

Forty apply for new property-tax rebate

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

People who had business and home improvement projects lined up to take advantage of the new property tax rebate program swamped county officials with 40 applications for work done in 2005.

"All the promotion and advertising has paid off with the number of people who are involved," Sherman County Assessor Terry Ballard said at a county commission meeting on Tuesday.

He is about halfway through the process of inspecting all the projects and checking their eligibility. Deadline for projects done last year was Dec. 30.

He said the big things he looks for are proof that each project cost at least \$5,000 and conform with all codes and permit requirements.

Ballard handed a list of the projects to the commissioners, and noting that those with a red mark have things missing. He said he is checking to see that projects in the city have the proper building permits, and all

property taxes have been paid.

One of the projects involves a piece of property that has been in dispute for over four years, he said.

"I told Iris Scheopner (county treasurer) that we need to have someone sit down and get it settled," Ballard said. "I told her we need to get this to (county attorney) Bonnie Selby."

Another project listed is the new motel to be built south of I-70, at the old Apple Trail truck stop site. Ballard said property owner Doug Irvin told him he was waiting on architectural plans to get the permits.

Commission Chairman Kevin Rasure said he thought one of the projects on the list had been done before last year, or that the owner had a building permit before last year.

Ballard noted that one project started with a concrete slab, but it ended up being a garage.

Rasure said one of the projects was not completed, but the concrete had been poured.

"I expected to get some projects," Ballard said, "but I was surprised when I got 40."

He said it appears that two or three of the applications might not meet the criteria.

He said he set up a folder for each project and assigned each a number designating that it was from 2005. He said the new projects this year will all end in 06.

"I am putting all the documentation in each folder," Ballard said, "and developed a spread sheet to be able to see all the details."

"It has created quite a workload for this time of year, but for the benefit of the property owners in the county, I think it will be worth it."

If approved the residential property owner will receive a rebate on their property taxes of 90 percent of the increased value of the improvements. This is a sliding scale that stays at 90 percent for the first three years and then drops to 20 percent over the next seven years..

For houses that are presently valued at

\$25,000 or less, the rebate will be 95 percent for the first five years and 50 percent for the next five years.

Commercial or industrial property has a different schedule depending on how much of an investment is being made. For projects up to \$500,000, the rebate is similar to the schedule for residential relief, starting at 90 percent for the first three years, and then dropping by 10 percent a year until it is down to 20 percent the 10th year.

Commercial and industrial investments of \$500,000 to \$3 million will be rebate at 90 percent for six years and drop to 70 percent the seventh year, 60 percent the eighth year, 50 percent the ninth year and 20 percent the 10th year. Commercial investment over \$3 million will have their taxes rebated 90 percent for the first six years and 75 percent for the next four.

The commissioners agreed that once an application has been reviewed by Ballard, he will give them his recommendation and they can approve or disapprove them. Rasure said the commission would review the

file and recommendation.

Ballard said if there are any questions, they can call him. He will complete each file and leave them for the commissioners to review.

"It will get easier once you get through the first batch," said Commissioner Chuck Thomas, "and get it all organized."

Rasure and Commissioner Mitch Tiede said they had talked to people who they knew had done projects in the past year and suggested they fill out an application.

Ballard said it is sort of tough going over the projects now that they have been completed, but thinks it will be easier for those who apply before their project begins.

Under the rebate program, new projects must be approved before they start, rather than after they are finished, as was done for the first year.

Applications and information about the rebate program are available at the assessor's office, and should be available on the county web site, www.sherman.kansas.gov later this year.

Chips a flying



Phil Erickson, Goodland street department supervisor, and his crew were cutting down dead trees in Chambers Park last week.

The crew had four or five old trees to take out.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Blood tests start Monday for fair

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News

Do you need to find out how your blood sugar or your cholesterol is doing?

The annual Goodland Health Fair is set for Saturday, Feb. 4, with lab work being done all week next week at the Goodland Regional Medical Center from 7-10 a.m. No appointment is needed; just come to the main entrance of the hospital.

People need to fast 12 to 14 hours before giving blood for the lab tests, said Brenda McCants, patient relations director for the hospital.

The health fair is sponsored by the Goodland Activities Center, the hospital, the Sunflower Extension District and the Sherman County Health Department.

The blood chemistry test, which costs \$30, checks kidney and liver function, blood sugar, electrolytes and cholesterol, McCants said. For \$10, a "CVB" blood profile, which includes a white cell count, can be added.

A prostate test can be run for men for \$15 and a thyroid check for an additional \$15. If you are a man and want the whole works, she said, it will cost \$70. For a woman, it's only \$55.

Their will be coffee and refreshments for people after they have their blood taken.

If you want the results of the tests but will be unable to attend the health fair, McCants said, you can give a note to someone and have them pick up the results at the fair. You also can pick the results up at the hospital the week after the fair or you can leave a self-addressed, stamped envelope when you give blood and the results will be mailed to you the week of Feb. 6.

Last year, McCants said, the hospital did blood work for 488 people and 382 attended the fair. There were three doctors there to help interpret the results.

