

# Technology projects occupy board

## District system will track Internet site usage in schools

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

Goodland students will be participating in the state Technology Fair in Topeka for the second year, the school board learned Monday night at its regular meeting.

North School students got national attention, Principal Steve Raymer said, as he showed a national construction magazine in which the district was recognized for the Build-Up program students participated in with Rhoads Construction.

Raymer said Norma Staker had been accepted to bring another group of students to the Technology Fair held in Topeka in the spring. They will develop a movie about the Build-Up project and include all the class lessons which were part of the project.

The board agreed to allow the district and students to participate. Raymer said it has not been determined if it will be all fifth grade students or if there will be a combination of students from last year and some from this year's class. He said there will be about 12-15 involved and that they will be the ones who will do the movie and will be able to answer the technical questions about the process when they demonstrate the finished project at the fair.

"I was amazed at the technical questions being asked of the students when we were in Topeka this year," Raymer said, "and it was just as amazing to hear the young people answer the questions and explain the process."

Superintendent Marvin Selby reported that the plumbers are nearly completed with their work at the Max Jones Fieldhouse, and the painters are hoping to get their work done in a week. Once these are done, the floor can be installed, and he is hoping it will be available for use by February.

He reported that during the Topside Tip-off, the new visiting dressing rooms were used, and they found a couple of minor problems. One was that the temperature was not set high enough on the water system to provide hot showers.

"Not to say there weren't hot showers, but they were not as hot as they were supposed to be," he said. "Also, we found that the dressing rooms are not soundproof and competing teams could listen to opponents' strategy."

He asked the board's permission to hire a weight room supervisor so the facility can be open to the public in the evenings. The idea is to start in January and see what interest is. He said the supervisor would help people learn how to use the equipment safely.

The board approved the weight room being open from 5:30 to 8 p.m., three nights a week as a test, and to allow the district to hire a supervisor to at an hourly rate. Selby said several coaches and teachers have indicated they would be willing to be the supervisor.

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Teachers and students using the Internet at school know that computers will be tracking where they go, the Goodland School Board learned Monday.

Superintendent Marvin Selby said he has sent a letter to the staff about an Internet site verification system which has been installed in the district.

"I don't want anyone to think I am going to be snooping," Selby said, "but this will be used to see that our students and staff use good judgment and follow the district policy on Internet use."

He said that when the system was installed and tested, it found a computer which had been used to log into unauthorized sites. He said nothing would be done about what has happened before, but that the district would be able to verify Internet site use from now on.

"I am sure our people will use good judgment," Selby said, "but they do need to know there is a way to keep track of where the computers are going on the Internet."

Selby also asked the board for permission to join an on-line education consortium being put together by the Greenbush Educational Service Center in southeast Kansas, which would allow students to take classes on-line for credit.

He said the cost through June would be \$500, and but if a student signed up for a class to be done during school time, it would cost \$295.

Board member Mike Campbell asked if this would be a costly program for the district if students decided to take classes this way. He said he wanted to see a policy which would set up requirements and limits on how this would be available.

Selby said the program would be used on a limited basis if it can be established in the second semester. He said the Gardner-Edgerton School District has been growing and part of their growth has been on-line, where they are bringing in some of the home school students for part of their education program.

Another computer technology program received preliminary support in allowing Selby to continue to explore the possibility of accepting a number of computers from Zap Me. He said the company would place three five-station networks in the district with Internet connections with filters. Each lab would come with a server and a satellite dish to allow connection, and there would be commercials from national companies.

These might be placed in the high school, junior high and North School. Selby said he would be exploring this program and trying to find other schools which may be using the computers. He said the com-

puters would not belong to the district and would be maintained by Zap Me.

In other business, Selby reported that the enrollment had dropped 13 and one-half full time students over the month of November. He said eight and one-half were from the high school and most had moved out of town. He said two were students who graduated from the Step Lab, an alternative school for students who have dropped out of high school.

Recently, the state has opened its health insurance plan to school districts, and Selby said it is a program the district may want to move.

