

School utility costs running below budget

By Pat Schiefen
The Goodland Star-News

Transportation and utility expenses so far this year are below budget, Superintendent Shelly Angelos told the Goodland School Board on Monday.

Transportation has cost \$1,592 less than the same time last year, she said, because fuel prices are down. Utility bills are \$2,111 behind the same period last year, Superintendent Angelos said.

North Elementary School Principal Jim Mull reported that 214 students and their parents came to parent-teacher conferences. The fifth grade will start the state writing assessments on Friday, Dec. 1, he said.

Grant Junior High Principal Steve Raymer said the turnout for parent-teacher conferences there was good. He said participation varied by class from 40 percent to 100 percent.

Raymer said on Monday they started a study hall before school and at noon for anyone who hasn't turned in two papers. He said they started with 30 students, but is down to 15.

Brenda Linin has set up a program called "mix it up" for lunch, he said, where the kids are supposed to sit by someone they normally don't set by for lunch this week.

He said the crowd at basketball games has been great to the new officials.

The staff at the junior high was grateful that the school board let them start school late on Oct. 30 so they could attend the funeral of Gordon Becker, husband of teacher

Toni Becker, he said.

West Elementary Principal Verna Milnes said they had a 96 percent attendance at parent-teacher conferences. They have since talked to all parents but two. A couple of classes are visiting the Good Samaritan Center and kids in their Halloween costumes visited Wheatridge Acres.

"We are preparing for preschool screening," Milnes added, and the first-grade Thanksgiving Feast will be at 1 p.m. Monday.

Central Elementary Principal Sharon Gregory said they were having guest readers read to classes this week for Children's Book Week. Tuesday morning, Superintendent Angelos was going to read and Dave Branda, owner of the Sherman Theatre, in the afternoon. Gregory said she read on Monday.

Central had a 94 percent participation in parent-teacher conferences, the principal said. Parents of nine students did not come, she said, but three are scheduled this week.

Gregory said there has been a change on state assessments, and students can take the test twice starting with freshman. Criteria will have to be set up to determine if a student is ready and what remediation will be needed when a student does not pass.

Activities Directory Don Smith gave a report Goodland High Principal Harvey Swager. A student not passing six subjects has to go to teachers Jonathan Dansel and Joseph Sramek for help, he said. The list of students who are not eligible for activities is smaller, he said, but the not-passing list has not gotten any smaller.

Attendance at the parent teacher conferences was similar to past years, he said. Almost half of the student body participated in the Wiffle Ball tournament last week. The Scholar's Bowl invitational at Goodland was Monday.

Smith said everyone did a terrific job on the musical.

For winter sports, he reported, 26 are out for boys basketball, 19 to 22 out for girls basketball and 25 for wrestling.

Wrestlers are required to pass a hydration test twice to be able to compete, he said, once before the season and at certified weight on Jan. 12.

