

# Ten numbers hidden in Christmas ads

NUMBERS, from Page 1

money. Participating merchants have been handing out tickets in the ninth annual "Christmas on Us" promotion that will spread a total of \$2,500 around to 12 lucky shoppers over the next two weeks. The contest will end on Saturday, Dec. 16, when the grand prize of \$1,500 and second prize of \$500 will be given away downtown. Shoppers will have plenty of chances to win the eight remaining \$50 "instant prizes" along the way. Participating businesses will hand out one ticket for every \$10 a customer spends, with a limit of 250 tickets per transaction. If you ask at *The Star-News* office, we'll give

you one free ticket each week, so no purchase is required to win. The customer takes half of each ticket and the other half is dropped into tins, which are emptied once a week into a large barrel. The *Star-News* staff will pick tickets each week and tuck the winning numbers in "Christmas on Us" advertisements, 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 any participating business. Ten \$50 instant prizes will be given out over four weeks, for a total of \$500. Winning numbers appear in the Christmas on Us ads on

Tuesday, which means shoppers have a chance to win up to \$400 in the next week. Numbers will appear today and on Tuesday, and Dec. 12. All of the \$50 instant winners will be given out during the month. Participating businesses are Garcia's Home Furnishings and Appliance, Elliott's, American Communications, Mann's Jewelry, Shores Brothers Auto Supply, Sherman County Farm Bureau, Klip 'n Kurl Salon, McClung's Appliance and Furniture, High Plains Office Supply and *The Star-News*. It's simple enough, but 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. 15. • Winners must be present at the grand prize drawing and show their winning ticket. • All winners agree to have their name and photo published. Winners of major prizes must provide their tax identification number, and agree to be interviewed and photographed for publication in the newspaper. • Be sure to remind the clerk if you're not offered tickets. If that happens, you should get one extra ticket.

# How can you be sure charities are real?

*Dear Attorney General Kline, My family and I enjoy supporting several charities, especially at this time of the year. But we've noticed over the past few years that there are so many charities from which to choose, and we're concerned they might not all be legitimate. How can we figure out if we're actually giving to real charities?*



phill kline

• attorney general

ter what they say, you are not obligated to respond to these.

- Carefully note the names of the organizations to which you are asked to contribute. Many bogus charities choose names designed to sound like reputable charities. If you're not sure about a particular group or organization, ask questions until you're satisfied the group is legitimate.
- Beware of something that sounds too good to be true. Many reputable charities use contests and giveaways to encourage contributions, but also be aware that many bogus charities may encourage you to send in a few dollars for the chance to win a large prize. Again, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Ask if the organization is registered with the Secretary of State's Office in Kansas. While there are exemptions, most charitable organizations are required to register. Visit the Web site at [www.ks.charitycheck.org](http://www.ks.charitycheck.org) or call (785) 296-4564 to see if the charity is properly registered. Remember, though, that even if an organization is registered,

that does not mean it is approved or endorsed by the state. It simply means the organization has filed the required documents to solicit funds in Kansas. • You may call the Attorney General's Office to ask whether our office has taken legal action against a particular charitable organization and find out the result of that legal action.

Just like most Kansans, you care about your community and you want to give something back. Following these suggestions will help ensure that your charitable contributions are being used as they should, to help people in need.

*Attorney General Phill Kline offers this public service to help you avoid becoming a victim of consumer fraud. Although some of the details have been changed, the cases appearing in this column are based on actual complaints or questions.*

*For information or to file a complaint, write Attorney General Phill Kline, Consumer Protection Division, 120 SW 10th Ave., Second Floor, Topeka, Kan. 66612, or call the toll-free Consumer Hotline, (800) 432-2310.*

# Economic development council gets new face

By Tom Betz

*The Goodland Star-News* There should be one new face on the Sherman County Economic Development Council after the election at the meeting on Tuesday at the Western State Bank.

Nancy Cole, owner of Klip and Kurl Salon, was elected to fill one seat and Don Newell of S&T Telephone was re-elected to another, subject to confirmation by the county commissioners.

Chairman Shelly Thompson, noting that there were four nominees, gave the three present a chance to speak before the vote was taken for the two three-year terms.

Cole said she bought a building on Main about nine years ago, and has an interest in helping Sherman County to grow.

