

# County raises Christmas bonuses

**By Tom Betz**  
*The Goodland Star-News*  
Christmas stockings will be a little heavier for Sherman County employees, with a 50 percent increase in their holiday bonus approved by the county commissioners on Tuesday.

Full-time county employees will get an extra \$150 in their pay check on Dec. 19 as a Christmas bonus, and part-time county employees will get \$75.

In years past full time employees received \$100 and the part time \$50. Commission Chairman Mitch Tiede said at a commission meeting Tuesday that he thinks the employees appreciate the money at this time of year. He said the bonus has not been raised since 1996.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas agreed. Commissioner Kevin Rasure said the bonus should apply to all current employees.

The total cost of the Christmas bonuses is \$10,472. The cost at last year's rate would have been \$6,986, and the increase this year is \$3,487.

The Christmas bonus is for all full-time county employees and includes the elected county officials.

Crystal Wright, county payroll clerk, said the county used to have a Christmas party instead, but

people were making reservations and not showing up.

Thomas made a motion to increase the Christmas bonus. It was seconded by Tiede and passed unanimously.

The commissioners talked about reviewing the employee evaluations, and will go through the ones that have been turned in at today's meeting. They had hoped to have all of them completed before the end of the year so there would not be any need to approve raises retroactively.

In the past, the commissioners have done the employee evaluations in January and then had the raises approved in February be retroactive to the first of the year.

Thomas said they could get done what were available, and they would have until Jan. 10 to be in the first pay period of the year.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Approved a new communications agreement with the city. Rasure said he had County Attorney Bonnie Selby draft the agreement, taking some things out to make it shorter.

- "It covers the basis of what we want," Rasure said.

The new agreement eliminates the communications board and ter-

minates the old agreement. The new agreement is to have the county provide dispatch for the city police and the city provide a location. The City Commission will consider the agreement at its next meeting, and if approved, it will become effective in January.

- Heard an update on the three missing guns from Sherman County Sheriff Kevin Butts and Undersheriff Roger Studer. Butts said a .380 rifle was manufactured prior to 1968, and the federal Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms office does not have any records. He said the federal office said the .22 rifle does not exist according to their serial number records. Butts said a .357 was turned over to Colby, and their department does not have any records. Butts said the old evidence records are in poor condition, but he and Studer are getting the old stuff cleaned up and with court approval are taking some items out to be destroyed.

- Turned over county employee driving records forms to Sheriff Butts to be checked. The commissioners filled out their forms and turned them over to the sheriff. The forms are required of all county employees and volunteers who have an emergency vehicle designation.

- Corrected the minutes from the Nov. 30 meeting to explain their reasons for refusing to sign orders to correct entries on the property tax rolls. Commissioners rejected requests to abate the \$120 solid waste fee for two homes which are vacant. The commissioners agreed that as long as the homes are livable, the solid waste fee would be part of the property tax bill.

- "It is our policy that all property in the county should pay the solid waste fee," Tiede said. "If we allowed these, it would not be fair to the vacant homes or rental property in the county. If the assessor determines the home to be unlivable, then it is possible to have the fee removed."

- Agreed to allow the city to take snow to the county fairgrounds and dump in the northeast corner west of the big fence.

The commissioners meet at 8 a.m. today in the commission room on the main floor of the Sherman County courthouse, 813 Broadway. The commissioners will meet on Friday, Dec. 30, for their final meeting of the year. They will not meet on Jan. 3, and the first meeting of the new year will be Tuesday, Jan. 10.

# County revises visitor board for 2006

**By Tom Betz**  
*The Goodland Star-News*  
County commissioners shuffled the deck, moving some new names onto the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau board at their meeting last Tuesday.

Dale Neill, chairman of the visitors board, and Donna Price, executive director, met with the commissioners to review a list of names recommended by the board. Commissioners had some other names, and mixed the two lists to fill the voting and advisory slots for the bureau board.

