

Board examines medical building

By Charlie Baker

The Goodland Daily News

A new building, a new sign, and an improved playground, all were topics discussed when the school board met Monday.

The board decided to continue to look at purchasing the Medical Arts building as a possible site for early childhood programs.

"We should recognize this as the opportunity it is," said board member Ben Duell.

The building has an open lobby area, and suites around the perimeter that were once doctors offices. All of the suites have plumbing in them and outside access, making them easily convertible to classrooms, said Superintendent Marvin Selby.

Another amenity the site offers is the large, shaded lawn that would make a nice playground, said member Eric Gray. The building also has a small basement area the could be used for a storm shelter.

Board president Dick Short said he believes that all-day kindergarten is inevitable in the future. "Today we have enough room, but, if we had to go to all-day kindergarten classes, we wouldn't have the space to do it."

Members decided to hold a special meeting at noon on Wednesday to further explore purchasing the site.

Bryan Russell presented the board with a plan to erect a welcome sign on the east entrance into Goodland on business 24. The eight foot by four foot sign will read, "GOODLAND, HOME OF THE COWBOYS AND COW-GIRLS," and is a community service project for Russell to earn his rank as eagle scout.

He asked the board to help fund the materials, and the board voted 7-0 to provide up to \$450 to the project. Member Gerald Franklin said he thought the proposed sign would be a "nice change from what is there now."

Jim Wedermeyer and Gene Tromble, Kiwanis members, petitioned the board for permission to do some improvement work at Topside Territory playground. Their plan calls for securing the

fabric and adding more wood chips in the boxes.

The Kiwanis also suggested building a 12 foot shelter over two benches so parents watching their children playing would not have to sit in the sun.

The board approved the project, noting that they would maintain the structures after the Kiwanis' build them.

Selby presented the board with a tentative budget for the 1999-2000 school year. The \$6,016,920 budget will meet the needs of the district, giving teachers a raise and making the payments on the Max Jones Fieldhouse, without raising taxes, said Selby. "We are one of the leaders in facilities and technology for a school of our size," he said. However, he noted that the district is not where he would like it to be in teacher's salaries.

"We are in the top half," he said, "but, if we want to bring qualified teachers to northwest Kansas, we need to continue to do better."

In other business, the board:

- Approved payment to Rhoads Construction for \$102,122.15.

- Approved the food service agreement.

- Approved teacher contracts for 1999-2000 school year.

There will be a special meeting to discuss the possible purchase of the Medical Arts Clinic building at noon on Wednesday.

Their will be a budget hearing at 7 p.m. Monday, August 9, at the district office.



School board members listen as Superintendent Marvin Selby (above center) points out some of the possibilities of the Medical Arts building. Selby and school board members (below) tour the weight room at the Max Jones addition.

Photo by Charlie Baker/The Goodland Daily News

Leak scare delays launch

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — A hydrogen leak scare halted the launch countdown for Columbia today, delaying Eileen Collins' debut as the first female space shuttle commander by at least two days.

The countdown stopped with just seven seconds remaining — less than a half-second before the shuttle engines were to ignite.

A launch controller detected what appeared to be a dangerous buildup of hydrogen gas in Columbia's engine compartment and ordered the cutoff. The reading from the gas detector turned out to be wrong and it would have been safe to fly, launch director Ralph Roe said.

"We are convinced this is not a real leak," Roe said, "and we have no serious concern with launch."

Roe said the launch team would try again Thursday.

It was a huge disappointment for Collins and her crew, as well as for the numerous female notables gathered for the early-morning launch of not only the first woman to lead a U.S. space mission but the world's most powerful X-ray telescope.

VIPs included the U.S. women's soccer team; first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and daughter Chelsea; 15 members of Congress, 13 of them women; Health and Human Services Secretary Donna Shalala; Sally Ride, the first American woman in space; and Judy Collins, who wrote a song for the occasion.

