



Mark and Laura Wing have opened Off Center, a trendy store that also serves as a base of operations for the couple's several businesses. Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

Family opens business, located near downtown

By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Star-News

A growing family business has led to the opening of a trendy store near downtown Goodland.

Off Center, owned by Mark and Laura Wing, sells an assortment of items, including knives, sunglasses, clothing, body jewelry, candy and snacks.

The couple is also beginning a "life coaching" service in the store at 104 W. 11th. Laura has been going around Goodland with her basket of gourmet goodies, Wing Ding's, and Mark has been providing classy transportation through Imperial Limousine Services.

The couple was looking for office space for the life coaching, Mark said, and had been doing a little side business on the Internet selling stuff. They decided the space on 11th would give them a store front, office space and a warehouse for

Wing Ding's.

"Really, it's a place for the Wing empire," he said.

Mark said they wanted a store that's kind of trendy, and Laura agreed, adding that it provides something different, especially for teen-agers.

Nonetheless, the Wings were surprised by one of the trends.

"The things selling weren't things I would have anticipated," Mark said, "like the body jewelry."

Laura said she was surprised to discover how many people in Goodland have tongue and belly button piercings. But she said she finds the business exciting.

"There have been quite a few teenagers in," she said, "and I can't wait to get more clothes for them."

Now that the Wings have a place for it, they are also beginning Personal Life Coaching Services. Laura said she has a degree in psy-

chology and did counseling for years, including being a private counselor and being the mental health coordinator at a prison.

She said she wanted to start the life coaching when she left her last job, but Wing Ding's came along and that kept her busy.

The life coaching classes will include sales achievement, addiction relief goals, a team building class, domestic awareness and time management. One-on-one coaching is available for all except the team building class.

The domestic awareness class includes information on domestic violence, child rearing and budgeting. The Wings said they provide support, encouragement and direction and give people a coach to cheer them on to success.

Off Center is open from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. most days, Laura said, depending on how busy it is.

District buys new Suburban, takes bids on roof

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

The Goodland School Board planned to meet at 7 a.m. this morning to review bids on the high school roof, and decide how much of the project to do this summer.

At Tuesday's regular board meeting, Superintendent Marvin Selby said the architect was expecting to have eight to 10 bids to open at 2 p.m. on Thursday.

Selby said the bidders have been asked to break up the project into three sections, the roof over the science rooms, the section over the gym and front building, and the auditorium. Estimates are \$122,000 for section one, \$115,000 for section two and \$126,000 for section three. He said these do not include the architect fees.

Selby said the district has \$600,000 in the capital outlay budget, and that the annual 4-mill property tax brings in about \$265,000 a year. The recent improvement program has \$113,000 a year tied up for the next three years, he said, leaving about \$150,000 each year to handle the needs of all the school

buildings.

Selby said it will be up to the board to look at the bids and see what options can be approved this year.

"The architect told me that he has quite a number of contractors who are wanting work," Selby said, "and that some recent bids were much lower than estimated. We can hope that is true for our roof project."

Of three bids for a new suburban, board member Kathy Russell said the offer from Dan Brenner Ford was the lowest. She said bids had been received from Herl Chevrolet-Buick and from Finley Motors.

Brenner bid \$27,450 for a 2003 Ford Excursion.

Ron Schilling made the motion to accept the low bid from Brenner, seconded by Ben Duell, and it passed 6-0.

The bid from Herl was \$29,246, and from Finley \$30,148.

Selby said that a recent meeting in Scott City to discuss a new super league did not go well, and he did not think they would be invited to another meeting.

"We went to the meeting hoping

they were going to all be open to looking at this," he said, "but Larned and Pratt were anti-Colby and Goodland."

He said Thomas Moore Prep of Hays, Ulysses and Scott City want to be in the league with Colby and Goodland. He said they may try to join the Northwest Kansas League as an alternative.

"The meeting was not very successful," Selby said, "and I was not very polite."

High School Principal Harvey Swager said he agreed that the meeting was a disappointment, but believes that when Larned and Pratt run out of people to play in their area they will probably be more interested in talking to Goodland and Colby.

