

Dictionary gifts help students spell and write

Nearly 80 third graders now have a book to check when they're not sure how to spell a word or don't know what one means.

The Goodland Elks Lodge distributed 76 dictionaries to third-grade students at Central Elementary School in December. This is the fourth year the lodge has carried out the Dictionary Project, giving a total of 277 dictionaries to Goodland students.

Mary French started the project in South Carolina in 1995, and it has been picked up by organizations across the country in an effort to get a dictionary in the hands of every third grader. Over 1.8 million children have received a dictionary.

The project's goal, said Elks Secretary Zona Price, is to help students become good writers, active readers and creative thinkers. It is one more effort to improve literacy in our country, she said.

A dictionary is essential for quality education, Price said; a child cannot do his or her best without one. With a dictionary, she said, a student will benefit from the power of words and become more self-reliant and have more self-esteem.

The Elks presented dictionaries to each Goodland School Board member and Superintendent Shelly Angelos at a recent meeting, Price said.



Central Elementary School third graders Riley Wilson and Saige Vandiver looked up words in the dictionaries given them by the Goodland Elks Lodge. This is the fourth year the Elks have given Goodland third graders dictionaries to help them spell and write.

Photo by Amity Ihrig, elementary school librarian

Winter keeps cold grip on plains

SNOW, from Page 1

The people were either going with friends or were taken to motels in town.

Schools were closed on Monday in Saint Francis, Cheylin, Burlington, Sharon Springs and Goodland.

The snow in this storm wasn't as wet as the two at the end of December where we got 24 inches of snow with 2.79 inches of moisture, Larry Boyd, technician said. Just .38 of an inch of moisture fell Saturday and .03 of an inch Sunday, making a total for the month of .54 of an inches.

The .38 on Saturday was .01 from tying the record moisture of .39 for that day set in 1945.

The National Weather Service office reported 6.1 inches of snow for Saturday and .2 inches for Sunday. Snowfall totaled 9.8 inches for the month and snowfall since July is 36.3 inches. Average snow depth stands at 14 inches with a base of 9 inches from previous storms plus the snow over the weekend.

The forecast for the week is for a slow warm up. Partly cloudy skies

are expected today with a high near 37. It should be mostly clear tonight with a low around 18, and mostly sunny on Wednesday with a high near 35. Skies should be clear Wednesday night with a low around 17.

Thursday, the skies should be sunny with a high near 41. Friday should be the same with a high near 40. Friday night through Sunday, the skies will be partly cloudy with the highs in the mid 30s and the lows in the teens, the weather service says.

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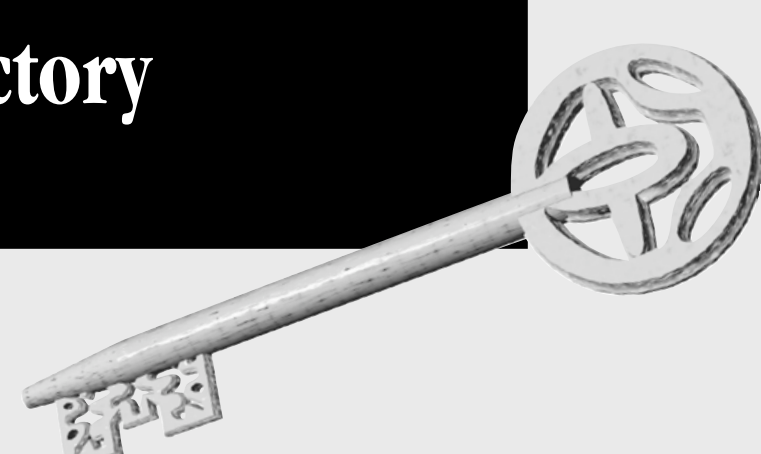
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