



"School Days" by Raymond Knaub

# Print honors 80 years of service to hospital

By Pat Schiefen  
The Goodland Star-News

The Goodland Regional Medical Center Auxiliary has dedicated a print in honor of Marguerite Dupsky's more than 80 years of volunteering.

The money for the print was donated by the Dupsky family.

Dupsky began work as a volunteer in 1923 at the Boothroy Memorial Hospital, said Brenda McCants, director of marketing and patient relations. She was a charter member of the auxiliary and was volunteering up until two weeks before her death last year.

Over the years she helped take care of patients, made quilts, baked things for sales and attended all the meetings and functions.



Dupsky

McCants and the auxiliary board looked over eight to 10 prints by landscape artist Raymond Knaub. They chose the one called School Days, she said, because it reminded them of Dupsky.

"Marguerite was always telling of her days growing up in a sod house and of life on the prairie," said McCants.

Dupsky was born in 1914 at Stanton, Neb., and graduated from

high school there. She married Emil Dupsky in 1936. He died in 1990. They had two sons, Ellis Dupsky of Arvada, Colo., and Bill Dupsky of Goodland.

The artist, a native of Scotts Bluff, Neb., began his professional painting career 32 years ago. Knaub does landscapes. First National Bank in Goodland has two Knaub paintings.

Attending the dedication were Jay Jolly, chief executive officer of the hospital; Faye Paxton, auxiliary president; Bonnie Daily, an auxiliary member; Debbie Hickman, director of patient care services; McCants; and Larry McCants, president of First National Bank.

# New minister starts at Sonrise Christian

By Pat Schiefen  
The Goodland Star-News

Charles Kerr started as the new minister of Goodland's Sonrise Christian Church at the last of September.

The church lost its former minister, Tony Kafka, over a year ago when he moved to Iowa.

The independent Christian church at 907 Caldwell serves around 32 members.

Kerr moved to Goodland from Cimmaron, where he had

been a minister a little over four years.

Previously he had been at churches in Phoenix for 25 years.



Kerr

Kerr has been a minister for 44 years, starting in 1961.

He received his training at Kentucky Christian Bible College. He said his specialty is in starting new churches either as the first minister or the second.

He has helped build five churches

over 25 years. The churches were located in Phoenix, Dallas, Oklahoma City, Indianapolis and New Mexico

Kerr moved here with his wife, Maggie and father, Charles Kerr Sr., who has lived with his son over nine years.

The Kerrs have three grown children, Sherri who lives in Phoenix; Fred in Rockford, Ill.; and Mike in Calgary, Alberta.

"Small community churches are built on relationships," he said, adding that he is looking forward to building relationships here.

# Meals on Wheels volunteer smells gas, calls 911 operator

A Meals on Wheels volunteer delivering lunch to a woman smelled gas in her home and called the fire department, possibly preventing an explosion.

Dorothy Akers, a volunteer from Meals on Wheels, said she was making her delivery rounds about 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 29, when she stopped at 1523 Kansas to deliver lunch to Ethel Chestnut.

Akers said she went in to check on Mrs. Chestnut, 93, who has a hard time getting around. Akers smelled gas and called 911.

She told the firemen she noticed the space heater in the front room had a red flame, rather than blue.

Mrs. Chestnut, it turned out, was not home as she was having lunch with her son at the Good Samaritan Center.

Delmer West, 619 Grand, told Chestnut emer-

gency crews were at her home.

Harold Gillihan, the Aquila serviceman, discovered the source of the gas, a stove burner that had been accidentally turned on, but not enough to ignite from the pilot.

By the time Mrs. Chestnut returned, the firemen had aired out her house with large fans.

Julie Stefan of Tender Loving Home Care came by to check on Mrs. Chestnut because she is soon to become a client.

"The dispatchers call us when someone reports gas," said Dean Jensen, fire chief.

"We are on scene in case there is an explosion, but we don't enter until the gas company representative checks it out.

"I remember we set up the fans to air the house out."

# City approves rebates to spur revitalization

By Tom Betz  
The Goodland Star-News

A plan to give property owners a tax incentive to fix up their homes and businesses took its big second step with approval by the city commission Monday.

The Neighborhood Revitalization Program would allow home and business owners to apply for a tax rebate for improvements. Dwane Timm, of the First National Bank and head of the Incentives Committee of the Sherman County Economic Development Council, presented the program to city commissioners.

Timm said the Sherman County commissioners approved the program last week, and he would be presenting it to the Goodland School Board on Monday.

"The tax rebate program is open to all real estate in the county," Timm said, "and it is a refund of the property taxes paid on the assessed value added to the property because of the improvements.

"It does not take away any taxes, but will (reduce taxes) for future improvements."

The plan requires a property owner to make a minimum \$5,000 investment, Timm said. The work has to comply with all building codes, and in the city, the owner needs to have a building permit.

