

Woman wins \$1,500 grand prize

WINNERS, from Page 1

can Communications, Mann's Jewelry, Rasure, Medical Arts Pharmacy, Goodland Greenline, Jacque's Hallmark, Frontier Equity, Shores, El Dorado, Total Look, Farm Bureau, High Plains Office

Supply, Klip n' Kurl, McClung's Appliance and the newspaper.

The promotion spread a total of \$2,500 around to 12 lucky shoppers this month.

On Nov. 19, participating businesses started handing out one ticket for every \$10 a customer

spent. From the collected tickets, representatives of *The Goodland Star-News* estimated that more than 20,000 tickets were handed out, which translates into roughly \$200,000 spent in town and an economic impact of up to \$1.5 million.

Application deadline near for tax rebate

REBATE, from Page 1

new construction and the improvement of existing structures. It has been successful in Pratt and other places, and we have taken their plan and made a few change to fit our county."

The program gives businesses and homeowners incentive to improve their property, Timm said, and could help create jobs and reverse the exodus of people from the area. County Commissioner Kevin Rasure said he is pleased the program was put into effect this year.

Rasure said the plan requires a property owner to make a minimum \$5,000 investment in improving a property. The work has to comply with all building codes, and in the city, the owner needs to have a building permit.

Timm said property owners should understand that every dollar spent may not necessarily equal a dollar of increased value. That is up to the county appraiser, based on

market resale value.

Improvements done this year are eligible for the program, he said, but the property owner must apply before the end of the year.

"We are giving the people who had projects this year a chance to apply," Timm said, "but projects in the future will have to have the application filed before work begins."

The applications will be reviewed by Terry Ballard, Sherman County assessor, and approved by county commissioners.

The property is appraised by Ballard after the improvement are completed, and the amount of rebate will apply to the increased taxes on the improvements.

The improvements must be permanent and can include remodeling or new construction. Sprinkling systems, fences, landscaping, gazebos, garden type structures, patios, hot tubs, swimming pools, irrigation wells and equipment, both agricultural and residential, also qualify, but everything needs to

conform to building codes.

People who haven't paid their real estate taxes are not eligible, said Timm. Property owners must fill out an application with the county and there is a \$50 application fee.

The owner will pay the full amount of property taxes, and after the taxes are paid, the county will rebate up to 90 percent of the taxes tied to the improvements.

There are different applications for home and business improvements, Timm said. Both are available at the assessor's office or online through the county web site <www.sherman.kansasgov.com>.

There will be a three-year application window from Jan. 1, 2005, to Dec. 31, 2007, said Timm, and the plan will be reviewed after that.

For residential property, there is a sliding scale over a 10-year period with the rebate starting at 90 percent for the first three years and dropping by 10 percent per year until it is down to a 20 percent rebate for the 10th year.



Page Seeger, 12 (left, above); Ciara Kamla, 11; Jake Moscias, 6; and Tyson Smith, 9, stirred the storage container full of tickets before the Christmas on Us grand prize drawing Saturday at Central Elementary School. Mason Fritz, 7, (right in left photo) reached in and drew out numbers for the \$500 first prize. Brock Butts, 7, drew out the numbers for the grand prize.

Photos by Pat Schiefel
The Goodland Star-News

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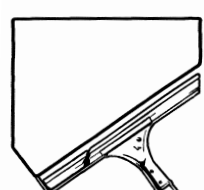
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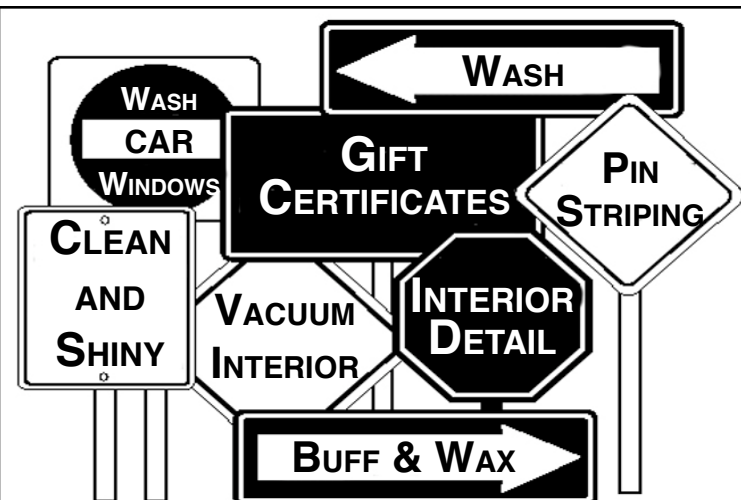
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