

Governor opens statewide education forum

FORUM, from Page 1

the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center of Oakley, said she agreed with the governor's vision of education and the idea that education does begin at birth.

She said some changes are needed in the special education area and that she felt they had to be careful about "label-based funding." She did not think she liked the centralized funding of early childhood programs without more information.

Ed Hammond, president of Fort Hays State University, had a letter from the state's deans of education, saying the deans support the recommendations of the education team, and that they were glad to see a seamless quality "P-16" system included in the recommendations. P-16 is defined as preschool through the four years of higher education, as opposed to the usual "K-12" designation.

The letter included a number of sugges-

tions about developing a system to recruit and retain competent teachers. One of the suggestions was to provide health benefits statewide through a state program.

Curtis Wilson of Cheyenne Wells, Colo., asked to have a letter read from the financial aid office at Kansas University denying a young girl's application to have resident tuition.

Wilson said the girl had started at the university on a \$5,000 scholarship, and that she had done all the things that were required to become a Kansas citizen.

"I think it is a problem when our children are having trouble finishing their education," Wilson said.

"Let me get that to the right folks," Gov. Sebelius said. "I cannot guarantee a change, but I will see it gets reviewed."

A lady asked what happened to the lottery money. She thought it was supposed to be used for education. The governor said most lottery money was designated for eco-

nom ic development and prisons. She said the rest can be used for other projects designated by the Legislature.

"I know a lot of people thought education was to get lottery funds," Sebelius said, "but it was not in the law."

Ron Clark, a school board member from Oakley, said he felt the system was picking on the wrong people by using the property tax to raise money for education.

"I don't have an answer to where the money should come from," he said, "but I was wondering if we shouldn't consider taxing education degrees. Aren't they worth something."

"We could charge those with degrees like we do farmers, with a two-year degree being worth two quarters of land, a bachelor's degree worth four quarters, a master's would be six to eight quarters and a doctor's degree would be up to 12 quarters."

"I believe this forum has already elevated education a couple of notches," said Ken

Clouse, president of the Northwest Kansas Technical College. "Money is the critical issue. We need to become more active with the citizenry.

"Not everyone needs a bachelor's degree. We need Main Street people to do the jobs like air conditioning repair and car repair.

"Another problem is that 30 percent of the students we see come unprepared to learn. We need to put more emphasis on the idea that education is from the womb to the tomb."

Amy Ihrig, an early childhood teacher, said she felt education must start even before pre-school.

Pat Paulsen, a first grade teacher, said she thought that a stable family is important for children.

"Having two parents is important," she said. "I see more success in the students that have both parents."

Lindsey Imig, an eighth grade teacher in

her third year, said she wanted to say on behalf of the younger teachers that the mentoring program is very helpful.

Harvey Swager, Goodland High school Principal, said he had been here for nine years, and that these days it is had to find good teachers and they are having trouble finding science and physics teachers.

Carl Pratt, a Hoxie High junior, said he hoped to continue his education in music and drama.

"I want to be able to pay for it," he said. "I am looking for a good school in Kansas where I can continue my education."

In closing, Gov. Sebelius encouraged those who attended to send their comments in to the state.

"We are interested in what you have to say," she said. "Coming to these sessions gives us a chance to look at education through a different lens.

"It is important to look at the future and our education system."

Sebelius stops here

GOVERNOR, from Page 1

schools," she said. "We know that Kansans demand priorities for their tax dollars, and that education is one of the highest. Most of all, we want to find Kansas systems that work. While the federal programs are important, they are not without some problems.

"We want to look at how we do this in Kansas, and feel this is more than a 'K-16' program. We need to put more emphasis on the pre-

school and have more good teachers for the youngest children. Our parents are critical to the success of our education system."

Sebelius said she delayed implementation of the new "destination" sales tax system because she did not want to impose a burden on Main Street businesses.

