

Truck knocks cheerleader van off road; no one hurt

By Kathryn Burke
The Goodland Star-News
Goodland High School wrestling cheerleaders got a start when their van was pushed off the road in an accident on their way to the state tournament in Wichita Thursday, Feb. 24.

Kathy Bahe, wrestling cheerleader sponsor, she said was driving the 1999 Chevrolet Suburban nine-passenger van just north of Newton on I-135. She was passing a truck with a trailer, she said, when it moved into the passing. The first impact, near the rear tire, sent the suburban full of cheerleaders spinning out of control.

"It was scary," Bahe said. "When

I felt him hit us, I knew it was gonna make us lose control."

Bahe said the impact spun them to the left and the truck hit them again on the driver's side. The van spun 360 degrees into the medium, she said. Cheerleader Kali Riet-check was the only one injured; she suffered a minor bump on the head.

"Somebody was watching over us," Bahe said.

"We're fortunate nobody was hurt," said Goodland School Board member Dick Short at a meeting last Monday.

Damage added up to \$4,704. Superintendent Marvin Selby told board members the vehicle insurance has a \$500 deductible.

Selby said to save money, they decided to have the van fixed near the accident instead of having it towed back here. The vehicle was to be picked up last week.

School administrators will have jobs for the next two years, as the board agreed to extend every contract into the 2006-2007 school year.

The board took a 1 1/2-hour closed session to go over principals' evaluations before extending the contracts of:

- Jim Mull, Grant Junior High and North Elementary principal.
- Central Elementary Principal Sharon Gregory.
- West Elementary Principal Shelly Angelos.

• High School Principal Harvey Swager.

• Steve Raymer, assistant principal and activities director.

The board hired Connie Liven-good as assistant track coach at Grant; Dylan Warden, assistant high school track coach; and David Avila, assistant high school baseball coach.

Board member Ron Schilling moved, with regret, to accept the resignations of Pat Stindt, a kindergarten teacher at West, and De Burkett, at fifth grade teacher at North, effective at the end of the school year. The board accepted the resignation of Veronica Gomez, an at-risk tutor, effective March 4.

Two students will get to take a senior option, to graduate early to move on to college or move into the work force.

After reading letters from their parents, the board moved to allow Savannah Eisenbart and Alex Weis to graduate after the fall semester. The option was recommended by high school administration.

In other business, the board:

- Approved bills totaling \$586,662. Superintendent Marvin Selby told the board the district had not planned to pay for the downtown learning center this year. He said he missed the \$97,000 expense in budgeting and has scrambled to fill in the hole.

"We're gonna make it all right," he said, "but it was a bad oversight."

• Heard from Selby about investment bids for \$977,000 of a contingency reserve that is currently in a certificate of deposit. Selby said he accepted a bid of 2.92 percent from First National Bank for six months. He expects interested rates to rise over the next six months, with future returns near 3.24 percent.

- Approved the sale of five old buses and an old arc welder at auction. Selby said the buses are all 20-plus years old and have been replaced over the years. He added since school enrollment is on the decline, the extra equipment is not needed.

Central Elementary teachers test program to tailor to kids

By Kathryn Burke
The Goodland Star-News
Since not every student learns in the same way, some teachers at Central Elementary are learning how to tailor their teaching in focus groups held on professional development days.

In a presentation to the Goodland School District board last Monday, Central teachers talked about how differentiating lessons has helped their students.

Marilyn Sowers, a third-grade teacher, said differentiating instruction means the teacher adapts to the way each student learns instead of the student having to adapt to the teacher's style.

"No two children are the same," she said, noting that backgrounds and maturity levels can be so different. "I think it's important that we're trying to meet the needs of all the students."

Differentiating instruction, she said, includes not just helping students who struggle, but challenging the advanced kids.

In her classroom, Sowers said, she uses what she learned to teach reading, a subject she said helps students do well in other subjects. She used books of varying reading levels and let kids choose books and assignments.

The teachers attended a workshop in Colorado Springs about the

teaching style, and Sowers said the presenter was helpful.

