

Board plans new video featuring Goodland

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News
Development of a new video presentation featuring Goodland by S&T Communications was approved by the Sherman County Economic Development Council. Don Newell, sales representative for S&T and a council member, presented a bid for the project which would include filming, editing, music and voice work to produce the 8-12 minute presentation and 200 CD copies for \$4,200. Members discussed doing the video, and finding a way to connect it to a web site to allow people to download the production and watch it on their computer. Newell said he had talked to his technical people about the project and they can produce it in streaming video, which would allow people to watch the presentation on

the Internet without having to download it first. There was a question of how the people would access the video, because there is no web site for the Economic Development office, and it will take some time to get one designed and established. Council member Harlan House made the motion to go ahead with the project and it was seconded by Council member Dwane Timm. The vote was 6-1 with Newell abstaining. Further discussion of how to connect the council to the Internet led to the decision to appoint a committee to research the project and produce some recommendations. Chairman John Garcia appointed Newell and Tracy Purvis of S&T; Mark Scheopner, who maintains the goodlandnet web site; Donna Price who works with the

Convention and Visitors Bureau calendar; and Tom Betz, who works with the *nwkansas.com* web sites, which include *The Goodland Star-News*. Timm was asked to serve as chair of the Incentive Committee, and it will include County Commissioner Kevin Rasure, City Manager Ron Pickman, City Commissioner Dave Daniels, Patty Eckhardt of the Farm Service Agency office and House, a farmer and feedlot operator. Council members said a business incentive package is an important part of the economic development efforts, and that it needs to be developed as part of a package director Carolyn Applegate can send out to companies who may be interested in relocating to Goodland. The council has been working with the city and county to develop a package, which might in-

clude offers of tax breaks and concessions on utility fees, for example. At the January meeting, Cara Daise of Bankwest said she would like to have Shelly Thompson, secretary to the bank board, take her place on the council. Members said they thought that the bank representative was to be a decision maker at the bank, but when Dave Daniels checked the resolution, it does not say anything specific about the bank representative. House made a motion to accept the nomination of Thompson to be the Bankwest representative for the remainder of Daise's term, which is up in December. Timm seconded the motion. The vote was 5-1 with House, Daniels, Timm, West and Newell voting in favor. Kim Bohme, treasurer, voted against, saying she felt more of the

original council members should be present before a vote was taken. The council members were invited to the Aircraft Seal and Gasket ribbon cutting at 10 Thursday, and the building dedication in honor of former city Public Works Director Ed Wolak at 9 a.m. The council will host the Leadership Sherman County group at lunch on Wednesday, March 10, at Gambino's' as part of its regular informal session. Applegate was not at the meeting because she was attending a Western Kansas Rural Economic Development Association meeting. In her written report, Applegate said that another small-business micro loan had been approved, and that a third may be possible before the end of the month, which is the deadline for the project.

Ice carving earns award

By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Star-News
A Goodland native has shown himself to be handy with a chainsaw, not to cut down trees, but to carve ice sculptures. Drew Wurtz, son of Rob and Carla Wurtz of Goodland and a culinary arts student at Johnson County Community College, won the student class at the Winter Ice Fest Ice-Carving Contest in Kansas City. The event, co-sponsored by the American Culinary Federation Greater Kansas City Chefs Association, Greater Kansas City Hotel and Motel Association and the Kansas City Convention and Visitors Bureau, was held Saturday, Jan. 17, at Barney Allis Plaza. Wurtz's ice carving was on display at the Downtown Kansas City Marriott later that evening for the Missouri Restaurant Association inaugural banquet. His ice carvings can be viewed at the Doubletree Hotel restaurant, the Rotisserie, in Overland Park, where he does his apprenticeship.

Wurtz graduated from Goodland High School in 2003, and his mother said his career choice has been influenced by people in his life here. "He's worked for Rod Cooper at Crazy R's since he was 12," she said, "and I'm quite a cook." The artistic part of the job was influenced by Mark Hagerman at the high school, she said. She said he enjoys cooking, especially pastries. He's leaning toward the dessert area, she said, anything he can put a little art to, and ultimately, he wants to work on a cruise ship. Drew got a good deal for his apprenticeship, Carla said. The school is a three-year program, she said, and he has to work 40 hours per week while carrying a full college schedule. But he gets a good wage, she said, insurance and other benefits, for example, rooms free at any Hilton. And the Doubletree will pay 90 percent of his tuition after his first year as long as he maintains a "C" average.

