

Endowment raises \$7,500

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News
The room was elbow to elbow as the people attending the technical college endowment fundraiser Saturday studied items in the silent auction at Sugar Hills Golf Club.

Ken Clouse, college president, said a reverse giveaway program and the auctions raised about \$7,500 for the Northwest Kansas Technical College Endowment Association.

"We were pleased with the turnout," Clouse said. "The turnout really showed the support we received from the people and the businesses."

The tables at Sugar Hills were jammed with about 185 people who attended the program.

Inga Sloan, endowment director for the college, welcomed everyone and introduced Clouse, who explained the reverse giveaway. While everyone was checking out the 84 silent auction items and putting bids on the ones they wanted, another list of prizes was handed out

to every person or couple who attended the program.

Jim Lunsway, former owner of Mr. Jim's His Shop, was introduced as the master of ceremonies. He explained the rules for the silent auction and the live auction later in the evening.

Each person had been given a bidding number when they registered, and this is what they used in the silent auction, and also what was drawn for the reverse giveaway prize.

"What is your number? I'll check on your bid items, and help you out," was heard frequently during the evening as people ate dinner and checked on their bids in the silent auction.

Sloan introduced the evening entertainment, all from Wallace County.

The first performer of the evening had to have a special box to make him tall enough to reach the microphone.

Callihan Grund, 8, son of Jerry and Chris Ann Grund, presented a



The Pierson Family from Wallace County was part of the entertainment Saturday. Taylor, 13 (left), played the banjo; Jane played the

bass fiddle; Cody, 11, the mandolin; and Pappa Cecil the guitar. Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Star-News

"Hank the Cowdog" story about being a watchdog. Sloan said Callihan, who lives at Harrison Flats south Wallace, has two dogs, Kate and Ted.

Following the dog story Lunsway, gave away the first 25 prizes, and announced the closing of bidding on the first half of the silent auction.

Clouse said all of the prizes given out to those who attended and in the auctions were donated by businesses and departments of the col-

lege.

The next entertainment group was the Pierce Family from Wallace.

Jane and Cecil Pierce performed with their sons Taylor, 13, on banjo and Cody, 11, on mandolin. Jane played the bass fiddle and Cecil was on guitar.

The crowd enjoyed the family music and gave them a standing ovation after their final number, "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," which they sang in honor of the

troops in Iraq.

Sloan said both Jane and Cecil were former members of the Air Force Singing Sergeants, and now work for the Sharon Springs School District, where Jane is the music teacher.

Lunsway gave away 38 more prizes and announced the closing of the second half of the silent auction.

A table near the entrance held items for the live auction.

Terry Richardson was the auctioneer. The 11 items raised \$2,550,

with a weekend stay at Pleasant Valley Ranch going the highest at \$575. An entertainment center donated by Elliott's Furniture went to Josh Dechant for \$400.

Clouse said Wednesday the event had gone well for the first time, and said they will hope to do it again next year.

After the live auction, Lunsway gave away the final prizes and people went to a table to see if they had won anything in the silent auctions.

City wants changes in grantwriter program for next year

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

There might be a grantwriter program next year, but the Goodland City Commission decided Monday not to participate under the current contract, which expires in June.

Acting Mayor Dave Daniels and commissioners Dean Blume and John Garcia agreed to notify the grantwriter committee that the city would not continue with the current agreement.

City Manager Ron Pickman said the Sherman County commissioners had previously decided not to continue the program, but that if the city did not make a decision before

April 1, the contract would renew automatically.

He said if the contract was renewed without the county, it would cost the city \$12,000 next year, more if the school district and hospital drop out.

Commissioner Blume asked if the program could be renegotiated, and Pickman said he thought it could, especially if all four boards decided to drop the current contract.

Mayor Rick Billinger and Commissioner Jim Mull were absent, leaving the three to handle Monday's agenda.

Daniels read a proclamation for "Cleanup Month" in April. The first

collection day will be on Saturday, April 2, when construction debris is to be picked up by volunteers working with the Goodland Chamber of Commerce Beautification Committee.

The second will be Saturday, April 16, when limbs and metal items will be picked up.

The volunteers will clean up the highway entrances to town on Saturday, April 23, as the final part of the program.

The proclamation said the committee's goal is to "achieve significant improvement in the appearance of the community..."

In other business, the commis-

sion:

- Reviewed bids for mowing tall or unsightly weeds and accepted a low bid of \$19 per hour from Kendall Cooper.

There were five bidders: Clean Cut Lawns bid \$22.50; Stan and Dawn Kibel, \$24; Cindie Yarger, \$25; and Tiede Terracing, \$40.

- Reviewed bids for trucking chip rock to be used in the street sealing this summer and accepted the low bid.

There were two bids, with Heartland Carriers of Sharon Springs low at \$32,000 (\$16 per ton). Ray Myers of Goodland bid \$61,140 (\$30.57 per ton).

