

School solution evades officials

TOPEKA, from Page 1a

getting so mad. If it continues, the government is going to take it over."

He has pinned some hope on the actions taken by federal government to attempt to curb class-action lawsuits to cut down on cost to patients

Morrison reviewed the situation with wind energy, too.

"We have the best wind energy out here but no way to distribute it," he said. The area needs more electric transmission lines if it hopes to generate much wind power.

He said Midwest Energy and Sunflower Electric Power Corp. don't want to beef up their lines because they won't make enough money on wind energy to cover the costs. The alternative, he said, is to allow the government to come in and upgrade the lines.

"If Midwest doesn't build it," he said, "the state will."

The power, he said, doesn't have to be sold to the energy firms here, but it can be sent on to other markets back east. The local companies can, he said, charge an access fee for tapping into their lines.

Morrison encouraged his constituents to go to www.access-kansas.com or kslegislature.org to get information on the bills he sees.

"I'm forcing you to hold us accountable," he said, adding that



State Rep. Jim Morrison (left) of Colby and Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer visited Goodland on Saturday to talk with voters. The two gave separate talks and then teamed up to take questions from the audience.

Photo by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News

people can even instant message him with more information while he is in session.

After the discussions, the legislators took questions from the audience, who asked for more in-depth information on the health care bills and wind energy.

The group, made up largely of Farm Bureau members, expressed a lot of interest in wind energy and asked Morrison and Ostmeyer about government regulations.

Sen. Ostmeyer represents the 40th District, which includes Cheyenne, Decatur, Gove, Graham,

Greeley, Lane, Logan, Ness, Norton, Rawlins, Rooks, Scott, Sheridan, Sherman, Thomas, Trego, Wallace and Wichita counties.

Rep. Morrison represents the 121st District, which includes Sherman, Thomas, Sheridan and Graham counties.

Goodland district wants to cool off school buildings

COOL, from Page 1a

condensation issue would need attention.

Campbell also asked which option would cost less to install and less to operate.

Although the numbers are preliminary, Strait said the chillers normally cost \$1,000 per ton. That mean for 31,000 to 32,000 square feet, using 300 square feet per ton, the unit would cost around \$100,000 for each school.

The rooftop units, he said, would

run around \$4,000 each, but with installation and seven units per school, the cost would come up to a least \$30,000 for each school. Strait said after the work, cutting into the roof and installing the units, it would probably be closer to \$50,000.

Campbell asked about longevity of the units, and Strait said the rooftops last around 15 years and the chillers about 25 years. He said the water-based heating systems at North and West schools have been going since the schools were built

in 1968.

"It's been going 37 years," he said, "and it's still plugging away."

The chiller unit would just hook into the existing heating system, he said, but would require an outside tower to dissipate heat.

Strait said he is expecting an engineer from Denver to come out and go through the buildings for the project. Selby said the group will look North, too.

The board asked Strait to continue investigating the cost of air conditioning.

Campbell asked for an estimate on the price of new windows and adding insulation to the buildings.

District considers using online calendar service

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

Touting easy access and greater flexibility, Steve Raymer, activities director and vice principal for the high school, presented an online calendar service to the school board last Monday.

"It's a better way to communicate with the public, teachers and community," Raymer said.

For just \$200 per year, he said, the online calendar could be set up through a company called Schedule Star, billed on their web site as "the athletic director's silent assistant."

Raymer said the money could come out of the athletic fund. He had a presentation ready for the board that showed a mock calendar on a projector screen. He went into detail outlining how the schedule is updated and events are added.

The online calendar would even help set up transportation for events, Raymer said, making sure a bus or activity van would be available at specific times on specific dates.

One of the problems with the current paper calendar, he said, is that it is constantly changing.

"Every time we put out a school calendar," he said, "there are changes almost immediately."

He said with a shared password, the online calendar can be used by all of the schools to put in different activities.

"There's enough room to add school activities," he said, adding he hopes everyone will get involved. "Hopefully it will stay up to date."

Jim Mull, principal of North Elementary and Grant Junior High, said the calendar would be useful

for junior high sports.

Raymer said the online calendar features an e-mail service, too. Parents, teachers, students, community members and even the newspaper could get updates on changes to the calendar via e-mail. People could get sport-specific updates, he said, if they were only interested in wrestling, basketball or football events.

Although the school web site already has a calendar, Raymer said, the Schedule Star has many more benefits. He said Karla Murray, technology coordinator for the district, said they could set up a link to the calendar on the school's existing site.

"That's really pretty neat," commented Superintendent Marvin Selby.

"It is neat," agreed board member Danny Whalen.

Former Dighton clerk accused of embezzlement

CLERK, from Page 1a

Pettay was Lane County district magistrate judge from 1993 to 1997.

In 2001, he joined Farm Bureau Insurance in Jetmore, moving here last summer. He declined to comment on allegations against his wife Monday morning.

In the same interview last year, Pettay said his wife was office manager for Western Plains Energy, an alcohol plant east of Oakley. The plant manager did not return calls from a reporter.

David Brown, Colby Farm Bureau agent, who sometimes works

with Kevin Pettay, said he hadn't heard about the accusations, but was shocked by the news.

"I certainly couldn't comment on something I know nothing about," he said.

The Pettays have four children in Brewster schools.

Linda Pettay made her first appearance in Lane County District Court on Thursday, Feb. 3. She was to appear in court in Dighton on Jan. 26, but a scheduling conflict moved the hearing back.

Pettay's attorney, Larry Tittel, Ness City, declined to comment on the case Monday.

"I don't comment on pending cases," he said.

Chamber hears update

CHAMBER, from Page 1a

the crowd.

She advised Chamber members to work together to come up with creative directions to take Goodland. She stressed working not only with people in town, but with surrounding communities, on projects to benefit everyone.

After Siemens' speech, Warden passed out plaques to new Chamber

members and stickers to existing members.

Swager recognized two Wheat Ridge employees and John Garcia, city commissioner, economic development council chairman and owner of Garcia's Home Furnishings, closed the meeting with recognitions.

"We are constantly under construction," he said about the city and the Chamber. "We're not always going to stay the same."

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chicken, beef, pork, turkey and slabs of ribs. Dine in or carry out.

Tim has plans to offer delivery services, seafood night, prime rib night and maybe even a waffle night.