Conrad Pettijohn, owner of P.J.s Home Improvement and an inde-

pendent candidate for county commissioner this year, said in the past, his business and family always came first. Now, he said, he has time for public service.

"I don't have to work too hard," Pettijohn said. "I don't have to work too hard and am looking for something to donate my time to help. I have no agenda, and am willing to listen to anything."

Newell, council vice-chairman this year, said, "I have enjoyed working and being part of the board for the last three years without and with a director. I like the way things are going. It takes a lot of focus to get things done. I want the best for Sherman County and our city. I want to stay on focus with that and we can get it done."

Thompson said the fourth nominee was Kim Bohme of Miller's Home Furnishing, council treasurer for four years. She was unable to

attend because her children were in town. At an earlier meeting Bohme said she had not planned to run for the council, but Thompson said she agreed to put her name in the hat again to be sure there were enough candidates.

"She said she has enjoyed working with the council," Thomson said, "but said with her kids in town, she would not be able to attend the meeting."

The eight members present were given ballots to vote for two people.

Thompson said there are three positions open, but that is from the First National Bank.

Dwane Timm, the First National Bank representative, said there would be a new person next year. He said he has enjoyed being on the council, but did not expect to be the representative from the First National Bank next year.

Director Tiffani McMinn said the

council needs to send a letter asking the Sherman County commissioners to appoint the two members in time for the county meeting on Thursday.

She said she has contacted People's State Bank about naming a representative, and presently they do not have anyone who lives in Sherman County, but they are going to have someone in the next year.

There are 11 council positions, with seven elected at large, and one for each of the four banks in town. The elected members serve a maximum of two three-year terms.

The votes were counted by council members Gary Slough of S&T and Harlan House, a rancher and farmer, who announced the top two were Cole and Newell.

The two will be on the county agenda for approval on Thursday, and should become council members in January.

# Goodland clinic adds 'phone nurse'

By Sharon Corcoran  
*The Goodland Star-News*

The Goodland Family Health Center is trying to improve its efficiency by asking patients to plan ahead and by having a nurse take phone calls and handle prescriptions.

The clinic added a phone nurse, who started Oct. 27, Mary Ann Elliott, interim clinic manager, told the Goodland Regional Medical Center board Monday. It's still a learning curve, Elliott said, but it's taking the burden off the nurses. Many patients tell her what they need, she said.

The new position was created to take some of the work load off of the doctors' nurses so they can focus on the patients they are seeing, she said. The phone nurse is a registered nurse, Elliott said, and helps with communication between doctors, patients and pharmacies to get refills approved. She can also decide whether patients need to follow up with a doctor or see one of the nurses, Elliott said.

She helps streamline patient calls and refills, Elliott said, and helps with communication between doctors and patients.

In another effort to improve efficiency, Elliott said, the clinic is sending out flyers in the bills asking patients to plan ahead rather than leaving things to the last minute. A lot of times, she said, the doctors and nurses have a lot of phone calls to return and

prescriptions to approve at the end of the day, and sometimes there just isn't enough time for them all.

"We want everyone to get what they need," she said, "but sometimes 24 hours aren't enough."

Patients need to be ready to show their insurance cards each time they come in, she said, and if the doctor says he wants to see them back for a follow up, to stop at the front desk and schedule the appointment that day.

When patients need refills, she said, they should call the pharmacy. If they have no refills, the pharmacy will fax the clinic a request. Call at least seven days before the medication runs out, she said, so there is time to communicate with the doctor to get refills approved.

If a patient needs a written prescription, she said, he should call at least five days before it runs out to make sure the doctor has time to get one written. For appointments that aren't urgent, Elliott said, patients are asked to call a few days before their desired date.

If someone feels they need an appointment the day they call, she said, they may be transferred to the phone nurse, who will help decide whether that is necessary.

The clinic had 999 visits in October, Elliott said, which is about average, but that will likely increase with cold weather.

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## Cutoff Date for Fiscal Year 2007 EQUIP Sign-up

**December 15, 2006**, is the cutoff date for Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) applications in Kansas to be considered for Fiscal Year 2007 funding. Stop by your local United States Dept. of Agriculture service center and visit with the Natural Resources Conservation Service or local Conservation District Manager to get more information about addressing your resource concerns.

Resource concerns include: Air Quality, Grazing, Lands Health, Soil Quality, Water Quality, and Water Quantity including the **new Quick Response Area (QRA) for Sherman County.**

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