

Chamber continues with gift certificates

By Greg Stover
The Goodland Star-News

The Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce board voted Tuesday to continue with its holiday gift certificate program.

The Chamber certificates will be available next week and can be redeemed at any business Chamber member. A list is provided on the back of the certificate.

The redemption procedure was modified this year so that businesses can mail the certificates to the Chamber office for redemption rather than in person, which will make the program easier to administer.

Board member Cindi Bowman will serve as the contact for this campaign. She can be reached at (785) 899-5770 or people can

call the Chamber office at 899-7130 and leave a message.

Board President Cesar Miller asked Dane Scherling to review last week's meeting for the members present who missed it. Actions included the adoption of the new by-laws which are now in effect.

One important change is that, with the next election, board membership will drop from 18 to nine.

Another change is to modify the nomination and voting procedures to involve greater participation by the general membership. The majority of the other changes dealt with internal administration.

The board agreed to turn over all applications for the executive director position

to board member Tremon Kizer. He said the Chamber is going to advertise for applications on the Kansas Chamber website, at the five major Kansas universities and in the newspaper.

A suggestion was made at the last meeting to include a letter with the 2004 membership packet that explains the events and accomplishments of the past year.

The board decided this week to add an information sheet explaining the different tiers of Chamber membership and a ballot for the three board seats coming up for election.

Eleven candidates have been nominated for the three seats available.

Board members are elected for three

years and can be elected to a second three-year period, after which they must take at least one year off.

The suggestion was made that the packets be hand-delivered to current and potential new members to help create a better sense of involvement between the board and the general membership.

Miller reminded the board that Steve Haynes, owner of *The Goodland Star-News*, had offered his help in delivering the membership packets.

The board voted to borrow, if necessary, \$2,500 from the Sunflower Fund to the Chamber operating budget to pay the rest of this year's bills, to be repaid as soon as possible from 2004 membership revenues.

Miller passed a flyer around from Williams Consulting Chartered of Sharon Springs that is offering Quickbooks training to area businesses for \$99.95 per person.

The training will take place from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday at the Chamber office, there will be an optional session from 3 to 4 p.m. specifically for agriculture-based businesses.

Miller said the next "Business After Hours" will be from 5:30 to 7 p.m. next Friday at Western State Bank.

The next meeting of the board will be at 5:15 p.m. Tuesday in the Chamber conference room, 1002 Main Ave.

Board hires district maintenance supervisor

By Greg Stover
The Goodland Star-News

The Goodland School Board approved the hiring Monday of Kenny Studer as the district's maintenance supervisor effective Dec. 31.

Studer replaces Chuck Lutters, who resigned effective Dec. 5 to be the Goodland plant manager for Aircraft Seal and Gasket Corp. Studer is currently maintenance division manager for the city.

Other hirings approved by the board were Don Smith, a high school math teacher, to be an assistant high school boy's basketball coach, and Ponch Avelar, who works at Northern Sun Industries, as an assistant high school wrestling coach.

The board accepted the resignation of Darrell Maston, custodian at Max L. Jones Fieldhouse, who is retiring effective Dec. 31.

In his report, Superintendent Marvin Selby told the board the contractor working on the high school roof has had problems getting enough workers for the project, but that work was progressing.

Selby briefed the board on the potential of a new program offered by the Educational Services and Staff Development Association of Central Kansas, known as

ESSDACK, called Virtual Prescriptive Learning.

The program begins with skill assessments, evaluated against state standards, which are used to diagnose "skill gaps" from which individual lesson plans can be developed. The students, using computers, will complete lessons focused to their specific needs. The program offers automated scoring and user-friendly reports to help teachers monitor their progress.

Selby said he asked ESSDACK to consider Goodland for the pilot in western Kansas for the program. The agency administers the district's adult education program at the Goodland Community Learning Center, 912 Main Ave.

Selby asked the board for permission to get preliminary cost estimates for new restrooms and concession areas at Cowboy Stadium.

In other business, the board:

- Heard from Sharon Gregory, principal of Central Elementary and the district's school improvement specialist, about the school improvement plan. She described how the district will use information gathered through student testing to establish new goals and the timelines for implementation. Gregory briefed the board on the pro-

cess needed to obtain state approval of the plan.

