

Chamber mounts drive to collect dues

By Greg Stover
The Goodland Star-News

The Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce is mounting a drive to round up members who have not paid their 2004 dues.

Nearly 60 businesses and individual members have not yet paid their fees, said Courtney Warden, the chamber's executive director, at the board meeting last Tuesday, and five businesses have not paid their bills for replacing their Christmas bulbs last October.

Warden said each of the delinquent members have been billed at least twice already. A copy of each of the latest bills was

brought to the meeting and each of the eight board members present took some and will try to get them paid.

The bills total more than \$16,000, which board Treasurer Brian Linin said is significant portion of the Chamber's annual budget.

As part of the project to make the chamber a more important part of the community, board President Donna Swager asked each of the five committee chairs for an update.

Two of the committees, Government Relations/Transportation and Beautification and Revitalization, are still looking for members. Two others, Membership and Agriculture, are nearly finished forming

their membership and are planning their first meeting.

The fifth committee, Business Promotions, held its first meeting Wednesday morning with Swager filling in for Chairman Tremon Kizer, who was busy preparing for the high school's graduation. Present were Dave Branda, of the Sherman Theatre; Josh Dechant, of BankWest; and Linda Knott, of Knott Just Books. Warden also attended.

Swager started the meeting by telling the committee that one of its missions is to develop ideas to promote existing businesses in Goodland. She said it was especially important to promote them during upcoming

major events such as the 40th anniversary of Northwest Kansas Technical College June 12-13, Freedom Fest during the Fourth of July weekend and the Flatlander Fall Festival.

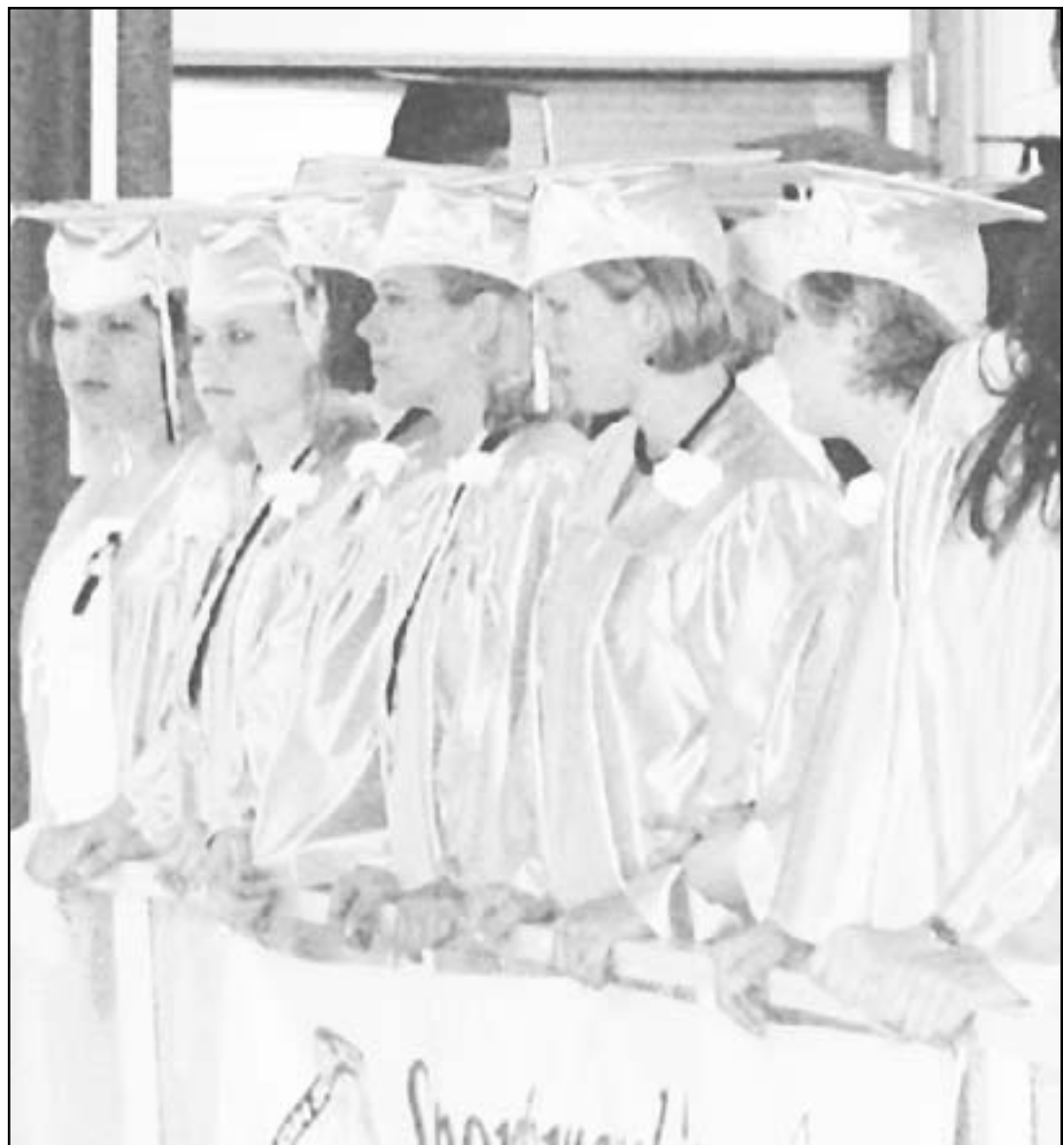
In other business Tuesday, the board:
• Heard from Patty Purvis and Bonnie Hawks about the schedule for the college's anniversary celebration, which will honor the school's original board members. The school board members at the time the college opened will be honored for their part in forming the college, they said.

