

The Community Page

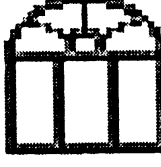
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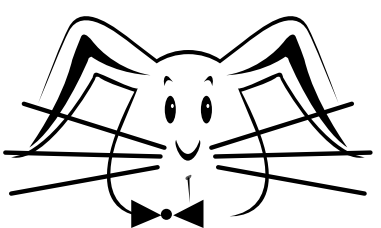
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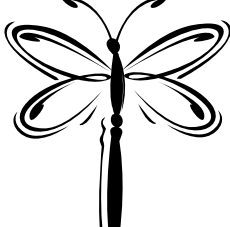
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*Congratulations, DECA,
on qualifying for state competition
and a fine season of activities
in community service!*



The Goodland High School DECA members are: Front, from left: Tom Terry, T.J. Freeman, Jonathan McClung, Renea Reasoner, Mindi Keith, Jessica Lu, Andrew Philbrick and Lauren Abernathy. Second row: Adrienne West, Kayla Long, Samantha Lamb, Brittney Medrano, Justin Holloway and Jillian Parker. Third row: Douglas Eddleman, Tiffanie Schlink, Jedediah Snethen, Julian Walls, Linsey Owens and Michael Bryce. Back: Joshua Webster, Cassie Cooper, Natasha Cecil, Troy Harrison, Daniel Finnell, Jason Troyer and Cody Engel. Not pictured: Hannah Blake, Tiffany Bracelin, Whitney Dautel, Erica Fenner, Brittany Fisher, Josh Lamb, Felicia McGrath, Elizabeth Morris, Arely Rascon and Megan Vaughn.
Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

DECA to compete at state conference Saturday-Tuesday

The Goodland High School DECA I and II chapters have been busy preparing for competition at the organization's state career development conference through their community service projects, including one that encourages shopping in Goodland.

Twenty-six DECA members are scheduled to compete at state in written events (manual and interviews), series competition (test and role play case studies) and state officer competitions. The conference will be Saturday-Tuesday, March 4-7, in Overland Park.

To prepare for competition in their Entrepreneurship Promotion Project, said sponsor Richard Schwasinger, DECA members in January organized Entrepreneurship Promotion Week, with activities to educate club members, Goodland consumers and business people to buy merchandise and service here.

"Money spent in Goodland benefits everyone in Goodland," he said, "while money spent outside our community does not benefit our local economy."

DECA members have been promoting entrepreneurship through the newspaper, over the radio and on television, Schwasinger said, as well as on retail store signs, with store sack stuffers, through community organizational presentations, through school presentations, with a retail store field trip and as pages for a state legislator.

"It is our intention to persuade local retailers to offer the best products, at reasonable prices, to local consumers," he said, "in an effort to persuade every consumer in Goodland to purchase goods and services exclusively from Goodland retailers."

"Our local economy will become strong again and bring in new entrepreneurs when we increase the retail sales volume in our Goodland."

DECA members have operated concession stands to enter their Learn and Earn Project. Sports fans have enjoyed new merchandise offerings at the stands, Schwasinger said, including soft pretzels, chili cheese dogs and chili nachos. These new products have been popular, he said,

