

Students prepare for Science Olympiad

By Greg Stover
The Goodland Star-News
Fourteen high school students from Goodland get to show their stuff at Fort Hays State University Feb. 12 at the regional Science Olympiad.

Some of the students introduced their projects to the Goodland School Board during a meeting Jan. 26 in the high school's cafeteria. The board went over to the vocational education building to meet the students and see some of the projects first hand.

Goodland is one of 69 Kansas high schools competing in five regions, the seventh straight year Goodland will compete in Science Olympiad. Goodland earned first place at the regional in 2002.

The top teams from each region will be at the state competition April 5 in Wichita. The actual number from each region, normally four, will be determined later. Goodland has advanced to state the past five years in a row with its best overall showing coming in 2001, placing 14th. That year, Goodland finished fifth among small schools.

Last year, Goodland finished second at regionals and 15th overall at state, fourth among small schools.

Dennis Friedrichs, faculty advisor for Science Olympiad, said the competition is unusual in that individual winners do not advance to state unless they are members of one of the top teams. He said this helps develop team cohesion and motivates members to help each other to do the best they can.

Friedrichs, a technology teacher, and Duane Unger, a chemistry teacher, are this year's coaches. Friedrichs has been with the program since it started in Goodland during the 1997-1998 school year. This is Unger's second.

There are two general types of competition, events that require students to design, construct, and oper-



Seniors Britany Redlin and Matt Heiter demonstrated the robot they created for the Robot Ramble event at the Science Olympiad regional competition Feb. 12 in Wichita. They briefed school members on the tasks the robot must complete, the rules and how the event is scored.

Photo by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News

ate a piece of equipment/instrument, and those that test the students' knowledge in specific areas of science. Goodland will compete in all 23 events at regional. Friedrichs said not all schools compete in all events, but doing so improves a team's chance to advance to state.

The first event introduced to the board members was Mission Possible. This calls for a demonstration of energy transfers using five allowable basic forms of energy. Seniors Kayla Rasure and Megan Leonard

described what the event involves and showed off a device they helped construct.

The device must light a candle using thermal energy, then extinguish the candle using a series of energy transfers that starts with the dropping of a playing card. There must be at least one energy transfer separating the lighting and extinguishing of the candle. The device must fit in an imaginary box that is 50 by 50 by 80 centimeters. The team gets three minutes, but opti-

mum time is 60 seconds.

Seniors Britany Redlin and Matt Heiter briefed the guests about Robot Ramble. This event calls for a robot, already built, that must complete specific tasks on a 4 by 8 foot playing field. The robot must complete as many tasks as possible within two minutes. Scoring is based on tasks completed and whether to robot and other items remain within the field of play.

Sophomore Aaron Duell demonstrated some of the designs consid-

ered for Tower Building. This event call for a the construction of a tower using only glue and wood pieces that can hold 15 kilograms five centimeters above the testing platform. The goal is construct the lightest possible design that can hold the weight.

Friedrichs demonstrated one of the two instruments constructed by students for Sounds of Music. The event requires two students to construct musical instruments without using any electronic components or toy and/or professional music parts. Both students must perform a melody with the instruments. Each instrument must play a musical scale which will be judged by an electronic tuner.

Scoring will be based on creativity, workmanship, quality of sound, knowledge of the theoretical basis of instruments and the students' performance. Senior Michael Mangus and sophomore Matt Rohr are working this event.

In the event Storm the Castle, the objective is to construct a mechanism that can launch a projectile as far and as accurately as possible using only falling counterweights. The device must be no more than 75 centimeters high, 100 long and 100 wide.

The device must operate in two by two meter square launch area, but must be triggered from outside the square. Each team will get three launch attempts using different counterweights. The teams must determine the distance the projectile will travel based on the counterweight.

Scoring will be based on distance and accuracy, much like a pass, punt and kick contest. Goodland's device, built by freshman Jared Hall and Rohr, resembles a medieval catapult.

Leonard and Rasure told the guests they will participate in the Forestry event where they will tested on their ability to identify trees and their knowledge of tree

structure, ecology and economic characteristics.

Senior Amy Anderson described the three of the events she will be tested in: Cell Biology, Designer Genes and Disease Detective. Each event will consist of a written examination that will include analytical problems to solve to test their knowledge and reasoning skills. She will also be tested on Astronomy.

Anderson will be joined in each event by another Goodland student. Sophomore Derek Fenner also will be tested in Astronomy. Sophomore May Davis joins Anderson for Cell Biology. Sophomore Kali Rietcheck will compete in Designer Genes and Heiter in Disease Detective.

There are 13 other events in this year's Science Olympiad. Senior Trista Lalicker will represent Goodland in Dynamic Planet, which will test her problem solving skills in earth science, and Qualitative Analysis, which consists of two parts: Using chemical and physical tests to identify solid compounds, and a written test.

Lalicker will join Leonard and Duell in Experimental Design which tests the team's ability to design, conduct and report on an experiment conducted on site in Hays.

