

Schools moving to new curriculum

SCHOOLS, from Page 1

The state has not set a date for all schools to start using the Common Core Standards but Superintendent Biermann expects it to officially start in about two years. The standards have been accepted except in Wisconsin, Nebraska, Texas, Virginia, Alaska, Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa Island and the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be training for school personnel in June.

At the regular school board meeting Monday night the Goodland Board of Education renewed contracts with Superintendent Biermann, West Elementary School Principal Verna Milnes, Central Elementary School Principal Harvey Swager, Grant Junior High Principal Steve Raymer, Goodland High School Principal Mike Hubka and Goodland High School Activities Director

Greg Ferguson.

Superintendent Biermann said he is working with City Manager Doug Gerber on safe routes to schools and drop off points. He is planning to apply for some money to help with that.

Also, he said, Neighborhood Watch had some money they wanted to donate to the school for a security system, cameras and locks.

A bid on the foundation work that needs to be done at the high school had been received from a firm in El Dorado. Biermann said if he had no more bids he had no problem with accepting the one they received.

The board gave the superintendent the authority to seek bids on a maturing certificate of deposit of \$500,000 and interest. Those bids will end next Friday.

Board member Diane Stiles moved with a second from board member Gennifer House and with approval of the board agreed to have a

free preliminary engineering audit done by 360 Energy Engineers of Lawrence. The audit would cost the district nothing.

The board accept the bids on two sedans from Finleys on two one-year old Chevrolet Impala LS' for \$27,437. The other bid was from Dan Brenner Ford for two new Ford Fusions for \$34,134.

The board agreed on a Memorandum of Understanding with Northwest Tech on the use of the Max Jones Fieldhouse for their basketball programs. Activities Director Ferguson will work on the scheduling. The college would play on Wednesdays and Saturdays.

The board paid \$155,218 in bills.

Hired by the board was Ruth Ontiveroz as a paraprofessional at Grant Junior High. Kelsey Ihrig resigned as of Thursday, Feb. 16, as a paraprofessional at Grant Junior High.

Wasting disease found in local deer

DISEASE, from Page 1

2011-2012 deer seasons, but testing has been slow, and testing kits are continually on back order. We're about 35-percent done. More importantly, U.S. Department of Agriculture funding will not be available for collecting and testing samples next season. Without federal financial assistance, surveillance will be very limited and less robust."

Annual testing has been a part of an ongoing effort by Kansas department to monitor the prevalence and spread of chronic wasting disease.

The disease, fatal in wild deer, was first detected in deer taken in Cheyenne County in 2005.

Chronic wasting disease is a member of the group of diseases called transmissible spongiform

encephalopathies. Other diseases in this group include scrapie in sheep and goats, bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE or Mad Cow Disease) in cattle, and Cruetzfeldt-Jakob disease in people. The disease is a progressive, fatal disease that results in small holes developing in the brain, giving it a sponge-like appearance under the microscope. An animal may carry the disease without outward indication, but in the later stages, signs may include decreased interactions with other animals, listlessness, lowering of the head, weight loss, repetitive walking in set patterns, and a lack of response to humans.

"It must be noted that many of the symptoms of chronic wasting disease are indicative of other diseases," Hesting explains.

Sherman sheriff warns of telephone scams

Sherman County Sheriff Kevin Butts is alerting residents of yet another telephone scam reported by local people.

The caller identifies himself as being a family member that has been arrested and is in need of bail money sent to his location. Butts warns that the individuals placing these calls can be very convincing

and demanding.

Butts is encouraging anyone who believes they are a victim of these or other crimes to call local law enforcement.

The Sherman County Sheriff's Office can be reached at 890-4835; The Goodland Police Department can be reached at 890-4575.

Woman injured on I-70

A Colby woman was injured Monday after losing control of her car on I-70 near Levant on Monday.

A Kansas Highway Patrol report said Juanita Dewey, 61, of Colby, was driving west on I-70 at noon Monday when she lost control of

her PT Cruiser, crossed the median and the eastbound lanes and flipped into the south ditch. The wreck happened near milepost 44, about eight miles west of Colby.

Dewey was taken to Citizens Medical Center in Colby with possible injuries.

House passes state employee retirement reforms, bid protection

Week Five February, 2012

This week alone, the House debated seventeen pieces of legislation and next week we will likely debate an even higher number of bills. Some of the bills that were debated in my committees this week were as follows:

Expanded Liquor Sales – HB2532: Our Commerce and Economic Development committee held two days of hearings on the pros and cons of adding liquor and spirits for sale in grocery and convenience stores. This debate on substantially expanding liquor sales in Kansas has been going on for several years. If passed, the bill would immediately allow grocery and convenience stores to sell full strength beer and wine if they have a class A or B license.

Bills Passed Out of the House This Week

KPERS – HB2460: This bill makes several technical amendments to the pension system in order to maintain compliance with the IRS requirements for public pension plans. An additional option for public employers to affiliate for future service only, the deletion of the requirement that sets a 7 percent contribution rate for first year employers, and the addition of a "good faith interpretation" reference with new federal regulations for required minimum distributions. This bill passed out of the House 122 to 3.

HB2461: makes changes to the investment portfolio by allowing KPERS investors to participate in alternative investments to a greater degree than what is allowed under current law. The bill allows 5% of the total market value of the KPERS fund investments to be utilized with alternative investment options. The total KPERS investment fund value was \$12.9 billion with an alternative investment cap of \$128.6 million. This bill will raise the limit to \$643 million this year alone. This passed with a vote of 118 to 7.