"I don't think we can afford to make the move now," he told the board, "but if we keep getting bumped up on our current program, we may look at the state plan as a fallback."

He said that the state plan may be a bit better than the current district plan, but it would also cost the district more because the state would require the district to pay 35 percent of the spouse or dependent insurance premium. Currently, the Goodland district pays 100 percent of the employee's premium, but none of the family costs.

The current plan costs \$231 per employee, he said, while the state plan is about \$208 and includes a dental plan. The family premium under the state plan is \$708, while the district is \$635.

## A living reminder of the first Christmas



The First Baptist Church, Fifth and Center, put on a Living Nativity scene Saturday and Sunday, the fourth year for the event. Performers, mostly from First Baptist with a few from other churches, worked in half-hour shifts, said director Marilyn Hefner. Costumes were made four years ago by Brenda Starr, a church member. Background music included songs performed by the First Baptist Church choir and the United Methodist Church

bell choir. Over 100 hay bales were donated by Century Feeders Inc. The lambs were on loan from Carrol Mogge. Shown (from right) are Eric Yonkey and Lindsay Custer, shepherds; Stephen West, Joseph; Amy West, Mary; Kenneth Corke, Marney Davis and Gunner Whorton, wise men; and Hannah West, Katie Davis and Heather West as angels.

Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

# Zoning, downtown vitality top planning issues

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

A small group of citizens gathered Thursday evening to define some of the future needs and development issues facing the City of Goodland as a step toward producing a comprehensive plan for the city.

The issues were developed by about 20 citizens representing the city commission, Sherman County, Goodland Regional Medical Center, the city planning commission, the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce, senior citizens and others were present to participate and provide input.

Price Banks and Debbie Divine of Bucher, Willis and Ratliff Corp., consultants hired by the city to develop the plan, led the discussions. They were kept busy writing down the issues brought up by the group members.

Banks opened the session by saying that there were no right or wrong issues or topics at this point.

"We are here to listen and gather your input which will then be used as a basis to draft a plan for the city over the next 20 years," he said. "This is but one step in the process."

He said the planning commission had gone through an issues session, key people in the community had been individually interviewed, existing conditions analyzed and background studies and demographics gathered as part of the process.

"Once all this is gathered, a draft comprehensive plan will be brought to the city for their review," Banks said. "Once a plan is adopted, it should become the guide for making decisions for the city and planning commission. However, the work is not finished, as it will require an annual review of the plan by the planning commission and city administration."

Divine told the group the consultants were here to help in the public input process and help define the issues that may face the city in the near and distant future.

In the first part of the evening, group members interviewed each other about what each thought were the top issues facing the city over the next 20 years. After each person had been interviewed by another, the issues were reported to the larger group and Banks and Divine wrote them down on large pads.

Zoning enforcement was the first issue brought up by Ron Harding, executive director of the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce. He also mentioned continued efforts to develop downtown and keep it the focus of the city.

Several of the others mentioned zoning as a major issue, and included concerns about businesses moving into residential areas as well as expansion of industrial areas.

The way outsiders see the community was also mentioned several times,

including the need to improve the appearance of the entrances to the city. It was noted that a project is scheduled to transform the entrance on Cherry Street. However, one speaker mentioned that the city needs to improve the appearance of the entrance from the north that goes by the airport.

As each person brought up issues, the pads filled up and additional pages were added. After about an hour, the group had developed nearly 90 issues, and some had been mentioned by more than one speaker.

Putting power lines underground, beautification and promotion of the airport, development of the water supply, tourism, housing and other issues were written down.

Among the people issues discussed were keeping young people in town, and bringing industries to the city to provide opportunities for them to stay in Goodland. Another question was to develop ways to draw young people back to the city after they have gone to college.

Others suggested there was a need to look at expanding the boundaries of the city along with expanding the industrial park and developing the east exit from I-70 (Exit 19).

