

about our friends

calendar

Parents of freshmen need to attend a Project Graduation organizational meeting at **7 p.m. today** at the high school cafeteria.

The American Heart Association will hold a Cardiac Arrest, a mock courtroom, **Thursday** at the municipal building in the city commission room. The cardiac arrest parole warden will be Donna Pickman, and a group of Sherman County residents will go to jail to raise money. The presiding judge will find participants guilty of some funny charges, such as being a tightwad, unwanted or a scumbucket. In order to be released, they have to post bail which they raise by asking colleagues, friends and neighbors for donations.

First grade music program will be held at **7 p.m. Thursday** in the high school auditorium. Students should report to the library at **6:45 p.m.** The theme of the program is "Songs for Fun."

Goodland Women of Faith invite all women to their monthly celebration from **9:30 a.m.-noon Saturday** at the "rock house" at Fifth and Caldwell. Bring a salad and a friend. Speaker will be Mary Thompson from Colorado Springs. An offering for our speaker will be taken. Bring your registration fees for the upcoming conference in Denver. Baby-sitting is always provided.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church will be hosting an annual soup and pie supper and craft and bake sale from **4:30-7 p.m. Saturday** at the church at 13th and Sherman.

Catholic Youth Group will be holding a soup supper from **5-8 p.m. Saturday** at the Catholic Church Family Center at 307 W. 13th.

The After 5 Christian Womens Club invites all women to the "Color Your World" dinner party at **7 p.m. Monday** at the Butterfly Cafe. Celeste Strid from Howard, Colo., an artist, will share how God has painted the background in our lives and continues to fill in the details. **For reservations call Barb at 899-5580 or Lori at 899-3828.**

"Sew Bee It" — What will be the name of the new needle club? Bring your name ideas to the next meeting from **7-9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14**, at Wheat Ridge Acres. The name contest will end that day.

The X-pressos are offering singing telegrams for Valentines this year **11 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14, and Friday, Feb. 15.** Call the high school at 899-5656 to order.

The Goodland Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star is holding an all-you-can-eat pancake and sausage feed from **7 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16**, at the Masonic Lodge at 519 Center.

SHARE pick up will be from **9 to 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 23**, at 824 Main for the February distribution of low-cost food.

activities

Born to Read — The Goodland Public Library offers Story Time for children under 3 from **5-5:30 p.m.** on the **second and fourth Tuesday evening**, and from **10-10:30 a.m. every Friday.**

Emotions Anonymous — meets at **7:30 p.m. every Wednesday** at the Goodland Regional Medical Center board room.

Century Families, for people whose family came to Sherman County more than 100 years ago, meets at **7 p.m. the second Monday** of the month at the Senior Center. For information, call 899-2835.

The Goodland Development Corp. meets at **6:30 p.m. every Tuesday** at 910 Main. Call 899-2342 or 899-6200 for information.

Aerobics Classes — **7:45 a.m. morning aerobics classes** are offered daily at the Goodland Activities Center. Tena Tompkins leads a **step aerobic class at 5:30 a.m.** Monday, Wednesday and Friday. On Tuesday and Thursday, a less intense class is offered. Call 899-7242.

Goodland Activities Center will have third-sixth grade boys **basketball at 6-8 p.m. Thursdays** now through March 7. The third-fifth grade girls will

play from **6:30-7:30 p.m. Mondays** from Feb. 4-March 11.

TOPS Meetings — Take Off Pounds Sensibly meets at **5:30 p.m. Mondays** in the small board room at Goodland Regional Medical Center. Weigh-in is at 5 p.m.

Family, Career, and Community Leaders of Goodland High School holds **Little Brothers and Little Sisters the third Thursday** of every month. High school students will play games, create crafts, and share snacks with pre-school children at 3:30 p.m. in the home economics room or cafeteria.

House Tours — Tours of the 1907 Victorian "Handy House" at 202 W. 13th are from **1-5 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays.**

Water Testing — A representative of the Northwest Local Environmental Protection Group will be available for a free well evaluation, including testing well water for bacteria and nitrates. To schedule an evaluation or discuss environmental concerns, call the Sherman County Health Department at 899-4888.