Sophomore Mark Starr will take part in Physics Lab, Polymer Detective and Wright Stuff. For Wright Stuff, Starr and Fenner have to construct one or two rubber band driven monoplanes within competition specifications. In Hays, each team will conduct two official flights. The team having the one flight with the most time aloft will be the winner.

The seven other events include Bottle Rocket, Chemistry Lab, Fossils, "Practical Data Gathering, Remote Sensing, Science of Fitness and Write It Do It.

Friedrichs said there will be an exhibit of Goodland's entries for public display sometime after the state competition.

County micro-loan committee has new member, renewed interest

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News
Sherman County commissioners appointed City Commissioner Dave Daniels to the micro-loan review committee, replacing former Chamber of Commerce President Tim Rath who moved away last year.

Daniels, who has been a leader in the new county Economic Development Council, said he was willing to serve on the review committee. He said there are several people interested in the loans and the committee plans to meet this week to review at least three applications.

The county has made only one loan in two years, despite efforts by several agencies. Small businesses can borrow up to \$15,000 for startup or other expenses.

After the vote, Economic Development Director Carolyn Applegate arrived and introduced Wade Phillips the new facilitator for the Northwest Kansas Enterprise Facilitation Consortium, which includes Sherman, Greeley, Wichita, Scott, Lane and Kearney counties.

Phillips said he was looking forward to working with entrepreneurs and those in business who want help. The program is designed to help small businesses succeed and create jobs.

Phillips said he has been living in Manhattan for the past 10 years, but has moved to Leoti to be in the center of the six counties.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Signed a waiver of the \$50 fee for the Alcoholics Anonymous to use the fairgrounds for a meeting because it is a non-profit organization.
- Decided to wait for Mary Messamore, emergency management coordinator, to discuss the recommendations for appointment to the Local Emergency Planning Committee. Messamore gave the commissioners a list of people recommended at a committee meeting on Wednesday.
- Received the draft of a change to the emergency response manual dealing with Brewster, and decided

to table the issue until the county fire chief and Brewster fire chief have a chance to review the proposal. A question came up about when Goodland ambulance and fire crew are sent to Brewster, and Messamore said there was no clear policy in the present manual used by the dispatchers.

• Received a letter stating the county needs to appoint two people to the Emergency Medical Services Council. County Clerk Janet Rumpel said Steve Evert and Karen Hooker have been serving on the council, and her records indicate they were to serve through this year. The letter said the positions are for two-year terms, which would mean they need to be reappointed this year. The commissioners decided to table this until the next meeting to check with Evert and Hooker. It was

mentioned Hooker felt it would be better to appoint Bruce Gleason, who is the current head of the ambulance service.

- Approved a plan to allow sheriff's deputies Burton Pianalto and Terry Smith to repay an overpayment of wages in installments.
- Discussed with County Attorney Bonnie Selby a warranty deed to ADM on the sewer pond property at Caruso the county sold at the end of December. She said she did not find anything wrong, and the commissioners agreed to approve the deed when the originals arrive.
- Selby said she had met with Curt Way, public works manager, Sheriff Doug Whitson and Rumpel about amendments to the county employee drug and alcohol policy. She said the only change they recommended was to change a para-

graph dealing with prescription drugs which states the employee needs to advise the supervisor of any drugs they are taking which might impair their ability to operate equipment or vehicles.

The other change was in the paragraph about reporting for a drug test within 30 minutes. Selby said this sometimes is difficult if the employee being tested was away from the testing site when called. The new wording would say the employee must report within a reasonable time, and it is up to the department head to decide if the time was reasonable. She said these changes would be put in the employee manual.

• Reviewed a letter from the Federal Aviation Administration saying that a proposed 349 foot tower to be built 2.37 nautical miles south of Renner Field/Goodland Municipal Airport would not interfere in the landing or take off of aircraft from the airport. The tower is to be built by Justin Bentzinger for Kansas Towers near the east exit on I-70 (Exit 19).

The commissioners went into closed session for 30 minutes to discuss employee evaluations. The next meeting will be at 8 a.m. today in the commission room on the main floor at the Sherman County courthouse, 813 Broadway.

student of the week



Name: Lance Tedford
Parents: Myron and Penny Tedford
Grade: Senior
Age: 18
We've nominated this student because: we nominated Lance because of his constant chatter within the classroom. Never does a day go by that we don't have to say "Lance, control yourself. Please be quiet so others can visit too." It's a never ending battle. Seriously, Lance is here to learn. He proves it every day by his work ethic and his good attitude within the classroom. Lance is an excellent role model for the younger

students both in the classroom and in the athletic field. The math department is pleased to recognize him as our student of the week.

Student Comment: My favorite part of school life is athletics, art is my favorite subject and I will always remember all the great friends and teachers at Goodland High School.

Activities involved in at school: Basketball, track and football filmer.

My choice of movies, books, and games: My favorite movies are "The Pistol" and "Hoosiers", I listen to any kind of music. My favorite type of books are suspense and my favorite game is Risk.

After I leave Goodland High School I intend to: attend college majoring in sports management.

And 10 years from now, I think I'll be: working and happy in whatever I decide to do.

Favorite Quote: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Phillipians 4:13



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