

After-school program has waiting list

By Pat Schiefen
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Superintendent Bill Biermann reported that he was excited to have more than 80 students want to attend the after school programs the district started on Wednesday, Jan. 18.

He said he wanted to hold the line at 80 so a waiting list has been started. Superintendent Biermann was hoping to gradually build to that number but was pleased so many students were interested.

They may want to start using an application but the decision will be made later. Enough teachers were found plus substitutes and paraprofessionals. Ten high school students wanted to help and working with their schedules the seven slots were filled.

Co-managers for the project are West Elementary Principal Verna Milnes and Central Elementary Principal Harvey Swager.

Superintendent Biermann said they have been able to keep track of all the kids and the most important thing to him was not to lose a kid.

"I thought the staff and students did an outstanding job," said the superintendent about how the high school handled the bomb threat on Friday, Jan. 20. "I plan to meet with the high school students about the issue," he said.

"Every minute they were out they will have to make up. The number one goal is to make sure students are safe and number two is to educate them."

Superintendent Biermann said he has requested the agencies who helped with the bomb threat to keep track of the cost and if the perpetrator is found they will get a bill.

The district administrators and law enforcement were going to have a meeting on how to handle an active shooter-school crisis. In

the afternoon they were going to have training at North Elementary School.

Joseph Hurla of 360 Energy Engineers of Lawrence gave the board the results of his preliminary energy audit. The report would be used as a starting point in determining if improvement in facilities resulted in savings in energy consumption.

He said generally elementary school are on the lower end of energy use for a school district. The high school and Max Jones Fieldhouse would be on the high end. The elementary schools have people in them from before school until 5 p.m. The hours at the high school and Max Jones are longer due to extracurricular activities and sports practice. For example Max Jones is open from around 6 a.m. to 8 or 9 p.m. at night.

At Central Elementary School the audit showed the building had

single-paned glass, no air conditioning except for a few window units and outdated lighting. At North Elementary there is no air conditioning, no updated heating and lighting and windows. It used 20 percent more natural gas than West Elementary. West Elementary has outdated lighting.

Grant Junior High has a 1978 gas steam boiler for heat, limited air conditioning and old lighting. Also due to how the building was built it would be more costly to work on than any other building.

The high school has two 1975 gas steam boilers for heat. Some areas of the building are air conditioned and the second floor has roof top units. The lighting is mostly updated and the windows are scheduled for replacement.

The energy hog of the district is Max Jones Fieldhouse. There are over 60 lights in the old Max gym

that could be updated.

Hurla said there are upgrade opportunities in redesign of the heating and cooling systems in the district. The old boilers could be replaced and lighting upgraded. The heating and cooling could be controlled remotely by the Internet. Windows in some buildings have not been updated.

The district spends \$260,000 a year for natural gas and electricity. Hurla said 360 Energy Engineers had done projects in Norton and WaKeeney. A project generally runs from \$500,000 to \$5 million. The life of a project is generally 15 years. Districts finance projects out of capital outlay or use bonds.

He said the next step would be a preliminary energy audit with a site survey, analysis of utility expenditures, preliminary system observations and a preview of a proposed project.

The preliminary energy audit of the district cost them nothing, he said.

Sunflower 4-H attended the meeting as part of their citizenship project.

Superintendent Biermann said he would like to seek bids for two two-year old or newer cars that can be used for people attending meetings and getting better gas mileage than the Suburbans now used by the district. The bids will be due at 10 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 10.

The district paid \$24,675 in bills.

The board met in several executive sessions to discuss future teacher contract negotiations.

The next regular board meeting will be at 7 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 13, at the Administration Building.

Snow crews save man's life

A Scott County man who suffered a heart attack during the Dec. 19-20 blizzard may not be alive today if not for the heroics of Kansas Department of Transportation snow crews.

When Chad Griffith, 44, a farmer/rancher and father of four, had a heart attack at 9:45 p.m. Dec. 19, he needed to get to the closest hospital that could perform life-saving surgery as quickly as possible. But that was Hays Medical Center, 120 miles away, and air ambulances were grounded. As the blizzard worsened and 12 to 15 inches of snow piled up, a number of state roads were being closed, limiting travel options. That's when workers at Scott County Ambulance called the department for help.

Area Superintendent Jerry Glassman at the department's Oakley office took the call and immediately began coordinating with other superintendents to arrange for the department snowplows to clear the way and lead the ambulance to Hays. Four different snow plows shared the escort duty as the ambulance traveled from one department area to the next. Five-and-a-half hours after it began the journey, the ambulance reached the hospital.