The **Carnegie Arts Center** is back to regular hours. The center will be open **10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Friday** and from **1-4 p.m. Saturday, Sunday and Monday.** The center will have a display of elementary school art **Feb. 3-28.**

school calendar

Thursday: Gold Day. "C" team tournament (make up from Jan. 31) consolation games in the junior high gym, girls 3:30 p.m. and boys 5 p.m. Championship games in the Max Jones Fieldhouse, girls 3:30 p.m. and boys 5 p.m. Seminar — DECA/FCA. First grade music program 7 p.m. in auditorium, practice 9:30-11 a.m. City/County Recreation sports 7:30 p.m. in the high school gym. **Friday:** Black Day. JV-V Wrestling at Oakley 5:30 p.m., depart 3:45 p.m. JV-V Basketball 5:30 p.m. with Oakley here. Boys JV game 5:30 p.m. in junior high gym, no girls JV game. Girls varsity game 5:30 p.m. in the Max Jones Fieldhouse followed by the boys varsity game. **Saturday:** Novice wrestling tournament 7:30 a.m. in Colby. Depart at 6 a.m. State Scholar Bowl. Fifth grade basketball 10-11 a.m. in Max Jones Fieldhouse. **Sunday:** Open gym 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Max Jones Fieldhouse. Dana Murray's team 2-4 p.m. in the high school gym.

school lunch menu

Thursday, Feb. 7: Pizza, lettuce salad, Jell-o with fruit and milk. **Friday, Feb. 8:** Hamburger gravy, mashed potatoes, cooked carrots, choice of dessert and milk.

senior center menu

Thursday: Salisbury steak, baked potato, peaches, bread and ice cream. **Friday:** Pasta, beef and tomato casserole, peas and carrots, tossed salad, ambrosia fruit salad and oatmeal/raisin cookie.

hospital report

Goodland Regional Medical Center Admitted on Tuesday: Swing bed: Nola Kehlbeck, Goodland.

Dismissed on Tuesday: Jessica Bonner, Goodland.

Specialists for Wednesday: Charles Ruggles, dermatologist, and James K. Warren, cardiologist.

Hospital Volunteer Schedule: **Thursday:** Mary Lou Franklin, a.m., and Patty Gensil, courtesy. **Friday:** Fern Hawks, a.m., Ruth Martin, courtesy and Virginia Bell, p.m.

today in history

Feb. 6, 1902: First Congregational Church has had a very "moving" history. Erected in Voltaire and moved to Goodland in 1889, it has now been moved three blocks to its present location. (10th and Broadway in 2002.)

From *The Goodland News*; provided by the Sherman County Historical Society.

crimestoppers

If you have information about any crime, call the Goodland Area Crime Stoppers "Look Line" at 899-5665. Your call will be confidential and you will not be asked your name. If the information you give results in the arrest and/or conviction of those involved,

you could be eligible for a reward of up to \$1,000. The Goodland Area Crime Stoppers is a nonprofit organization formed by citizens against crime.

child care issues

If you have questions, concerns or complaints about child care in Sherman County, call the county health department office at (785) 899-4888.

family shelter

The Northwest Kansas Family Shelter provides services day or night to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. Weekly support groups are available for women and children in the northwest Kansas area. For information or assistance, call toll-free (800) 794-4624.

tree donations

Many trees at the Goodland Cemetery have died and the cemetery board is trying to replace them. Contributions for the Goodland Cemetery Memorial Tree Fund can be left at Koons or Bateman funeral homes or sent to the Goodland Cemetery Board, Box 59, Goodland, Kan. 67735. Donations may be made in memory of a loved one.

animal shelter

Lost a pet? Call the Goodland Police Department at 899-4570. Interested in adopting a pet? Call the Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter at 899-6464.

wheelchairs

The Senior Wheels USA Program offers electric wheelchairs to senior citizens (65 and up) and the permanently disabled at no cost. The wheelchairs are for those who can't walk or use a manual wheelchair. If your need is for home use and you want to find out if you qualify, call Leon Johnson at (800) 246-6010.

The Independent Seniors Program makes electric wheelchairs available to senior citizens (65 and up) and others permanently disabled at no cost if they qualify. If your need is for in the home, call Jay Hetzel at (800) 383-8435 for information.

water well tests

The Northwest Local Environmental Protection Group provides environmental health services to Sherman County. There will be a representative in the county at least once a month. Services include: Free water well evaluations and testing for nitrates and bacteria, free private sewer system layout, sizing and general troubleshooting, sanitary code requirements and assistance with other environmental concerns. Contact your county health department, conservation district or the office at (785) 462-8636.