In other business, the board:

- Approved payment of bills totaling \$28,979.

- Accepted the resignation of Rhonda Palmer as a kindergarten teacher. Hired Barb Bedore as the assistant volleyball coach and Connie Livengood to be the summer weight lifting assistant.

- Discussed negotiations with the

School board presents special awards

The School board presented a number of special student and staff recognition certificates at the meeting Tuesday.

Music

Daniel Blake, Alan Cebula, Mae Davis, Josef Felver, Kristi Hawkins, Amanda Hoffman, Katy Hurst, Matt Hurst, Amanda Jolly, Timothy Kafka, Colleen Koehler, Preston Lambrecht, Emily Langness, Bill Linin, Michael Mangus, Alyssa Mason, Craig Mason, Megan McCall, Janae McKee, Jeff Moore Courtney Palmer, Laurie Redlin, Matt Ries, Megan Rubio, Ian Scherling, Lacy Stephens, Briana Taylor, Tiffany Thomas, Josh Topliff, Tammy Weeter, Brandon Zelfer, Mike Zimmerman.

DECA

Bryce Chatfield, Randi Gray, Tiffany Schwasinger.

Science Olympiad

Lea Acuff, Amy Anderson, Alan Cebula, Andrea

Fenner, Rebecca Gattshall, Matt Heiter, Trista Lalicker, Megan Leonard, Bill Linin, Kayla Rasure, Brittney Redlin.

FCCLA

Alan Cebula, Katrina Cotter, Tom Cotter, Aaron Duell, Stephanie Fairbanks, Jordan Frazier, Andrea Grieve, Matt Hall, Amanda Hoffman, Jeremy Hoffman, Amanda Jolly, Brett Lalicker, Deanna Livengood, Samantha Philbrick, Donald Raymer, Matt Rohr, Kevin Schulte, Morgan Titus.

Board member Kathy Russell presented Dick Short as an honorary member of FCCLA, and to Sarah Short as the state advisor of the year.

Short presented a special award to Amanda Hoffman for serving as State President for FCCLA.

Superintendent Marvin Selby then presented John Felver a special award from the University of Kansas for his 25 years of teaching.

Russell received a Friend of Education award.

High school keeps block scheduling next year

BLOCK, from Page 1

the start of school in September.

Students have already enrolled on the block schedule for next year.

He noted that with block scheduling, the class offerings have increased from 73 to 80, and that students have a better choice of electives. With the traditional seven-hour day, those in band and vocal would be limited.

One question was what type of study habits the block scheduling has produced for some students. Swager said it is the same type of system the students will find at college, where classes often meet only two or three days a week.

He said scores on annual tests have gotten better under the block scheduling, and that the ACT scores college entrance scores have improved as well.

"Our scores are not where we would like them to be," he said, "but they have shown improvement."

"Our dropout rate, among schools our size, is one of the lowest in the state."

In 2001, he said, the state dropout rate for Class 4A schools was 6.5 students while the figure for Goodland was less than one student, .8. In the past year, the 4A figure dropped to 3.8 and the Goodland figure was .3, second-best in the state.

Several students spoke up about the block schedule, and the seminar period in particular.

They said they liked the seminar system and that it gave them time to

do their homework during the day, and that they tried to use the time to their advantage.

Russell said she felt the students who were talking were those who were going to do well, but wondered what could be done for the average student.

Swager said changing to a seven-hour day would increase homework to an average of three hours a day, more than the present system.

A parent of a recent graduate said her daughter had started in sports in junior high and without the study time at school, she was nearly exhausted by the end of the day. She said when she was in high school and they moved to the block schedule, it helped her in both her school work and sports.

Board member Ron Schilling had questioned the block schedule because it seems like those involved in spring sports are missing a lot of classes.

Swager said that while the students may be missing classes, under block scheduling they have more opportunities to make them up than they would under the seven-hour day.

"It does not mean it is perfect," Swager said, "and we want to look at alternatives with the information we have gained over the past few years."

