



Children gain new friends thanks to high school peer counselors

Malinn Bonner, 2, stood next to her new friend, one of more than 600 stuffed animals collected by the Goodland High School peer counselors. Malinn and her mother Jessica (at left in above photo), were introduced to Malinn's new friend by senior Cortney Schields. Since Nov. 4, the peer counselors collected 623 stuffed animals, most of which were donated to the hospital and ambulance service to give to children in crisis. About 125 were donated to the Genesis food bank.

Photos by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News

Electric bills may jump during maintenance at main plant

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Power costs and electric bills may take a jump this spring as the main supplier shuts down for maintenance, the city commission was warned last Monday.

City Manager Ron Pickman said he has received a notice that Sunflower Electric Power Corp. will be

taking its massive Holcomb plant down for annual maintenance from April 23 to May 10.

Rod Blake, superintendent of electric production, in a memo to Pickman, said he is putting together a load schedule for that time. Blake said the power rates are expected to be about \$65 per kilowatt hour, which was similar to what the city

faced at the same time last year.

Pickman said the city is looking for secondary providers to handle the load while Sunflower's plant is down. Last year, the city had trouble finding another provider because of transmission path problems.

He said the city is looking for help from the Kansas Municipal Electric Association or the Municipal Elec-

tric Association of Nebraska.

"The fuel cost may exceed the normal rates," Pickman said, "and would be reflected in the customer bills in the summer months.

"The problem is the cost to generate enough power is even higher."

Pickman said the city power plant crew has been working to get the No. 8 engine back on line. They got

it running last week, but they found more problems, and they are getting a bid for the repairs.

He said the city employees have been trying to cut the cost by reworking many of the parts.

"I want you to be informed about where we are in the power plant project," Pickman said, "because I don't want to get into the same situ-

ation we had last year when people were complaining about the large increase in fuel adjustment charges."

Last year when Sunflower took the Holcomb plant down, there was a problem getting it restarted, and the plant was out for an extended time, causing the city's power costs to skyrocket.

Sheriff's race may get additional candidate

SHERIFF, from Page 1

papers without Cooper's signature and Rumpel called Jana Atchison of the state Governmental Ethics Commission, who eventually said that indeed a committee could be formed without the candidate's signature.

Atchison told Rumpel the state had not been asked this question before, and there was some head scratching before the answer was found.

The committee paid the required \$20 fee, Rumpel said, and has started to gather signatures for the petition to get Cooper on the general election ballot.

Cooper said he does not know "anything" about Baumfalk's political moves. He had a firm "no comment" when asked if he had fertilized Baumfalk's rest area.

"I don't sign anything unless my banker and lawyer are there," Cooper said Monday. "I don't care what he does with this, but I am not going to sign anything.

"I am sure he can get the names, but I can stop it with a simple signature to withdraw my name."

Cooper's wife said she felt the joke has gotten out of hand.

"I told Virgil I would go along with being a co-chairman, but I think this has gone farther than I expected," she said Monday. "I am sure glad these two like each other."

Rumpel said the petition needs the signatures of at least 4 percent of the registered voters in Sherman County.

"They need 159 valid signatures," Rumpel said, "and that is why I tell everyone to get more names in case some are invalid."

Bank gains vice president, ag loan officer

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

In a world where many are trying to climb the "ladder of success," a Goodland man says he is where he wants to be.

Joshua Dechant, former manager of ADM Collingwood Grain in Kanorado, became a vice president and ag loan officer at Bankwest on Feb. 19.

Dechant was born in Hays and moved in the early '80s for his dad's job to Thornton, Colo., north of Denver, where he grew up. He majored in animal science and minored in ag business at Colorado State University, graduating in 1999.

Right after college, Dechant said,

he got a job at Collingwood in Brewster. He later worked for the firm in Goodland and then Kanorado.



Dechant

May.

The job at Bankwest is a good opportunity, Dechant said, but is not just a quick stop on the career ladder.

"They're training me in all aspects of banking," he said. "I'm

learning the whole banking industry. Hopefully this is my last stop in the career path. My family as a whole is happy in Goodland.

"I think it's a good career change and a good path to be on right now."

Dechant said that with a minor in ag business, he interviewed with a lending institution right out of college.

"They wanted to move me to eastern Nebraska," he said. "There was no way I wanted to do that."

As for his new job, Dechant says, "It's in ag business. That's where my heart is.

"Goodland is the place to be. No hustle and bustle of city life."

It's also a good location for his family. Dechant said he has family in Colorado and in Hays, and Koren has family in Colorado. Goodland is a happy medium, he said, about 200 miles either way.

As for the area's economy, Dechant tries to see the positive.

"A commercial says tough times build character," he said. "We're all getting character.

"We're on the bottom of things, (so we) can only go up."

corrections

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to re-

port errors. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

"Why didn't we do this a long time ago?"



We hear this time and time again from families who have come in and pre-arranged and pre-funded their funerals by making decisions in advance. Families have helped ease the burden during a difficult time for their loved ones.

Also, pre-funding is an important way to protect your resources against rising funeral cost. You pre-fund at today's prices with the knowledge that there will be adequate funds available for funeral expenses at time of need.

Shouldn't you consider these advantages?

Diann Ross, a trained pre-need funeral counselor, representing Bateman Funeral Home can assist with those decisions concerning pre-funding of funerals.

Call 785-890-6600 for information or to set up an appointment.

Diann is a representative of Homesteaders Life Co.

Health Fair 2004 Thank you to everyone who participated making the health fair successful!



The Target Area Council wants to thank the Prevention of Child Abuse & Neglect Board for grant funding making this event possible. Questions? Call Art Lovington at 785-899-3878



1006 Arcade...This beautiful 3 bedroom home is located in an excellent neighborhood and offers finished basement, central heat & air and detached garage with alley access. This home is in excellent condition and is priced at only **75,000**. Ask Cynthia to show you this home.

508 E. 11th...Lots of amenities packed into this little gem! Offering 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, partial basement, all appliances, large carport, attached double car garage and newer vinyl siding. Priced to sell at **42,000**. Contact Cynthia for your showing.



1308 Cherry...This 4 bedroom home features newer carpet or hard wood floors throughout, wood burning fireplace, partial basement, oversized double garage and large carport. Give Cynthia a call to view this one. Priced at only **45,000**.



Please take a look at these other fine listings:

624 W. 13th...25,000	1228 Colorado...48,000
517 Walnut, Kanorado...45,000	1011 W. 9th...45,000
323 Grand...62,500	867 Centennial...134,000

Cynthia Butts, 899-3944; Donna Moore 899-6159.

RICHARDSON'S HOMESTEAD REALTY, INC.

1023 Main • Goodland, KS 67735

785-899-2328 or 1-800-974-2426

OR E-MAIL US AT: homestead@goodland.ixks.com

Visit our website: www.goodlandksrealestate.com