

Panel to look at what schools feed kids

By Kathryn Burke
The Goodland Star-News
Does a candy bar for breakfast, washed down with a sugary soda, make kids fat? Is a candy, pizza or popcorn party an appropriate reward for doing well in class? Are school lunches packed with more calories, sodium and sugar than healthy kids should have? Do schools have a responsibility to teach proper nutrition? It's a national debate, but new state laws require the Goodland School Board to put together a committee on child health and nutrition, which the board agreed to do at a meeting Monday, Aug. 22. Superintendent Marvin Selby said the

Goodland district received a packet about the program from the state Board of Education this month. The district's new wellness program will address pop and candy machines, school lunches and physical education. "I think we're going to hear a lot about this," Selby said. He said a new committee will send representatives to a workshop on child nutrition and wellness in Colby on Wednesday, Sept. 28. Selby said the committee should include representatives from parents, students, the school nutritionist, the board, administration and the public. Board member Marty Melia suggested asking his daughter Sarah Linton,

the nutritionist at the hospital, to join the committee. President Jane Philbrick said the physical education teachers should get involved, too. For a student participant, she said, they could ask Sarah Short, Family Career Consumer Leaders of America teacher, to recommend someone. Amy Sederstrom, a board member, suggested getting grade school cooks involved since they deal with younger students. Board members asked if the committee will talk about what types of candy and pop they can have in the vending machines at the high school. Selby said the Colby workshop should help shed some light on the subject.

Sederstrom asked if the program will relate mostly to meal planning. Fritz Doke, another board member, asked if the state will decide what kids can and can't eat. Selby replied that state rules will most likely relate to calorie content and portion sizes. Sederstrom asked about the repercussions if the nutritional criteria are not met. Selby said while he isn't sure, the district would probably face cuts in state or federal money if they don't comply. Philbrick said the vending machines at the high school are fund raisers for student groups. She said the groups will want to keep the machines.

Melia said schools in Salina are already looking at nutrition and deciding what to offer. He said they are looking at more restrictions for grade schools and more freedom for high-school students. "It could just be an adjustment (to current nutrition programs)," Doke said. Selby said they program will teach students cleanliness and good nutrition. "It's not going to be taking things away," the superintendent said. The program will be about nutritional education. The board agreed to put together a committee. Member LeAnn Friedrichs said she would be interested in serving on it.

Law enforcement on lookout for teen parties

Underage parties carry stiff penalty

By Kathryn Burke
The Goodland Star-News
Summertime is party time for many teens, but they need to know that law enforcement is on the lookout for underage drinking. Last month, the Goodland Police Department busted a party and handed out 11 tickets for minors in possession of alcohol and two for furnishing alcohol to minors. The minors ticketed were Nicholas Top, Ryan Stepler, Emily Schulte, Kevin Schulte, Kyle Schulte, Corey McClain, Gage Cloyd, Blake Saint and Tray Kling. Police said Troy Vallejo and Luke Schulte were ticketed for furnishing

the alcohol. Most were former high school students here: Kling and Saint were 2005 Goodland High graduates; Gittinger, McClain, Cloyd and Corey Schulte were 2004 graduates; and Kevin and Kyle Schulte were 2003 graduates. Police Chief Ray Smee said officers were called at 12:16 a.m. to 700 E. 14th St. on a noise complaint and found the underage drinkers. This year, Goodland High School is also fighting to curb kids who drink by implementing a drug testing program. Students in extracurricular activities will be subject to the tests. Positive results for any drug, including alcohol and tobacco, will get users suspended from the activity for a short period. If there are repeats, students can be barred from all activities. Smee said police usually catch underage drinkers when they respond to complaints like the one last month.

He said they go up to the door to check out the noise, and sometimes recognize underage kids drinking inside. While they do encounter a few parties per year, Smee said the number has been cut dramatically since he became chief about six years ago. He said noise which can be heard more than 50 feet from a person's property is prohibited by a city ordinance, and that give officers a reason to visit a house. When officers go to a house, he said, they must see the kids drinking or holding alcohol to move in. Police can ticket a minor who is clearly intoxicated even if he or she is not holding a drink, though. "There's a lot of gray area," Smee said about how police handle underage drinking. He said sometimes they can't catch the kids because when they see the police coming, they run away.

While officers normally know where a party is because they can see the cars, he added, they don't always know if underage kids are drinking. Catching underage drinkers in the county is a bit more difficult, said Sheriff Kevin Butts. "It's a lot easier for the city to find parties," he said, adding there is more ground to cover in the county. "I'm sure there's a lot of parties in the county we are unaware of." He said if deputies see a party on county property, they check it out. Depending on the situation, Butts said, deputies sometimes check out private parties. Tickets for anyone picked up by the county go through the court system, he said. Smee said when they catch an underage drinker in town, someone between 18 and 20, they normally ticket the person. The maximum allowable fine is \$500, but the city normally issues \$200 tickets. Kids under 18, he added, are

taken into custody and turned over to juvenile intake. From there, he said, juveniles are handed over to their parents and punishment is processed through the county. Anyone furnishing alcohol to minors faces a penalty, he said. The fine in Goodland normally is \$300, but the maximum penalty is a \$1,000 fine and 6 months in jail. Smee said they have trouble keeping alcohol out of the hands of minors. "There's not a whole lot we can do about it," he said. He said parents should teach their children about the dangers of drinking and especially drinking and driving. "It's just asking your kids questions," he said, "and educating them." Butts said education really is the key to keeping kids clean. "I wish we had a DARE (drug abuse resistance education) program," he said.