The commissioners appoint the 10 voting members and an advisory board each year, though they take recommendations from the board. That list included Neill, head of the Flatlander Committee; Brenda McCants from Goodland Regional Medical Center and a member of the Kansas Film Commission; Lincoln Wilson, owner of the Howard Johnson Hotel; Bill Stoick, Super 8

Motel; Ryan Hageman, Wendy's; Scott Angelos, McDonald's; Diana Flanders, Kuhrt Ranch; Tammy Geigle, Buffalo Inn; Arlo Hansen, a citizen representative; and Cindy Bowman, Bowman's Heating and Air Conditioning. Advisory members recommended were Dave Branda, Sherman Theatre; Linda Holton, High Plains Museum; and Shad and Penny Sheldon, Shaps Beaver Creek Ranch.

A majority of the 10 members are required to be from the hotel/motel and tourism related businesses. In the past, the board has had trouble with voting members who did not attend meetings.

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said the one person he had talked to was not interested at this time.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said he had talked to Dolores Rohr, manager at Sugar Hills Country Club, and she was interested in being on the board.

Price said Branda, who operates the Sherman Theatre and is on the Sherman County Historical Board, would like to be a voting member. She said he has been an advisory board member for several years.

Tiede suggested the names of Branda and Hansen, who has been on the board for eight years, be flipped so Branda would be a voting member and Hansen would be an advisory member. Hansen was on the board when he was working for the Sinclair station, which is now closed.

Tiede suggested that Rohr could be an advisory member. Rasure suggested moving Bowman to advisory and making Rohr a voting member.

Price said Bowman was being recommended because their store is near the replica Van Gogh painting, and they have a gift shop. She said Bowman is a good promoter for the community.

Neill said advisory members give

as much input as regular members. The only difference is voting, he said.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas asked if this was the first time Bowman has been asked to be on the board. Tiede said yes.

"Now we have too many," Tiede said. "This is unusual. We don't want to make anyone mad or to discourage their interest."

Rasure said that Bowman is in the Leadership Sherman County class, and that she be an advisory member for a year.

"Put Rohr on as a voting member," Tiede said. "Make Branda a voting member and Hansen an advisory member."

"That is four on the advisory," Neill said.

"Works for me," Tiede said.

Rasure made a motion to approve the revised list of members for the convention and visitors board. Thomas seconded and the vote was unanimous.

# New member named to development council

**COUNCIL, from Page 1a**

he had a business in California for 17 years, and now runs an Internet business out of his home.

"I think there are questions that need to be asked," Walker said. "Sometimes these are seen as negative, but I do have a sense of skepticism."

"We have to face the fact that we are losing population. We have things to offer to people. I am not afraid to stand up and ask."

Cochran said he was raised in Sherman County, and thinks a lot of good things are going on here.

He said he tried his hand at farming, but now focuses on the farm

supply business, which has grown every year. He said most of the sales for his business are outside of Sherman County.

"We have to look outside Sherman County and northwest Kansas to get money here," he said. "There are opportunities everywhere. I believe things are moving in a positive direction."

Wilkens, a former city commissioner, said he thought the recent reports that people were moving out of cities to rural areas is a good sign, and that some of those people are coming to Sherman County.

"They are not coming in droves," Wilkens said. "We are not going to hit a home run every time. We are

looking for base hits. We are looking for people who need to move a business.

"We are heading in the right direction. The ability to provide a building and the possibility of low-cost power can be a positive in the future."

Once the council members voted on paper ballots, candidates Garcia announced that Cochran and Wilkens were the winners. The two names will be forwarded to the county commissioners for their ap-

proval. The new members will begin their three-year terms in January.

Garcia will be leaving the council after serving since the group was established four years ago. A new chairman will be elected in January when the council meets to reorganize.

The council will meet at 5:30 p.m. next Tuesday in the basement of Western State Bank for the final meeting of the year.