"We are one of the first states to do this," she said. "I believe we can make it work, but until the details are completed, we do not want to put any burdens on our businesses."

Day honors service

CEREMONY, from Page 1

Pearl Harbor and 9/11. He described his experiences while serving in the U.S. Army in the final months of World War II and Korea. Tedford brought mementos of his service to share with the audience.

Connie Jo Johnson, a nurse's aide at the Goodland Regional Medical Center, talked about what it meant to her to be an American and a member of the medical profession. She was followed by Dr. Travis Daise, representing the area's physicians, who spoke of the pride he and his colleagues felt for the medical personnel who worked tirelessly in response to the 9/11 catastrophe.

John Boyington, a six-year U.S. Navy veteran, was serving on the USS Maryland during the attack on

Pearl Harbor and remained with the ship throughout the war.

Chester returned to the podium and recognized law enforcement officers and volunteer firemen. He said he admired them for their dedication and thanked them for their service. He next saluted those attending who currently serve in the military and those who are veterans.

The high school show choir, the "X-Pressos," led by choral music director Randy Berls, followed with a rendition of "God Bless the USA."

Pastor Robert Snyder of Grace Fellowship Church gave the closing benediction. The service concluded with the retirement of the colors while "Taps" was being played by Isabel Hellerud of Goodland accompanied by Michael Mangus, a senior at Goodland High School.



County Commissioner Mitch Tiede scraped as much as possible out of each can of flammable material he handled Saturday morning. The materials were emptied from their individual containers

into 55-gallon drums for shipment to Hays.

Photos by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News

Six tons of materials collected

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

Nearly six tons of materials was dropped off by county residents Saturday morning at the Sherman County Household Hazardous Waste facility.

Although the number of people who dropped off materials, 92, was fewer than the previous two drop-offs, a record amount of materials was gathered, 11,791 pounds.

Rural Fire Chief Kenny Griffith, the county's household waste coordinator, said this exceeded the previous record by more than 300 pounds.

"It was a success, and I want to thank everyone for participating," Griffith said. "I want to thank the volunteers for their help."

Griffith emphasized that the amount of material gathered Sat-

urday, and the previous two times, is toxic or harmful substances that will not end up in the county's landfill where it could contaminate ground water.

Helping Griffith and Daryl West, head of the county's Noxious Weed Department, as volunteers were County Commissioner Mitch Tiede; William McKnight of Goodland, county building superintendent; Curtis Way, manager of public works; and Griffith's son David.

Karen Purvis, one of two full-time environmental associates at the Ellis County Environmental Office, was there to supervise the operation and provide technical expertise.

Her presence was necessary because none of the county workers has completed the hazardous waste training required for certification.

Residents were able to drive up right next to where the materials

were being sorted and unload.

Materials were separated in categories, such as flammable liquids, latex paints, acids, poisons and batteries.

The materials were then weighed and "bulked" for transport to Hays.

The Sherman County facility is one of 10 satellite facilities of the Ellis County Environmental Office.

In Hays, the waste is consolidated with shipments from the other sites or gathered in Ellis County, then held until it can be taken to disposal site, depending on the type of material.

The first customers Saturday were Larry and Gary McClung of Goodland, who dropped off a load of waste for Dennis Saint, who was out of town.

There were 18 customers during the first hour, then the pace picked up and by the end of the morning, an average of 23 residents per hour

were dropping off items.

Among the materials dropped off were paint (latex and oil-based), stains, pesticides, adhesives, anti-freeze and cosmetics (nail polish and remover).

Although not every item was hazardous, Purvis said that if residents had any doubt about whether something should go in the dump, they should play it safe and bring it in.

Latex paint is considered non-hazardous.

It is sorted by general color and consolidated into larger containers.

This paint is available free. For information, call Griffith at (785) 821-1024.

Griffith said the next collection will probably be in April. Way said that due to volume, the county is considering increasing the number of collection days.

corrections

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to re-

port errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

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