As it is, he said, the responsibility often falls back on the parents. "There's only so much we can do," he said. While binge drinking has led to deaths at colleges around the nation, Smee said he doesn't think it's a big problem in the area. He said officers here have never had to take any teens to the hospital. Minor in possession charges carry penalties, he said. Driving drunk for minors is prosecuted the same way as an adult. Butts said parties in the county increase the risk of drunk driving since kids normally wouldn't walk home. "If they are inebriated," Smee said, "and I hope that they aren't, they need to get a hold of someone (for a ride)." Butts said he doesn't want to discourage kids from having a good time with non-alcoholic parties. "They just need to have good judgment," he said, "and don't be in such a hurry to grow up."

School braces for changes in federal progress rules

By Kathryn Burke
The Goodland Star-News
Adequate yearly progress, the bar that schools must meet each year for the No Child Left Behind Act, will soon become more complicated. Fritz Doke, Goodland School Board member who serves on the Northwest Kansas Educational Center board, said that was the topic at the last center board meeting. He said the new regulations will call for special education students to be taken into account in standards proficiency ratings. The students will have to have 75 percent or above in math and reading, he said. Only one percent, he added, will be exempt from the testing because of severe mental retardation. "That's something we will be discussing as a local board in the future," he said. Doke said board members talked about the second chance school in Oakley. He said eight kids are currently attending the school.

Superintendent Marvin Selby explained that the school is an alternative for students who "just don't fit in a public school setting." He said the center is housed in the Monument School, in Monument, just west of Oakley, and uses the space to do one-on-one teaching. Only two students from Goodland have attended the school, he said. One, he said, was sent because he was suspended from school for having a firearm on campus. The other was sent to Oakley after he refused to come back to Goodland the year after he was expelled. "We were pleased with the results (of the second chance school)," Selby said, adding that Colby currently has two students in the alternative school. Doke reported the center board talked about teacher requests to lower the grade level for students attending the school to include fourth and fifth grades. It currently takes students from grade six and up.

Hospital plans upgrade with new anesthesia machine

Goodland Regional Medical Center plans to buy an anesthesia machine and wants to apply for a grant to help with strategic planning. The anesthesia machine is one of the big-ticket items needed for the surgery department, Administrator Jay Jolly said at the hospital board's meeting Monday. The hospital asked for \$80,000 for the machine from the Northwest Area Medical Foundation, he said, noting that surgery was the focus of the Slice of Life golf tournament fund raiser this year. Money from the event is disbursed through the foundation, set up to accept tax-deductible donations for the hospital. The hospital will lose support from the current machine's manufacturer, Jolly said, because it is 20 (1985) years old. The hospital is shopping through

a statewide purchasing group to get a discount, he said. Such a machine would cost about \$120,000 without the discount. The hospital is working on a proposal for a Sunflower Foundation grant, Jolly said, that will help plan the process of changing the hospital's traditional method of operating. Hospitals grew up with departments, Jolly said, each with its own set of norms and values.

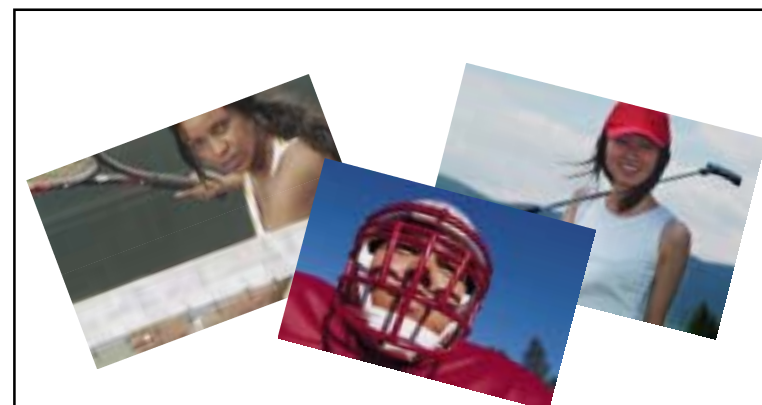
The strategic plan would get away from that to look at the medical specialties that provide the most revenue, and build around those. "The foundation will provide the money," Dale Schields, head of the foundation, said. "We will take \$20,000 from our Caring Card program and \$55,000 from the Slice of Life to make up the bulk of the money for the new machine."

correction

A story "Goodland florist opens new craft mall" on Page 3 of the Friday, Aug. 26, edition of *The Goodland Star-News* said Ashleigh Flodin has owned Cobblestone Floral and Garden for three years. Flodin has owned the business only for 1 1/2 years. Flodin bought the business from Joni Guyer, who

changed the shop name from Goodland Greenhouse to Cobblestone seven years ago. This was a reporting error. ☆☆☆☆ The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to re-

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The Sherman County Convention and Visitor's Bureau is taking closed bids for the 1990 London Type Red Bus, vin #1FTJE34H5LHB19207. Bids are to be received by Sept. 13 by the Sherman County Convention and Visitor's Bureau, P.O. Box 927, Goodland, Kan. 67735. CVB has the right to refuse any or all bids. For additional information call 785-890-3515.

The annual meeting of the **Sherman County High School Alumni Association** will be held at 7 p.m., on Wednesday, Aug. 31st in the large boardroom of the Goodland Regional Medical Center. All alumni members are encouraged to take part in planning for the 2006 All-School Reunion in Goodland.