

Schools join city, county in hiring grant writer

By Rachel Miscal
The Goodland Daily News
 Goodland School Board members agreed Monday to work with the city and county commissioners to hire a grant writer who will find money to pay for projects and programs for all three. Members took a five-minute break to sign an agreement Schyler Goodwin, president of the Goodland Development Corp., brought to the meeting. Dick Short, board president, will have to sign later, as he was out of town. After signing, members voted to participate with the city and county in the program. Goodwin, who first presented the program to the three groups a few months ago, said the agreement, among other things, outlined the duties of the grant writer and how the person will be paid. City, county and school board offi-

cials have voted to pay \$12,000 each into the program. The \$36,000 will be used for salary and any other expenses, and the grant writer will receive a cut of money brought in. Goodwin said an advisory board formed to run the program will meet at noon on Thursday to discuss hiring a grant writer. He said the board, made up of city, county and school officials and some at-large members, has already received one resume before advertising the position. "I hope to alleviate some of the budget problems," Goodwin said. Money problems at the state level will likely affect every person, business and organization in Sherman County this year. On the subject of money, Superintendent Marvin Selby reported that he received good news from Blue Cross and Blue Shield, the district's health

insurance provider, about insurance rates. Most districts' rates will increase 35 percent next school year, he said, but teachers here will see a much smaller hike, about a \$10 increase per person, per policy. That should cost the district about \$19,500, Selby said, noting the district paid about \$60,000 more for insurance this school year. "By comparison, that looks pretty good," he said. In other business, the board: • Voted to allow three students to graduate from high school a semester early next school year. Jenna Roane said she wants to become a pharmacist and plans to take classes at the community college in Garden City before transferring to Kansas State University. Kevin Kibel, who said he will be 19 this year, said he wants to start work-

ing full-time so he can pay for the tools he'll need to start his career as a line man. He said he will take classes this summer and plans to attend a two-year college in Pratt. Emily Langness, who said this is her fourth year in high school, said if she takes an English Composition class this summer she will have enough credits to graduate in January. She said she might finish the year, but wants the option to graduate early. Selby said Langness was home schooled for most of her junior year and is a great asset to the music program and student body. • Agreed to pay \$6,569 in annual membership dues to the Kansas Association of School Boards. Members also agreed to pay \$900 for legal services the association provides. Selby said the payments are in the district's budget. • Heard reports from three of the

district's five principals. Gerald Burkett, West Elementary School principal, and Harvey Swager, high school principal, were at a track meet in Goodland. They came to the meeting later to talk briefly about the meet, but didn't give reports. Sharon Gregory, Central Elementary principal, said a recent third-grade trip to a museum in Dodge City was successful. She said museum staff told her the students were well behaved. Gregory said on Friday, April 19, the fourth grade will attend the Shrine Circus in Salina. Steve Raymer, North Elementary principal, said sixth-grade students will attend the "Career Days" fair this morning at the Northwest Kansas Technical College campus. He said the sixth grade music program has been moved to Tuesday, April 23. Jim Mull, Grant Junior High princi-

pal, said eighth-grade students are busy preparing their projects for the annual science fair. They turned in rough drafts on Monday. Mull said half of the school's students are out for track this year and the team will be attending a meet in Oakley on Thursday. When the team has a home meet, he said, all students will be dismissed early. • Accepted a Professional Development Council report from Mull, the council's representative. The council keeps track of teacher training hours and how teachers apply information they've learned in the classroom. • Approved paying \$68,300 in monthly bills and transferring \$102,000 from the general fund to the special education account and a total of \$200,000 from the local option budget, with \$20,000 going to technology, \$100,000 to transportation and \$80,000 to vocational education.

Powell tells Israelies fighting won't end terrorist threat

INTERNATIONAL
 MADRID, Spain — Declaring he was proud and pleased to be on a Mideast peace mission, Secretary of State Colin Powell told Israel today that its military operations against Palestinians on the West Bank would not eliminate the threat of terror. He said frustrations would remain among the Palestinian people that could only be addressed in negotiations. Powell said he spoke with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon while in Madrid to map out the meeting they will hold in Jerusalem tomorrow. Powell spoke at a joint news conference with Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov after the two edged closer to an accord to reduce U.S. and Rus-

sian long-range nuclear weapons. Ivanov pledged Moscow's support for Powell's peace mission and said he will be in Washington in early May to continue arms talks with Powell. CARACAS, Venezuela — A revolt against leadership at the state-owned oil monopoly spiraled into a national crisis after Venezuela's largest business and labor groups extended a general strike indefinitely. The labor strife has seriously affected oil exports in Venezuela, the world's fourth-largest oil exporter and the No. 3 supplier to the United States. In Washington, Energy Secretary