• Heard from Warden on work on the Chamber's website. She noted the deal includes some mailboxes. One suggestion

was that five of them could be used for communications with the committees.

• Heard from Linin that the Chamber's rent was current, all past-due rent paid and both sides are satisfied. The Chamber signed a new year-long lease with Property Management, owned by Justin Bentzinger, earlier this month. The Chamber was delinquent on late fees left over from 2003 and had not agreed to a new lease which caused a dispute between it and Property Management.

The meeting adjourned around 8:30 a.m. The next meeting will be Tuesday, June 8, starting at 7 a.m. in the Chamber's conference room, 1002 Main Ave.



Waiting for the graduation ceremony to begin on Saturday afternoon, several boys gathered around the railing south of the elevator and pointed out friends in the crowd gathering on the floor of Max Jones Fieldhouse. At the same time, a group of the senior girls lined the railing to the north of the elevator, watching the crowd file in and get ready for the ceremony.

Photos by Tom Betz / The Goodland Star-News

Graduates celebrate completion

CELEBRATE, from Page 1

"Wherever we go," he said, "we'll always be bound together as graduates of Goodland High School."

Anderson began the valedictorian address with a quote from news anchor and author Tom Brokaw: "You're educated.... think of it as your ticket to

change the world."

She acknowledged that the class may not feel ready to change the world, but said she believes they were created to do just that.

"By remembering God has a specific plan for all of us," Anderson said, "it makes it easier to make good decisions and consider others."

Dog searches continue

Although some students and parents have protested random dog searches at Goodland High, school officials say teachers and most students support them, and the school board voted 7-0 to continue with the program next year.

During his report at last Monday's meeting, Superintendent Marvin Selby asked the board if they wanted to sign a new contract with Interquest Detective Canines. The firm provides random searches for illegal and controlled substances on school property.

Steve Raymer, vice principal at the high school, told the board that 100 percent of the staff and 68 percent of the students surveyed favored continuing the program.

Board member Ron Schilling said he would support the program as long as the practice of locking down the school continued.

Locking down the school means keeping the students in the classes they are in at the time the search begins until it is over. Restroom

breaks during the search are supervised by the staff.

The latest search, done at the end of April, was the first time the school was fully locked down which lasted about three and a half hours. Raymer says this helps prevent students from moving anything they are not supposed to have on school property.

