

School district expands student, parent access

Goodland students are using the Internet in new ways this year, and parents will have an opportunity to learn — hands on — about the resources available to them and their kids.

Karla Murray, district technology coordinator, said the Empowered Desktop allows students, administrators and teachers access to applications that will help students in school.

She said students in grades 5-12 have been using the Kan-Ed access program, and students in grades K-4 have been added to the database. User names and passwords will be given to parents during parent-teacher conferences, which began on Thursday and continue tonight.

To help the parents, Murray said, the district plans three nights for hands-on learning.

The first sessions will be on Monday, Nov. 14 and 21. There will be a third session on Monday, Jan. 9, before the beginning of the second semester.

The Empowered Desktop can be accessed at school and at home with

any Internet-connected computer, she said.

Murray said the kids use the program at school to complete assignments and do research.

She said from home, kids and parents can use the program to complete homework assignments, do research and explore safe sites on the Internet.

Murray said the Atomic Learning program may be the most useful to both kids and parents because it has thousands of little tutorials on dozens of applications for both Windows and Macintosh computers.

“The idea is to use the Internet and the Empowered Desktop to make learning fun and interactive,” she said.

Resources available to teachers and students include netTrekker, which supports safe web searches with an academic search engine containing more than 180,000 websites; Atomic Learning, which helps teachers and students learn software applications with online tutorials; and the Education Backpack, which provides a web-based

file storage and management system.

Kids can check their class assignments on PowerSchool, which is another program accessible on the Internet.

Students and parents have their own separate username and password for the PowerSchool program.

Murray said they can e-mail teachers with questions through the PowerSchool and store files and assignments with the Backpack program.

Kan-Ed (www.kan-ed.org), a state-sponsored network, provides access to the Empowered Desktop to educators and students across the state.

The program gets money from the Kansas Universal Service Fund, collected through a fee on phone bills.

The program was developed and housed by LearningStation (www.learningstation.com).

For information, contact Murray at 890-6558 or kmurray @usd 352.ks.us.

McGruff gives out candy



McGruff the Crime Dog welcomed trick-or-treaters on Halloween at the Sherman County Bastille. There was a steady stream of costumed kids who shook McGruff's hand and got treats from sheriff's deputies.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

County sharing emergency management director

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News

Sherman County Commissioners agreed Monday to join Cheyenne and Rawlins counties in sharing an emergency management director, hoping to get an extra \$10,000 from the state.

Commissioners passed a resolution appointing Gary Rogers of St. Francis, emergency management director for the other two counties, as interim emergency management director here.

The former emergency manager directory, Mary Messamore, left last month to take a job in Hutchinson.

Rogers would be paid for the hours he works, plus travel and expenses. He said the county can call him any time he's needed. Rogers said he needs to meet with the three counties' commissioners and any supporting personnel to work out a formal agreement.

Rogers said he expects to be in Goodland two days a week. He said he would need office space, a computer and a part-time helper. Commissioners said they would check to see if there was any space by the Central Dispatch office.

Rogers told commissioners they need to name an assistant emergency manager living in the county, possibly the new dispatch director. Rogers gave three proposals for how to finance the office using the money each county now receives from the state.

Later, County Appraiser Terry Ballard talked about replacing a computer that has been in use since 1999. He said the average working life of computer is three years and they are getting at least five out of theirs.

He said he got a quote from S & T Communications for updates and replacement of one computer for \$1,060 or one computer, three print-

ers and the software for a total of \$2,414. The purchase would be covered under his budget, he said. The commissioners approved.

Commissioners signed an agreement for the upkeep of the Goodland, Kanorado and Brewster cemeteries with the cities. The agreement says the county can levy up to one mill for county cemeteries, 80 percent to Goodland, 10 percent to Kanorado and 10 percent to Brewster. The original agreement was for the cemeteries in Goodland and Kanorado only.

In other business, commissioners:

- Removed from the tax rolls an item for Power Play for the current year 2004 and the past three years for a total of \$297. Power Play had vending or similar machines and had not reported to the treasurer, said County Clerk Janet Rumpel. The machines were left on the tax roles for four years.