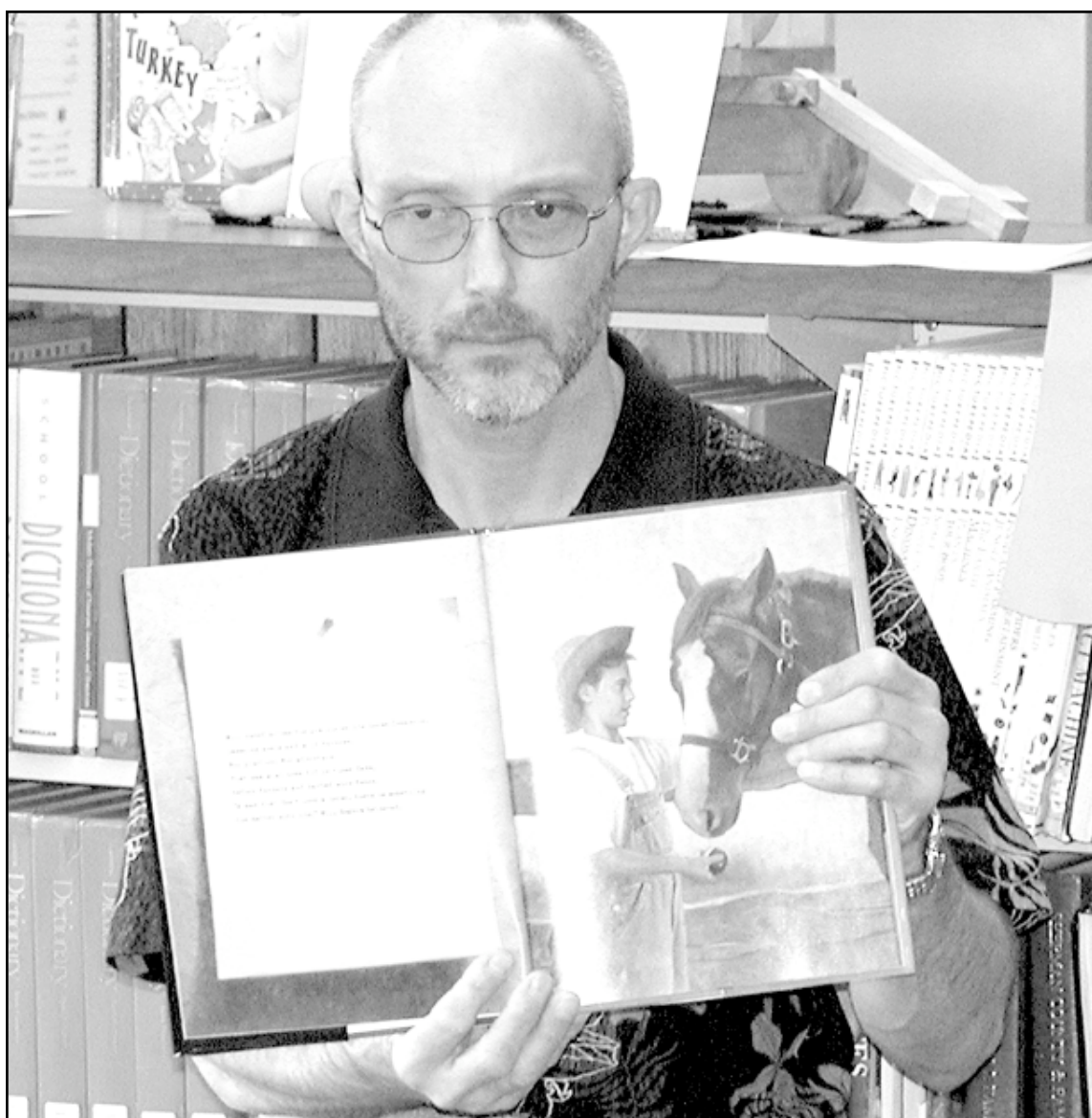
Board member Dick Short reported that 85 percent of the students at the Northwest Kansas Technical College get financial aid. The telecommunication network program has been approved for the college, he said.

Superintendent Angelos reported on the progress of talks with the college about enrollment of high school students. She said there had been one student in 2002, three in 2004 and three in 2006, and the state will allow concurrent enrollment for 11th and 12th graders.

"Presently we only allow 12th graders to do it," Angelos said.

Allowing more concurrent enrollment, she said, would not involve a large number of students but might fill a need.

The group has met twice, she said, adding that she would like approval to continue talking. She said there are many things to be agreed on, such as who pays, tuition, how kids apply and which programs are open to high school students.



David Branda, owner of the Sherman Theatre, read from a biography of Will Rogers Tuesday afternoon to students at the Central Elementary library. People from town were reading to students for Children's Book Week that day.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

- Heard that retired superintendent Marvin Selby will be filling in for Swager as high school principal while he is ill.
- Accepted the resignation of Gaylene Shank, high school math teacher at the end of the school year after 26 years of teaching.
- Heard that North Elementary

Marty Melia for the plant when he had surgery.

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- Heard that North Elementary

School will have an opening for a four-hour cook position after a shift in the teacher aides.

The next board meeting will be at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 27, at North Elementary.

Before the meeting, the board will tour the new district technology center at 14th and Broadway.

Colby doctor ordered not to practice until hearing

By Patty Decker
Colby Free Press

The Kansas Supreme Court has granted a state Board of Healing Arts' request by ordering a district judge to overturn his decision allowing a Colby doctor to continue practicing until a hearing Tuesday, Nov. 28.

In its conclusions, the high court agreed with the board's argument that District Judge Jack Burr in Goodland erred in granting a stay of the revocation of Dr. Victor Hildyard's medical license.

"The requirements for the granting of a stay in Kansas Statute 77-616(c) are mandatory," Chief Justice Kay McFarland said. "The district court did not find, as required by statute, that (Dr. Hildyard) is likely to prevail when the court finally disposes of the matter."

McFarland directed Burr to vacate the order staying the doctor's medical license.

In another attempt to block the revocation, Hildyard's attorney,

Mike O'Neal of Hutchinson, filed a motion with Burr on Wednesday asking the judge to reconsider his initial order by correcting the ruling to include that the doctor was likely to prevail when the court heard the case later this month. Burr, however, said he couldn't do that.

A teleconference late Wednesday afternoon between O'Neal's associate, Shannon Holmberg; Mark Stafford, general counsel for the board; and Burr ended with the judge vacating the stay order.

O'Neal said Hildyard will have to stop practicing medicine after Judge Burr signed his order and the paperwork was delivered to the doctor, probably sometime Thursday.

Holmberg said the judge said his findings had not changed since his initial order in August and that he could not correct his previous order.

