

Working on the system



Southwest Bell has been working to upgrade the phone lines for the Goodland **nwkansas.com** for the past two days. Ray Tubbs worked with the many phone wires which connect customers to the Internet. He is replacing the original lines, which were installed over three years ago, and eliminating all split lines, which should improve service. Some overloaded lines had been shorting out.

Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Daily News

Mystery woman identified

WOMAN, from Page 1

after the accident and evidently asked about him. A truck driver who had stopped at the accident scene called for the cat and it came. The animal was not injured.

Long was taken by ambulance to the Goodland Regional Medical Center and died there. The cat was taken to Prairieland Animal Clinic to be taken care of until the woman could be identified. The Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter took the cat into its care.

Lynn Swayne, a matron at the sheriff's office, heard about the cat, which is a neutered male, and wanted

to adopt him. She has three other neutered male cats at her home and said he would fit in. Swayne spoke with Sandy Rodgers, who is with the animal shelter about taking the cat.

She said Gary Smith, veterinarian at Prairieland, checked the cat over and said it was healthy. Smith told her the cat is about 4 or 5 years old.

Swayne adopted the cat on Wednesday and said she will keep it unless a member of Long's family wants it. She is calling it "Pretty Boy Floyd."

She said it made no sense to her to leave him at the animal clinic when she could take him home where he could be more comfortable.

Board to accept press bid

SCHOOL, from Page 1

for another three years. The district built the building before the independent school was established and still owns it.

"I think the people of this district expect that to continue to be used for vocational education and I am confident we will extend it," Selby said. "The board might not make a decision on this until after a new director is named (at the technical school), and might look at making it for more than three years, but those are board decisions and it will be their decision."

The district had an old hydraulic press they have been taking bids on and Selby said as of today they had one bid.

"We will announce it at the meeting and probably accept the bid," he said. "We will be glad to have it moved out."

Currently the district has a voluntary dental insurance plan which is not very affordable, Selby said, but the teachers want the board to consider a new plan from Blue Cross and Blue Shield which is about half the cost. The current plan has about 20 percent of the eligible staff enrolled, but Selby said

the new plan would require 75 percent to participate.

"Through a survey it appears that 80 percent of our staff would be interested in the new plan if it is approved by the board," he said. "To make the switch the board has to officially drop Anthem, the current plan holder, and if they do so the district would hope to have the new plan start the first of April."

Approval of the calendar for the next school year is on the agenda. Selby said there are no major changes from this year's schedule and it will look much the same except for where the holidays fit into the normal calendar.

There will also be reports from the building principals and a superintendent's report.

Parents aren't only ones who influence kids

From the moment our children are born, we are influencing their growth, their values and beliefs, the way they see life and how to confront it. But as parents we are not the only ones who influence our children.

Friends, peers, television and radio, and the general public offer attractive messages. They may try to convince our children that some not so healthy behaviors can be fun and can take them to new and exciting adventures.

As parents, we cannot keep this from happening. But we can help our children obtain the strength they need to resist the variety of pressures which interfere in their healthy growth. It is important and necessary to help them feel good and value themselves as a person.

We need to enable them to express themselves about what is bothering them and what makes them happy. We need to teach them how to respect other's opinions as well as their own and instruct them in different techniques to use when something which goes against their values and beliefs is proposed to them.

Our children, like ourselves, experience tension, stress, anxiety, sadness, anger and happiness. Also, like us, they feel relieved when they can talk about their problems with a parent who knows how to listen without judging



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them or ignoring their feelings. To help our children express what they are feeling, it's necessary to know them and know how to identify their emotions.

Frequently they do not know how to identify their own emotions, such as sadness, anger or frustration. These emotions can become mixed and they are unable to separate them.

When something like this happens, they don't know how to express these emotions and they turn into problems. For this reason many choose to remain quiet. These are the circumstances in which we can help them identify their emotions and help them express what they are feeling.

When our child is quiet, deep in thought, in a bad mood or keeping to him or herself and we ask what is wrong, generally the response is "nothing." It could be that they are filled with fear, anger, sadness or pain.

Even after we insist that something is different, the response may remain the same. But, if instead of just talking, we hug them and express our care and

concern, there could possibly be an open space of communication which will offer them a chance to express what they are feeling at that time.

