

'Energy Bandit' skit presented at Central school

By Tom Betz

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The "Take Charge Energy Bandit" made an appearance recently at Central Elementary School to encourage the third, fourth and fifth graders to look for ways to save energy at their homes.

The Financial Fitness Class from Goodland High School, taught by Sara Short, Kenny Studer, Sauna Johnson and Amy Thorson from the Take Charge Committee made presentations and the Energy Bandit Skit at the classes at Central on March 21.

The Financial Fitness Class presented the Energy Bandit Skit and showed the students various ways to help save energy.

After the Financial Fitness class presented the Energy Bandit Skit, the kids received a Take Charge Bag of goodies and an Energy Bandit Hunt.

The Challenge to the classes was the class that turned in the most hunt

sheets by the end of the week would win a pizza party with the Energy Bandit.

Thorson said the Energy Bandit Skit will be presented to the first and second graders at West Elementary and to the sixth graders on Career Day at Northwest Tech.

High School students Christy Studer, Andrea Roeder, Audrey Titus, Cheyenne Sharon, Holly Wilkening, Syndi Callahan, Deborah Garcia, Chloe Goodwin and Lacie Cowan of the Financial Fitness Class and FCCLA put on the Energy Bandit Skit.

In the skit the Energy Bandits come in and appear to steal electrical energy from various devices plugged into wall sockets. These include laptop computer, iPod, cell phone, plus in the bathroom the hair dryer, hair straightener and electric toothbrush.

steal power using these devices even though they were turned off. Captain Powerstrip says the best way to stop the Energy Bandits is to use power strips and when they are turned off it stops the energy and reduces the home energy bills.

When the Energy Bandits return they are frustrated to find the power strips stopping them from taking any energy.

The Energy Bandit Hunt is part of a nine month, city-wide effort, The Take Charge Challenge. The Challenge is a contest between five Kansas towns in the Northwest Region, competing to reduce their energy use and win a \$100,000 energy efficient prize to benefit the community as a whole.

To learn more about the Take Charge Challenge, and to see how you can help Goodland win, contact Amy or Shauna at the city office and enter your light bulb switches at www.takechargekansas.org



'Energy Bandit' looks for electrical devices to steal energy during special skit at Central. Photo by Amy Thorson/Goodland Take Charge Challenge

Goodland school board considers three cost cutting options

By Pat Schiefen

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The members of the Goodland School board were given three options on how to make cuts in the operating budget to cover the cuts in base state aid of \$248,000 from this year and next year last Monday at the regular school board meeting.

Superintendent Shelly Angelos said the district has three places to cut money from its budget. They are facilities, programs and personnel.

With the failure of the school

bond election facilities were not discussed.

Superintendent Angelos said in option A the board can max out its local option budget. Currently the board uses 90.2 percent of the state allowed taxing of property taxes. The board does not have to bring any increases to a vote.

She said by maximizing the local option budget the district could raise \$210,000. Also there would be a saving of \$100,000 in retiring personnel and non-renewals of

contracts. Also some supplementals of pay for teachers that are department heads or head teachers could be eliminated.

Superintendent Angelos said she had talked to the Learning Center and they would be willing to use a pilot business model where the district would get 25 percent of the base state aid. Currently all base state aid for the center's students goes to them. The center said giving the district the 25 percent would be if the enrollment for the center re-

mains over 50 and the state does not cut base state aid to less than \$3,780 per student. That would generate \$48,000 for the district.

Option B would be to no longer contract to Essdack for the Learning Center. That would cut about \$250,000.

Superintendent Angelos said shutting down the learning center would cost the district because it would have to hire personnel and provide computers and computer programs. Also moving the Learn-

ing Center into one of the schools would not work as most of the students attending there would not be comfortable going to a school.

She said under the current contract with Essdack the district or Essdack just notifies the other that they no longer wish to continue to contract.

Option C would be to cut personnel, she said. That would mean four teachers and some classified staff. The Local Option Budget would not and the Learning Center would not change.

Superintendent Angelos said that the district had to give notice for

non renewal of teacher by the third Friday in May.