Stafford said Thursday he thought the judge ruled fairly.

"In his position," he said, "I believe the judge wanted to be fair to

the doctor, but also said he cannot prejudge the case."

Both Stafford and Holmberg said the high court's "writ of mandamus" compelling the district court to vacate the stay is an extraordinary situation.

For Stafford, the order was what he and the board were looking for. Holmberg, while hopeful the judge would change the order, remained positive that the doctor will be practicing medicine after the next hearing.

O'Neal said he was surprised by the Supreme Court's ruling, but held to his original position.

"Even though the judge did not use the magic words in his initial order to stay (revocation of) Dr. Hildyard's medical license — which is apparently the Supreme Court's position — Judge Burr's specific finding that the doctor does not present a danger to patients was tantamount to a finding he was likely to prevail on the appeal, at least as to the revocation order versus some other type of sanction."

Holmberg said their office is trying to get the Nov. 28 hearing moved up to next Monday or Tuesday.

Stafford said he told the judge

Wednesday that he had no problem with changing the hearing date and even agreed to forego oral arguments if that would speed up a decision.

The hearing is currently scheduled for 10 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 28, at the Thomas County Courthouse.

On that date, Judge Burr will be deciding whether the state board acted appropriately in revoking Hildyard's license. The judge will base his decision on more than 3,000 pages of transcripts to include briefs, motions and testimony originating from an August 2004 complaint by the board.

In its August, overruling its own hearing officer, the board concluded that Hildyard had practiced below the required standard of care to a degree constituting ordinary negligence on multiple occasions involving different professional services and on repeated instances involving multiple patients with steroid injections. The board reached the same conclusion regarding two obstetrical patients.

O'Neal in previous arguments said the board arrived at different findings from the initial order prepared by the Presiding Officer Edward Gaschler, who held hearings

and heard testimony on the charges. In its conclusion, O'Neal said, the board found that Gaschler does not possess any special expertise regarding the medical profession.

"It was likely proper for him (Gaschler) to use the evidentiary standard," according to the final order. The board claims that its members do possess that expertise and are entitled and expected to rely on their knowledge in determining whether the record establishes practices below the standard of care.

O'Neal said the board's final order was a "valiant attempt to backfill" as a way to justify its vote to revoke the license in June after the hearing examiner had recommended a lighter punishment.

"It took them (the board) this long to come up with reasons to disagree with the hearing officer," he said. "That's weak."

O'Neal said one of the two obstetric cases dated back to 1998 and the steroid cases were from 2000-04.

"They substituted their judgment after only looking at records for the judgment of the hearing officer, who not only had the records, but say and heard the witnesses," he said. "He (Gaschler) found no deviation."

As for the steroid cases, O'Neal said the board claims Hildyard over-treated the patients.

"These are the cases our expert said were cases where there was no other effective form of treatment," he said.

O'Neal said Gaschler found these patients required the treatments.

"Not one resulted in a bad outcome from the steroids," he added.

The Colby doctor has been embroiled in controversy since the board of Citizens Medical Center first attempted to kick him off the hospital staff in April 2002. The battle continues to divide the Colby community. The fight shifted to the Board of Healing Arts in August 2004 when a complaint was filed against the doctor.

matters of record

Real Estate

The following real estate transactions were reported by the Sherman County Register of Deeds:

Vickie R. White to Marjorie E. Van Vleet, S70' of Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, Block 11, First Addition to the City of Goodland.

Charles C. Bohme and Kimberly K. Bohme quit claim to Kimberly K. Bohme, Lots 1 and 2, Block 17, Second Addition to the City of Goodland.

Ronald E. Lutters to Cord Turner and Deborah Turner, Lots 1 and 2,

Block 27, Third of College Addition in the City of Goodland.

corrections

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<p>November 17-21 FLUSHED AWAY PG PG: Crude Humor & some language</p>	<p>Bring this AD to the theatre for \$1.00 off on a large popcorn & 2 med. EXP: 12/31/06</p>	<p>Friday - Tuesday 7:00 Sunday Matinee 1:30 Movie Bucks Make Great Gifts! www.goodlandnet.com/movies Sherman 1203 Main - Phone 899-6103</p>
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BOLD Holiday Open House
November 18, 2006 ~ 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Come and experience the beauty of Christmas all over again!
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Beautiful Christmas decor and many "unique" gift items to complete your holiday shopping. Also featuring handcrafted items by many local artist.

Old Fashioned Downtown Christmas Blitz
Saturday, November 18th
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Visit Downtown Goodland Annual Christmas Parade
2 p.m.
Come see Santa!
2 p.m. to 4 p.m. ~ 104 E. Tenth St.
Pictures by Chelsea Sheldon Photography
Look for special events on Saturdays thru Dec. 9th
Horse & Carriage Rides
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