate family are not eligible.
- All prizes will be awarded in scrip, which can be spent only at participating businesses.
- The last day to collect tickets is Friday, Dec. 16.
- Winners must be present at the grand prize drawing and be able to

show their winning ticket.

- All winners agree to have their name and photo published in the *Star-News*. Winners of major prizes must provide their tax identification number, and agree to be interviewed and photographed for publication.

Participating businesses are Garcia’s Home Furnishings and Appliance, Radio Shack, NAPA Auto Parts, Elliott’s, Prairie Rose Floral, Miller’s Home-center, American Communications, Mann’s Jewelry, Rasure Lumber, Medical Arts Pharmacy, Goodland Greenline, Jacque’s Hallmark, Frontier Equity Exchange, Shores Bumper to Bumper, El Dorado, the Total Look, Sherman County Farm Bureau, High Plains Office Supply, Klip n’ Kurl, McClung’s Appliance and *The Star-News*.

# Meeting reviews storm response

STORM, from Page 1a

ated a big ball of light inside the plant, and Bandel was outside when it went.”

Smee said the holiday traffic made the number of people coming off the highway higher.

“I think there were as many as 1,000 total,” Smee said. “We have a count on all those in the shelters, but there were as many as 300 at Howard Johnson Hotel and 100 at the Convention Center at Buffalo Inn.”

Conger said there were many travelers staying in private homes who were not in the total count.

was in the shop with an oil leak.

He said one difference with this storm was the number of pets people had with them. He said they put them in a separate room to keep them away from most of the people. Reasoner said there were 15 dogs, two cats and a bird along with 27 pet owners.

Brenda McCants, from Goodland Regional Medical Center, said she went to each shelter to see if there were any special medical needs. She said they had been able to help some people, but one of the problems was getting nonprescription and prescription drugs. She said pharmacists Cesar Miller and Heather Tompkins were able to help with that.

ters to the high school.”

Smee said they needed more blankets and tapped out Dollar General and Wal-Mart. He said they have been washing the ones the hospital donated, and will be storing them at the city impound, armory and airport.

Curtis Duncan, head of Sherman County Red Cross, said Martha Gunderson had given out all the blankets they had, but there would be room to store blankets at the Red Cross.

He said they need a volunteer to take a mass-care training class to help with this type of emergency.

She suggested that anyone who had people stay at their homes could call central dispatch at 890-4575. Conger said the idea is to get a total count on how many people were stranded here, so it is not important to give the dispatcher a name.

“We would like to have a good count on how many people were here,” Conger said.

Rogers agreed it would be good to have the total count for future emergency planning.

Jay Jolly, hospital administrator, said 21 people who ended up taking refuge at the center.

He said some of them came in with patients, but they had to be put in a part of the hospital that did not always have power.

He said they had a bit of a challenge getting staff back and forth during the storm.

“It was a long couple of days,” said Duncan, news director at KLOE radio. “tough to get information out without any power. The power was up and down like a yoyo. At times we had power at the station and none at the transmitter, and then we were in the dark at both places.

“This may not happen again for many years, but it would be good to have something like this group as a committee to try to handle things.

Sgt. Mark Reasoner, in charge of the Goodland National Guard Armory, said the only problem there was the road getting people to the building. He said the Red Cross lists the armory as a shelter with a capacity of 135 people. This time, Reasoner said, they set a record with 207 people, 16 more than the 191 previously recorded.

Neil Normandin, hospital maintenance man, said the emergency generator did not work all the time. He said an \$18 part went out.

Sheriff Kevin Butts said he felt things went well for his department.

“It was crazy at times. We lost a large part of communications for the community.”

Police Officer Greg Kroskey said one idea would be giving people better maps to the armory.

He said the maps people were giving out with the route to the armory took people down Eighth Street, which had bad drifts from Kansas to Syracuse.

He said the biggest concern was getting fuel when the power was out.

Undersheriff Roger Studer said one problem was that the two stations that had power had diesel fuel.

He said things worked better when the people were told to go to the Wal-Mart parking lot and wait for a police officer to lead them to a shelter.