He can continue to work for Hilton after school, she said, and they have hotels everywhere, but he has had a job offer from someone else. Drew sent a sculpture to the Doubletree this weekend, Carla said, and it wasn't out five minutes before a man came in and asked to speak to whoever made it. The man asked Drew how old he was, she said, and he said "19." The man asked how many he had made, she said, and he told him two besides the one in the competition and told him he had won. The man gave him a business card and said he wanted Drew to come work for him. There's money to be made in ice sculpting, she added. A customer pays a minimum of \$200, Carla said. For the competition, Drew had two hours, and he completed the mother and baby dolphins in that time. He doesn't have a pattern for his sculptures, Carla said; he takes a four-foot cube of ice and starts carving.



Drew Wurtz won the Winter Fest Ice-Carving Contest in Kansas City with this sculpture of a mother and baby dolphin.

Graduation date set for May 21

By Greg Stover
The Goodland Star-News
Graduation day for the Class of 2005 was set for May 21 at last Monday's Goodland School Board meeting, making the last day of school for seniors May 18. High school Principal Harvey Swager said the dates under consideration were May 14 and 21. Potential problems with both caused the board to debate which conflicted least with school priorities. The earlier date would have made the seniors' last school day May 11, which he said would curtail their learning and affect the learning environment of the other students as well. The later date conflicted with state championships for spring sports, possibly forcing senior athletes to choose between a potential championship and their graduation ceremony. A Sunday graduation was considered, but some board members, citing past problems, convinced the board it was not a good idea. During public forum, LeAnn Friedrichs representing Education First!, a new "educational support group," presented the group's goals to the board. Those include creating community interest and promoting involvement in the education process, promoting academic excellence by recognizing the

achievements of students and teachers, and helping create enthusiasm for learning; and being a liaison between the community and the school board. Friedrichs said that a headline "Support group to monitor school board" used by *The Goodland Star-News* for her letter to the editor in the Feb. 6 issue was misleading. She emphasized that the purpose of Education First! was not to judge the board or its decisions, but to serve as a positive communication link between the people and the school district. Friedrichs said the group wants to work with the board without being at odds with it. In other business, the board: • Voted 4-3 to add baseball to the high school athletic program for the 2004-2005 school year. • Heard from the principals about activities at their schools that, included upcoming tests, extracurricular activities, sports, and teacher professional development. • Voted to allow school superintendent Marvin Selby to seek new bids for two of the district's certificates of deposit to possibly increase investment revenue. The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. and adjourned at 9:42. The next regular meeting will be at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 23, at West Elementary School, 912 W. 12th St.

Racing schedule approved

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News
There will be eight weekends of stock car racing this summer after Sherman County commissioners Tuesday approved the use of the fairgrounds and race track for Land R Promotions. Promoter Loyd Koel said he and his wife Rebecca had not made money last year, their first at the track, but would try it for one more year. The couple's efforts drew praise from fans and racing publications alike. "Last year was great for the fans, cars and drivers" he said, "but it was not productive and we lost money. "We are paying the loss out of our pockets, and have been looking for ways to cut the costs this year. Colby is raising their grandstand prices, and we are going to bite the bullet and stay even with them. "Flatlander was a great weekend for us last year, but not enough to overcome the losses in the earlier

races." Commissioner Mitch Tiede asked William McKnight, county building superintendent, if he had checked out the dates to see if there were any conflicts. McKnight said he did not see any. "We hope you do well," Tiede said, "and if there are ways we can help you, let us know. This is a good program, and good for our community. We want to see it succeed." "We have not wanted to ask for help," Koel said. "I appreciate your support, and we hope things go better this year. "We did have an increase in the number of people attending last year, and an increase in the number of cars and drivers. That was good, but the costs were higher than we expected. "The grandstand price will be the only thing that goes up this year; all the other prices, including the pit passes, will remain the same." Talking about the race track,

Tiede said there were some guardrails that needed to be fixed before the first race. Koel said he would see that is done. The dates will be May 22, June 5, 19, July 10, 24, Aug. 21, Sept. 4 and 24-25 (Flatlander Fall Festival). In other business, the commissioners: • Held a closed-door session for 14 minutes with Curt Way, public works manager, on a personnel matter. No action was taken. • Delayed a resolution about a credit card for the sheriff's department. Commissioner Kevin Rasure asked for the delay because the faxed information was hard to read. The item will be on the agenda for the next meeting to 8 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 27. • Approved vouchers totaling \$63,222. • Rasure announced that the micro-loan committee had approved a second loan on Thursday, and possibly a third would be considered.

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