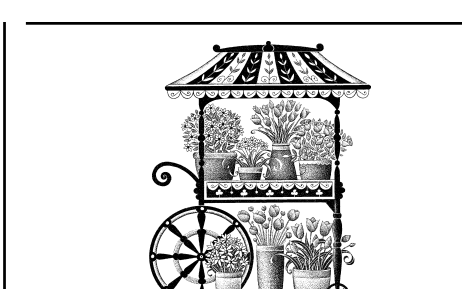
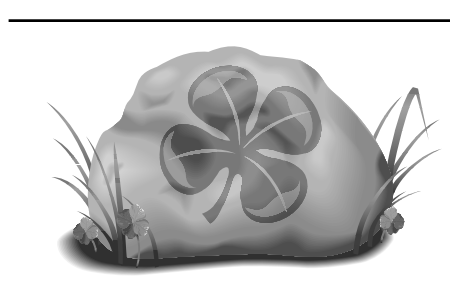
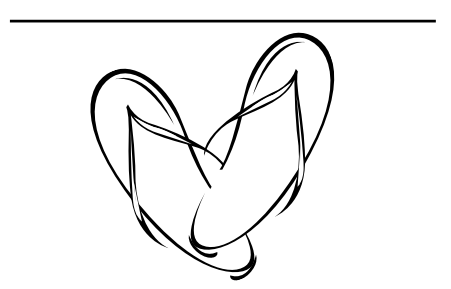
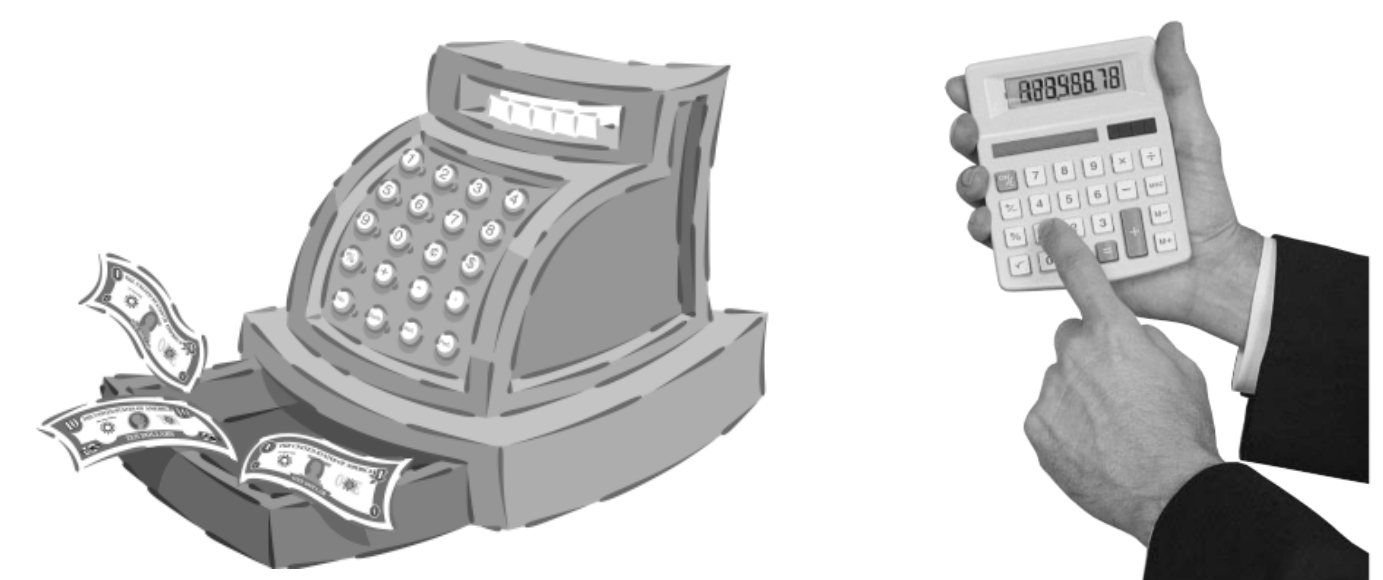
and have proved to be a big boost to the profits of the stands.

The Learn and Earn Project provides DECA members the opportunity to set up a business plan and develop their marketing and management skills, he said.

DECA members also have been raising money for the Northwest Kansas Animal Shelter and are planning a paintball tournament to raise money for the local Red Cross Chapter and the Red Cross National Disaster Relief Fund.

They have sold calendars, Schwasinger said, to raise money for the animal shelter and are trying to raise more money by bringing together groups of 10 people who would donate \$10 each to adopt and care for a pet. Sponsors estimate that it costs \$100 per year to care for a single animal at the shelter, he said.

The paintball tournament is in the final planning stages, Schwasinger said, and members will be distributing signs and pamphlets throughout Goodland, advertising and contacting paintball enthusiasts to promote it.




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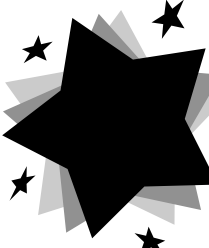
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