The same is true when helping them express their feelings. We need to know how to listen. That is again without judging nor minimizing the importance of what they are feeling. We need to understand that what may seem to us as simple or "foolish" may be an enormous concern for them.

If we show our child how to express themselves spontaneously, it will affirm their identity and self-esteem, which makes them into emotionally healthy individuals.

With these values, they will turn into sensible beings, who show respect for others, are firm in their beliefs and know how to make their own decisions.

* Talk with your child about your values and beliefs regarding unhealthy decisions such as alcohol, drugs, teen pregnancy, etc., and make sure they understand the dangers and problems associated with those decisions.

* Help your child feel good about him or herself. Give them lots of praise and encouragement at appropriate

times.

* Learn to really listen to your child. Know how and when to keep the lines of communication open.

* Help your child develop strong values. This will give your child the courage to make decisions based on facts rather than pressure from peers.

* Be a good role model. Kids are very aware of your attitudes and habits concerning issues such as alcohol, drugs and violence.

* Help your child deal with peer pressure. Teach them skills they can use to resist group pressure.

* Set firm rules about drinking and other drug use. Make family rules clear and

consistent. Be sure they understand the consequences of breaking these rules.

* Encourage healthy creative activities. Make sure your children have enough structure in their lives. Create fun activities for them and even join in.

* Talk with other parents. They're all going through the same thing that you are. If your child is going to a party, make sure there is a chaperone and that alcohol and other drugs will not be present at the party.

* Know what to do if you suspect a problem. Parents can learn to recognize the signs of alcohol or drug abuse and get help when needed.

Gifts property of White House, not Clintons

By Deb Riechmann

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — Sofas, chairs, a pair of lamps and other home furnishings that former President Clinton and Hillary Rodham Clinton took and then shipped back to Washington were property of the White House, not personal gifts they were entitled to keep, the government has ruled.

"I feel 99 percent certain that everything that's been returned to us is government property," said Jim McDaniel, speaking for the National Park Service, which conducted the examination.

The Clintons returned 19 items on Wednesday after some donors said their gifts were for the White House, not the former first family. The goods — valued at about \$28,000 and possibly more — were put on a truck in Chappaqua, N.Y., where the Clintons have a house, and shipped to a warehouse in a Maryland suburb of Washington where White House items are

stored.

"The list of what came in has been checked against our files," McDaniel said Thursday. "For the most part the objects that we received have corresponding letters on file from the Park Service accepting them as gifts for use in the White House."

It was not clear why the items ended up with the Clintons.

The former president and first lady, who now is a freshman Democratic senator from New York, declined to comment on the Park Service's finding.

On Monday, Clinton's office issued a statement saying every item the Clintons accepted had been identified by the White House gift office as a present to them. "Gifts did not leave the White House without the approval of the White House usher's and curator's offices," the statement said.

McDaniel said he had not found any evidence of clerical errors that could

have caused items meant for the White House to have been placed on the list of personal gifts the Clintons could choose to keep.

Still, the flap over the gifts has prompted McDaniel to review the Park Service's procedures for handling donations to the White House. "We'll use this as an opportunity to check ourselves to make sure we have a good, tight system," he said.

White House spokesman Anne Womack confirmed that the usher's office had received a list of the items returned.

"They're examining their records to see if they have any information that differs from what the Park Service has," she said.

After being criticized for taking \$190,000 worth of china, flatware, rugs, televisions, sofas and other gifts with them when they left the White House, the Clintons announced last week that they would pay for \$86,000

worth of gifts.

This week, questions arose over more than \$28,000 in items found on a list of donations the Park Service received for a 1993 White House redecoration project. The Washington Post this week quoted three donors who said that they had assumed the furnishings they donated for the project would stay in the White House.

Among the 19 gifts they returned were a kitchen table and four chairs valued at \$3,650 from Lee Ficks of Cincinnati; two sofas, an easy chair and an ottoman worth \$19,900 from Steve Mittman of New York; lamps valued at \$1,170 from Stuart Shiller of Hialeah, Fla.; and a \$2,843 sofa from Brad Noe, a businessman from California.

The other gifts the Clintons returned had not been disclosed as of Thursday. McDaniel said they included "lamps, tables and that kind of stuff" that also appear to be government property.

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