

Signs of progress



Nick Top used a forklift from Rasure Lumber on Thursday to unload a new marquee sign for the Sherman Theatre, which arrived last Friday. Brian Freeman (back) and owner Dave Branda rolled furniture dollies under the crate. Branda said he will have to wait until construction on the sidewalk in front of the theatre is done to install the sign. Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

Boy, 16, turns up after phone call

By Jan Katz Ackerman
Colby Free Press

A Sharon Springs youth thought to have been abducted from Colby may simply have run away because of an Internet game, but the boy, 16, wound up in court on Monday and two adults who allegedly lured him away were in jail.

Colby Police Chief Randy Jones said Monday his department received a call about 1 p.m. Friday to go to a Colby home regarding a Sharon Springs teen claiming to have run away.

"An individual showed the officer a letter written by the juvenile that he was going to run away and don't bother looking for him," Jones said.

Jones said his department got a description of the boy and put out a bulletin.

"We went to the last place he'd been seen, which was Wal-Mart, but did not locate him," Jones said. "He was later located in Limon, Colo."

Jones said the Limon Police Department helped arrest two people who are alleged to have lured the teen away from his home through the Internet. The two allegedly picked up the teen in Colby and were spotted in Limon.

Limon Police Sergeant Russell Lengel said he received a call from an officer in Colby to look for the boy, then another.

"I got a call from the Colby Police Department that the teen had called his family in Kansas," Lengel said.

Qwest, the phone company in Limon, was able to determine the location of the pay phone the teen used to call his family.

"I went to the Flying J Truck Stop,

and the boy was still on the phone and I was able to pick him up," Lengel said. "When I was putting him into my patrol car, I noticed a male running from the Flying J, and I asked the boy if he'd been with the man."

Lengel said the teen admitted having been in Limon with a man and woman with whom with he played an Internet game called Final Fantasy 11. Arrested in Limon were the 26-year-old man who tried to flee and a 34-year-old woman, both from West Jordan, Utah.

"The boy said he was in a chat room and met the male and female, and it was set up that he would be picked up at Wal-Mart in Colby," Lengel said.

Lengel said he and a Colorado Highway Patrol trooper were able to detain both adults. He would not release their identity or where they were being detained. Lengel said the boy was taken back to Kansas by his father and Wallace County Undersheriff Marshall Unruh.

Wallace County Sheriff Larry Townsend confirmed a hearing for the teen had taken place in Wallace County District Court on Monday but would not talk about the case, saying it had "been sealed."

District Magistrate Steve Unruh said it was his policy to seal all juvenile and family cases. Ron Keefover, information officer with the Office of Judicial Administration in Topeka, said he thought Unruh acted within his power.

Wallace County Attorney Andrea Wyrick said the two adults waived extradition and were returned to Kansas on Tuesday.

They are awaiting filing of formal charges.

Goodland schools to get more money from state

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News

Goodland schools will have more money to spend next year under a school finance bill passed by the Kansas Legislature, but a lot of it has to go to special programs.

The Legislature has finally come to a consensus about school finance, passing a bill adding \$446 million to the school budget over three years. The question now is whether the state Supreme Court will accept it.

"There will be \$278,000 of new money, but it will have strings," said

Board closes doors

The Goodland School Board meet early Tuesday to discuss teacher contract negotiations.

The board convened at 7 a.m. at the district office and went into closed session for the entire

morning meeting.

The board had agreed to offer all the district's tenured teachers a new contract in its meeting Monday, April 10.

Superintendent Marvin Selby.

He said this translates into \$80,712 that will go into the general

fund, used to pay for general school operations, including teacher salaries. The board can choose how this

money will be spent, Selby said, and most of it probably will go for salaries.

The board agreed to the teachers' suggestions that each school have a principal and to hire a fifth first-grade teacher to keep class size in the 15-to-18-student range, he said. Those salaries will take most of the new general fund money.

The district will get \$119,959 more for at-risk students, he said. The Legislature did not broaden the definition of at risk, but \$75,000 of that can be used to pay for all-day kindergarten. The all-day kinder-

garten was started in Goodland this school year, even though the state only paid for part of its cost.

Special education will get \$57,363 more, Selby said. Special education includes programs for any student who needs special help, ranging from the mentally challenged to the gifted.

