

Elementary students enjoy day at farm



Charlie the horse made faces for West Elementary students at Ag Day last week. Katlyn Seger (above) listened while Ron Schilling, the CowGuy, described different types of cattle. Kelby Smith learned why farmers and ranchers wear boots after he slipped in some mud and had to clean his tennis shoes. Photos by Kathryn Burke The Goodland Star-News

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oat product.

Another station taught students about harvest, showing how crews would combine a field and put the wheat into a truck.

The truck was set up and students saw where crops emptied and were drawn up into the bins with an auger.

After learning about crops, the kids moved on to livestock.

The Sederstroms' horses, Cactus, Pally and Charlie, were tied up behind a metal fence, giving the kids a chance to pet the large animals.

Toni Ackerman taught the kids about the history of horses, how much they weigh, what they eat, horse trailers and more.

"Cool," said one student as he entered a trailer that was complete with room for horses and a place for people to sleep.

The kids got to pet a goat named Dufus and looked at sheep and pigs.

"Those are humongous!" said one student after checking out the pigs.



Nicole Sederstrom told her classmates that a group of chickens was only a month old and would eventually provide eggs for the family.

"Aaahhhh," said the girls, looking at the cute chicks.

Gary McClung taught the groups about the goat's wool and lanolin secretions and about what foods each animal is used for.

The CowGuy, Ron Schilling, taught students about different kinds of cattle, including the Mexican roping steers and Limousin breed beef cow and calf.

He told kids that cowboys use the cows for roping at rodeos.

Another station taught kids about horse riding in rodeos. The kids straddled a stick horse, yard stick and fun noodle to pretend they were running barrels around bright orange cones. Kids also practiced pole bending, where they weaved in between a line of tall poles.

After heading through the poles and cones, students took a break with juice and cookies.

Once every student had gone through the farm, they gathered to head back to school. The Sederstroms played host to two groups, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

"I hope each and every one of you remember your experience on the farm," Amy said.

She asked the kids if they had a good time.

"Yeah!" bounced off of the farm buildings, followed by the answers to her next question:

"What was your favorite spot?" "The tractor! The horses! The goat!"

Water park remains closed

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shake hands and go down the road."

Darin Neufeld, with Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, the project engineer for the mediation repairs, recommended replacement of the deep drain lines and the installation of a manhole to solve most of the problems. Neufeld said one of the things found in the excavation is the type of pipe used was not recommended in the designs. He said there was no way to tell who actually installed the pipes in question, but the alternative being proposed would eliminate nearly all the questionable pipes and give the city a better way to monitor the sections of the water park when it needs to be drained and winterized.

Mayor Rick Billinger said he wanted the city staff to be satisfied with the recommendation, but he thought all the pipes that can be replaced at this time should be replaced with the proper grade of pipe.

Chuck Lutters, city public works director, said he was satisfied with the options, and said the city would provide some labor to help replace the drain line from the splash pool to the manhole.

When the splash pool was filled last week, he said, it was not holding water. An excavation showed one of the lines under the pool had collapsed. Glassman and Curt Baldwin of Rhoads Construction said they would be willing to help put in a new drain from the splash pool with city help.

"The splash pool is not part of the

mediation," Glassman said, "but I would agree the line needs to be replaced and we could get that done in a couple of days with the city's help."

"I want to get it done right," Billinger said. "I don't want to come back in five years and find there are more lines collapsed."

Glassman said he is asking the city to help remove the grass and put back the last of the fill dirt.

Lutters and Rich Simon, head of streets and parks, said they could help with that part.

Most of the line replacement will not be close to the main pool, and Glassman said he feels it can be done quickly, except for the work on the manhole. That might take up to two weeks if there is a delay in getting the actual manhole sections.

Neufeld said the manhole is a standard design, and should be available in the next few days.

He told the commission the lift station with pump is the best solution to the drain line problems covered in the mediation agreement, and the replacement of the drain line from the splash pool to the new manhole would solve that issue.

"This will be a benefit to the staff," Neufeld said. "The staff will be able to monitor what is happening with each part of the water park. I think this is a better design for the future operation of the water park."

Billinger asked the commissioners if they all agreed with the recommendation.

"If it is a recommendation the staff supports, we need to get it done," said

Commissioner Annette Fairbanks.

"I don't have a man on site today because of the rain," Glassman said. "It only rains when we open a hole. We could have avoided the drought if we had more projects where we dig holes. "If we can get the parts and the go-ahead from you, we will get the work done."

"We need a motion to do the manhole and replace the drain lines, Billinger said. "With this we are taking away all the problems except about 20 feet of pipe. We are doing as good as we can do."

Commissioner Dave Daniels asked about the cost to the city for the manhole proposal and replacing the splash pool drain line. Glassman said the manhole portion is part of the mediation and there is no cost to the city. On the splash pool drain line, he said if the city will work with his company and Rhodes, the cost will be minimal.

