

Lifeskills program helps teach students

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pieces of it in their classrooms. Distribution of the Lifeskills posters began in April 1999, Porterfield said. Last year, it was done by a church youth group. This year, Jon McLean's freshman study skills class is distributing the posters to businesses on Main Street as a community service project, going downtown from 8 to 9 a.m. the first week of each month. The words are posted in about 45-50 businesses each month. The posters are also put up in all Goodland school buildings and some teachers have made special bulletin boards focusing on the skills. At schools that have electronic message boards, the lifeskills word is put on them. Some of the fifth grade teachers at North School emphasize life skills all year long. They have a "lifelong guideline" pledge that they have students recite each morning after the Pledge of Allegiance.

It says, "I will be truthful, trustworthy and an active listener, too. I will do my personal best and give no put downs to you." Porterfield said some teachers use Lifeskills words as a theme topic for papers or they may ask what skills are demonstrated in certain situations. The idea is to try to keep the lifeskills in the minds of the students. "The grade schools are using it more on a regular basis than at the high school," Porterfield said. The Lifeskills words are written in English and Spanish on the posters as a way to include Hispanic students and parents in the program. Porterfield said there is one Hispanic member of the committee. Copies of each month's lifeskills word are left at the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce office, where any business can pick them up if they got missed or want one. Porterfield said the committee appreciates the support of the businesses. She said the committee's original goal was that the businesses might re-



Janae McKee (left) and Jocelyn Lucas put up a lifeskills poster on a wall this morning at Goodland High School. They are two of 22 students in Jon McLean's freshman study skills class for this nine weeks who distribute the posters each month. Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

mind students of a lifeskill if a situation came up. The committee has a supplemental program they want to establish which would involve putting posters with lifeskills that pertain to sports out at the ball complex. For now, that program has gotten

stalled because of a change in the director of Goodland's City-County Recreation. "Maybe if we keep after it, we will see a change in behavior over a period of time," Porterfield said. "People think that maybe it's starting to have a little bit of an effect."

Library receives food for Genesis instead of late fees

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area. Karen Gillihan, children's librarian, said the library will probably take food in lieu of late fees through the first week in January since Genesis can always use the food. "Anybody can bring in any amount of non-perishable food and any late fees they have will be removed," she

said. She said the library always gets a lot of books back that have been out for a long time during the program — which the library has been doing since the Genesis program started. "It's a really good way to get the books back," said Gillihan, "and it is for a good cause." She said the library will accept any amount of food for any fine. It doesn't

matter how much the fine is as long as the patron brings something in. She said some people bring in 20 items with only one late book and others will bring in one item for many late books. "It all evens out in the end," Gillihan said. She said they have had quite a few people come in this week, and, overall, the month seemed to be bringing

in about as much food as it has in the past. At the end of each week, the library bags up the food, which is put in a large box behind the check-out counter, and takes it over to the Genesis headquarters at the United Methodist Church. You don't have to have overdue books to help Genesis, though. Anyone interested in donating to the food bank can call Pat Jordan at 899-5073.

Elevator in dispute

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the courthouse, met with the commissioners about the elevator not ringing outside when it passes floors. Miller told the commissioners they would need to speak with Blaine Davis of Architecture Plus about the matter. Miller said Davis was to take care of the elevator problem, but the elevator company said that it wasn't in the specifications. "The reason this thing has drug on is because the man (Davis) takes forever to get you any information," Miller said. Miller gave copies of what Davis gave as specifications on the project to the commissioners. Rumpel said she thought Davis would need to sign off saying that the elevator meets the standards of the American Disabilities Act.

"We may meet the regulation right now," said County Attorney Bonnie Selby. Miller said the easiest way to handle things would be to set up a conference call with the individuals involved. Selby said they should contact someone at the state and find out what the regulations require. She will check with the state and set up a conference call. The commissioners went into closed session for about 20 minutes to discuss personnel. The commission also met in special session on Wednesday morning for personnel matters. After they came out of executive session, they reviewed applications for county administrator before concluding. The commissioners will meet again at 8 a.m. on Tuesday in the commissioners' room at the courthouse.

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