Columbia was to have blasted off at 12:36 a.m. EDT carrying the \$1.5 billion Chandra X-ray Observatory, which is already a year late getting up because of technical problems.

Columbia is the only shuttle big enough to hold the telescope, which weighs 50,000 pounds with its attached rocket motor and support gear. It's the heaviest shuttle payload ever.

'Homegrown Fun' is theme for District Fair parade

"Homegrown Fun." That's the theme of this year's fair parade, which will be held at 6 p.m. on Saturday, August 7, to kickoff the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair.

There are three prize categories — float, non-float and individual. Entry forms may be picked up at the Sherman County Extension Office, the Chamber of Commerce Office or the First National Bank.

Entries are due by Thursday, August 5, but will be taken the day of the parade. On parade day, participants need to bring a description of their entry to be read during the parade.

Once again the 4-H Ambassadors are in charge of organizing the event. This will be their third year. Lanae Koons and Sasha Lohr are heading up the work on parade arrangements, as they have done for the past two years.

Lohr said that at the parade, though, all the 4-H Ambassadors work together to check people in, line them up and get them ready to go. The other members are Kim Cook, Brian Coon, Lindsay Custer, Matt Gattshall, and Brad Larson.

The 4-H Ambassadors are also tak-

ing nominations from the community for Grand Marshal and these are due by Monday. Nominations can be left with any of the 4-H Ambassadors or at the Extension Office. Be sure to include with the nomination, a brief explanation of why you think that person should be chosen.

The Grand Marshal will be selected on July 26 and will be announced a few days later.

When asked how the group liked organizing the fair parade, Lohr said, "It's a lot of fun. It's like our favorite project to do."

Koons said the first year they did it, they kept everything the same, so that they could get a feel for how things were done. But the second year, the group wanted to do their own thing.

They decided to change the parade to the evening. "More people off work, more people able to come, and cooler for the animals," Koons said.

The 4-H Ambassadors want to encourage anybody and everybody to enter the parade. If you have questions, you may call Jan Lohr, during the day at 899-5611 or in the evening at 899-5893.

City takes economic development under advisement

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

A request for \$72,000 from the Goodland Area Economic Development Committee seemed to take the Goodland City Commission by surprise during the meeting last night, and the commissioners decided to take the request under advisement.

Tim Rath, chairman of the Goodland Chamber Economic Development Committee, presented the request, and said the current program is very economical, and that it works well.

"The program is considered a model for many other cities," Rath said. "We think it works well, and it is important to have this program to help bring businesses to our area."

Some confusion was because the city commission has been working on the budget for the year 2000, and thought the request was for next year. However, Rath said the request was for 1999. He said the economic development group had come to the commission two years ago asking for \$70,000, and had received \$31,000 at that time.

"We have asked for this before, and believe this is a low cost means of having an effective economic development program," Rath said.

Commissioner Curtis Hurd asked if any of the chamber dues were used to fund the economic development effort.

Executive Director Ron Harding said the chamber dues bring in about \$45,000, and that some of the costs are shared through using the chamber offices and personnel.

"I don't know if we were ready for this type of request," said Mayor Chuck Lutters. "We have been looking at the things we need to get done such as the comprehensive plan. I am not sure we can handle this."

Rath asked the commission to take the request under advisement. Hurd agreed saying he needed time to "swallow all this information before I am prepared to respond."

A request for funding from the Northwest Kansas Family Shelter for \$700 was presented for the 2000 budget year. Charlotte Linsner reported on the activities of the Family Shelter, and said the group had help 25 "survivors" of domestic violence over the past year. This is the third year for the budget request from the Family Shelter, and the commissioners unanimously approved the money for the year 2000.

In other business the commission:

- Approved a request for a time extension to complete the final details of the water tower project.

- Approved an ordinance amending the Uniform Mechanical Code to allow the use of flexible duct to be used as long as it is no longer than six feet.