asthma medication

Breathing medications and nebulizers are available to people with severe breathing conditions at no cost if they qualify. Call the LifeStyle Medical Program at (800) 519-4480 to find out if you qualify.

scholarships

The following scholarships are available to students enrolling at the **Northwest Kansas Technical College:** Kansas PTA scholarship, \$200; Kansas Vocational Technical scholarship, \$500; Martin Tractor Co. scholarship for diesel mechanics students, \$100; the Warren Bottenberg Memorial scholarship for students from a Jackson County high school; the Bud Ward Memorial scholarship for a student from Oakley, Monument, Winona or Brewster; and the GAAS scholarship for automotive students. Anyone interested in applying should contact Paul Chaffin or Jacquelyn Beal at (785) 899-3641.

free trees

Each person who joins the National Arbor Day Foundation during February will receive 10 free Colorado blue spruce trees. The trees will be shipped postpaid at the right time for planting between March 1 and May 31 with planting instructions. The six to 12 inch trees are guaranteed to grow or they will be replaced free of charge. To join the foundation and receive the trees, send a \$10 contribution to: Ten Free Colorado blue spruce trees, National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Ave., Nebraska City, Neb. 68410 by Feb. 28.

Snow a blanket for wheat

SNOW — We finally got some of that precious white stuff. It was certainly well-received even though it had a very small amount of moisture in it.

One farmer told me he'll take some every week, moisture or not, as it acts like a blanket for his wheat crop. Guess there is good of some sort in everything.

The community is again saying farewell to a couple of residents. Harold Wise and Tom Conarty passed away this last week. I didn't personally know either of these gentlemen but did know of some of their relatives. To the families of these departed, I express my sincere sympathy and remind them that the Almighty will be and is with them during these difficult times.

Gertrude Renner remains in the hospital; her progress is not as one would like to see. Her daughter Sally Farr is in the hospital in Denver following some surgery and will be there for a few more weeks.

Myrtle Vinduska has returned to her home following her stay in the hospital. Harold Johnson was in the hospital toward the end of the week, and I'm not sure what his status is. These and all others with health problems, best of wishes for recovery.



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I've got one birthday on my calendar and one anniversary: Judy Nemecek on the 6th and Bud and Pat Perrey's anniversary on the 5th. Best wishes to these and any others having a special day.

The town has had several organizations and churches having their fund raising meals. I took in the Lion's pancake feed at the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the kids' biscuits and gravy lunch at the Christian Church.

St. Paul's will be having their annual pancake supper on the 12th, Shrove Tuesday, preceding Ash Wednesday on the 13th. The Masonic group will be having their pancake fund raiser on the 16th. I hope you folks can show your support to these organizations' fundraisers.

Hopefully some of my work will slow down with the completion of a bunch of end-of-the-month reports I had to get in. I'm either getting lazy or

just slowing down, as it seems to take me more time to get some of these things done.

It always amazes me the comments I get from families whose losses I mentioned in this column. Guess the thing is, people like to be remembered during these sad times, and a few words of compassion is a very large part of them getting through these tough times.

I haven't gotten around much this week due first to the cold and snow and then I seemed to have picked up a bug that made me very miserable for a few days. I think I've got it on the run but will still stay on low-keyed activity for a few more days.

Several others have the same stuff, and they too have been staying in and not going out to a lot of activities. I guess that's the secret of trying to get this stopped. *The Salina Journal* had an article about this bug, and they said cold, wet weather won't have an effect on the bug as it is more of a virus than a bacteria.

With no further news that I know of, I'll get this ready for the paper. Take care of yourself 'til next time.

Republicans abandon budget cuts

TOPEKA (AP) — Republicans abandoned an effort to cut \$54 million from the current state budget after failing to find enough support in the Senate.

The proposal for an immediate reduction of 1.2 percent in the \$4.5 billion budget is dead, Senate President Dave Kerr said after calling off a debate that was set for Tuesday afternoon.

Kerr, R-Hutchinson, predicted the Senate will vote to raise taxes on alcohol and tobacco and allow the state to use rainy day funds to help bring revenue in line with spending. But significant reductions still will be needed, he said.

Gov. Bill Graves, who supports increasing taxes, concurred budget cuts are likely whether or not the state raises new revenues. He wouldn't respond to GOP leaders' decision Tuesday and said only that legislators have a lot of work to do.

"We just need to give them time to do their work," he told reporters.

Graves, some Senate Republicans and all 10 Senate Democrats opposed the measure to cut spending in the remaining months of the 2002 fiscal year,

which ends June 30. That meant at least 21 of the Senate's 30 Republican members would have had to support the bill.