Last year's fair also featured 34 displays, including eye and hearing tests, screening for oral cancer and blood pressure checks.

This year, she said, there will be a drawing for a sports basket including Rockies baseball tickets, lodging, University of Kansas and Kansas State University memorabilia and an autographed National Football League photo.

The health fair is all about saving lives through early detection, said McCants.

"Please come," she said.

Liquor store robbed at gunpoint at closing

In a bold downtown robbery, two masked people waving guns and wearing gloves and sunglasses barged into Garrett's Liquor, 918 Main, about 9:50 p.m. Wednesday, Police Chief Ray Smee said.

"We don't have a lot of leads," Smee said Thursday.

"I talked to Gary Garrett today, and he said they were in and out in about 30 seconds. They took his wallet, and with the disguise, he

wasn't sure of anything."

Officers tried to track the bandits, who ran from the store, but lost the trail.

The robbery happened right before the store closes.

"We brought over the Colby dog

because officers found one of the hoods," the chief said, "but the dogs lost the scent after about a block."

Smee said he hoped to have more information later, and did not know how much money the robbers got away with.

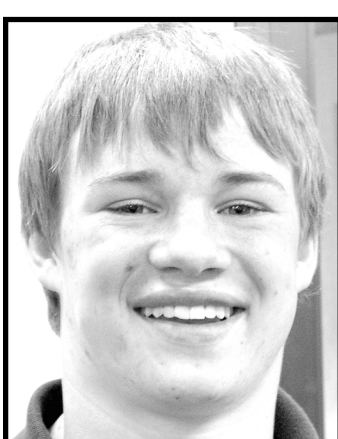
corrections

An article about the book "Ruleton and Its School" in the Tuesday, Jan. 10, edition of *The Goodland Star-News* referred to Arbutus Topliff as the author. It was not meant to imply that she was the only author. Topliff, Lois Sieck and Janice Parish Scanlon worked together on the book, and Scanlon served as editor/publisher in that she put the book together, printed it and sent out copies of the book.

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The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate your calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.



student of the week



Name: Aaron Deeds

Parents: Robin and Carol Deeds

Grade: Sophomore

Age: 16

We've nominated this student because: Aaron approaches class with a can-do attitude. He's an active participant in the learning process as well as in sports, activities and community. He also has a sunny approach to interactions with teachers and peers.

Student Comment: My favorite aspect of school life

is being able to be around my friends during class.

Activities involved in at school: Stuco, American Field Service, G-Club, FCCLA, Red Cross volunteer, Big Brother Big Sister, football, basketball and golf.

My choice of movies, books, and games: I like comedy movies like "Wedding crashers". My favorite book is Timeline by Michael Crichton and I like all types of music. My favorite game is four point pitch.

After I leave Goodland High School I intend to: go to an undecided college.

And 10 years from now, I think I'll be: Happy and successful in whatever I choose to do.

Favorite Quote: "It's not who I am underneath, but what I do that defines me." -Batman



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785-899-3636

Richardson's Homestead Realty



Just Listed... 1021 College

Clean, tidy and well maintained describes this lovely home. All the painting and floor coverings have been done, all you have to do is move in! Outside you'll find this home to be in a good neighborhood, close to schools, nicely landscaped yard, new exterior paint, soffits and guttering. Inside you'll find a sunny living room, eat in kitchen with appliances, 2 bedrooms, office, bathroom and attached garage. Furnace, humidifier and AC are two years old. A great buy at \$42,000. Contact Cynthia Butts for you showing or visit www.cynthiabutts.com for additional photos and information.



823 Washington

Great neighborhood and desirable east side location make this split level the perfect home! Offering 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, living room, large eat in kitchen with built ins, family room with fireplace, deck overlooking large back yard and central heat and air. Recent updates include new hot water heater, garbage disposal, carpet, interior paint, new vanity in main floor bathroom plus new tile in both bathrooms. This home also has Pacesetter windows and metal siding. Priced at \$90,000, let Cynthia show you this great home today!



605 E. 5th....

Reduced to \$123,207

This spanish style home offers over 3500 sq. ft. of living space with 2 fireplaces, sunken living room, large dining room and kitchen with hardwood floors , new oak cabinetry and tile countertops. Offers 4 bedrooms including large master suite, 3 baths, sunroom, and a fully finished basement complete with pool table. Outside you'll find a beautifully landscaped yard complete with lighting and sprinkler systems. Contact Cynthia for your showing.

Looking for something in the surrounding areas? Visit my website at www.cynthiabutts.com I cover a large area and may have the home you looking for.



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Visit our website: www.goodlandksrealestate.com

Cutoff Date for Fiscal Year 2006 EQIP Signup

January 20, 2006, is the cutoff date for Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) applications in Kansas to be considered for Fiscal Year 2006 funding. Stop by your local United States Dept. of Agriculture Service Center and visit with the Natural Resources Conservation Service or local Conservation District Staff to get more information about helping address your resource concerns.

Office address: 210 West 10th Street
Goodland, KS 67735
Phone: 785-899-3070 ext 35

Web site: <http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/2006>
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