Spencer Abraham said the Bush administration was closely watching events. The announcement late yesterday of the extended strike was cheered by thousands of Venezuelans gathered outside the headquarters of the 1 million-member Venezuelan Workers Confederation and the Caracas offices of Petroleos de Venezuela, the oil company. The International Energy Agency warned that Venezuela's crisis and political uncertainties in the Middle East could upset the oil market. Since last week, managers at Petroleos de Venezuela have been staging a

slowdown to demand that President Hugo Chavez rescind a new corporate board they consider unqualified. Other labor groups started the general strike to show their support for the protesting managers. **NATIONAL**
 CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Space shuttle Atlantis' astronauts exchanged hugs and handshakes with the three men aboard the international space station, then got ready for a big construction job. Atlantis docked at the station yesterday, delivering nearly \$1 billion worth of new construction parts, including a 44-foot girder. The two crews planned to begin installing the girder and its attached railcar today, the most challenging day of the shuttle mission. Space station Alpha's residents were thrilled to have guests after four long months in orbit. After quick greetings, the astronauts practiced using the space station's robot arm, putting it through the paces slated for today's girder work. They also organized the equipment needed for today's spacewalk, the first of four planned during Atlantis' visit. Shuttle commander Michael Bloomfield and his crew brought fresh food and clean clothes for the station residents, including barbecued beef for a welcoming feast. Atlantis will stay for a full week.

CHARLESTON, W.Va. — Online scams cost nearly 10,000 Americans a total of \$18 million last year, a report says. Almost half of 16,775 fraud cases investigated by the Internet Fraud Complaint Center involved online auctions, according to the center's annual report. Other scams included non-delivery of promised merchandise and credit card fraud. The median loss was \$435. A scam known as Nigerian letter fraud netted more than \$5,000 per victim, the center said. The con involves an e-mail purportedly sent from the Nigerian government requesting use of the recipient's bank account to receive millions of dollars in funds, generally described as over-invoiced contracts. The e-mails then ask for upfront cash to pay for licenses, taxes or other non-existent fees. Victims of Internet cons ranged in age from 10 to 100. Those over 60 were most at risk for losing large amounts of money, the report said. Created in 2000 and based in Fairmont, the complaint center is a joint venture of the FBI and the National White Collar Crime Center. Richard Johnston, who directs the center, expected complaints to rise from 1,000 a week to 1,000 a day next year as the center becomes better known.

WASHINGTON — Aligning themselves with 40 Nobel laureates, senators who support human cloning research say they will not let President Bush's efforts to impose a cloning ban jeopardize the promise such research holds for curing disease. Bush yesterday pressed the Senate for such a ban, saying that cloning humans in and of itself is unconscionable, and that even for research purposes it could set the nation on a path "into a world we could live to regret." The president expressed his support for a ban proposed by Sens. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., and Mary Landrieu, D-La. "Life is a creation, not a commodity," Bush said. But the president's appeal did little to slow efforts by a handful of senators to craft a compromise that would ban the cloning of human beings but leave room for embryo research. One author, Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., said yesterday there was "a significant group in the Senate determined to defeat" an outright ban. "If the millions of people who suffer from Parkinson's and Alzheimer's and heart disease and cancer — and every other known malady — realize that potential cures are going to be impeded, they'll let their senators know a thing or two," Specter said.

ap news capsules

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Musical has a patriotic theme

PLAY, from Page 1
 humorous spy plot, has got something for everyone. "I think it's going to cover all emotions," she said, "and will bring back memories for people who were alive in the 1940s." It is different from past arts council productions because it has a cast of 25, including light and sound operators, and it's a musical. "This is the first time they've ever done anything like this," she said, adding that the cast members have great voices. "Everybody just came out of the woodwork," Hayden said. "Some people said they couldn't sing and they're singing wonderfully." The director said the cast has been practicing since the end of February and rehearsals have gone smoothly.

"We're having a ball," she said, noting that each cast member is responsible for finding their own costume. She said some will be wearing the actual uniforms owned by Sherman County World War II veterans. Marion Armstrong, who plays a German spy, said there are a bunch of new cast members who have never before acted in an arts council production. One is Jeanie Schields, a Sherman County farmer who fills one of the lead roles. "I think it's just been a lot of fun," Schields said. "You get to meet a lot of people and you're able to be creative." She said in most jobs, like farming, there's no chance to be creative. Schields said she's been involved in a play production before, but has never acted. She said Hayden, a good friend,

called one day to ask if she would help with the play. Two days later, Schields said, Hayden called again to ask if she would take a little part and then two days later she asked if she would take a bigger part. "I guess that's what friends are for," she joked. For information, call Goodwin at (785) 899-6442.

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