- Heard from board member Mike Campbell, who said that the Northwest Kansas Education Service Center, at its last meeting, approved a new administrative salary schedule and appointed a negotiating team member, who will serve as the center's voting delegate to the Kansas Association of School Boards convention in Topeka next week.

- Did a first reading of a policy on extended learning time that would require before- or after-school study, Saturday sessions and/or summer school for students not meeting academic standards.

- Considered three potential calendars for the next school year presented by Selby to determine which the member preferred and why. The majority of the members chose the calendar that will start the school year on Monday, Aug. 28, the latest of the three choices, and still be over before Memorial Day. Starting later means fewer school days during the heat of summer for students, Selby said.

The meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.. The next meeting will be at 6 p.m. Monday, Dec. 15, at the district office, 1312 Main Ave.

Finding out about the news



Children from the Headstart class at West Elementary got a look at a front-page Halloween photo showing two of the group in costume held by Pat Schiefen, proofreader at *The Goodland Star-News*, during a tour of the newspaper's office and shop Tuesday morning. The class was divided into two groups, each getting its own tour. Photo by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News

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.

Ambulance accident creates quandary

By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Star-News

An accident on the Interstate has left Goodland Regional Medical Center in a quandary about what to do with a damaged ambulance. Administrator Jay Jolly told the hospital's board Monday.

The ambulance ran into a herd of steers earlier this month on the way to bring an accident victim to the hospital.

The ambulance was declared "borderline totaled" by the insurance company, Jolly said, so the hospital has to decide whether to give it to the company as a total loss or to repair it.

The hospital could give the ambulance to the insurance company as a total loss and get \$28,000, he

said, but that would be far short of what it would cost to replace it.

A new ambulance would be \$80,000 to 90,000, the administrator said, and even a used ambulance would cost \$65,000 to 90,000 if it doesn't have a lot of miles on it.

It's theoretically possible to get the ambulance repaired, Jolly said, and the body damage would be easy, but the engine was shoved to the side in the collision and may be damaged.

"I think that would be buying trouble," he said.

Another option, Jolly said, would be to buy a new engine and put it into the same box. He estimated that would cost \$36,000. The hospital would get \$22,000 from the insurance company. The company gives

the ambulance a \$6,000 salvage value, he added.

There would leave the hospital to pay \$10,000-12,000, Jolly said, but this looks like probably the best way to go. The administrator said he doesn't have all the bids to make the decision.

The ambulance was on the way to pick up an accident victim on I-70 east of Edson on Nov. 6, when it hit at least one of the 50 steers that escaped when a cattle truck rolled on the Interstate.

Eighteen of the steers were killed as five vehicles piled into them, the

drivers unable to see the black steers in the dark and a dense fog. Because of the fog, Jolly added, the ambulance was only going 40 miles per hour.

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student of the week



Name: Chelsee Phillips
Parents: Janlyn and Joel Phillips
Grade: Senior
Age: 17
We've nominated this student because: she faces challenges in the FACS department and FCCLA with a smile and willingness to learn about the family as a strong foundation of society.

Student Comment: I like being able to see my friends the most at school.

My favorite subject is art. I will remember all the good times with my friends.

Activities involved in at school: FCCLA

My choice of movies, books, and games: My favorite movies are any action or comedy. I like most music, any books that are true stories and games that can interact with others.

After I leave Goodland High School I intend to: go to a massage therapy school and be a successful massage therapist.

And 10 years from now, I think I'll be: happily married with 4 children and successful in my career.

Favorite Quote: "It is one of the blessings of old friends that you can afford to be stupid with them."
- Ralph Waldo Emerson -



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Annual VFW White Elephant Sale

Saturday, Dec. 6

Can bring items to VFW Hall, Dec. 4th & 5th or call for items to be picked up: Club 899-3021, Carl 890-5126, Dan 899-5393

Col. Bane Auction Service doing the auction.

REMINDER

Customer Appreciation Day

Wednesday, December 3

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