He said the district will get \$28,913 to spent on students who scored low on state assessment tests. This could be used for study halls, extra classes and summer school, he said.

The Legislature finally passed the education bill on Wednesday, May 10. The governor is expected

to sign it.

For the current school year, Selby said, the Goodland district got \$6,481,052 from the state, an average of \$6,436 per student. The official enrollment was 1,007 as of Sept. 20.

If the enrollment stays the same, the total next year would be \$6,759,052, or \$6,712 per student.

Selby said the board has started negotiating the teacher contract for next year on the premise that the bill the Legislature passed will be accepted by the courts.

If the Supreme Court doesn't accept the finance bill, things will start over.

Artists' work displayed at downtown stores

Take a walk, enjoy "galleries" displaying several area artists' work and do some shopping along the way.

During June, Goodland's downtown will be exhibiting the work of area artists and encouraging people to get out and walk.

The Northwest Kansas Artist Roundtable, along with the Sherman County Economic Development Council and Goodland Arts Council, is hosting the first Art Walk, which will combine art and fitness while allowing people to enjoy shopping in downtown Goodland.

The art will be exhibited in 10 businesses along a mile-long walk on Main Street, each exhibiting the work of a featured artist and distributing entry forms for a special giveaway at the end of the month.

Entry forms consist of a map of the art walk. After participants visit each of the locations, they can submit their entries at the Goodland Activities Center for a chance to win a basket of items donated by each of the artists on the walk. Entries can also be made each time a participant finds "Artie," a traveling Art Walk mascot that will show up in downtown businesses throughout the month.

Sponsoring businesses and the artists at each include the Antique Warehouse, exhibiting watercolors by Elwyn Vatcher; Carnegie Arts

Center, woodworking by George Adelgren; El Dorado Western Wear, stained glass by Gary and Cynthia Kickler; Garcia's Home Furnishing, soft sculpture and trompe l'oeil by Shirley Houston; the Activities Center, painted windows by Linda Foster; High Plains Office Supply, woodworking by Doug Hilty; Melody's Picnic in the Park, crafts by Melody Hartzler; Mr. Jim's, drawings and cartoons by Steve Guenther; and Sherman County Economic Development, Native American style art by Marilyn Cooper.

Work from each artist will be ro-

tated throughout the month so that new pieces will be on display each week. Each Saturday, singers and musicians will perform from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at different locations downtown.

"The Art Walk is a great opportunity for the artists to display their work in a public setting and will hopefully bring people into the businesses that are exhibiting," said Tina Goodwin, director of the arts center. "This is the first event organized by the Artist Roundtable, and we hope that it will become an annual event."

The Roundtable, formed in Au-

gust 2005, comprises artists from six counties of northwest Kansas looking for ways to promote and market their work.

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student of the week



Name: Jonathan McClung
Parents: Gary and Laura McClung
Grade: Sophomore
Age: 15

We've nominated this student because: of his outstanding performance in the Marketing Education Program at Goodland High School. Jonathan performs outstandingly well in his Preparing For The World of Work and Starting Your Own Retail classes. Jonathan's performance in the Goodland High School DECA Chapter has earned him a third place finish at the Kansas State DECA Career Development Conference with the Learn & Earn Team and election into the position of Kansas State DECA Reporter.

Student Comment: The favorite aspect of life at Goodland High School, for me, has been my involvement with DECA and the Marketing Education Program. Marketing and Business classes are my favorite subjects. My most memorable moments at Goodland High School are being elected into the Kansas State DECA Officer position as Reporter and the bus trip to Rose Hill for football.

Activities involved in at school: DECA, American Field Service, Scholar's Bowl, Student Council, Golf and Future Career and Community Leaders of America.

My choice of movies, books, and games: The movies I enjoy are comedies. I listen to country music. My favorite book is Seek by Paul Fleischman. My favorite game is Risk.

After I leave Goodland High School I intend to: go to college and study business and marketing.

And 10 years from now, I think I'll be: enjoying life with my family and enjoying success in my chosen career.

Favorite Quote: "The best way to cheer yourself up is to try to cheer someone else up."

Mark Twain

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. We want to keep an accurate record.

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