Water quality was brought up by City Commissioner Curtis Hurd, and expansion of the electric power system was mentioned by Ed Wolak, city public works director.

Once everyone had been allowed to bring up issues, each person was given four green dots to use to vote for those issues they felt were the most important.

Among the issues garnering the most dots were zoning, water quality, downtown development and improving city entrances. Divine said all the issues would be added to those already gathered to see how many were mentioned by the various groups.

In the second part of the session, the group was divided into teams and given a package of colored markers and a map of the city. There were four teams and two were to look at "Future land use and public facilities issues," and the other two were given the task of examining "Quality of life and economic development opportunities."

The land use teams were to examine where the city limits ought to be in 10 years, where agriculture lands should be maintained, where residential development should occur, identify streets and other infrastructure that would need improvement, show where public lands should be developed including parks, schools, recreation and government facilities, and where commercial, retail and industrial development should occur.

With all these drawn on the map with various colors, the teams were to write up the issues and regulatory needs which would need to be in place, and

what opportunities in the public and private sectors might exist to assist in paying for the projects.

Two other teams examined the areas of the city which contribute to community pride; where there are areas of safety concerns from traffic or other hazards; areas of education which might need improvement; what is available as far as recreation, arts and culture in the city and where there is a need for more facilities to meet the future needs; factors that make Goodland attractive to developers and what can be done to attract diverse industries to the city; and areas within the city where there is an opportunity for commercial development, including grocery stores, restaurants and other possible developments.

With these in mind the teams were to discuss what environmental programs such as recycling, might be needed in Goodland, and ways communication about the goals of the city could be facilitated and how to get the community working together.

At the end of the evening all the issues, colored maps and green dots were gathered up by Banks and Divine to take back to be added to the material they have been gathering. They said they hope to bring a draft to the planning commission early next year and then a public hearing will be held before the final plan is adopted by the city commission.

## weather report

35°

at noon



### Today

• Sunset, 4:24 p.m.

### Tomorrow

• Sunrise, 6:59 a.m.

• Sunset, 4:25 p.m.

### Midday Conditions

• Soil Temperature 32 degrees

• Humidity 32 percent

• Sky partly cloudy

• Winds north 41 mph

• Barometer 29.89 inches

and steady

• Record High 66° (1962)

• Record Low -16° (1963)

### Last 24 Hours\*

High 50°

Low 20°

Precipitation —

### Northwest Kansas Forecast

Tonight: Mostly clear; low 20; winds northwest 25-35 mph, shifting to west. Tomorrow: Mostly sunny and breezy; dry; high 35; winds northwest 20-30 mph; low 10-15.

### Extended Forecast

Thursday through Saturday. Thursday: dry; high 40s; low 10-15. Friday: chance of snow; high 35-40; low 15-20. Saturday: dry; high 40-45; low 15.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

\* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

## local markets



### Noon

Wheat — \$2.02 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.84

Loan deficiency payment — 61¢

Corn — \$1.57 bushel

Posted county price — \$1.59

Loan deficiency pmt. — 40¢

Milo — \$2.23 hundredweight

Soybeans — \$3.83 bushel

Posted county price — \$3.79

Loan deficiency payment —

\$1.10

Millet — \$3.80 hundredweight

Sunflowers

Oil current crop — \$5.60 cwt.

Loan deficiency pmt. — \$3.89

Confection current — \$11/\$7 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.

## Koch case in jury's hands

TULSA—After 11 weeks of top-notch courtroom tactics and more than 140 witnesses, it all comes down to four men and four women.

A federal jury was to begin deliberations today on whether Koch Industries shortchanged the government.

Koch is accused of purposely underreporting the amount and quality of oil purchased from federal and Indian leases in the 1980s. The company could be asked to pay \$285 million to the federal government if it loses the civil lawsuit.

For months, Koch has denied allegations that it trained employees to adjust measurements in the company's favor to get more oil than it paid producers.

Koch does not dispute adjustments were made, but says it had permission from producers to make up for field conditions such as oil shrinkage and sediment in tanks.