One aspect of the effort is to approach the school as a community, and Swager asked Mary Porterfield, high school language arts teacher, to discuss what this means and the plans the staff has.

She said the teachers were looking at six areas, and that academics goes first.

Talking about the school as a community, Porterfield said this was not the same as the school as a part of the bigger community, but as a community within the school itself.

The six areas are academics and high expectations; teacher and student learning; supporting all learners through the No Child Left Behind program; school community engaged and involved; personal connections; and school community attitude.

She said they had formed committees to work on the academics, involvement, personal connections and attitude with a chairman for each. Each committee will try to meet during the summer and come up with some suggestions.

Porterfield said the academics committee was going to look at targeting freshmen and especially look at steps that can be taken if they see a student falling behind.

JoAnn Wahrman, a member of the community involvement committee, said they want to get freshmen to be part of the school

"We want to get the freshmen involved," she said, "and make them

feel there is someone who cares about their success."

On the personal connections committee, vocal instructor Randy Berls said they spent a lot of time talking about what could be done with the seminar period and how it could be modified. He said the committee would be meeting over the summer to look at alternatives and make suggestions that could be put in place at the beginning of the school year.

Tremor Kizer, band instructor, said the attitude committee was going to look at the physical environment and see what could be done to make the school more of a place where you want to learn. He said they were going to look for ways to celebrate student success and provide more student recognition.

Porterfield said they hope to have pieces of this ready by August and asked the board for their support.

Board member Mike Campbell said he felt block scheduling was a good move, and that it appears the schedule has produced.

Board President Dick Short said he was glad to see the high school staff members present at the meeting, and that he was glad to see they were talking about this issue.

Porterfield said that no matter

what schedule you have, the real question is whether each student is doing their best and if there are opportunities for them to learn.

She said the staff was open to solve problems, but they did like the block schedule.

Board Member Jane Philbrick made a motion to allow the high school staff to study the block schedule until December, when it would be brought back to the board for a decision.

Porterfield said trying to put all this together in two weeks was not enough time, and while they could jump from the block schedule to something else, she did not feel that would be the best for the students.

"Whatever we do, we want to do the best for the kids," Superintendent Marvin Selby said.

The motion passed 6-0 with board member Eric Gray absent.

27, to discuss the organizational matters, including which committees they want to serve on. He said following the meeting, they and their spouses were invited to a dinner at his house to honor the outgoing board members. The organizational meeting for the new board is to be held on Monday, July 7.

The next regular board meeting will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday, June 9, at the district office on Main.

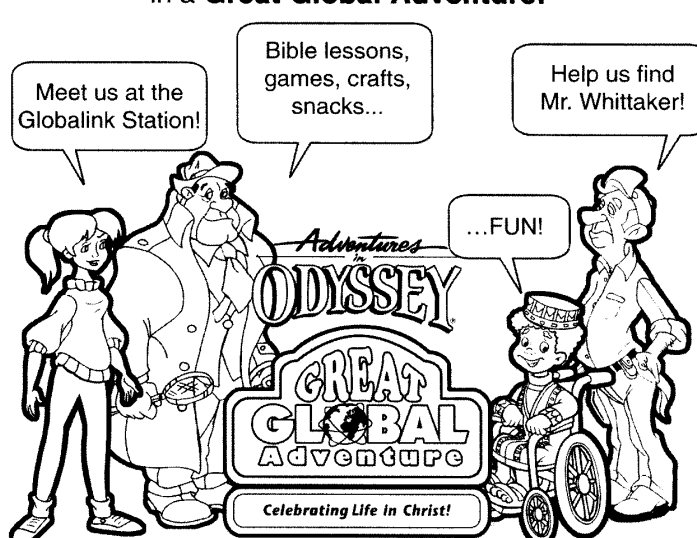
corrections

An obituary for Darrell Moore on Page 2 of the Tuesday, May 27, issue of *The Goodland Star-News* may have left some readers confused about his name. His proper name was Francis Moore. He went by Frank at times and by Darrell at others. This information was not provided with the original obituary.

☆☆☆☆☆
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