



Kim Bohme took a taste of one of the dishes at the Home for the Holidays and Taste of Goodland held Saturday afternoon at the Goodland Activity Center. People voted on their favorite of the recipes in each of six categories.

Photo by Tom Betz  
The Goodland Star-News

## County offices to close early Wednesday

COUNTY, from Page 1

Ryan said the two-way radios in storage at the health department are not something she feels they can use because they do not have a separate frequency for the health department. She said when they held the mass flu clinic at the Elks it would have been useful to be able to communicate, but as they are all on the same county frequency as the other agencies.

Ryan said she had called NexTech to see about getting a frequency and was told it would cost \$499, and that would be good for 10 years.

She said they have four purchased at a cost of about \$2,000 in 2002. As an alternative Ryan suggested buying more walkie talkies.

“We are going to be in a confined situation most of the time,” she said. “We do not need a large range.”

Thomas suggested it would be better to buy the walkie talkies, and Tiede agreed that would be more reasonable than getting a separate frequency.

Rasure said another option might be to look at pre-paid cell phones.

Ryan said that was not an option they had looked at.

Sheriff Kevin Butts said one reason the radios were purchased was

so everyone could be on the same frequency in time of an emergency. He said it would be good for the health department to keep the radios to allow them to know what is happening in an emergency situation and to keep them informed.

Ryan said she knows they keep one on at all time at the front desk, but the others are kept in a drawer. She said she would not pursue getting a separate frequency.

She said the other thing was that the county van used by the health department has more than 96,000 miles on it. She said the van gets about 15,000 miles a year on average.

Tiede said when the vehicle gets to 100,000 they can start becoming expensive.

Thomas said the value drops pretty far, but that Ryan might want to wait until spring to see if things settle down in the economy.

Ryan asked if the cost comes out of the health department budget, and who gets the bids.

Tiede said Dorendo Harrell did the last one, but thought she had Curt Way help with the details.

Rasure said it might be a good idea to talk to the new commissioners after the first of the year.

Thomas said Ryan should go to all

the dealers. He said they could possibly finance part of the cost if there is not enough in the budget.

• Ryan asked about replacing two computers at the health department. She said the one Harrell is using and the one she is using need to be replaced.

Rasure asked about money in the budget.

Rumpel said she thought there was money in the general fund.

Ryan said she would look at her budget.

Rasure said the county has more options if it comes out of the health department budget because they can use money from the health sales tax.

• Approved allowing Assessor Terry Ballard to donate the old copier from his office to the Big Brothers Big Sisters group.

• Approved the use of the juvenile justice facility in Trego County at WaKeeney. The rates will be \$170 a day for the first to 20, \$165 a day for 21 to 40, \$160 a day for 41 to 65, \$155, 61-80 is \$155, and above 81 will be \$150.

The commissioners will meet at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 31, for their last meeting of the year.

## Voting close on holiday recipes

RECIPES, from Page 1

the top winner. The second and third places went to Emig for a Red Punch and a Banana Punch.

Emig had a second place with her Brookville Corn. Alberta Hayden had a third place on her Sugar Free Banana Muffins.

Overmiller had a third place on her Garden Fresh Pasta Salad.

Seaman said he enjoyed the event, and volunteered to help organize next year's.

The Taste of Goodland sponsored by the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce added to the afternoon with vendors selling Christmas goodies and many last minute shoppers took advantage of the special offerings.

One person said they had not even started their Christmas shopping, but said they had found most of the gifts that afternoon.

Vendors at the event included

Mountain Man Candy and candles, Candy Lee Jewelry, Tonya Cox with Purses, The Total Look with holiday coffees, Cochran Farm Supply with a selection of Amish wood products, Mary Kay, Curtis Duncan with a variety of gift catalogues and energy drinks, Christie Rasure selling Christmas decorations for the Sherman County Historical Society and Jaris McCombs selling gourmet food mixes.

The Goodland High School Xpresso's provided great entertainment with special holiday songs and dance routines.

Businesses helping to sponsor the Home for the Holidays included Cochran Farm Supply, Mann's Jewelry, Klip 'N Kurl Salon, Elliott's, The Almond Tree, American Communications, The Insurance Agency, First National Bank, Prairie Rose Floral, Jacque's Hallmark and the *Star-News*.

## Deputies have improved tool for testing driver's alcohol levels

ALCOHOL, from Page 1

after a person has failed a road sobriety test. They are then arrested under suspicion of being intoxicated and brought to the Bastille where the breath test is taken.

He said the driver has to breathe into the machine, and the machine knows if the person is not breathing hard enough to get the deep lung air required for the test to work.

“It is hard to fool the machine,” he said. “It knows any time a person tries to give an invalid air sample.”

Studer said state laws have changed and the law requires a drive to submit and complete one or more test of breath, blood or urine to determine the level of alcohol or drugs.

He said the law provides that if you refuse to take any of the tests the driver's license can be suspended for one year. If a person have one previous arrest and you refuse the license is suspended for two years. If you refuse and have two previous arrests the license is suspended for three years. If you refuse and have three previous arrests the license is suspended for 10 years. If you refuse and have four or more prior arrests the driving privileges will be permanently revoked.

Studer said he has seen a number of young people under 21 being arrested for having alcohol in their possession.

“It is not good to see the young people getting started drinking this early in life,” he said.

State law sets the driving under influence level a .08 percent for an adult, .05 if driving a commercial vehicle and .02 if the person is under 21 Studer said.

Secretary Bremby said local law enforcement agencies rely on the state to generate affidavits on the breath test instrument compliance for hearings, and to provide testimony in DUI cases and at administrative proceedings. Each year, breath alcohol staff certify up to 600 new operators and inspects and re-certify every instrument.

Future projects for the state Breath Alcohol Program include providing remote access to instruments for data transfer, statistical analysis on breath alcohol levels and expanded certification classes he said.

### Offices, banks close for Christmas, New Years

CLOSING, from Page 1

Christmas and open regular hours on Friday. On Wednesday, Dec. 31 they close at 2:30 p.m., be closed on Thursday, Jan. 1 and open regular hours on Friday, Jan. 2.

The Goodland schools will finish the year today, with no classes next week, and will reopen Monday, Jan. 5.

The hospital will be open, but the business offices will close early on Thursday and Friday and New

Year's Day. Of course, the emergency room will be available 24 hours every day.

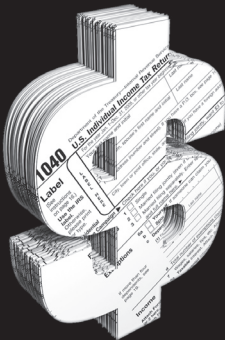
The Goodland Family Health Center will close at noon Wednesday and be closed Thursday and New Year's Day.

WalMart will close at 6 p.m. on Wednesday and will be closed until 6 a.m. on Friday.

Most restaurants will be closed for Christmas Day but Howard Johnson's restaurant will be open. Those that have announced they will

be closed include Hank's Cafe, Wendys, Butterfly Cafe, Dairy Queen, Taco John's and McDonalds. On Wednesday, Christmas Eve, Hanks will close at 7 p.m., Wendys will close at 5 p.m., Dairy Queen will close at 3 p.m., Taco John's will close at 3 p.m. and McDonalds will close at 6 p.m. On Friday the restaurants will be open regular hours. The Butterfly Cafe will close at 2 p.m. on Wednesday and be closed through Wednesday, Dec. 31, and open on New Years Day.

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