Competitive Bid Protection Act – HB2515: establishes the Competitive Bid Protection Act to prevent the requirement that poten-



rick billinger

state rep.

tial bidders enter into any kind of project labor agreement with labor organizations. Government agents and government entities are also prohibited by this measure from discriminating based on the presence or absence of project labor agreements. This bill does not prevent bidders from entering into voluntary project labor agreements with labor organizations or supersede other provisions of state law or National Labor Relations Act which may be allowed. Final action on this bill will be Tuesday. It initially passed by the full House on Friday.

Health Care Reform Update – HCR5007: The House passed, HCR5007, The Health Care Freedom Amendment during the 2011 session and sent it to the Senate for further consideration. Last week the Senate Judiciary committee approved the resolution and sent it to the full Senate for further debate and final approval. This proposes to amend the Kansas Constitution by inserting a new Article 16 regarding health care. The resolution protests the Affordable Care Act, (Obama Care) passed by Congress in March 2010, which implemented a federal mandate requiring all individuals to have a minimum level of health insurance.

The new article would prohibit any law or rule from compelling

a person, employer or health care provider to participate in any health care system or to purchase health insurance and allows a person or employer to directly pay for any health care service and not be subject to a penalty or fine.

Attorney General Derek Schmidt joined 25 other states in filing their initial briefs in the lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the federal health care mandate.

Update on Capitol Construction

The latest figures on the capitol restoration include \$7 million for the repairs to the grounds including landscape, driveways, ceremonial driveway, sidewalks, lighting, security, etc.

Some of thoughts in saving money on the landscaping restoration include combining the resources of the Kansas service clubs, Master Gardeners and the Department of Administration oversight, which may save several million dollars in restoration of the capitol lawn.

The Master Gardeners would design an overall plan with the Capitol grounds crew. With over 100 species of Kansas flora, plants and creativity, we could host a state lawn like no other in the Union. Many service clubs are excited about the possibility to participate in this state landscaping project.

I know this news letter is getting long, however there are two additional point I want to share.

• Lt. Gov. Jeff Colyer will be sending out letters in the near future

with answers to questions that many families with developmentally disabled family members have been asking.

• Gov. Sam Brownback is trying to get a meeting together with Secretary of Labor, Senator Ostmeyer, Representative Cassidy, Represent-

ative Hineman and myself, this will be to discuss the home owned carnivals.

If you are interested you may access the legislature's website at www.kslegislature.org and follow committee schedules, bills and other issues under consideration

by the Kansas Legislature. I always enjoy hearing from my constituents on topics under consideration and appreciate your perspective. Please do not hesitate to contact me with your thoughts, suggestions, and concerns. Thank you for the honor of serving you!

Hundreds to unload



It's everyone's favorite time of the year. Cartons of Girl Scout cookies arrived in Goodland by truck this week and are now going out those who ordered.

Photo by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News

Black Hills Energy Scholarships

Application Deadline Is March 16



Black Hills Energy-Kansas Gas will award a \$1,000 scholarship to each of 15 graduating high school seniors in 2012. **Applications must be completed and returned by Friday, March 16, to Black Hills Energy at the address below. Incomplete applications cannot be considered.**

Students interested in applying for a scholarship should contact their school counselor. The application also is available online. Go to www.blackhillsenergy.com/scholarships and click on your state.

Questions?

In Kansas contact
Black Hills Energy
External Affairs Dept.
110 E. 9th St.
Lawrence, KS 66044
785-832-3918

Students are eligible to apply if they meet the following criteria:

- A parent or guardian is a customer of Black Hills Energy-Kansas Gas.
- The student ranks in the top 25 percent of his or her graduating class or scores 21 or higher on the ACT or 980 or higher on the SAT.
- The student plans to attend an accredited college or university as a full-time student to obtain a bachelor's degree.

Relatives of current or retired Black Hills Energy employees are not eligible to participate in this program. A relative is defined as a child, grandchild, brother, sister, stepchild, foster child, spouse or in-law.

Kansas

Sherman County: Back on the market. 160± acres grass. \$112,000
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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JMB Angus & Rains Simmental

Bull Sale

Thursday, March 1, 2012 • 12:30 PM MST
 At the JMB Angus Ranch - 9 miles southeast of Sharon Springs, KS
 Selling:



Final Answer x Predestined 650
 Angus Sires:
 Final Answer, Bismarck, Blueprint, Dash, Protege, 616, Predominant, E&B Predestined 650, E&B Precision 835



Ebonys Grand Master x SVF NJC Built Right
 Simmental Sires:
 Built Right, Infiniti, Star Power, Entourage, Trademark, Invasion, Grand Master, Dew It Right, Mr Madison, MTTR Built Right

• 45 Angus Bulls
• 25+ Simmental/SimAngus Bulls
• 5 Reg. Angus Spring Heifers
• 12 Open Comm. Angus Spring Heifers
• 10 Open Comm. Spring Sim/Angus Heifers

For Catalog Or Information
Joel or Mary Banker - 785-852-4229
Mike or Celeste Rains - 785-672-0010
or visit us at www.jmbangus.com

This sale will be broadcast live on the internet.
DVAuction
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