Kerr took a count during and after a meeting of Senate Republicans on Tuesday morning. He said later a vote would have been close, although he declined to say how close.

The bill would have spared public schools, but would have reduced funding for higher education and social services.

Many critics were concerned about a \$2.9 million cut for the Department on Aging. Secretary Connie Hubbell has said the money would come out of meals programs and in-home services for the elderly.

"There wasn't much wiggle room in this budget to begin with," said Sen. Sandy Praeger, R-Lawrence, who opposed the bill. "To make cuts now would have a devastating effect."

Kerr and other supporters said any cuts in the current budget could have been carried over into the state's 2003 fiscal year, which begins July 1, making it easier to balance the 2003 budget.

The state is trying to close a projected \$426 million gap between expected revenues and spending commitments for

fiscal 2003. Legislative leaders expect the picture to get worse in March, when state officials and university economists revise revenue estimates.

"The deficits are going to be so big in '03, the cuts are going to be so deep or the tax increases so high that I don't see how we're going to come to a consensus," said Sen. Robert Tyson, R-Parker, who supported the bill. "We didn't have the discipline, so we'll pay later."

Though pleased with Tuesday's developments, Democrats criticized GOP leaders for the process they used to make a decision on whether to go forward with the bill.

"These issues need to be dealt with in an open meeting and an open vote and not behind closed doors," said Minority Leader Anthony Hensley, D-Topeka. "I think it's extraordinary they would have a secret ballot."

The House had been waiting on the Senate, with some representatives predicting the bill had a good chance of passing. But GOP leaders are not planning to push the issue.

"It really would be a waste of time to take a vote on it," said Speaker Kent Glasscock, R-Manhattan.

Committee rejects all maps of districts

TOPEKA (AP) — A Senate committee redrawing the state's four congressional districts has rejected all of the maps under consideration.

The Senate Reapportionment Committee had hoped to endorse a map during its meeting Tuesday, but no plan received more than four votes from the 12-member panel.

Sticking points included whether to unite all of southeast Kansas in one U.S. House district and where to put the city of Lawrence, now in the 3rd District with Johnson, Wyandotte and Miami counties.

"It seems we have members that are more interested in focusing on problems than on solutions," said committee Chairman David Adkins, R-Leawood, who did not cast a vote.

Meanwhile, a Kansas House committee redrawing that chamber's 125 districts presented a new plan that addresses some of the worries of minority Democrats.

The new Kansas House map reduces the number of Democratic incumbents who would have to run against each other for re-election this fall. An earlier proposal would have collapsed 10 districts now represented by Democrats into five.

All of the new maps — of the Kansas House, Kansas Senate, U.S. House

and State Board of Education districts — are being created to reflect gains and losses of population according to the 2000 census.

Members of the Senate Reapportionment Committee spent Tuesday's meeting picking over the details of several new congressional maps presented to them Monday. Each plan was given a nickname.

The "Kansas Day" map, proposed by Sen. Derek Schmidt, R-Independence, would put Lawrence and all of southeast Kansas in the 2nd District; extend the vast 1st District from the Colorado border to the Missouri line; put portions of Linn County in the 3rd District; and add McPherson County to the 4th District, which includes the Wichita area.

Democrats offered a map called "Kansas Day 2," which would place Lawrence, Wyandotte County and about half of Johnson County in the 3rd District. The rest of the map resembles Schmidt's proposal.

The "January Blue" map, produced by a special redistricting committee last year, would move Lawrence into the 2nd District and Franklin County into the 3rd, while leaving Montgomery County in the 4th District. The 1st District would span the state from Colorado to Missouri.

Sponsors of a fourth map — "Barber Congressional" — were not disclosed.

Their plan would create a 1st District stretching from northwest to southeast Kansas; place all of northeast Kansas, including Lawrence, in the 2nd District; carve a new 3rd District from Wyandotte County south along the Missouri border to include most of Crawford County; and leave Wichita and the surrounding counties in the 4th District.

Adkins said his goal is to get a congressional map and a new state Senate map to the chamber floor by next week.

Leaders of the House Redistricting Committee said they were on target to send their bill to the House chamber for a vote next week.

The latest Kansas House map — developed by majority Republicans after a week of negotiations with Democrats — would create three new districts in Johnson County and one in Sedgwick County while reducing the number of seats from rural areas.

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