- Agreed to waive utility fees for the Chamber of Commerce Freedom Fest at the fairgrounds this summer for \$84. There was a question about whether the monthly rent for the Flatlander Race for the Sherman County Stockcar Association had been waived. They decided it had not.

- Met in closed session to talk about personnel matters with Curt Way, public works manager. A 180-day evaluation of Mike Lewis yielded a 40-cents-per-hour, or 5 percent, raise for him. Marshall Siruta would get a raise up to \$9.90 per hour for being district supervisor, Way said, which he has been for five months.

- Approved hiring VonFeldt, Bauer and VonFeldt to do the 2005 audit. The audit will not cost more than \$22,500. The contract was done without any bidding from other firms.

- Met in closed session with Treasurer Iris Scheopner on personnel

corrections

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual.

Sharon Springs fire chief dies unexpectedly at his home

Benjamin R. Goff, 50, Sharon Springs fire chief, died Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2005, at his home.

He was born Oct. 8, 1955, at Manhattan, the son of Dean and Wanda (Hollowell) Goff. He was an auto technician at the Sharon Springs All-Pro Bumper to Bumper.

Goff was a member of the Keats United Methodist Church west of Manhattan and was the chief of the Sharon Springs Volunteer Fire Department. He had epilepsy and diabetes; an autopsy will be done.

Preceding him in death was a niece, Renae Schurle, in 1994.

Survivors include his parents of Manhattan; six brothers, Donald (Marcia) Goff, Garry (Christine)

Goff, Rex Goff and Wayne (Jane) Goff, all of Manhattan, Larry Goff of Morganville, and Clyde (Arlene) Goff of Fowler, Colo.; and three sisters, Janet (Rick) Schurle of Manhattan, Nancy (Brad) Carter of Shawnee and Jane (Rex) Keister of Riley.

Services will be at 9:30 a.m. Mountain Time Monday, Nov. 7, 2005, at the church with the Rev. Barbara Laflin officiating. Visitation will be all day today, Saturday and Sunday at the Holmes-Pfeifly Funeral Home in Riley.

The family will be there from 1-3 p.m. Sunday. Burial will be in the Riley Cemetery east of Riley.

Memorials may be made to the American Diabetes Association in

care of the funeral home, Box 176, 303 S. Broadway, Riley, Kan. 66531.



*Above Kevin and Christie Rasure Owners, Danny Rasure, Gene Carrier, the Colby Staff and other invited guests.

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student of the week



Name: Janelle Wolak
Parents: Kathy Wolak and the late Ed Wolak
Grade: Senior
Age: 18
We've nominated this student because: Janelle is a very good student with a pleasant personality. She is motivated to do her best without complaining.

Student Comment: I will always remember hanging out with friends on the weekends and all of the good times in Mr. Stone's classes.

Activities involved in at school: Peer Counseling, CYO and softball.

My choice of movies, books, and games: I like funny movies, country music, scary books and playing black jack.

After I leave Goodland High School I intend to: go to Fort Hays University and major in Business and accounting.

And 10 years from now, I think I'll be: An accountant at a big law firm and living on a big ranch with my husband.

Favorite Quote: "He who loses money, loses much; He who loses a friend, loses much more. He who loses faith, loses all."

Eleanor Roosevelt

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Now, Even More Land with This Home!

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This property owner has just purchased the two adjoining East Lots (20-21) to go along with one of Goodland's finest Old-style Bungalows with 5 bedrooms and 2 baths offers all original hardwood floors, oak pillars, built-in oak hutch, several stained glass windows, marble counter tops in kitchen and some original light fixtures. Basement has been completely remodeled with jetted garden tub and walk-in shower. Home has been rewired, new roof, carpet looks brand new, lots of storage, water softener, underground sprinkler system in front yard and west side plus a 26' x 30' detached garage. You must see this elegant home and all it's beauty!!! Priced at \$175,000. Don't delay; call Tom today at HomeLand Real Estate 866-899-3060.

Make an appointment to see any of our fine Homeland listings! WHEN ONLY THE BEST WILL DO...CALL!!

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