- Approved a utility charge-off list for \$8,141. Pickman said the names on the list are from two to three years ago.

Even though the accounts are charged off, he said, the city will continue to attempt to collect the money.

- Approved a contract with the Kansas Department of Transportation to convey a 50-foot-by-25-foot strip of city land on the south edge of town to the state.

The department wants to adjust the angle of K-27 as part of a major rebuild of the highway from the south city limits to the county line. The commission approved a sec-

ond agreement with the state to grant a temporary easement for an entrance south of the Total truck stop to be used while the main entrance is being rebuilt.

- Appointed Larry White as a new member of the Board of Building Appeals and reappointed Gary Ginther to another term.

Both will serve three-year terms. Other members of the board are Leo Townsend, Darwin McClung and Garald Paxton.

The next city meeting will be 5 p.m. on Monday, April 4, in the upstairs commission room of the City Administration Building, 204 W. 11th.

West may get windows, cooling

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

Things are changing at West Elementary, from the windows to the playground, principal Shelly Angelos told Goodland School Board members.

A proposal to install air conditioning in the school has prompted the district staff to look into buying new, more energy efficient windows, said Superintendent Marvin Selby at a meeting Monday, March 14.

He said the school sought a bid from Dependable Glass in Goodland to replace all exterior windows with double-paned insulated glass.

Even the windows around the atrium will be replaced, Selby said, adding five double doors opening up to the inner corridor.

The replacement windows will cost the school \$17,295, he said.

Board member Mike Campbell asked about the type of glass and whether the new windows will be more energy efficient.

"It'll be better," answered Selby,

"I'm sure."

He said if they take the approval back, the glass company has agreed to replace one of the large windows immediately. The West site council, he said, has already come up with an idea to decorate the window.

The school is planning to upgrade the Topside playground this summer.

"It's a wonderful addition to our community," Selby said, noting that the 12- or 13-year-old playground equipment has fallen into disrepair.

He told the board the wood is old and splinters, regularly injuring students.

"There is someone on splinter duty every day," school officials told him.

The nails and screws holding the equipment together have been backing out, he said, creating hazards, too.

Selby said the surface around the playground has been packed down pretty hard. Weed barriers installed under the gravel are poking out of the ground.

To refurbish the park, they are

looking at imitation wood, a long-wearing, sturdy alternative to wood, he said.

Selby said he plans to hire a crew this summer to work mainly outside on the playground. He wants to have them dig out the gravel and fluff up the ground underneath. He said they will replace about a third of the real wood with the imitation version.

"The site council parents will help out," he said. "This will be an emphasis for us this summer."

Selby expects the project to cost about \$20,000 over three years, not including labor.

Selby said when the playground was first built, the community, including parents, the city and other groups, pitched in. He hopes this time, they can get people involved again.

He expects the project to have a greater labor cost than anything else, although the imitation wood is more expensive than regular wood. He said the imitation will not require the same maintenance as regular wood.

School board to review grant program

The Goodland School District board plans to review the grant writer program, a joint venture with Sherman County, the city and Goodland Regional Medical Center, when it meets on Monday.

So far, the city and county have voted to drop the current contract with grant writer Penny Nemecheck.

The board will hear another presentation from Glen Strait of Strait Associates Architects in Colby about the feasibility of air conditioning at West School.

The board will meet at 7 p.m. on Monday at the district office on Main Avenue.

Burglars clean out safe at veteran's hall

A burglary at the Goodland Veterans of Foreign Wars hall Sunday night left the safe bare and has police scratching their heads.

Police Chief Ray Smee said a bunch of cash was taken from the safe at the hall sometime during the night.

A man who answered the phone at the club Thursday, but wouldn't give his name, said they closed down around 9 p.m. He said they didn't discover the break in until Monday. Smee said the burglar en-

tered through a back door and apparently only took money.

"We don't know if they took any booze or anything else," he said. "They're only reporting the money."

The hall official said the back door near the kitchen was damaged and they have ordered a replacement.

He said the safe looked like it had been damaged by a crowbar and hammer. The cash register, he said, was untouched, but it only con-

tained small change. Some money was missing out of a collection jar in the hall, he said.

As of now, Smee said, police don't have any suspects in the break in.

"With burglaries," he said, "there's just not much to go on."

The hall official said they are depending on the police to follow up the investigation.

"We'll let them do their detective reports," he said.

First National Bank employees
will be attending a
Spring Conference on March 31,
therefore we will be closing early on that day.
Please note the following
closing time on your calendar:

Thursday, March 31, 2005
FNB will close at 2:00 pm MT.

Thank you!

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Elegant Easter Dining

EASTER FAMILY STYLE BUFFET

March 27th 11a.m. to 2 p.m.

Honey glazed ham, Cornish game hen, stuffed pallock,
sweet and mashed potatoes, green bean casserole/corn, dinner rolls,
soup and salad bar and Red Velvet cake.

Parties of six or more reservations suggested.

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