Within minutes Griffith was in surgery.

Griffith, who had been Christmas shopping in Garden City with his wife earlier in the day, had "a 99 percent blockage in the artery of the heart, (a condition) commonly known as the 'widow maker.' His only chance at survival was getting to a larger facility with cardiologists," Griffith's physician, Dr. Elizabeth Hineman, wrote in a message to the department.

"Because of you, he made it, as did my staff, and I will forever be grateful for the service you provided."

Doctors at the Hays hospital performed a heart catheterization on Griffith and inserted a stent. He was home several days before Christmas and is now back tending to his cattle, preparing for calving.

"I think a lot of times we take those guys for granted. They went above and beyond because that blizzard was just raging," Griffith said.

"The doctors, the emergency medical technicians and the department guys are just giant people to me. They all played a role in saving my life."

Lions Clubs to gather at Fort Hays State

The Lions Clubs of Western Kansas will gather as a PRIDE at Memorial Union on the Fort Hays State University campus on Saturday, Feb. 25, for their annual District Convention. Special guest of the Lions will be International Director James Cavallaro of Springfield, Pa., representing the International Association of Lions Clubs.

The Western Kansas Lions' annual Convention is to renew long-time friendships and learn of important activities and skills that will help prepare them for serving the needs of their home communities with sight conservation, diabetes awareness and other individualized projects selected by the clubs.

The New Lions Mobile Screening Unit will be on site for tours all

day Saturday. Then from 1 to 3 p.m. (Mountain Time), the unit will offer actual screenings for sight disorders, hearing testing, blood pressure checks and blood sugar readings of diabetes testing.

The full agenda of Lions Club Convention Activities is available for viewing at the 17-L District Website.

The International Association of Lions Clubs is the largest community service organization in the world, with 1.35 million Lions in 2008 Countries of the world.

Western Kansas Lions District 17-L which comprises the entire western half of Kansas consists 1,550 members in 67 clubs, all dedicated to serving their home communities.

Last one with a chair won



The Girls Athletic Association held a game of musical chairs during the half time at the girls varsity basketball on Tuesday night against the Burlington Lady Cougars. The contestants had to go around the chairs to music and when the music stopped they had to go shot a basket and return and claim a seat. At each round

another chair was removed. Among the contestants were Mike Brannick, Cienna Brannick and Waldo Jarmin (above left). The last two were Mike and Cienna Brannick with Cienna winning a prize.

Photo by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News

Walk Kansas Program to start in March

Kansas State Research and Extension's Walk Kansas Program will begin Sunday, March 18 to May 12.

The annual eight-week fitness challenge encourages teams of six to compile miles equivalent to walking the 423 miles across the state of Kansas, said Sharonlyn Jackson, Kansas State Research and Extension state coordinator for the program.

Though introduced as a walking program 10 years ago, the challenge

has grown to also include other exercise, such as swimming, biking, playing team sports and pushing a lawnmower.

Walk Kansas typically draws about 20,000 participants, with representatives from almost all of Kansas' 105 counties, said Jackson, who noted that the springtime challenge offers an incentive to get up, get outside and improve health.

Previous participants have reported benefits such as increased energy, greater muscle strength, a

more optimistic outlook, improved stress management, more peaceful sleep and lower blood pressure and cholesterol, she said.

Many also lose weight, said Jackson, who added that 89 percent of the participants polled increased fruit and vegetable consumption during the program. Seventy-five percent of those polled expected to continue to eat health-promoting foods after the program ended.

The team approach is a motivating factor, and Walk Kansas has

become popular with families, friends, neighbors and as a wellness activity, she said.

The cost to participate, which usually is \$10 or less, varies with extension offices and covers a weekly participant newsletter with health and physical activity tips, healthy eating recommendations and recipes.

More information is available at www.walkkans.org.

corrections

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Kindergarten Screening 2012

For all children who have reached the age of 5 (five) on or before August 31, 2012

Wednesday, February 15
8 a.m. - 4 p.m. (no appt. necessary)
At West Elementary (912 W. 12th)

Each child will complete a screening in August at the Elementary School Enrollment.

****IMPORTANT**** Bring to screening: certified copy of birth certificate, Child's immunization records and copy of social security card and School Entry Physical!

Kansas

South of Ruleton: 40± acres with home, shop, misc buildings. \$99,000
Hamilton County: 960± acres. All 27-255-42. E2 28-255-42. \$1,344,000
320± acres CRP. 2 contracts expire 2012. S2 9-265-41. \$448,000
160± acres expired CRP. NW4 7-215-39. \$192,000

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