

Watch wants to tell people about meth

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News
Neighborhood Watch of Sherman County is sponsoring a seminar Wednesday about what it says is a growing methamphetamine problem in northwest Kansas.

The seminar begins at 7 p.m. in the assembly room of the student union at the Northwest Kansas Technical College, and will last about 90 minutes.

Crime analyst Verla King of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation's Special Operations Division will be the main speaker.

Part of her talk is a slide presentation which focuses on how to identify meth lab operations.

The public is invited, and there is no cost. Refreshments are being provided by Neighborhood Watch. "I'm hoping for a big crowd

Wednesday, especially among our retailers" said Judy McKee, coordinator for Neighborhood Watch. "It's not often we get opportunities to hear a speaker from the KBI to share her experience and wisdom on how we can improve the safety of our community."

McKee said meth effects everyone, and the more we know about how its made and its impact it has on our community, the stronger our fight will be against it.

King said the presentation focuses on meth awareness, describing what is needed for its manufacture and how to work with law enforcement agencies to reduce meth activity in northwest Kansas.

The seminar will introduce people to the signs of a meth lab, she said, including:

- An excessive amount of traffic at a house, predominately at night.

Facts about meth

A few simple facts about meth (from the Cookbook):

- It can be cooked on a stove.
- All ingredients can be purchased in any town.
- Recipe is simple to use.
- Caustic, flammable, toxic chemicals are used.

- A building that quickly becomes an eyesore where trash may begin to pile up.

- An unusual amount of paint thinner, drain cleaner, cold medicine and/or propane containers in the trash.

- A strong chemical odor or sickly sweet odor that causes headaches or eye irritation.

Goodland Police Chief Ray Smeed told McKee since Jan. 1, 2000, his department has responded

to 178 drugs calls, many of which involved meth, resulting in the arrest of 150 adults and 12 juveniles.

Last month, McKee talked with school Superintendent Marvin Selby inviting the district's teachers and staff to attend the seminar. He said Selby arranged it so teachers attending the seminar can earn professional development credits.

McKee said she also talked with Ken Clouse, president of the Northwest Kansas Technical College, to

invite its faculty.

McKee said Clouse was enthusiastic about the idea and offered use of the student union.

Afterwards, McKee worked with Sharon Gregory, school improvement specialist for the district, to incorporate the seminar into the schedule for the school district's teacher training.

The school district's teachers and staff will have their own seminar Thursday morning. The college's faculty and staff will attend an afternoon session. These sessions will not be open to the public.

One of the publications McKee recommends is America's Meth Prevention Cookbook, "Recipes for Community Safety," a cooperative effort by the Safe Streets Campaign of Washington and the Washington National Guard.

An article titled "America's Most

Dangerous Drug" in the Aug. 8 issue of *Newsweek* reports federal estimates that more than 12 million Americans have tried meth and about 1.5 million are regular users. Meth labs have been uncovered in all 50 states, with Missouri topping the list with more than 8,000 seizures between 2002 and 2004.

In a survey done by the magazine, cops nationwide rank meth as the No. 1 drug they battle today.

The *Newsweek* article not only explores the danger of the drug itself, both physically and psychologically, to the user but also the hazards of "cooking up" the drug, including fires and explosions.

"With increased attention to this problem," McKee said, "we will inhibit and eventually stop the manufacturing and selling of illegal drugs in our communities."

Tech college starts fall classes Monday

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News
It's time to break out the books and the pencils and pens and paper, a lot of paper. The Northwest Kansas Technical College is expecting over 300 students for its first day of classes, Monday, Aug. 22.

The college is planning a big year — opening a new library, trying to get a grant for a day care center for students and faculty, looking to expand its campus to accommodate increases in the diesel technology and auto body departments and adding an instructor.

The school year will kick off with an all-college assembly and a reception for the students. Bankers, churches, someone from the city and others will be on hand to welcome students, said President Ken Clouse; there will be registration Monday and Tuesday, with some students in class while others are registering. To prepare for the new year, the college is doing teacher training jointly with the school district Thursday, Aug. 18.

They will share a motivational speaker, Clouse said, and a methamphetamine presentation by the Kansas Bureau of Investigation.

Ron Willis, a mental health consultant and president of Green Porch Swing Productions, will speak to college faculty and staff in the morning and the school district in the afternoon.

"He's quite good," Clouse said. "We're anticipating him pumping us up."

The Five Star Speakers and Trainers web site says Willis' philosophy is: "We become better professionals, business persons, spouses and parents in only one predictable way: We must become better people!"

His most meaningful education occurred while sitting on an old green porch swing on summer evenings with his grandfather, a retired railroad engineer, the web site says. "My grandfather always believed that in the business of helping people," Willis said, "what you have living in your heart is infinitely more valuable than a diploma to be hung on the wall."

Special Agent Verla King of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation will give a presentation on how to identify possible methamphetamine lab operations to the school district staff in the morning and the college staff

in the afternoon.

The college's resource center/library will open with Tiffany Shank-Jones as the librarian, Clouse said.

"We will still work with the public library," he said, "but we will have things on campus. It will be nice to have a collection of books, magazines and newspapers for students."

