



Kids, bikers join parade

Chilly children (left) waved to the crowd from the Wheat Ridge Acres float in the Parade of Lights on Saturday. The Northwest Kansas Riders Toy Run (above) delivered toys for the Genesis drive. (Right) Shanda (middle), Shawnea, 4, and Ivan Goodman (right) braved the cold to watch the parade.

Photos by Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News



Goodland police department gets new radios

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News
Crime fighting and public service will be easier to co-ordinate as the Goodland Police Department beefs up communication with a \$8,969 federal Local Law Enforcement Grant.

City Manager Ron Pickman told city commissioners Monday that the grant from the Kansas Criminal

Justice Coordinating Council will be used to buy new radios.

Police Chief Ray Smee said the grant will pay part of the cost and the city will match \$1,270.

The new units, he said, will replace the department's old, outdated hand held and car radios.

"Our radios are 15 years old," he said.

Sometimes, he added, the old ra-

dios cut out or the police have problems communicating.

"We have trouble getting into dispatch," he said, "or they have trouble hearing us."

Keeping in touch with dispatcher is important, he said, for the officers' safety. He said he will be buying more modern Kenwood radios.

"The radios are going to be a lot better," he said.

The grant will allow the city to buy extra radios for mutual aid, too. Smee said the extra units will help if the police call in help from out of town or from other departments.

"The radios will all be on the same frequency," he added.

To ensure they buy quality radios, he said, the grant requires the department to file quarterly reports on the equipment for the next two years.

Smee said he received notice that the grant had been approved, but he had to send back some paperwork and is still awaiting a check. After he gets the money, he said, he will order the new radios.

Once ordered, Smee expects the radios to be in use within a couple of weeks.

"The guys are all excited about getting new radios," he said.

Pickman told commissioners that the radios are a necessary upgrade and they will help out other city departments.

"This is something we've needed to do," Pickman said.

He said he got notice of the grant via email and it required quick action by Smee.

"That's a great deal," Commissioner Dave Daniels said.

City orders new playground equipment for Gulick Park

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News
Two new slides, monkey bars and ladders will be up and ready for children soon in Gulick Park as the Goodland City commissioners agreed Monday to order the equipment.

City Manager Ron Pickman said the play gear will cost the city more

than expected after shipping charges and a steel surcharge were added.

He said the dealer, Cunningham Associates Inc., originally quoted a price of \$18,862 for the equipment with the Healthy Kids Grant Initiative through GameTime, the manufacturer, matching half.

The new total of \$19,428 includes \$566 for the steel, which will

cost the city \$283.

The grant does not match cost on shipping, so the city will pay an additional \$1,420, bringing its share up a total of \$1,703.

The grant is offered through the company and Pickman said it is the company's way of helping schools, cities and commercial customers buy their equipment.

He said the difference in price isn't a big problem, since the city has \$40,000 in the liquor tax fund used for park improvements.

The quoted price, Pickman said, was only valid with the grant until Tuesday, so they had to make a decision that night.

Commissioner Dave Daniels asked why the equipment, made

mostly of fiber-reinforced plastic, would include such a large surcharge for steel.

"I think there's a lot of steel in the framing," he replied.

Pickman said the equipment is a 35-foot-by-32-foot PowerScape Plus model featuring two slides and other play activities.

The system will be shipped with-

in a month of the order. Chuck Lutters, director of public works and public utilities, said if the weather permits, the crew can assemble it right away.

He said crew will dig down about a foot and then set the poles in cement. After the equipment is set up, he said, they will add roughly a foot of pea gravel for cushioning.

Shelter fund raiser legitimate

Those who bought a "coupon book" or "shopping spree" over the phone to help raise money for the Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter can rest easy.

Though the telemarketer's spiel made the deal sound too good to be true, causing some to suspect a scam, the offer is legitimate.

Animal Shelter President Sandy Rodgers said she has received a lot of calls from people wondering about the offer. It is for real, she said. A company sells the coupon cards, Rodgers said, and wants a charity's name on the offer as a gimmick. The cards sell for about \$40, she said, and \$1 of that goes to the shelter.

The shelter gets about \$200 from the program, she said, but may not do it next year.

Rodgers said she may opt out or may talk to the company about using different tactics next time. It has been a hassle, she said.

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Medical center project looks towards rural health care improvement

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News
Goodland is one of two Kansas cities chosen to participate in the next phase of a pilot project to improve rural health care.

Jay Jolly, administrator of Goodland Regional Medical Center, said Goodland and Belleville had been selected to participate in the next phase of Kansas Rural Health Works, a grant program to help rural areas evaluate their health care systems, resources, needs and issues.

Hospitals interested in piloting the program were asked to send representatives to a meeting Oct. 21 in Great Bend. Goodland's hospital was one of 10 represented, but nine of the 20 people present were from Goodland.

Jolly said he has been contacting health care providers to develop a steering committee, which will meet Thursday, Dec. 9.

An expert from Kansas State University will be there, he said, to make sure the committee is on the right track. The first part, he said, will be to do some informational assignments and to gather background numbers the university can take back and collate.

One of the next steps, Jolly said, will be a survey about how people use the health care services here and why some leave the area for care.

corrections

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call

The program is part of a national initiative administered through the Kansas Rural Health Options Project, a partnership between the Kansas Office of Local and Rural Health, the Kansas Hospital Association, the Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services and the Kansas Medical Society.

The Rural Health Options Project partnered with Kansas State University Research and Extension through the Sherman County office. K-State is providing the research and planning leadership for the effort.

The project is paid for with a

grant, Jolly said, which goes to the state health options project.

The project is planned in phases, starting with an economic impact study for each of the 105 Kansas counties released in February.

The process should help communities identify their health care needs; examine the social, economic and political realities that affect the delivery of health care; determine desires and realistic

goals for add to and strengthen the system to meet community needs; and develop an action plan to meet those goals.

"This is a great opportunity for the community to take a look at the health care system we have and see where we feel it needs to go," Jolly said.

He said anyone interested in being part of the steering committee could call him or Diana Briney at the hospital.

student of the week



Name: Kelsey Leiker
Parents: Don and Delilah Leiker
Grade: Senior
Age: 18

We've nominated this student because: Kelsey is very dedicated to her classwork, music and sports at Goodland High School. Kelsey performs outstandingly well in her marketing classes, on her job and with activities in the DECA Chapter. Kelsey is also willing to go out of her way to help others to be successful in their academic pursuits. Kelsey qualified for and attended the National DECA Career Development Conference

last school year.

Student Comment: My favorite aspect of school life is being with my friends, because friends keep your head up and make you smile. My favorite subjects are Marketing and Music. I will always remember the trips I took throughout my high school career.

Activities involved in at school: DECA, X-Pressos, girl's golf and musical

My choice of movies, books, and games: My favorite movies are; "While You Were Sleeping" and "The Princess Bride." I love most video games and read a number of books, but don't have a favorite.

After I leave Goodland High School I intend to: McPherson College to earn my Bachelor's Degree. I want to major in Physical Therapy or Public Relations

And 10 years from now, I think I'll be: happily married, starting a family and working in a job that I love.

Favorite Quote: "Dedication is not what others expect of you, it is what you can give to others." (Unknown)

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