

Elementary schools have new counselor

COUNSELOR, from Page 1

kids," she said. "The teachers are excited about having an elementary school counselor."

Her job in Goodland will include doing individual and group counseling, going into the classrooms and teaching prevention skills, such as resolving conflict, problem solving, building self-esteem and working on life skills, and handling crisis situations.

Riddle was born in Carthage, Mo., but grew up in Salina. She graduated from Salina Central High School, then earned two bachelor's degrees from Kansas State University, one in life science and the other in elementary education.

Two and half years ago, she began taking classes to earn her master's degree in counseling. She taught full-time and took hours from Kansas State, driving to Manhattan one night a week. During the summer, she went full-time at Fort Hays State University. The second year, she drove to Fort Hays one night a week for classes. She will graduate in May from Fort Hays with a master's degree in counseling, after she completes 600 hours for her internship.

Riddle said she first learned about the opening for the counselor's job in Goodland when she was taking a "Careers" class at Fort Hays this past summer. She said Rhonda Williams, guidance counselor at Goodland High

School, was the instructor and mentioned the job opening. Riddle said she didn't think much about it at the time because she was still a while off from doing an internship. But then she ran into Williams at a peer mediation meeting in November and Williams asked her if she would consider coming to Goodland. Riddle was interested, but told Williams she was under contract at Salina. Williams told her she would see what she could get worked out.

Williams spoke to Marvin Selby, superintendent of Goodland schools, about Riddle being interested in the job, and Goodland High Principal Harvey Swager contacted her and set up an interview.

Riddle interviewed for the job just before Thanksgiving. Then after Thanksgiving, Mr. Selby called her and offered her the position.

She had to make a very quick decision, she said.

Riddle talked with her principal in Salina. She said he encouraged her to take the job. She also spoke with the school's human resource director at Salina, who was also very supportive, though it means she was leaving Salina.

"It's a little overwhelming," Riddle said about coming to a new and smaller community.

"I have an open mind," she said. "Change is good. You get in your comfort zone and sometimes you need to branch out."

Team spirit



The Grant Junior High cheerleaders were backing up the seventh-grade girls basketball team Thursday afternoon as the Mustangs played against Quinter. The girls are (front row, from left) Kelsi Ihrig, Ana McClung, Jill Corcoran and Nelda Aguirre, (back row) Katy Hurst, Erinn Abernathy, Ashley Wing and Kelsey Leiker. All are eighth graders and their sponsor is Denyce Bahe.

Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

Power supply falls

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — California's power supply briefly fell to a dangerously low level again early today, just hours after a maximum alert warning had been lifted for the first time in days.

The energy managers had lifted a Stage 3 alert one minute before midnight Thursday, for the first time since Jan. 9. The California Independent System Operator, keeper of the power grid, reinstated the Stage 3 alert at 4:32 a.m. PST, when a small Northern California power plant went down. The ISO said the alert would run through midnight Friday, the 11th straight day.

Reserves in Northern California dipped below 1.5 percent for a bit when the plant went off line, ISO spokesman Patrick Dorinson said. While reserves were above that level later in the morning, "we have to stay in a Stage 3 alert to get the assistance" from Northwest power agencies. The plant was expected back on Friday afternoon.

"We thought we were going to be able to not have to do it, but we needed it to get these other supplies," he said.

Nevertheless, he said the power situation Friday "actually looks very good" with blackouts not expected.

Energy managers on Thursday had suggested they might even be able to go to a Stage 1 alert later Friday, in which people are simply advised to conserve energy.

"California's conservation efforts played an important role in the ISO's ability to keep the lights on this week," the ISO said in a statement.

On Thursday, Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan warned that if the crisis isn't resolved soon, it could

cause a ripple effect throughout the U.S. economy that could undermine the nation's decade-long expansion.

"It's scarcely credible that you can have a major economic problem in California which does not feed to the rest of the 49 states," Greenspan said in congressional testimony, adding that the crisis could reduce investment in the West, which in turn could shake consumer confidence.

He called the situation "a significant problem that this country is going to have to address, and ... rather quickly."

System operators, meanwhile, said as many as 1,000 megawatts of electricity — enough to power one million homes — were saved each day this week through conservation.

Last week, in the midst of a record 10 straight days of Stage 3 alerts, power had to be shut off to hundreds of thousands of users across central and northern California on two consecutive days.

Many more large users, those who had signed agreements to shut off their power during a shortage in exchange for lower rates, also lost electricity for hours at a time. Representatives of many of them were in San Francisco on Friday to lobby the state Public Utilities Commission to let them out of those agreements.

"What we are stuck with is a program that was put together prior to deregulation that makes no sense now," said Phillip L. Doolittle, vice president for finance and administration at the University of Redlands. The school has amassed hundreds of thousands of dollars in penalties by ignoring the agreement and keeping its electricity on to avoid canceling classes.

Secretary of State honored

TOPEKA (AP) — Kansas Republicans will honor Florida Secretary of State Katherine Harris this weekend for standing up to political and media pressure during the 2000 presidential election.

As party officials gather Saturday morning for the GOP's annual Kansas Days celebration, Harris will be presented an award created and named for her in recognition of a display of courage by a Republican.

"The award for courage made lot of sense, something that we can be proud of in Kansas with officials who have

taken a stance," Kari Austin, state GOP executive director said Thursday. "It is a good Kansas tradition, and she as the inaugural recipient is a good recipient."

Harris was in the spotlight for her role in deciding whether President Bush or Al Gore won Florida's 25 electoral votes. Austin said party officials watched with pride as Harris carried out her duties.

Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh, who has known Harris since both were elected in 1994, said she demonstrated that the system, though not necessarily pretty or expedient, works.

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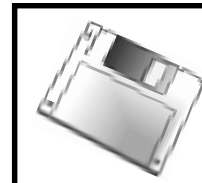
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