Rogers said they might be able to get some money from the Salvation Army to help pay for some of the food.

He asked that everyone who had bought or donated food or supplies submit a bill to the city.

He said the armory has a generator, but it was out of order. There was a small one that he was able to get going when the power went off to keep the heat and lights in the restrooms going.

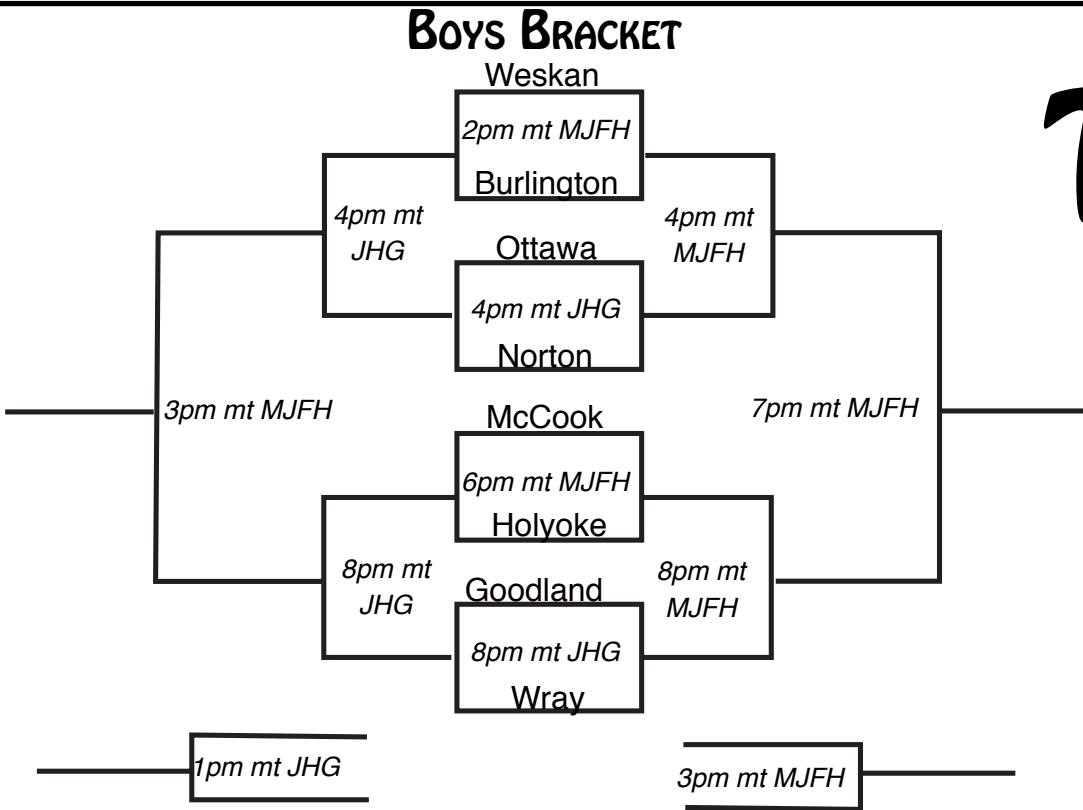
Asked about large trucks that could be used to move people, Reasoner said with the reorganization of the guard, there are not as many trucks at the armory. He said there was a “duce and a half” that could have been used, but it

move the people from the shelter.

“This was our ‘perfect storm’ to test us,” Smee said. “The number of things that went wrong was higher than at any other time.

“We probably should have made the decision to move the people to the high school half an hour earlier so it could have been done before the sun was down. Kevin’s (Butts) group helped

# Topside Tip-Off Basketball Tournament Dec. 8,9,10 2005 Max Jones Field House



Back Row (left to right): Scott Angelos, Jack Dennis, Jack Eklund, Ron Lucas, Dan Brenner, Heather McDonald. Front Row (left to right): Shelly Angelos, Dale Neill, Jody Lapotice, Kathy Cochrane, Dolly Irvin, Debbie Martin, Karen Ginther.

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