The growth in auto body and diesel technology has been so great, Clouse said, that the facilities are no longer adequate. The college is looking to build new buildings or add on to existing ones, he said. An instructor has been added in auto body, he said, and the program is taking in 24 freshmen and has 16 sophomores. Normally, it only takes 30 students.

The college is trying to get grants to start a day care and to start a new program, respiratory therapy. If the college gets the day care, Clouse said, there will be room for about 12 kids, children of students having first priority, then faculty, and they'll hire a couple of workers.

The number of students planning to attend the college this fall continues to grow. It seems like some are walking in every day, Clouse said.

School gets money based on performance

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

In the first year performance has been a factor, the Northwest Kansas Technical College made the grade with the Kansas Board of Regents and received all the money it was eligible for.

The college got \$70,455, said President Ken Clouse. Each year, he said, the Regents goes to the Legislature to request money for higher education. The college has received money every year from the board, he said, but this is the first time performance has been a factor.

Each institution makes up its own performance agreement, Clouse said, a plan with four or five goals and steps it will take to reach them.

The technical college met its performance agreement, he said, so it got 100 percent of its money.

The college set five goals:

- Pursue and acquire North Central Association/Higher Learning Commission accreditation.
- Improve professional development for faculty.
- Increase pass rate on certification exams and overall job placement.
- Initiate a successful Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning/Refrigeration (HVAC) program.
- Increase enrollment of underserved populations.

Members of the college faculty have been working on degrees, Clouse said, and the college started the HVAC program last year and has goals for enrollment and job placement.

To achieve its goals regarding underserved populations, he said, the college is trying to increase en-

rollment of minorities and of students in non-traditional fields, such as women in diesel technology and men in cosmetology, and to increase single-parent enrollment.

The college will report on its progress with accreditation, Clouse said, and write a new plan each year. Being accredited is a two-year process, he said, that involves self-study and bringing in a team from peer institutions to evaluate the college. The peers look at what the college does and sees that it matches what it says it does, he said.

In the college's \$2.5 million budget, he said, \$70,000 is not significant, a small piece of the pie. "But we'll take what we can get," he said.

The amount the Regents gives each college is based on its previous year's budget, Clouse said, and what they get is a proportionate share of their overall entitlement. It was supposed to be 85 percent of the number of clock hours, he said, but they have not done that in six or seven years. If they did that, he said, the college would get \$170,000.

There has not been enough money from the Legislature to do that, he said.

Of the state's 37 technical schools or colleges, community colleges and universities, 34 received 100 percent funding, one received 80 percent funding and two, Colby Community College and the Southwest Kansas Technical School in Liberal, received none.

The amount of funding was based on how well the institutions were meeting their performance agreements.

Students need immunizations, physicals before school

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News
Students entering the Goodland School District will need immunizations and a physical before head-

ing to class, says Carrie Peter, the district's nurse.

Peter said students need to have four doses of diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccine; three doses of the

oral polio vaccine; and one of measles-mumps-rubella vaccine before signing up for preschool or kindergarten.

Kids also are required to get hepatitis B and varicella, or chickenpox, vaccines. Anyone who has already had chicken pox is exempt from getting the vaccine. Peter said the haemophilus influenza type b vaccinations is recommended, but not required. Older students need a booster tetanus shot, normally around age 16, Peter said. Each

month, she sends out letters to students who are due for the booster.

New students and those 8 and younger coming in from other districts need an "entry" physical before enrolling.

"It's basically a head-to-toe assessment," Peter said.

The physical, she said, helps make sure the student doesn't have any medical problems. Peter said the assessment is used as a baseline for comparison in case a student develops hearing, vision, tooth or

other problems during the year.

The state of Kansas requires the shots and the physical, she said, and many out-of-state students need updates.

Before their kids head to class this year, Peter said, parents need to get paperwork in order for any medications a student needs to take at school. Consent forms are available at the schools for parents to take to a doctor. The doctor signs the form, she said, and then the school secretaries can administer medication in

the office. Children are not allowed to carry their medications with them, she said, and the forms do not carry over from year to year.

Twice a year, Peter said, the secretaries go through training to be certified on handling medications. She said they are familiar with basic first aid as well.

"They apply a lot of Band-Aids," she added.

Peter said the immunizations help keep kids safe from disease outbreaks.

corrections

A story about a standoff south of Bird City in the Tuesday, Aug. 9, issue of *The Goodland Star-News* incorrectly identified the person involved as Vertie Lance Bolyard. It should have said Vertie Earl Bolyard. The two are father and son; the son was not involved. This was a reporting error.

the Friday, July 29, issue of *The Star-News* incorrectly identified City Commissioner Annette Fairbanks as Annette Franklin on Page 9a. This was a reporting error.

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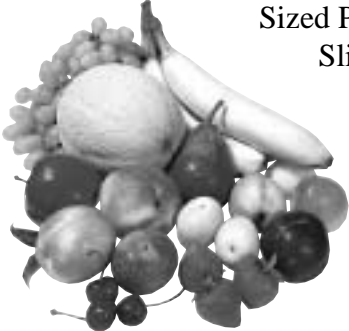
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