

Yard of the year



The Master Gardeners choice of Yard of the Year went to Chris and Karla Thompson, 214 W. 12th. "They have worked really hard on their yard over the past several years," said Reva Bauman of the Master Gardeners, "and it has been fun watching the progress and the final results of their landscaping project." She said the Master Gardeners would like to thank everyone who nominated yards this summer and for all of the sponsors

who donated very nice gifts each month: Shores Bumper to Bumper, Mann's Jewelry and Gifts, Prairie Rose Floral, Walmart, Orscheln's and *The Goodland Star News*. There are several nice yards in our great community and we want to encourage everyone to keep up the great work on making our community a more colorful place, Bauman said.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News



Michael Fitzsimmons performing outside for a group.

Percussionist to give concert at St. Francis

The next concert sponsored by the Western Plains Arts Association will be at 2 p.m. (Mountain Time) on Monday, Oct. 18, at the St. Francis High School Auditorium. International touring artist Michael Fitzsimmons will perform Drums of the World which include rare instruments from Switzerland called hang drums as well as a variety of other drums, flutes, pan pipes, kalimbas from other parts of the world.

Fitzsimmons is a skilled performer of diverse percussion instruments including drums, African instruments, Mbira (thumb piano), Plains Indian flutes, Brazilian percussion flutes and various bamboo flutes.

The artist is a percussionist, an award winning composer and a performance and recording artist with Dancing Man Music. His most recent recording includes "Skin on Skin" (2002), which got him a Nebraska Arts Council Fellowship Award. Fitzsimmons is a leader of drum circles at Universal College of Healing Arts and an artist with Very Special Arts and a cofounder of Who's Art is it, Anyway? for art

museums and galleries with storyteller Rita Paskowitz.

Fitzsimmons is a percussionist with the Sacred Heart Freedom Choir under the direction of James Bogess and the Christ the King Choir. He is a solo artist with the Nebraska Arts Council's Touring Program, performing in schools, communities and corporate settings. As a master teaching artist with University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Arts Are Basic and a resident teaching artist with University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Arts Are Basic, he gives programs for music and story at schools.

He is a leader of full day music workshops with Grief and the Arts Training Experience for therapists, school teachers, hospital teams and individual groups.

Admission is with arts association season ticket or at the door, \$10 adults and \$5 students kindergarten through 12. A second show for students in the schools will be at 7:30 a.m. (Mountain Time) on Monday, Oct. 18, at the St. Francis High School Auditorium.

Education policy reviewed

By Tom Betz

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Hospital board members received a revised education support policy, and asked for the decision to be delayed to the October meeting to give them time to read and comment on the revisions.

Jay Jolly, hospital administrator, said he had revised the education support policy and the procedure document combining them into one document. He said he developed the policy when he came in 2001 when the hospital had some ambulance education needs. He said the policy has evolved over the years and felt it needed to be reviewed and revised.

"The basic requirement is if we have requests for education assistance or repayment assistance this provides a guideline or blueprint for how we will cover the request and puts us in a funding of last resort and protected position," he said. "If someone needs to say they have looked at other opportunities Dale Schields has at least one program available specifically for health care folks and there are a lot of loan programs you can apply to."

"We do work with the hospital foundation to do joint funding of hardships for certain individuals but I think maybe one thing to remember about this particular policy is not intended to address physician recruitment and other mid levels who would be contractual and a much different level. Those are handled in the contract itself. Otherwise it calls for some budget projections each year as to how much we think we might need, which is a pretty tough projection to do, but we at least make an attempt to project what the need might be."

He said the education support policy requires a signed agreement

with the person to cover the terms of the agreement and the guidelines — there are about a dozen of those — would be the meat of the policy. For people looking to get assistance for loan repayment one of the things the hospital has changed in recent years both with physicians and others is to leave the loans in place.

He said in the past the hospital used to pay the loans off — so for physicians you might be paying off all the educational loans up front in return for perhaps a five year commitment. But if they didn't stay that long you had a collection problem.

For the past several years he said the hospital has said the loans will remain in the individuals name and that way if they leave we quit repaying and that way you are already caught up and not trying to recoup money that has been advanced.

We are really not trying to advance any money under this policy and is more of a pay as you go program, he said.

The standard has typically been one year of service for each \$2,000 of education assistance, he said. Again if the foundation is involved in the program it is usually the foundation funding \$1,000 and the hospital funding \$1,000.

He said included in the policy are a number of options for how the determination is made on who will be eligible for funding.

Jolly said that was the summary and overview of the policy. This is a draft proposal if there are other things we need to address it is not coming as a finished product for approval.

