



Presidential Patchwork (top), a quilt with U.S. Presidents on it, greets visitors entering the Carnegie Arts Center. Kids in Jona Neufeld's sixth grade and Mary Frazier's fifth grade made the quilt. Paper plates were transformed into snowpeople with spring hats (left) by Karen Stone's kindergarten students. The SS Wilson (above), made by fourth-grade students, is ready to set sail at the center.  
Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

## Elementary work fills arts center

What do Kansas, Christmas and the Presidents have in common? All were themes of art projects at Goodland's elementary schools this year.

Presidential Patchwork, a construction paper, pencil and crayon quilt featuring U.S. presidents, greets visitors at the annual student art show at the Carnegie Arts Center.

Art by students at North, West and Central elementary schools adorn the walls, hang from the ficus tree and fill the center's floor.

"I think there is a piece by each elementary student," said Arts Center Director Tina Goodwin.

Woven colonial flags adorn the wall next to the front door. Crayon renditions of the Kansas flag cover the bottom of the north wall below the two styles of construction-paper sunflowers by Susan McCall's second graders and Marilyn Sowers' fourth grade.

Three styles of paper-plate snowmen were made by Nona Mason's early childhood class, Karen Stone's kindergarten and Rebecca Musil's fourth grade.

Fourth graders built the SS Wilson and made portholes with crayon drawings of the sea with its creatures in paper plate frames. Debbie Bantam's third graders illustrated

the meaning of friendship.

A "12 Days of Christmas" tree by Janet Davis' and Lynette McLean's first-grade students stretches from ceiling to floor on the west wall. Judy Hayden's, Linda McKee's and Pam Hardy's did drawings of Mayas, Incas and Aztecs which cover partitions in the middle of the floor.

Presidential Patchwork was made by students in Jona Neufeld's sixth grade and Mary Frazier's fifth grade. The flags were made by Marianne Gray's first graders. Artists of the Kansas flags were Pat Thompson's first graders. Heart mobiles by Sandy Jamison's second graders hang on the ficus.

## President's Day extends weekend for some

President's Day on Monday will give some Goodland workers a three-day weekend, as city and federal offices, banks and schools close down.

The Goodland city offices and the U.S. Farm Service Agency office will shut their doors for the day. There will be no mail service, and post offices will be closed.

There will be no classes for Goodland schools. Teachers will have an in-service training day. Central Elementary Principal Sharon Gregory said they will break into focus groups, set at the beginning of the year, ranging from a laptop computer course to one exploring what methods and techniques work in the classroom.

The Northwest Kansas Technical College will dismiss classes for its own in-service day. President Ken

Clouse said the faculty will work on accreditation and discuss general education requirements. Departments will discuss each program's mission statement, goals and outcomes.

The Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce will be closed, along with the Sherman County Economic Development office. Donna

### corrections

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

## Drug dogs sniffs around school

By Kathryn Burke  
The Goodland Star-News

The long nose of the law has been sniffing out trouble at the Goodland High School, as the drug dog visited town two weeks ago.

Principal Harvey Swager told the school board Monday that the dog has visited several times this year, and has found relatively little. The dog is under contract to visit the school at least four times a year, but can come more often.

He said the administration is always surprised because the dog and handlers, from Interquest Detection K9s, an Oklahoma company, just show up. They came on Thursday, Feb. 3, Swager said, and they started working in the school parking lot.

He said the search is random, with the dogs going from car to car as they smell. The dogs only sniff cars on school grounds, he said.

Swager said the dog found items in five cars. All of the hits were for cold medicine owned by students who were ill, but after searching, administrators found chewing tobacco in one car.

"Most of the stuff we will find is in the cars," Swager said, adding that some students don't even use their lockers, but go to their cars in between classes.

"I think it speaks highly of our kids," said Superintendent Marvin Selby said, "to not find anything. It's a great thing to announce that nothing was found."

The dog team went into a few rooms in the high school and the auditorium before running out of time, he said.

Swager said while the dog is working, the school is locked down to prevent people from moving around. He said students going to the bathroom or to the office to check out are escorted by teachers. If a student checks in, he said, they have to wait in the office until the dog leaves.

"I appreciate the lock down," Swager said.

The dogs are normally Labrador retrievers, he said, and they search the lot and buildings energetically for the prohibited items. The most recent dog, though, was a little bit older and more relaxed.

The dog searches cost the school \$1,200 per year, he said. The dogs are trained to find drugs, ammunition and alcohol.

Selby said several years ago the dog found pistols and a hand gun in a parked car.

He said the penalty for having guns at school is an automatic one-

year suspension. For drugs or alcohol, the minimum penalty is a 10-day suspension.

Board member Ron Schilling voiced a problem with searching cars. He said if, for example, his car was driven to school by his son, anything found in the car would not belong to his son. He said his son could be accused of using his chewing tobacco.

"They're guilty of driving the car," Schilling said, "but they are not necessarily guilty of possession."

Other students, he said, could put items into a car to frame their enemies. He said a used car could have had items inside from a previous owner.

"Those are my concerns," he said. "Those things bother me."

"That's a good point," Swager said, adding that so far the students have always admitted to possessing the items the dog has discovered.

He said throughout the year, the administration reminds students which items are banned at school. When hunting season started, he said, the students were warned to leave their guns at home.

The school handbook, Swager said, includes a list of what kids can get in trouble for bringing to school.

## School to buy new activities bus

By Kathryn Burke  
The Goodland Star-News

The Cowboys and Cowgirls will be riding in style as the Goodland School District board voted Monday to buy a new activities bus.