# Money needed for scenes

**STORY, from Page 1a**

the artists mixed their own colors. They originally made the display in the old Centennial Hotel downtown.

The display was finished in 1988 with money provided by the late Ordie Billenwillems. The welding department of the Goodland Vocational-Technical School constructed the stands.

To keep the look the same, Rauscher said, Hatcher did all the faces, Foust learned to do the shading and she did a little of everything. Hatcher, Foust and she agreed to get

along and review each other's work. The display depicts The Nativity of Christ from the Bible.

The scenes showed the Holy Family's journey to Bethlehem for a census and Joseph and Mary finding no place to stay, scene with Jesus in the manger, angels appearing to the shepherds with the news and the three wise men making the journey. There are lots of sheep, camels and donkeys. The project took over two thousand of hours to complete.

The restoration work will be done at the old Corner Garage buildings.

## Brewster All-Star Booster Club

### Calendar for Dec. 14 - Dec. 20

**Wednesday** - Western Kansas Liberty League and Northwest Kansas League basketball schedules meeting at Oakley, 10 a.m.

**Thursday** - Christmas Concert, 7 p.m.

**Friday** - Basketball in Brewster against Golden Plains, 6:30 p.m.

**Monday** - First semester exams; Board of Education meeting 7 p.m.

**Tuesday** - Basketball in Brewster against Northern Valley, 6:30 p.m.; First semester exams.



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## Crossword Puzzle

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	
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62														


### CLUES ACROSS

- Watering holes
- Gave up
- A way to hold out
- Fatty
- Cookie type
- Eagle's nest
- Fails to get attention
- A way to give a benediction to
- A way to drink
- The seed of an Asiatic legume
- Brain test
- Compass pt.
- Compact discs
- Score
- A person of French descent
- An unofficial association of people
- Camera brand
- Position on a baseball team
- Be in debt
- Throw forcefully
- Reflected
- Month
- Fed
- Rod used to resist longitudinal compression
- Sylvan deity
- Small cask or barrel
- Skin
- A quantity of money
- Tax collector
- Wrath
- Angular shape
- Nimble
- Hostelry
- Instrumentalist
- Disguise
- Any mature animal
- Soviet Union
- Oceans
- Chief magistrate of Venice
- Gnagpies
- In a way, picks at

The crossword puzzle brought to you by:

### CLUES DOWN

- Seats
- Joel's instrument
- Mixture of two or more metals
- Monetary unit of Guinea
- Plunderer
- Type of eagle
- Fertilized
- Drive obliquely, as of a nail
- Not shallow
- A major division of geological time
- Type of tree
- Affirmative
- Abroad
- Interloper
- Affirm
- Someone worthy of imitation
- Used in archery
- Fluffy
- Direct the course
- Crony
- Evil spirit
- Yellowish brown color
- Furthest from the middle
- Sediment
- Figure
- Bird genus
- Preserve of crushed fruit
- Early model with only one string per note
- Sweeten
- A vast desert in N. Africa
- Transient cessation of respiration
- Smooth brown oval nut of south central U.S.
- A hairdo formed by braiding
- A small island
- Utter in a grating voice
- Exaggerated zeal
- Rapid bustling movement
- A quadrilateral sail
- An inexperienced young person
- The 23rd letter of the



dine-in  
carry-out  
delivery

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67735  
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# Merry Christmas

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and the USD 352 BOE  
cordially invite you to attend our  
Holiday Dinner.*

*The member of Family, Career and Community  
Leaders of America (FCCCLA), National Honor Society (NHS),  
and American Field Service (AFS) will serve  
as the host and hostesses.*



*December 14, 2005*

*11 am — Entertainment by GHS Students*

*12 Noon — Dinner GHS*

*Call 890-5656 or 890-2397 to Reserve.*

*If you need transportation please call.*

*We will also deliver meals to those who are not  
able to leave their homes. Please RSVP.*

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