Lutters said the labor and a valve would be the cost to the city. He estimated that would be less than \$1,000. Commissioner John Garcia asked about the timing and how long the repairs would take. Neufeld and Glassman said it should only take a few days if the parts are available. Glassman said it would not take long to lay the new drain lines.

There was a question about exactly where the manhole would be placed, and after the meeting Lutters, Neufeld, Simon, Glassman, Baldwin and Armour were to meet at the water park to map out the changes.

Manager says good-bye

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Transportation. It cost \$765,000, with the state paying \$430,000. The state gave the city \$210,000 for the storm drainage and Pioneer Park project.

The city had to come up with \$285,000 with the help of citizens to make the park possible.

Work has begun on the project, to be completed by November.

"I will have to come back and see the finished project," he said.

Economic development successes are important, too, he said.

"It is nice to see people working," the manager said of the new Adronics/Elrob plant in the city's Ed Wolak building.

"That building is an investment that will pay off for the city," Pickman said. "It got off to a slow start, but it was good to have it available when a company came searching for a place to expand.

"This may be the beginning of the upswing for the city. I hope it is a major turning point, and wish the new company and the city the best.

"I am excited to see, before I leave, that the city and county are working together on projects that are long overdue.

"I would like to have seen a street revitalization program in place before I left, but I will leave that to the two commissions."

Pickman said two major projects he wanted to see done — but didn't — were replacement of more water lines and having a new wastewater treatment plant under construction.

"These are big-ticket projects," he said, "and the costs continue to increase the longer it takes to get them done."

He said the city has a great work force, but like any business, there are some shortcomings he hopes the new manager and commission can address.

"I could not have done as well without a great staff," he said. "I hope they continue to look for ways to help the city and work with the new manager as well as they did for me."

Consolidation of city and county services came up in the recent joint meetings, and Pickman said he hopes the two commissions continue to look at consolidation with an open mind.

"People don't like the word consolidation," he said, "but I think it is like another word they don't like, 'change.'

"The city is not the same as it was 10 years ago. The commissions should keep an open mind, and then make decisions for the best of the community as a whole."

He said it was good to see the commissions getting the facts together and presenting them openly.

"There is so much potential in this community," he said, "and it seems to be moving in the right direction. I have confidence things will continue to move forward.

"I would like to come back, and that is something good to say for the community. I grew up in Atchison and lived there for 40 years, but I don't have the same feeling for that city as I do for Goodland.

"I am sure I will be back."

Notorious 'Fleagle Gang' Fingerprint ends nationwide '20s manhunt

True crime from the roaring 20s, "The Fleagle Gang, Betrayed by a fingerprint," begins with a brazen daylight bank robbery of the First National Bank in Lamar, Colo. on May 23, 1928. Four men are dead, and the robbers escaped.

The author Tom (N.T.) Betz, editor of *The Goodland Star-News*, has spent a lifetime in journalism and on the Great Plains.

Signed books are available at Knott Just Books of Goodland, Kan.

"It seems to have stirred up quite a bit of interest," said bookstore owner Linda Knott, who is trying to keep the book in stock and on the shelves.

"The Fleagle Gang" details the case which hinges on a single fingerprint found on a murdered Dighton, Kan., doctor's car. The fledgling FBI and new boss J. Edgar Hoover play a crucial role in turning the fingerprint into solid evidence used to find, arrest and convict members of the Fleagle Gang. The FBI credits the Fleagle case as being the first time a single fingerprint was used to identify and convict criminals. The book includes over 100 photos and maps taken from the court files and places where the gang robbed banks.

A U.S. Navy journalist and a graduate of the University of Colorado, Betz started his career delivering papers for his family's newspaper in Lamar, Colo., winning the first of numerous journalism awards as a teenager.

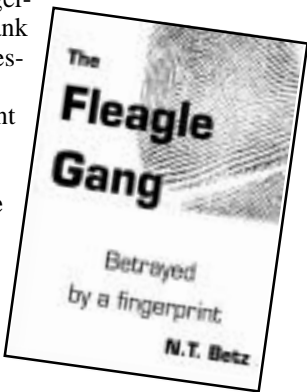
The Fleagle Gang robbed banks and trains in Larned, Kinsley, Marysville, Ottawa and McPherson Kan., Lamar, Colo., Eugene, Ore., Pittsburg, Calif. and countless others of over \$1 million in the 10 years they operated.

Three gang members — Ralph Fleagle, George Abshire and Howard Royston — were "jerked up" at the Colorado Penitentiary a little over two years after committing the Colorado bank robbery. The fourth, Jake Fleagle, was shot on a train in Branson, Mo. in Oct. 1930.

"The Fleagle Gang" is available at **Knott Just Books** in Goodland (Call 890-7105).

The book is available at the **Big Timbers Museum** in Lamar, Colo. and **Finney County Museum** in Garden City. It is available on-line from the publisher Authorhouse.com, Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble and other book stores.

Check out "The Fleagle Gang" web site at: nwkansas.com/home/fleaglegang.



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