

Goodland Activities Center celebrates 20 years

By Greg Stover
The Goodland Star-News

The Goodland Activities Center held an open house Saturday to celebrate 20 years of ball games, tournaments, exercise and more, promising new programs to attract more people this year.

Director Sandy Trachsel invited everyone, members and non-members alike, to come and use any of the facilities and equipment without cost, or just take a tour of the center and see what's available. More than 80 people visited the center Saturday and KKCI radio did a short live remote.

"The GAC is a wonderful facility that our community needs for our youth and adults," Trachsel said. "We are very lucky to have this type of facility in a town our size."

The center has basketball, volleyball and racquetball courts along with a room with weight equipment and another for aerobic exercise machines. The center has billiards tables and a small lounge where guests can relax and watch some television. Both the men's and women's locker rooms have a spa and sauna room, and there is a meeting room.

"A lot of people don't realize how many activities are available at the center," said Lynn Ihrig, board president. "The center is for people of all ages. Sandy has come up with ideas for new programs next year to attract more people to the center."



Two young guests enjoyed some refreshments at the Goodland Activities Center open house Saturday. More than 80 people visited the center to celebrate its 20 years of service to the community. Photo by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News

Some of those new programs beginning in January include a men's racquetball league, Aerobics for Kids and Group Works for Women, a body toning program involving light weight training and cardiovascular conditioning. Some of the other activities also starting next month include Tae Kwon Do and gymnastic classes.

Trachsel said she is working on getting more activities for seniors.

She has been the director since August after serving about two years on the board.

Ihrig said the center tries to hold a major fund raiser every quarter like the Christmas dance earlier this month and the golf tournament last fall. For next spring, the center will host a Mid-America Youth Basketball tournament in April.

The center opened its doors Dec. 27, 1983, after about nine months of

renovation. The building was built in 1947 for the White Machine and Motor Co. whose business was auto

and farm machinery sales and service. After leasing it for several years, the center finalized a purchase agreement for the building in July 1983.

Verla Terry has been working at the center since August 1985, she said the center has a lot of recreational activities to offer.

"It's a great place for people to come and unwind," Terry said. "I'm grateful that the community has supported the center so well which has allowed it to grow."

The youth soccer program is the center's biggest activity, said Trachsel, attracting boys and girls from preschool to sixth grade from late March until the first part of May. Other youth programs include volleyball, basketball, flag football, T-ball and dance.

Some of the annual events the center sponsors is the Kiwanis Turkey Shoot, Hoops for Heart, and the Punt, Pass and Kick competition.

Work begins this week to renovate the center's dance room, which includes a new floor which will allow tapdance lessons to be taught in the same room as the other classes.

The room will get a new cabinet for audio equipment and the walls will be painted.

Jessica Kannady, a 1996 graduate of Goodland High School, the dance instructor for the last two years, said the kids taking dance lessons got together in the fall and raised the money for the project.

Kannady said the room is also used for aerobic exercise and Tae Kwon Do lessons.

Her job at the center involves many different things, said Trachsel, such as monitoring the daily financial status, being a promoter, a fund raiser and a dreamer with a vision for the future. She said occasionally she has to serve as peace keeper among the children.

"The best part of the job is the great stuff I work with and getting to know all of the children and adults that use our facility," Trachsel said. "We have wonderful people in Goodland."

Trachsel said anyone who has any ideas how the center can better serve Goodland should to contact her or Terry at (785) 890-7242 or by e-mail at gac@st-tel.net.

sports shorts

Former Cowboy stays on track as coach

Reece Tedford, a graduate student at Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar Mo., is an assistant track and field coach for the Bearcats this spring.

Tedford, a 1998 graduate of Goodland High School, also was an assistant cross country coach this past season. He spent two seasons each on the Bearcat cross country and track and field teams after transferring from Hutchinson Community College in 2000.

Tedford holds three individual school track records at Southwest Baptist, for the indoor 600-meter, 1,000-meter and 3,000-meter runs. He also is part of the relay team that

holds the school record for the outdoor 4x1-mile relay.

Home for the holidays, Tedford said he has enjoyed his time at Southwest Baptist and had many great experiences.

Last December Tedford received his Bachelor of Science degree in sports management. He is now working on his Master of Science in education.

Former Weskan standout helps Wolf Pack defeat Jayhawks

Senior guard Todd Okeson scored 12 points to help the University of Nevada defeat the University of Kansas 75-61 on Dec. 21 in the championship game of the Dodge

Holiday Classic in Reno.

Okeson, a 2000 graduate of Weskan High School, has started all nine games for the Wolf Pack so far this season, averaging just under 10 points per game. He leads the team in three-point shots with 16.

Okeson, a general studies major with a minor in marketing, is in his second season at Nevada after playing two seasons at Dodge City Community College. He was the 2000 Kansas high school Class 1A Player of the Year.

Nevada is 6-3 for the season after defeating the University of California, Davis, 84-62, on Saturday. The Jayhawks are now 6-2 and were to host the State University of New York at Binghamton Monday night.



Go Cowboys & Cowgirls!

Goodland High School

Wrestling Thursday Jan. 8 in Goodland against Colby 5:30 p.m., Friday Jan. 8. varsity in Liberal 12 p.m., Saturday Jan. 9. varsity in Liberal, junior varsity at Wakeeney.

Basketball Monday, "C" team in Goodland against St. Francis 5:30 p.m., Thursday Jan. 8., "C" team at Tribune 5 p.m., Friday Jan. 9, in Goodland against Colby 3:45 p.m.

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School calendar for Dec. 30 - Jan. 6



Wednesday to Friday - No School, Winter Break

Monday - Classes resume, "C" basketball in Goodland against St. Francis 5 p.m.

Tuesday - Junior High Scholars' Bowl at Oakley 3 p.m.

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