

Crafts fair helps with holiday shopping

By Ramona C. Sanders
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With everything from crafts to candles, cookies to clothing and Christmas decorations to buy Saturday at the 30th annual Nu Phi Mu Food and Gift Extravaganza, visitors had a hard time making a choice.

Goodland resident Wendy Wellman said she picked up a little bit of everything, including a specially made birdhouse and some "smelly jelly," a scented candle that doesn't require a flame, which is especially important to Wellman and her husband John, who have a baby son William.

But the entire Wellman family wasn't shopping. Twelve-year-old Elizabeth helped out with the make-and-take children's crafts table run by Joyful Noise Preschool. Little ones were making Christmas ornaments by decorating compact discs with colorful beads. By midday, Joyful Noise owner Cris Riebel said about 30 kids had helped out.

"This is the first year we've done this, and it's going good," said Riebel. "It's much needed. People are not used to having something to do for their kids."

Nu Phi Mu member Lindsey Emig and her husband Nathan invited Santa to take his photo with the kids who attended. Nathan Emig said about 75 kids had their picture taken with Santa in the three hours allotted.

Most vendors said they were happy with the turnout. Some came

from as far away as Dighton and Nebraska.

"It doesn't seem to be as good as last year, but the flow has been steady," said Darla Windholz, who operated the Discovery Toy booth. She traveled 1 1/2 hours from Benkelman, Neb., to sell her wares.

Organizer Janda Linin said the warm weather may have played a role in what appeared to be a smaller turnout than normal.

"The nicer weather played against us today because people are outside," Linin said, "but the crafters said they're doing really well. We're definitely doing good with the concessions."

Nu Phi Mu sold sloppy joes, nachos, cookies and sodas, among other things.

People were not only sampling the goodies and shopping; some were winning door prizes. Others were entering raffles for a \$500 Wal-Mart gift certificate from the Relay for Life Paw Wash and a \$100 money tree in celebration of the event's 30th year.

Anita Hills of Colby won a girl's pearl bracelet from Simply Sheila jewelry.

"I'm going to give it to my granddaughter," Hills said of 1-year-old Karli.

Hills said she didn't come to Goodland for the craft fair. She and a friend were just passing through and they happened upon the event.

"We were just looking for something to do and came to Goodland," she said, "and we found it."



Wendy and John Wellman of Goodland, along with baby William, shopped for Christmas toys at the Discovery Toys booth operated by Darla Windholz of Benkelman, Neb., (with back to photo) Saturday during the Nu Phi Mu Food and Gift Extravaganza (formerly Arts and Crafts Fair).

Photo by Ramona C. Sanders/The Goodland Star-News

Board creates mission statement

By Ramona C. Sanders
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The Goodland School Board continued discussion about creating a new mission and vision statement at its meeting last Monday.

Superintendent Shelly Angelos said she hoped to finish a new statement because the district's school improvement plan has to align its mission and vision statement with the school board's.

Board members brainstormed ideas for the statement and board secretary Pat Juhl recorded those ideas on an overhead projector for everyone to see.

Member John Hendrich said he thought the statement should be "short and snappy."

"Somebody needs to look at it, read it once and have it memorized," he said.

All six board members present provided ideas. (Board member Jane Philbrick was absent.) The board appeared to agree on three one-sentence statements, but Angelos noted that none of them addressed academics.

LeAnn Friedrichs said she thought the statement should be more in depth.

"I feel the need to do something

Schools plan to display state excellence banners

By Ramona C. Sanders
The Goodland Star-News

The banners will soon be flying high at both Goodland High School and Grant Junior High, not for athletic victories this time, but rather for scholastic achievement.

Superintendent Shelly Angelos said last Monday the district will recognize both schools for receiving Standards of Excellence certificates from the state Department of Education for state assessment scores. A 7-foot-by-4-foot banner will be displayed at each school.

"These will be in our hallways and we can really showcase our achievements," Angelos said.

Goodland High received the state honor for 11th-grade reading and Grant was recognized for eighth-grade reading, seventh-grade math and overall reading on tests taken the 2006-2007 school year.

A Standard of Excellence designation for reading is given to schools with at least 20 percent of junior high students and 15 percent of high school students in the Exemplary (or highest) category of state tests and not more than 10 percent in the Academic Warning (or lowest) category, according to the Kansas Department of Education Web site.

The math designation, which was given to Grant, is for schools with at least 25 percent of it junior high students in the Exemplary category and not more than 10 percent in Academic Warning.

that challenges us to do the best for our kids," she said.

Friedrichs suggested the board

select a committee to help them narrow down the suggestions. The board selected Friedrichs and

Chuck Wilkens to meet with Angelos to bring three statements before the board for their consideration at the next meeting.

In other business, the board:

- Approved the district financial report and the payment of bills of \$119,223 for a two-week period.

- Approved 6-0 the hiring of Gina Hall as a bookkeeper at Goodland High School, Maria Vasquez as a three-hour cook at Grant Junior High, and Connie Livengood as the assistant boys basketball coach.

- Discussed the attendance of state School Board member Sally Cauble at the next meeting on Monday, Nov. 26. Cauble represents the Goodland area on the state board. Angelos said Cauble will be meeting with teachers before the board meeting.

- Approved a board policy on nepotism. The policy says the board will not employ a relative of a school board member except in emergency cases. Short, whose wife is a long-time teacher at the high school, said he worried that the policy would prevent qualified people from being hired, especially in a small town. Angelos said that the policy give the board flexibility to consider hiring on a case-by-case basis. The vote was 6-0.

Visitors bureau approves budget

By Sharon Corcoran
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Though there were few bodies in the room, the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau approved its 2008 budget, deciding that the members holding proxies were comfortable adding those members' votes to the tally, and approved sponsorship and advertising for the Topside Tip-off basketball tournament.

The bureau unanimously approved a \$135,000 budget for 2008 and voted to give a \$500 sponsorship to the Sherman County Alumni Association for the Topside Tip-off and pay for advertising at the event at its regular meeting Tuesday.

Members present were Chairman Dale Neill, Bill Stoick, Cindy Bowman, Ryan Hageman and Jeanne Irvin. Lincoln Wilson and David Branda designated their proxies to Stoick, and Brenda McCants voted by proxy through Neill. Scott Angelos and Diana Flanders also were absent.

Board members said they liked the budget, but before approving it, they talked about whether or not it should be approved with so few members in the room and whether to add a donation to the Flatlander Fall Festival Committee.

"We told the Flatlander group

we were short and would review the donation at the end of the year," Neill recalled.

Several board members felt that if they sponsor the basketball tournament, they should support the Flatlander Festival as well.

"We should think about the amount of money it brings not only into the CVB but also into the community," said Director Donna Price.

The festival brings in more people, Bowman added.

Stoick said they should give some money and also help with printing and postage and suggested the bureau have an answer before the Flatlander January meeting.

The board didn't pick an amount, but Price said if they decide to give to the festival after the budget is approved, they could amend it.

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Neill said he was hoping the budget would be approved that day, but with only four voting members present and three by proxy, it might need to wait. Irvin asked if those holding proxies were sure those members were comfortable with the budget. When Neill and Stoick said they were, those present said they would go ahead and vote.

The budget includes \$47,500 for the director's salary, benefits and payroll taxes, \$39,900 for marketing, \$6,500 for auto expenses and \$5,000 each for rent and for travel.

Also in the budget are a \$5,000

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