Patty Eckhardt said she felt the board needs time to read and get some thoughts on our own.

Jolly said that would be fine.

Brenda McCants, board chairman asked about the policy and what

happens if they require an interview of an applicant. How do you decide who needs to be interviewed, she said.

Jolly said that was a good question if we only have one applicant. If you have one position and more applications you might go to a more formal interview process.

He said many people requesting these are individual.

Eckhardt asked what the standard question is such as someone going back to nursing school.

Schields said that is a lot of the requests from people are certified nursing assistants and want to improve on their education toward registered nurse.

"We may go months without an application," he said, "but I am sitting on three right now because Jay said he wanted to back in and amend this agreement."

"We have three we are sitting on right now, and if they are all worthy candidates it will be determining that they are deserving. We are asking if they are on staff for a manager to provide a letter of recommendation on their behalf. If the manager says they are not going to do that then it is going to end right there. The applicant has to provide some verification of the persons reliability and skills and how they would potentially use this individual in the future if they go off and get the schooling."

"This is a sort of grow your own concept," Eckhardt said

Schields agreed that is the object of the program.

"We are trying to limit our liability as Jay eluded to earlier. we do have the Conserver Loan program where a person can borrow anywhere from \$1,500 up to \$25,000 a year. It is a program that offers low cost education loans. You have 15 years

to pay once you have completed the training. The terms are usually very favorable.

"I usually encourage people who are not willing to make a commitment to stay in this area. They want to get the education and all, but when you press them a little bit about our obligation that you come back and work a year for every \$2,000 of assistance you get 'I am not sure I want to do that.'"

"To those people I really try to say it is the only option I can offer is the Conserver Loan program where they basically make their own application, file their own reports with those folks for approval and hopefully they get approved for what they need in that regard."

Eckhardt asked if the year commitment plus paying back the \$2,000 or does the work neutralize the \$2,000.

Schields said it is a work repayment program. There is no money paid back if they continue the work obligation. It reverses to a promissory note with interest due if they decide to leave before the commitment is completed.

Are they working while they are in school she asked.

In come cases they are, he said, and in some cases they are not. For somebody who is starting nursing school they only have a bit of time on weekends. We have two nursing students working for us full time. Neither one has asked for financial aid. They essentially set up their own financial aid arrangement and now the only time they can work for us is on the weekends, which they do.

Jolly said the education support policy will be reviewed on the October agenda.

matters of record

District Traffic

The following fines have been paid in the Sherman County District Court.

July 22: William Q. Davis, speeding, \$168.50.

July 23: William Bowman, motor carrier safety rules and regulations, \$208.50.

Marvin L. Collins, over weight limits on wheels and axles, \$258.50.

Richard S. Marlow, motor carrier safety rules and regulations, \$208.50.

John C. Peden, no seat belt, \$5.00.

July 24: Maria T. Barragan, operating a motor vehicle without valid license, \$153.50.

Mark A. Culberson, speeding, \$168.50.

July 25: Brian R. Callan, speeding, \$186.50.

July 26: Corbin Coreen Huffman, no seat belt, \$5.00.

Nicholas E. Slusher, no seat belt, \$5.00.

July 27: Brandon D. Abbott, no seat belt, \$5.

Kesha D. Haworth, no seat belt, \$5.00.

Pedro E. Cardenas, no valid license, \$153.50; improper driving, \$75.

Redawn N. Bennett, no seat belt,

\$5.00.

Robert W. Bennett, no seat belt, \$5.00; no child seat belt, \$153.50.

July 28: James C. Arnold, Jr., motor carrier safety rules and regulations, \$208.50.

Victor M. Brizuela, over weight limits on wheels and axles, \$141.50.

Charles L. Pate, speeding, \$180.50.

Jimmy Khojah, no driver's license provided, \$243.50.

Courtland E. Cidzik, unlawful parking, \$174.50.

Heather B. Kennedy, unlawful parking, \$168.50.

Kim C. Buffa, unlawful parking, \$216.50.

July 29: Redro Duenez-Ruiz, permitting unauthorized person to drive, \$153.50.

April K. Mohon, speeding, \$198.50.

July 30: James L. Almaria, speeding, \$168.50.

Maghan A. Backofen, speeding, \$174.50.

John W. Townsend, unlawful parking, \$198.50.

July 31: Jessica R. Colby, no seat belt, \$5.00.

Matthew J. Phillippi, no seat belt, \$5.00.

Benigno Gonzalez-Serna, no seat belt, \$5.00.

corrections

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