The used 1999 Van Hool bus will cost \$135,000 plus \$4,500 for new seat covers, \$1,000 for a rear camera, \$800 for aluminum wheel covers and \$2,500 for decals displaying the school's logo. The board bought the bus through ABC Bus Co. in Grand Prairie, Texas.

Members of the school board and transportation supervisor Bob Harkins, activities bus driver Rick Murray and Superintendent Marvin Selby have been looking at buses for a couple of weeks.

Last week, they and board members Danny Whalen and Ron Schilling flew to Texas on First National Bank's airplane, piloted by Chuck Hall and Larry McCants, to check out buses at ABC.

"I'd like to thank First National Bank for flying us down there," said Schilling.

Last week, board members checked out a Blue Bird model LTC 40 bus owned Master's Transportation from Kearney, Neb. The bus pulled into the Short and Sons parking lot and school officials got to look inside.

Harkins said although the bus looked good, he wasn't sure it was right for Goodland.

"It's not a bus we'll want to put into our fleet," he said. "I call it a cosmetic bus."

He said some schools in the area have been buying the Blue Bird models, but he feels the Van Hool is a better bus. Blue Bird's is basically a souped-up school bus, while the Van Hool, made in Belgium, is

an over-the-road touring bus.

"Without a doubt," he said, "the Van Hool bus is far superior to the Blue Bird. The Van Hool is the Cadillac of buses."

Harkins said the Van Hool buses have been in production since 1937. He said he found that Blue Bird has only been making the different style for about 4 1/2 years.

"I drove both buses," he said, "and I've done tons of checking."

Master's gave the board a quote for \$145,000 for the used 2000 Blue Bird bus including the school's logo.

"The Van Hool bus has proven itself," he said adding he expects the bus to last at least 15 years.

"We could run it one million miles and still be safe," he said.

The bus is more powerful, too, with 400 horsepower compared to 335 in the district's current bus, a 1981 Motorcoach.

Harkins said the Van Hool bus has radiant heat along the bottom that circulates throughout the bus.

"I was impressed with the heating and air conditioning...," he said.

"I think that was pretty important," Schilling said.

The Van Hool has an independent air ride system, Harkins said.

"It has a lot better handling," he

said, which will help bus drivers with control on narrow, two-lane highways.

He said the bus will not only be good for passengers, but he feels it will combat driver fatigue on long runs.

"If we're gonna have a bus," he said, "lets have one that everyone will look up to."

Schilling said the new bus will get eight miles per gallon compared to the maximum of 6 1/2 miles per gallon in the old buses.

Harkins told board members the oldest bus, a 1971 Motorcoach model the district bought in 1985, is in mechanically good condition. The bus, he said, is old and has some body damage.

The board agreed to keep the old bus through next spring to see if it'll be useful.

With the addition of a baseball team this year, Harkins said, there will be more bus use.

"It seems like we have one game that is 35 miles away," he said, "and the rest are 200."

To get the bus in Goodland, Harkins will have to go to Texas, because the company does not deliver. He said when you buy a Van Hool, the company has you go through a two-day school to learn how to maintain the bus.

## student of the week



**Name:** Erin Abernathy  
**Parents:** Paul and Gina Abernathy  
**Grade:** Senior  
**Age:** 18

**We've nominated this student**

**because:** Erin is a hard working, goal oriented and dependable student who has dedicated her school years to classroom, work and club participation. Erin has been very active in DECA, on a local, state and national levels. Erin was a member of the Learn & Earn team that placed first in STATE DECA Competition last year and qualified to compete in the International DECA Competition. (This team went on to place in the top 21 in the international competition.)

**Student Comment:** I've had so many fun and crazy times throughout high school and I'm blessed with numerous friends I've made along the way. I will always remember the road trips, getting in trouble and just having a ball!

**Activities involved in at school:** DECA- Local, State and National participation, DECA officer - Parliamentarian/Social Director as a junior and Secretary/Reporter as a senior, National Honor Society and it's President as a senior, Student Council secretary and FCCLA Little Brother/Little Sister.

**My choice of movies, books, and games:** I will read and book from Danielle Steele. I love watching "Seinfeld" and "The Nanny". My favorite band is KISS.

**After I leave Goodland High School I intend to:** Attend Garden City Community College to pursue a degree in Journalism, then transfer to a 4-year university to earn a bachelor's degree in Journalism.

**And 10 years from now, I think I'll be:** If I am lucky, I'll be married and starting a family. I'll definitely be on my way to a career with ESPN!

**Favorite Quote:** "O, Give Thanks Unto the Lord, for He is good, His mercy endures forever." Psalms 107:1

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**WE NOW PRORATE WATERCRAFT.**  
Owner of record is to notify the County Appraiser within 30 days of the acquisition or sale.

**Your foundation at work**

Representative of Wal-Mart Tim Carroll, Assistant Manager and Dolly Irvin presented a check for \$500 to Brent Wood, Grand Knights of Columbus as a Bonus Grant for the local service group. The check presented to the Knights of Columbus was made possible by the sponsorship of the Sherman County Community Foundation, Inc. (SCCF), a public charity established to serve the people of Sherman County.

Brent explains that in order to qualify for the Grant, the recipient has to have a 501(c)(3) tax designation as a non-profit public charity and the Knights of Columbus are classified as a 501 (c)(8) non-profit fraternal service group. This may seem like a small difference of titling but many service groups when raising funds for a project miss opportunities like those presented by WalMart because of this.

The SCCF President Kin Huang explains that her organization is designed to be the clearing house for PASS-THROUGH FUNDS such as the one mentioned above and also DESIGNATED FUNDS for various interested groups.

For further information, please contact LINDA KNOTT, Secretary of SCCF, 785-890-7105 or (785) 890-6444.

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