Deciding which teaching positions would depend on class sizes and how many teachers would be needed. Whether teachers were tenured would make a difference.

Board members Jane Philbrick and Amy Sederstrom said they favored option A.

The board did not want to pursue option B.

Board member John Hendrich said he would like to consider cutting kindergarten back to a half day.

Governor visit highlights rural opportunity zones

Gov. Sam Brownback was at the Colby Airport Monday morning, April 11, for a ceremonial signing of Senate Bill 198, known as a Rural Opportunity Zones bill.

Senator Ralph Ostmeyer, Representative Don Hineman and myself were in attendance along with Secretary of Commerce, Pat George, Secretary of Labor, Karin Brownlee and Revenue Secretary, Nick Jordan.

The bill provides a five-year Kansas State income tax exemption to anyone who moves from another state into any of the 50 counties in the Rural Opportunity Zone.

Another provision in this bill deals with student loans. Counties that wish to participate in a state matching program may pay up to \$15,000 dollars on a student loan, \$7,500 from the county and \$7,500 from the state over a five-year term.

The Governor said this would include students (who qualify) and who live inside Kansas. This bill will hopefully attract college graduates and bring them back to our small communities.

Gov. Brownback said he got the idea for this legislation when he visited Winfield. He met six individuals who had moved to Winfield from California and asked them why they decided to move to Winfield. They said they had driven through Kansas on motorcycles and had stopped in Winfield and liked what the community had to offer. They wanted to get away from the high taxes and the problems in California.

The Governor commented the quality of life and values of rural Kansas is a well kept secret, and we need to advertise in the metropolitan areas across the United States. A



rick billinger
state rep.

Tuesday, March 29, by a vote of 94 to 28.

Late Term and Partial Birth Abortions (HB 2035)

House Bill 2035 places further restrictions on late term abortion procedures, expands parental consent requirements for minors seeking abortions and strengthens the state's partial birth abortion law to where it better aligns with tighter federal law. This particular measure is a combination of legislation passed during prior sessions vetoed by Democratic governors Sebelius and Parkinson.

Key provisions of HB 2035:

Requires a specific medical diagnosis for a late-term abortion to occur.

Requires women seeking abortions to be provided with information that states their procedure will terminate the life of a human being.

Allows for civil lawsuits against doctors who violate late-term abortion law.

Mandates additional reporting of sex abuse evidence on minors wanting an abortion.

Clarifies when courts can bypass parental consent requirements.

The House originally passed HB 2035 by a vote of 96 to 25 and passed the Senate 24 to 15 on March 23. The Senate amended the bill by requiring a person employed or who volunteers with organizations providing social services to pregnant teenagers, including counseling, adoption services and pregnancy education and maintenance, to report suspected child abuse or neglect. Another amendment by the

Senate altered the effect date of the bill. The House concurred with the Senate changed and approved the final version of HB 2035 on Tuesday, March 29, by a vote of 100 to 22.

I am currently distributing survey cards throughout the communities of the 121st District. If you are interested in completing this short survey please stop by your local library, banks, implement dealers, city buildings or other local businesses for a copy of the survey. I would like to receive these back by the end of April. If you are interested in receiving the results of this survey please include your email address or name and mailing address on the survey and I will contact you with the results.

Thank you again for the opportunity to represent the 121st District. If there is anything you would like to discuss or I can do for you please contact me at (785) 899-4700 or rick.billinger@house.ks.gov.

Wilda's Walkers Relay for Life team is starting a fundraiser with Krispy Kreme donuts!

Orders will be taken until April 29 and delivery will take place May 2.

\$10 for 1 dozen donuts.

Call (785) 890-2525 or (785) 728-7125 for ordering and more information.

Light the way to a cure

Keep the fire of hope burning by purchasing a luminaria candle in memory of someone lost to cancer, in honor of someone still fighting, or in special recognition of someone who has beaten this dreaded disease.

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Friday & Saturday – June 3 & 4
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The Goodland Star-News, 1205 Main Avenue, Goodland, KS 67735

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