Search continues for Kennedy Jr.'s plane

AQUINNAH, Mass. (AP) — Divers returned to the ocean off Martha's Vineyard today in the search for John F. Kennedy Jr.'s plane, and the Federal Aviation Administration acknowledged it was asked to locate the aircraft less than a half-hour after it vanished.

The Navy divers had been given a list of 15 submerged sites to examine by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, up from nine sites. State police divers returned to water later in the morning.

"The divers are systematically examining targets and moving on," said Greg Hernandez, a spokesman for NOAA, which had two sonar-equipped ships scanning the ocean floor for signs of the plane's wreckage.

The FAA said the call for the airplane's location, from an airport employee on Martha's Vineyard, was merely a request for information and had no sense of urgency.

Any delay in the rescue effort would be moot if Kennedy, his wife and sister-in-law died on impact. New radar data showed the plane was diving at a rate up to 10 times normal just before it disappeared from radar.

Also today:

— In Bridgehampton, N.Y., Caroline Kennedy, and her husband, Edwin Schlossberg, left their summer home for a hour-long bicycle ride. It was the day after their 13th wedding anniversary and the first time she had been seen in public since her brother died. A flag

at her house was lowered to half staff.

— A newspaper reported the airplane's registration papers had washed ashore Saturday at beachfront property owned by Kennedy and his sister.

On board the plane were Kennedy, 38; wife Carolyn Bessette Kennedy, 33; and her sister Lauren Bessette, 34. Kennedy, the pilot, planned to drop off his sister-in-law on Martha's Vineyard and then continue to Hyannis Port.

An employee of the Martha's Vineyard airport telephoned an FAA station in Bridgeport, Conn., at 10:05 p.m. Friday — 25 minutes after the plane went off radar screens. Adam Budd made the call at the request of an unidentified couple who had come to the airport to meet Lauren Bessette.

weather report

84°

at noon



Today

- Sunset, 8:10 p.m.

Tomorrow

- Sunrise, 5:37 a.m.
- Sunset, 8:09 p.m.

Midday Conditions

- Soil Temperature 78 degrees
- Humidity 48 percent
- Sky sunny
- Winds west at 8 mph
- Barometer 30.07 inches and rising
- Record High 109° (1939)
- Record Low 52° (1988)

Last 24 Hours*

High	94°
Low	63°
Precipitation	—

Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: partly cloudy, 20 percent chance of thunderstorms, low near 65, winds south 5 to 15 mp h.

Wednesday: mostly sunny, high near 95, winds south 5 to 15 mph.

Extended Forecast

Thursday through Saturday: dry, lows near 65, highs near 95. (National Weather Service) Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz. * Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets



Noon

Wheat — \$1.98 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.88
Loan deficiency payment — .57¢
Corn — \$1.66 bushel
Posted county price — \$1.55
Loan deficiency pmt. — .44¢
Milo — \$2.09 hundredweight
Soybeans — \$3.65 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.60
Loan deficiency payment — 1.29¢
Millet — \$4 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$6.95 cwt.
Loan deficiency pmt. — \$2.62
Oil new crop — \$7 cwt.
Confection current — \$17/10 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$13 (new crop)
(Markets provided by Mueller Grain, Sigco Sun, Frontier Equity Co-op and Prairie Pea and Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

afternoon wire

Late news from the Associated Press

1 p.m.

Cell phone leads to arrests

SALINA (AP) — Police who confiscated a cellular phone from a Salina man fielded over 70 calls in an afternoon from people wanting crack cocaine and later set up a sting using the phone that lead to 24 arrests.

Police set up the operation using a cell phone found on Odell Wilson, 32, of Salina. Wilson was arrested in Dickinson County early Friday after he fell asleep at the wheel of his car and crashed into an Interstate 70 bridge.

"It was a pretty good deal," said John Nachtman, Dickinson County undersheriff. "Here he had a brand new digital cell phone, apparently all his customers had the phone number, and they didn't know the police were on the other end of it."

After getting over 70 calls, six agents waited in a motel room in Salina and instructed those wanting crack cocaine to come over.