She learned that emotion increases retention, she said. Students learn better if they like the subject; enjoying lessons or laughing and learning are important; multisensory approaches help students; allowing kids to stand and move around helps them to learn; and using metaphors help expand students' thinking.

Terra Mull, a special education teacher, said she has always used differentiated lessons in her classroom because her students vary quite a bit.

"This was kind of exciting to me because this is something I do," she

said.

She teaches third and fourth graders, she said, with test levels from below kindergarten through fourth grades.

The classroom has between 20 to 25 students each day, she said, and each student has a separate lesson plan.

Mary Mills, a reading teacher for Title I students, said as in the special education classrooms, she has a variety of students at the same time.

She teaches students who aren't at grade level with reading, she said, and has used tips from the focus group in the classroom.

Jan Wilson, a fourth-grade

teacher, said offering students choices has worked in her classroom.

Before incorporating differentiated learning in her plans, she said, each week Tuesday was the day to write spelling words in sentences. Now, instead of writing the words in sentences, students choose between doing projects like a crossword puzzle or artwork with the words.

"It's been a tremendous motivator," she said. "They've just loved it."

The choices, the teachers agreed, let students pick tasks they like and help them to retain information better.

Teacher Susan Jensen said she did a more independent study about different approaches to teaching math for her professional development.

She said she found that boys and girls approach math differently. Often boys are socialized towards math while girls are socialized away from math.

She attended a workshop in Denver where she learned about a condition called Dyscalculia which affects the ability to develop math skills.

The condition, she said, is in the early stages of being identified, but it explains why some kids can excel in every subject except math.

Brewster players can be proud of playoff efforts

There are some folks who are disappointed with the way the 1A state playoffs ended, but have you ever thought about how many schools don't even come close to getting far enough to be in a playoff?

I think the young folks who have played so far all year can look in the mirror and say, "We done good!"

When teams are only separated by one point, it would seem they were evenly matched, and all who played put their best into it. So, Bulldogs, here's a tip of the hat to you for a job well done.

I imagine the greater percent of the local population were in Hays for the last few days. I was planning on being there myself for that final game, but my plans were changed too.

I found out how a bladder infection can knock you off your feet in



sally michael

• brewster beacon

just a few minutes. Therefore, I have a big "thank you" for Cliff and Paula Fox for tending to the senior center for the last few days. I honestly don't know what we all did before Cliff and Paula joined our community, but they have certainly been a helpful addition.

I'm working on a bake sale for the last Friday in April, so you know that all help will be appreciated. I was talking to my daughter, and I told her that I thought the new chairs and the alumni weekend will be

about the last major projects I will have as the senior center manager.

It appears that things may work out for me to move closer to my kids, and after that bout with the ailment last week, I think that is what I want to do. But, until then, we'll try to keep up with things and get them accomplished.

Wednesday, there will be an election for the Silver Haired Legislature, so be sure to come to the senior center if you are over 60 years old, and fill out a ballot. The two candidates are Rosalie Seeman of Levant, who has been a representative for a few years, and Virginia Hopper of Gem, who is interested in

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benefiting Big Brothers Big Sisters of Sherman, Wallace and Cheyenne Counties

Bowl for Kids Sake

benefiting Big Brothers Big Sisters of Sherman, Wallace and Cheyenne Counties

Saturday, April 2, 2005

Goodland Bowladium Lanes

509 Caldwell

Times: Starting at 11:00 a.m. and running through the day: Each slot will be 1.5 hours long and participants will enjoy Pizza Hut pizza and Coke! Each team should submit their roster by March 18th. Teams can be added up to the day of the event. Teams are made up of a Team Captain and 3 other team members. Please call to be added to form a team.

Please contact for a packet or for more information:

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Sherman County, Dennis Daise, 330 West 17th/Suite 102, Goodland, Kan. 785-890-3665

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Wallace County, Myrt Kuhlman, 785-852-4760

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Cheyenne County, Tammy Pettijohn 785-332-3406

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