Once the improvements are done, the county assessor inspects the property, and the rebate will apply to the taxes on the improvements. The tax rebate will apply to the county, city and school district part of property taxes, but will not to the state levy.

Qualified improvements include new construction, rehabilitation and additions. There are some non-real estate items that may qualify, such as sprinkling systems, fences, landscaping, gazebos, garden type structures, patios, hot tubs, in-ground swimming pools, irrigation wells and equipment, both agriculture and residential, and other permanent improvements.

Timm said owners should understand that every dollar spent might not necessarily equal a dollar of increased value. That is up to the appraiser, based on market value.

He said there was an amendment to the program to allow for a 1 percent administrative fee. A \$50 application fee goes to the assessor's office and the administrative fee goes to the county clerk.

The application period goes back to January, which Timm said was the last time the county's property was all appraised.

He said at least two of the three governments have

to approve program, and with the county approval and the city approval, it can be implemented. He will present the plan to the school board on Monday to give all three an opportunity to be involved.

Mayor Rick Billinger asked if the property owners have to apply for this program, and why it was taking so long if the application period goes back to January.

Timm said there is a simple one-page application form. He said the program has been in the works for over a year, but work was delayed by debate in the Legislature over school finance.

"We had to wait until the state decided which way they were going," Timm said. "Those who contacted us earlier can now apply."

"Submit the construction cost to the appraiser, and once he has determined the increased valuation, the rebate is approved by the county commissioners."

Billinger said he was glad to see the program, and hoped it would help homeowners understand that fixing up their home or business was not going to automatically raise their taxes.

Commissioner Josh Dechant said it is a good deal for the 15 percent of properties that are valued at \$25,000 or less. People who make improvements to these can get 95 percent of the increased property tax rebated in the first five years.

"Hopefully this will give people a way to improve some of these properties," Timm said, "and maybe remove the house."

Timm added that the rebate is on property taxes and not on personal property.

"If you understand fixtures, you will be able to understand the real estate taxes," he said. "It is up to the appraiser. Some of the areas are a bit grey and there are some exceptions."

A property owner could have rebates in more than one taxing year if the project goes past the end of December, he said.

Timm thanked City Clerk Mary Volk and County Clerk Janet Rumpel for their help getting the details of the program worked out.

Commissioner Dave Daniels thanked Timm and the Economic Development Council for getting the revitalization program up and going.

"I think it will make things look better and improve the community," Billinger said.

Timm said the applications should be available on line, but that has not been set up yet. He said the applications will probably be available at the county clerk's or appraiser's office.

# Veterans invited to eat, learn about benefits

Veterans and their family members are invited to come have dinner and learn about the latest updates in veterans benefits at 5 p.m. Mountain Time Sunday at the Colby American Legion Clubhouse, 1850 W. Fourth St.

The meeting is first stop of the American Legion Veterans Affairs tour in northwest Kansas. State and district officers of the Legion will be available to answer questions about state and federal veterans

benefits.

Phil Finley of Colby's Legion post asked people to arrive by 5 p.m. because they're not sure whether dinner will be at the clubhouse or another location.

The tour stops in Sharon Springs at 8:45 a.m. (Mountain Time) Monday for a 45-minute stay before heading to Oakley. The group will stop in St. Francis for 45 minutes around 10 a.m. (Mountain Time) on Thursday.

The Goodland Legion post will have its annual holiday dinner at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, Nov. 21, at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall, 824 Main Ave., Finley said.

# Rebate on agenda

The Goodland School Board will meet at 7 p.m. Monday at the board room in the Administration Building, 1312 Main.

The proposed agenda includes:

- A Neighborhood Revitalization Tax Rebate program presentation by Dwane Timm of the Sherman County Economic Development Council.
- Financial reports.
- A Personal Development Council report by teacher Mary Porterfield.
- A Northwest Kansas Technical College update board member by Marty Melia.

# Truck hit by pickup

A truck driven by a Goodland man and owned by V & E Xpress of Goodland was in a fatal accident south of Johnson City last week.

The driver, identified by the Kansas Highway Patrol as Ryan Robinson, recently moved to Goodland.

The patrol said Robinson was driving a semi-trailer rig pulling a corn trailer going north on K-27 at 7:47 p.m. Monday, Oct. 31. A pickup ran a stop sign at the U.S. 160 junction and struck the passenger side of the tractor. The driver, Lillian Fraughton, 33, Hattiesburg, Miss., was not wearing a seat belt, the patrol said. She was thrown out and was dead at the scene.

Robinson, who was wearing a seat belt, was not seriously injured, the patrol said.

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**Monday:** 2 Medium Specialty Pizzas for \$17.99  
**Tuesday:** Free Breadstix Nite w/ purchase of med. specialty pizza  
**Wednesday:** Family Nite - 2 Lg Pizzas w/ Family Breadstix \$20.99  
**Thursday:** Kids Nite - Kids eat free personal pan with adult.

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