

By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Star-News

Central Elementary School is “rounding up” readers for a trip to a farm.

The school’s “Reading Round-up” program started Wednesday, Dec. 1, and the students have the goal of reading 2,400 books by May 15, said Librarian Karen Colip.

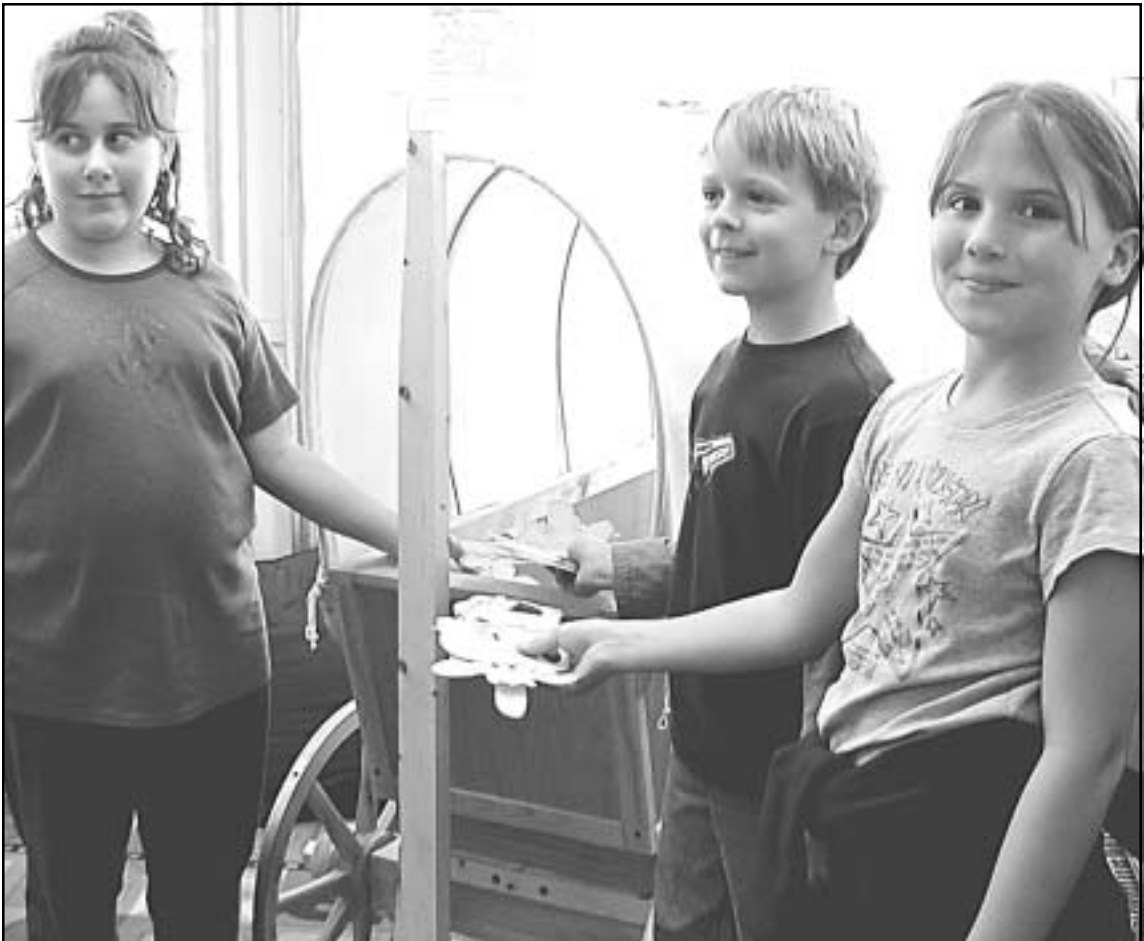
Each year, she said, the school has the reading program and then rewards the children with a trip and activities in May when they reach their goal. This year, the school has a covered wagon for students to put their slips in after reading a book.

Each student has to read at least seven books, Colip said, to qualify to go on the trip to a farm she plan to arrange in the spring. Some students have never been on a farm, she said.

Last year, the students read 2,000 books and got a trip to the airport, where they learned about flying and watched a rocket launch. The program was called “Blast off with Reading.”

Daniel Bateman from the Kansas Cosmosphere in Hutchison visited the school that spring. He talked to the kids about flying to Mars, and brought a Russian cosmonaut’s flight suit for them to see.

When they went to the airport, John Collett gave the students a tour of Butterfly Aviation and showed



Ashlee Roeder (left), Connor Gray (middle) and Sadie Avila, students in Virginia Palmgren’s fourth-grade class, put slips into a covered wagon Friday for books read in Central Elementary’s “Reading Round-up.” Gray (above) read during library time.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

them a spray plane and two older planes that were being restored. They also heard about how the

weather affects flying and what conditions might close the airport, toured the First National Bank’s jet

and the Goodland Regional Medical Center’s twin-engine plane. Previous rewards for meeting the

reading goal have included a trip to Smoky Gardens after the “Hooked on Books” program, seeing Principal

Sharon Gregory kiss Library Specialist Marcia Smith, dressed in a gorilla suit, and seeing Gregory kiss a real pig.

