

WHEN GOOD PEOPLE MAKE BAD DECISIONS



Work is a huge part of who we are. It forms part of our identity, it keeps us busy and it provides for our families. In preparation for the upcoming Smithsonian exhibit "The Way We Worked" at the High Plains Museum, we would like to share a series of local work stories.

The consequences of our actions can lead us to many places. In Goodland, one such place might be in front of Leann Taylor, the municipal court judge. Leann has been with the Municipal Court since 1991 as a court clerk, pro tem judge and, since 2004, the City of Goodland's municipal judge.

A native of Oberlin, Leann moved to Goodland with her family from Garden City for a work opportunity for her husband. Leann spent time as a stay-at-home mom raising her three children before joining Goodland's court system. In November of 1998 while working as a court clerk she took a course and passed a certification test in Topeka to become a municipal judge.

Leann has over 21 years of experience working in the courts, and that experience has informed her service as Municipal Judge.

"I like working with people and kids and seeing how this process can make a difference," she said.

Municipal court is typically the first exposure people have to the court system (through a speeding ticket for example), so Leann's court management is reflective of that. Leann takes a small-town approach to the troubled individuals she sees. As Leann puts it, "I mostly deal with good people who make bad decisions."

Leann presides over court twice on month on the second and fourth Wednesdays in the commission room in City Hall. Depending on various factors—the economy, heat, and others—Leann will see a variety of cases from driving under the influence and other traffic violations, to animal problems and domestic disputes. Her workload varies from 400 to 1400 cases a year working with attorneys, police officers, and others to arrive at a just result for the defendants that see her. "All cases are important," she said. The decisions she makes impact the safety of everybody and she works with that in mind. Municipal Judge has made Leann finely attuned to understanding people and knowing what works and what doesn't to help people learn from their mistakes whether that takes a fine, community service, or jail time. Serving as Judge requires her to be consistent, clear, and tough with people.

Serving as a judge has also left some restrictions



Municipal Court Judge Leann Taylor sat at her desk at City Hall. The High Plains Museum

on her private life. She can't hold office in clubs and no political signs will be placed in her yard; she must at all times observe a non-partisan position. However, Leann is active within the community through Kiwanis and she maintains a happy private life in Goodland with her family.

Leann's work is public work; she presides over a court that works through difficult moments in people's lives. It is a stressful time and she does her best to approach that moment with just evaluation and consideration. Work has taught Leann over the years to take her time with decisions and be lenient or tough when she needs to be.

Look for more articles in this series about the way Goodland folks work. Tell us your own work story online at the High Plains Museum blog (highplainsmuseum.org) or on our Facebook page and mark December 15th on your calendar to see how Americans have worked over the decades at "The Way We Worked" Smithsonian exhibit. "The Way We Worked" Kansas tour is sponsored by the Kansas Humanities Council in partnership with the Smithsonian Institution's Museum on Main Street program. Support for "The Way We Worked" Kansas tour has been provided by the Ross and Marianna Beach Foundation, the Western Kansas Community Foundation, and Jostens. Support for Museum on Main Street has been provided by the United States Congress. To find out more information visit the High Plains Museum and find us online (highplainsmuseum.org).

Child safety seat program planned

SEAT, from Page 1

quires all children under the age of 4 to be in a federally approved child safety seat/booster seat unless the child weighs more than 80 pounds or is taller than 4 feet, 9 inches. The fine for this violation is \$60 plus court costs.

Safety advocates agree safety belts alone cannot adequately protect children that do not reach this age,

height or weight requirements. Traffic crashes are the leading cause of death for children ages 4 to 9. Experts agree serious injury and even death can be the result of prematurely transitioning children into an adult safety belt.

Booster seats should be used to help position the adult safety belt properly on the child's body so it rides low and snug on the hips and crosses the chest between the neck and shoulder.

Atwood event scheduled for the weekend

Smokin' on the Beaver, northwest Kansas' first barbecue contest and festival, has been scheduled for Friday and Saturday. This will be the event's ninth year, and the festival's committee is expecting 45 to 50 barbecue teams.

The Killworms, a bluegrass-country band, will kick off the event Friday evening. The public is invited to come cavort with the contestants, enjoy the live music with no entry fee Friday night. Saturday, deejay Joe Vyzourek of KXXX will provide music Saturday afternoon followed by a live band, Vehicle, Saturday night. All music entertainment will be outside, weather permitting.

Non-meat categories are open to the public without team entry, but entries must still meet the judging times. These categories include barbecue sauce, salsa, home-brew beer, homemade wine and beans.

All those that purchase a wrist band, \$10 for children 7 and up and seniors or \$20 for ages 21 to 64, have

access to the cooking grounds, the barbecue dinner at 6:30, the beverage cart and Vehicle's Saturday night performance.

Other attractions include a chainsaw artist and numerous raffles,

including a 1/2 hog with processing and a trip to Orlando, Fla.

For information, go to www.smokinonthebeaver.com or www.facebook.com/smokinonthebeaver.

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CITY WIDE CLEAN UP
OCTOBER 1st through 5th, 2012



Residents and Businesses may place any unwanted items in alleys and front yards prior so City Crews can pickup any discarded items throughout this week. **Any items that residents DO NOT wish to be discarded need to be removed from these locations prior to the CITY WIDE CLEAN UP.**

To allow faster and more efficient pickup by City Crews, items such as tree limbs, leaves, grass clippings, furniture, appliances, metal, plastics, tires without rims (no tires from businesses), need to be separated out. There is no need to phone in your pickup, just place the items in the designated places during that week. With your help we can obtain the City Commission's goal is to beautify Goodland.

Reader Recipes

Zucchini Chocolate Cake

Ingredients

| | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| • 2 1/2 cups sifted flour | • 1/2 cup butter or margarine | • 1/2 cup buttermilk |
| • 1/4 cup cocoa | • 1/2 cup cooking oil | • 2 cups unpared, grated zucchini |
| • 1 tsp. baking soda | • 1 3/4 cup sugar | • 1 pkg. (6 oz.) semi-sweet chocolate chips |
| • 1 tsp. salt | • 2 eggs | • 3/4 cup chopped walnuts |
| | • 1 tsp. vanilla | |

Sift together flour, cocoa, baking soda and salt; set aside. In large mixing bowl, cream together butter, oil and sugar; beat with electric mixer on medium speed until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Blend in vanilla. Add dry ingredients alternately with buttermilk, beating well after each addition. Stir in zucchini. Pour batter into greased 13x9x2 inch baking pan. Sprinkle with chocolate pieces and walnuts. Bake in 325 degree oven 55 minutes or until cake tests done. Cool in pan on rack. Cut in squares. Make 16 servings.

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ATTENTION GOODLAND RESIDENTS!

We will soon be conducting a mail canvass of Goodland, KS, to compile information for your new City Directory. Your cooperation in answering the questionnaire will be greatly appreciated and will help make the Directory accurate and complete. Due to the State and National DO NOT CALL list for telemarketers, residents who have put their names on these lists cannot be contacted. To insure a complete updated directory, we will be updating everyone's listings through the US Postal Service. So watch for your letter in the mail. It is important that you check your listing and return to us any corrections or if you would like to purchase a City Directory. If you did not receive your letter because of an incorrect address, or would like to purchase one, please call:

1-800-374-4691 press 2, Mon. thru Thurs. 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
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