Raymer said the search team checks the student's lockers, classrooms, common areas and the parking lots. He told the board the dogs will "hit" on some items, such as prescription drugs that are not on the banned list. Raymer said there were several "hits" during the last search but none were banned items.

Mike Campbell made a motion to continue the program next year, specifying that the lockdowns also continue. Danny Whalen seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

The contract with Interquest provides for a search team of a dog and the handler to conduct random

searches during the school year. When and how many are left up to Interquest. Not even the principal knows until the team arrives.

This was the third year the searches were conducted. Raymer said some guns were found during a search the first year which was the worst find, as a result of these searches, at the high school.

At a short special meeting Saturday, before graduation, the board unanimously voted to buy a used 1999 International/Thomas 36-passenger school bus for \$35,900 plus \$450 for delivery to Goodland from Oklahoma City.

The board also voted to hire Don Smith, a high school math teacher, to be the Cowgirls basketball coach next season, replacing Terry Daise, a science teacher at Grant Junior High, who resigned as coach of both girls basketball and softball effective at the end of this school year.

The next regular board meeting will be at 7 p.m. Monday, May 24, at the district office at 1312 Main.

Council meets tonight

The Sherman County Economic Development Council will meet at 5:30 p.m. tonight in the basement at Western State Bank after missing the April meeting because of the death of Western State Banks employee Merlyn Stasser.

Tim Gittinger, who recently completed his Eagle Scout project, will talk to the council about his efforts to put new benches in Gulick Park.

Director Carolyn Applegate will report on her activities over the past two months and bring the council up to date on projects that are coming up or in progress.

Harlan D. House will have a report on the agriculture committee. Duane Timm will report on the incentive committee, Steve West will report on the industrial park committee, and Don Newell will report on the web site committee.

The council will get an update on the micro loan program and the number of loans approved. This program provides loans up to \$15,000 to help expand, relocate or improve small businesses.

To date, four loans have been approved and a fifth is in process. The county received \$100,000 over two

years ago to use to make these loans. The program was due to end in March, but the state granted a nine-month extension.

Once the money is loaned out, the county will be able to put the payments into a revolving loan fund to be used in the future.

Chairman of the council is John Garcia, vice chairman is Dave Daniels, treasurer Kim Bohme and secretary is Patty Eckhardt.

Members are Larry Harper, Randy Schoenthaler, Shelly Thompson, House, Newell, Timm and West.

Man honored for 46 years on job

HONOR, from Page 1

"When I started, there were 13 of us," Daise said, "and I either out-lived them or outwalked them."

For surveying land, Daise has gone from wheels to chains (a metal tape measure) to the Global Positioning System, a change that has not disappointed Daise.

"It's wonderful," he said, "I'll never learn everything about it."

But the biggest change, he said, is in the size and acreage of farms

and the way people farm.

"It's a lot nicer sitting in an air-conditioned tractor than looking at the back end of a horse," he said.

One day, he said, all farming will be done sitting at a computer.

Daise measures crop acreage, measures and inspects grain bins, inspects the condition of grain in the bins, inspects cattle, machinery and other things put up as security on loans, and does appraisals.

The agency administers commodity loans and conservation pro-

grams, Campbell said, and Daise has been instrumental in getting the work done.

"None of the programs could have been administered," he said, "without a field assistant to go out and serve as the eyes and ears for the USDA," he said.

Daise said he took the job because he wanted a paycheck, but he enjoyed it and still does.

"It's something different," he said, "you're active and you're outside."

He said the women he works with make his job easier, getting all the paperwork done. But his favorite part of the job is getting ideas from other farmers.

"I like stealing other ideas," he said. "Some I can use, and some not. But it doesn't cost me anything either way."

corrections

An article about the Goodland High School graduation in the May 14 issue of *The Goodland Star-News* reported incorrectly that Les and Betty Sutton, parents of the graduation speaker, are from Salina. They have lived in Goodland for 41 years. The speaker is from Salina. This was a reporting error.

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