Flu vaccine still scarce in Sherman County

By Kathryn Burke
The Goodland Star-News

While people across the country are happy to hear that flu vaccination restrictions have been loosened, Sherman County residents are still facing a shortage.

After a redistribution plan, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment announced Monday that they are allowing health providers to include adults 50 years and older and household contacts of high-priority patients to receive the vaccine, too.

Here, though, Dorendo Harrel, registered nurse and administrator of Sherman County Health Department, says there are only about eight doses of the vaccine available right now, not nearly enough to expand the list.

“I got in just a few more doses,” she said, “so I’m still following the strict guidelines.”

That means only high-risk patients are candidates for doses:

- Children 6-23 months.
- Seniors 65 and older.
- Anyone with a chronic medical condition.
- Pregnant women.
- Residents of nursing homes and long-term-care facilities.
- Children up to age 18 years on chronic aspirin therapy.
- Health care workers.
- Out-of-home caregivers and household contacts of children 6 months and younger.

Harrel said the health department has a form they use to screen patients to determine highest risk.

“We always make sure they are

high risk,” she said.

This year, she estimates that roughly 880 doses have been given out, through the health department, the clinics and the Sherman County Good Samaritan Center. Children’s doses are not included in the count, she said, because their was no shortage.

She said she received 20 doses last week and expects roughly 10 more next month. The distribution was based on a state-wide formula to get the vaccine to people at the highest risk.

The vaccine takes about two weeks to take effect, Harrel said, so early vaccination is important.

The peak flu season is January through March, according to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. So far, the department is reporting only sporadic activity and no culture-confirmed cases.

Harrel said her department alone normally vaccinates around 1,200 people here.

She urged those who don’t receive the vaccination to take precautions during the peak season, with frequent hand washing, covering your mouth when you cough or sneeze, disposing of tissues properly and staying home if you feel sick.

“Just try to do the preventative things,” she said.

She said higher risk patients should see a physician as soon as flu symptoms appear. In some cases, she said, doctors can give anti-viral medications that will help fight the disease.

Jazz band, X-Pressos and speaker scheduled for Chamber banquet

By Kathryn Burke
The Goodland Star-News

Lively music, hot food and a guest speaker are on tap for the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce’s annual meeting on Thursday, Jan. 13.

Roast beef and potatoes will be on the menu at the Northwest Kansas Technical College and toes will be tapping to the music of the High School jazz band and the X-Pressos show choir.

At a meeting Tuesday, Dec. 7, Chamber board members agreed to sell tickets to the event for \$17.50 for members, \$20 for non-members and \$120 for a table of eight.

Chamber Chairman Donna Swager said after a search for a

speaker, she found most were asking for fees in excess of \$5,000. She said a motivational speaker who is a friend of her family would be willing to fill the spot.

The board agreed to take advantage of the speaker and compensate him with a donation similar to what they will give the jazz band and X-Pressos.

For invitations to the banquet, Chamber manager Courtney Warden made up several examples which included the menu and other information.

Board members said the invitations should include the Chamber’s logo, menu and the featured entertainment.

The invitations will go out to all

Chamber members and, Warden said, they will make posters to advertise the event around town.

The annual meeting will include a review of what the Chamber has done for the past year, a ceremony to give out membership plaques and installation of new board members.

Two board members, Brian Linin, chief financial officer with Frontier Equity Exchange, and Debbie Reed, insurance agent for Eklund’s First Insurance, are up for re-election this year. Also on the ballot are Steve Criswell, city build-

ing inspector; Gary Ginther, a retired auto instructor at the Northwest Kansas Technical College, and Karen Ginther, vice president and loan officer for Western State Bank; and Edward Flodin, owner of Cobblestone Floral and Garden Center. To make sure they can attend each meeting, both Gintners are on the ballot so they can alternate.

The votes must be in by Dec. 30. The installation will take place at the annual meeting.

Warden said she will give out 10 plaques to new members.

correction

In the Tuesday, Dec. 14, edition of *The Goodland Star-News*, the Matters of Record section reported that on Dec. 4, Diane Stefan reported an aggravated battery at 318 Washington. Stefan actually reported an aggravated burglary. This was the reporter’s error.

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New Listings

6280 County Rd 2, Kan....4.6 acres. This 2 bedroom, 1 bath home would make a great hunting retreat or with some work a nice inexpensive home close to I-70. Offered “as is” for \$12,600. Please call Donna Moore, 1-800-974-2426 to view this home.

1102 College...This home has lots to offer. Main floor offers 3 bedrooms, living room, dining room with sliding doors to patio, nice size kitchen and enclosed back porch. There’s a full basement that is stubbed for a bath room and has been divided into 3 bedrooms. Hardwood floors in the living room and main floor bedrooms. With some work you could have a really nice family home for not a lot of money. Offered at \$27,000. Please call Donna Moore, 1-800-974-2426 for your private tour.

1606 Texas...Big lot 100 x 140’ with large shop, garage and carport. The modular has had a fire and needs remodeled or replaced. The owners are offering this property for the value of the land and garage only. \$15,500. Please let Donna show you this home.

817 Harrison...New lowered price ...\$80,000. Big home! Nice neighborhood! This multi-level home boasts living room, 2 family rooms, 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, nice kitchen, newer siding, heat and air, windows plus lots more! Take a look, you’ll be glad you did. Please call Donna to see this home today.

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

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