

Expert hired to help with plan

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News
The Sherman County Economic Development Council voted Tuesday to lead the effort to write a new strategic plan for Sherman County with the help of a Kansas City-based consulting firm, Kansas Communities LLC.

Economic Development Director Tiffani Kirk talked to the council about the program headed by Terry Woodbury, who spoke at the Chamber of Commerce's annual banquet in February.

"I strongly feel the thing with Terry Woodbury will help the Chamber," she told Chamber board members at the council meeting. "I believe it is the type of thing that will help and keep people in your membership."

She said the Sherman County Convention and Visitor's Bureau board agreed at a meeting last Tuesday to be part of the program, and the Chamber was welcome to join in.

She said counties and cities across the state are using Woodbury's program to do community building and develop a working strategic plan.

Council member Harlan House, a rancher and farmer, said a strategic plan was something they had always wanted to do, but it had been put on hold while the council was looking for a director. He made a motion to pay the \$4,000 in seed money for the program.

Kirk said Woodbury does not want one group or organization to put up the money for the program, but wants to see more people to become partners and invest in the process.

The council agreed to put up to \$2,500 of the \$4,000 to get the program started.

Kirk said she will let Woodbury know the three organizations are interested in seeing the program in Goodland.

She said once the process begins, the city can qualify for a \$2,500 grant from the Kansas Department of Commerce and \$5,000 from the Kansas Health Foundation to help pay the total cost of \$19,000. She said the grants are guaranteed once the community has come up with the seed money.

Part of the process is for Woodbury to come to Goodland and spend time talking to people around town.

He tried to involve the four parts of what he calls the "public square," the combination of business, education, health and human services and government that makes a community work.

Kirk said she could do some interviews to help speed up the process but Woodbury would still do his.

She said there will be a town meeting to get ideas from the people about what the county's goals should be. Then there is will be a "vision retreat" to define the goals. Once the goals are established, citizen-led action teams will be created for each one.

"This is supposed to help us define what we are looking for and what are our goals," said council member Steve West of Western State Bank. "We end up with a direction that people want to do."

"He calls it a working strategic plan," Kirk said, "not one that you put on the shelf."

Run for the Wall heads to Washington



About 35 veterans, bikers and citizens gathered on the Caldwell bridge over I-70 on Sunday to cheer on the 23rd annual Vietnam Veterans Run for the Wall. Veterans ride across the nation from California to Washington each spring to honor those who died, were prisoners of war or missing in action. When they arrive in Washington, they will join thousands of other bikers for the Rolling Thunder ride on Memorial Day. JoAnn Wahrman, who was on the bridge (far right), said her husband Joe has taken the trip across the country twice, and this year is following the southern route.

Photo By Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

63 cross stage to get high school diplomas

SCHOOL, from Page 1

Vinge, who lived with Kenny and Kelly Studer, said she is 16 and has three more years of high school. She thanked all the people who helped her make memories here.

Dale Schields, president of the Sherman County High School Alumni Association, congratulated the class and gave the Outstanding Educator Award to English teacher Sharon Hall, who started teaching here in 1977. He said the award was started in 1982.

The three finalists, Hall, librarian Jo Ann Wahrman and math teacher Gaylene Shank, were selected by class representatives, past winners of the award and alumni, he said.

"Nyla was in the first class I taught," Hall noted.

She said her classes this year tried to pursue the poet in each of us and track down symbolism in everyday life. She left the graduates with a some advice from David Thoreau, "Advance competently to your dream."

The salutatorian, Julie Leiker, thanked her family and friends.

Valedictorian Morgan Titus tearfully read a poem she had written about the class' years at school.

Assistant Principal Steve Raymer announced the scholarships and honors won by the graduates.

Other members of the class graduating were Chris Baumfalk, Jon Beeson, Aaron Bollig, Nichole Buskirk, Heath Chatfield, Katrina Cotter, Wyatt Dautel, Victor Delgado, Aaron Duell, Savannah Eisenbart, Brittney Espinoza, Alicia Felver, Derek Fenner, Daniel Finnell, Jordan Frazier, Andrea Grieve, Brandon Hatfield, Jase Herl, Justin Holloway, Zachary Holmes, Terrin Keith, Justeen Koehler, Brett Lalicker, Samantha Lamb, Kalan Lambrecht, Kaitlin Lee, Valarie Luna, Abigail Martin, Lukius Medrano, Robert Miller, Brady Nelson, Bryant Nemecek, Chelsea Ontiveroz, Chanell Peter, Samantha Philbrick, Lacey Ridder, Kaleen Rietcheck, Jodi Roane,

Matt Rohr, Megan Rubio, Daniel Schields, Melissa Schritter, Tatum Schultz, Tyler Selbe, Lance Siruta, Miranda Smith, Mark Starr, Megan Stefan, Sara Studer, Melissa Swager, Brandon Tatman, Briana Taylor, Lisha Tedford, Tiffany Thomas, Jason Troyer, Julian Walls, Alex Weis, Janelle Wolak, Cory Yarbrough and Brandon Zelfer.

Holiday Inn Express supported, questioned

HOTEL, from Page 1

anyone who wants to build something."

"I hope we get more businesses who want to do the same thing," Daniels added.

"Looking at the big picture, yes they are getting a tax break," the mayor said. "I think we should be positive to give them an incentive to build."

"I am grateful that Doug (Irvin) is willing to make the investment," City Commissioner John Garcia said. "Doug pays a lot of taxes on farm ground. He is giving something back to the city."

School Superintendent Marvin Selby said the school district is in favor of this project.

"We think it is great to have a new

business and bring kids to our schools," Selby said.

"I think this is great to bring in more business and more people," said Gary Ginther, a school bus driver.

Billinger closed the hearing at 5:25 p.m. Froggatte said he would bring the papers to the next meeting and said they will be set up for the 90 percent tax abatement and 10 percent payment in lieu of taxes.

Billinger said he had read a memo from County Assessor Terry Ballard suggesting a fixed amount for the payment but did not feel the city needed to do that.

"I think he was saying he did not want to assess the hotel each year," he said. "I think we need to stay with what we had agreed to before."

The next commission meeting will be at 5 p.m. on Monday, June 5.

County, hospital join to help with school

COUNTY, from Page 1

Commissioner Mitch Tiede said he thought the county could do \$20,000 per year, and Rasure agreed.

Precht said they have told Gray they want him to get a student.

"He has to do his part," Precht said.

Thomas said the expenses could grow over the three years.

"I think it will work if he can be

assured the money will be there to help," Schields said. "He starts classes on May 31."

"This is something we have available," Rasure said. "We need to let people know that is available for others who are willing to come work in our community."

Schields said medical school graduates are coming out with large student loans, and the hospital could put a deal together to pay their loans if they come work in Goodland

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Brewster All-Star Booster Club

Calendar for May 23 - May 27

Friday and Saturday: High school State track in Wichita.

Go BULLDOGS Go

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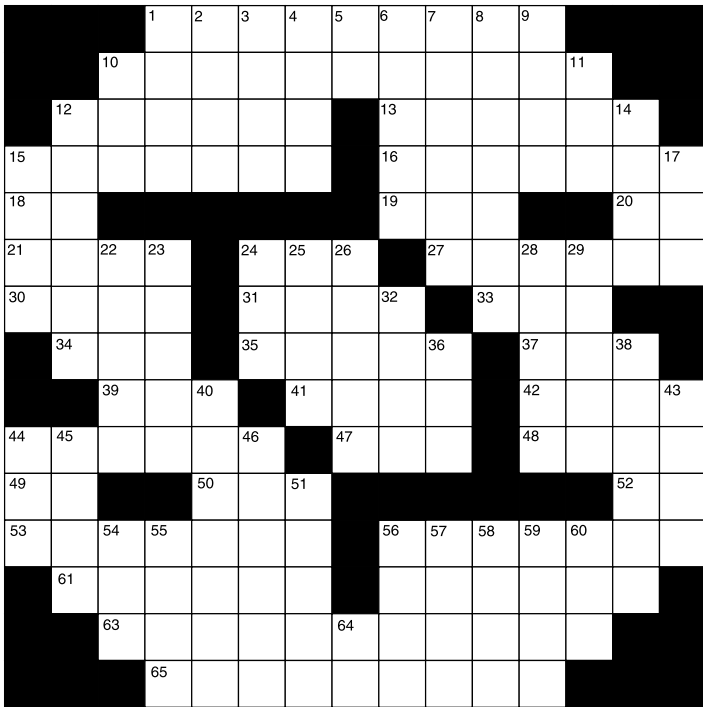


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Crossword Puzzle



CLUES ACROSS

- Partner
- NY nickname
- Being three in one
- Leguminous tree
- Marching prominades
- Tempted
- Blood group
- Whale (Norwegian)
- "Imagination at work"
- Dips in liquid
- Teaspoonful (abbr.)
- Maul
- One of the rails
- Astringent
- Pinna
- ___ondary: not first
- Spoken Chadic language
- Waterproof raincoat
- No seats available
- 12-point type
- Epic
- Medicinal beverage
- Villain
- Dried and withered
- Road open
- Sun-up in New York
- Tellurium
- Matter at rest
- Cheetah or dalmatian
- Fine visual ability
- Cerumen
- May holiday
- Harems

CLUES DOWN

- ___ble: agreeable
- Potato
- Circular function
- Mined from the earth
- Cerium (abbr.)
- Islands
- Repents
- Perceptible by touch
- Small ladies bag
- Wander
- Monetary unit
- Prohibitions
- ___s Nose: Cheshire walk
- Saddleback
- River in NE Scotland
- Iron
- Bones
- Type of dance
- Strike sharply
- Region of the pelvis
- Designer of chairs
- Place casually
- Isinglass
- Radioactivity unit
- Outer layer of an organ
- Once
- Tournament designation
- Denotes three
- Private school in New York
- Computer program
- So. Am. weasel
- Electronic countermeasures
- Herbaceous plants
- Secure closure
- Pakrit language
- Church booklet
- ___ the night before Christmas
- ___-Sachs disease
- Intergalactic

The crossword puzzle
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