

*Magnetic attraction*



Devin Tipping (Left) and Jacob Fisher saw if they could feel the magnetic attraction from pop rocks that are found around fossils in the after school program at Central Elementary School on Tuesday afternoon. Goodland Rotary members, Larry Harper and Tom Betz, put on a program about fossils. Kids got to look and touch fish jaws, fins, shark's teeth and vertebrae. Different people put on the programs for the program. The Regional Prevention Center got the grant to do the after-school programs.  
Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

# Hospital staff uses peer reviews, calendars

By Sharon Corcoran  
*The Goodland Star-News*

From janitors to cooks, to nurses and doctors, everyone has to do their job well for a hospital to take care of patients, and Goodland's hospital is taking steps to be sure everyone does.

Goodland Regional Medical Center is working on measures to ensure quality care through peer reviews and calendars for each department that reminds them when to take care of certain tasks.

Departments will have quality assurance calendars in place in the next month, Debbie Hickman, director of patient care services, said at the hospital board's meeting Monday, Feb. 26. Each department will have things on their calendar that need to be done daily, weekly, monthly and annually, she said, and if something is missed, they will have to take steps to correct it.

In the maintenance department, for example, she said, if the humidity falls out of place, they have to make regular checks for the next

three months to be sure it is maintained.

In the kitchen, she said, they have to check the temperatures in the refrigerator and freezer every day; that will go on their calendar.

The hospital has been planning to volunteer for an accreditation program that looks not just at whether it meets standards but also how it does so. The program is through the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, and a committee has been working on ways the hospital can best prepare for the accreditation.

The hospital plans two mock surveys, one done by a peer, another critical access hospital, the other a more formal survey later this year. The hospital is working on quality monitoring, said Administrator Jay Jolly; there is a lack of standard in the industry.

In other business:

- Hickman said the radiology department had an accreditation and didn't have any deficiencies.
- Hickman said the hospital has

ordered or will order soon: a hypothermia blanket, a hematology analyzer, an electrocautery and head light system, a topographic analysis machine for ophthalmology and a fluoro therapy unit for Occupational Therapist Larissa Coon to use in therapy with patients with a variety of conditions, including arthritis.

- Interim Clinic Manager Mary Ann Elliott said state officials will be in Goodland Monday to install software on the clinic's computer that keeps a state database of immunizations. It costs the clinic nothing, she said, and they won't have to guess whether patients did or didn't have immunizations.

- The board talked about whether to continue meeting once a month on a Monday evening or hold two shorter noon meetings a month. Board members felt it would be difficult to complete the meetings during lunch breaks, so they stuck with evening meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. Tuesday, April 3.

# Big Brothers Big Sisters gets money from state grant

By Pat Schiefen  
*The Goodland Star-News*

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Sherman, Wallace, Cheyenne and Logan Counties received a \$8,736 grant from the State of Kansas.

Kansas Governor Kathleen

Sebelius announced at the end of December that there would be \$200,000 available in state grants to support existing and developing mentoring programs in order to expand mentoring opportunities throughout the state.

The Kansas Mentors Leadership Council was in charge of where the dollars go. It is made up of public and private leaders who made a difference in their communities. The chair is retired coach Bill Snyder of Kansas State University. The council made its recommendations on Tuesday, February 13. Grants totaling \$190,000 were awarded to 17 mentoring programs.

Snyder said "We received 34 applications requesting more than \$600,000, which illustrates the tremendous need for mentoring in our state."

# Registrations still open

Reservations are still being taking today for the Reverse Giveaway 2007 Scholarship Fundraiser for the Northwest Kansas Technical College on Saturday, March 17 at 5 p.m. at the Goodland Elks Lodge, 1523 Arcade.

"We have 170 reservations now," said Sherri Knitig, Executive Secretary for President Ken Clouse at the college. "We would like to have 185 or more."

She said this is the third year for the fundraiser. Last year the event made \$12,000 for scholarships.

The event includes entertainment, a prime rib or chicken dinner, drink coupon, silent and live auction and drawings.

"The New Old-Timers" will provide the entertainment. The Kansas group plays traditional blue grass and oldies.

For information call Maggie Ellis (785) 890-3641.

# Former city fireman chooses diversion on theft charge

A former city volunteer fireman facing theft charges for picking up cigarettes from a truck wreck on I-70 last summer has accepted a diversion agreement for a year in the case.

Neil Normandin, 38, was accused of taking two boxes of cartons of cigarettes worth more than \$1,000 from a wrecked semi trailer rig July 19. Others at the scene complained to the sheriff, who started an investigation of him and Fire Chief Scott Gilmer. The original theft charge is a level 9 nonperson felony.

On Friday, Feb. 16, Normandin signed a diversion agreement, with charges reduced to attempted misdemeanor theft.

He was put on diversion for one year. He must not violate federal, state or local laws during that time, he will have to notify his attorney, Cal Williams from Colby, of any

change of address, phone number and job and will have to report to his attorney or diversion officer if asked.

If he completes the diversion agreement the charge of attempted misdemeanor theft will be dropped.

Normandin had to pay a fine of \$100, court cost of \$128 and a diversion fee of \$150 under the order.

A truck, driven by Robert Proffitt, Laurel Fork, Va., was heading west on I-70 when it rolled onto its side in a ditch about nine miles west of Goodland in July.

The crash split the trailer open and some of the \$1.5 million load spilled out. One of the boxes broke open and cartons of cigarettes littered the ditch, Sherman County Attorney Bonnie Selby said.

The theft arose after firefighters had checked for gas leaks and got the driver into an ambulance, said

Selby. The driver was able to free himself from the truck before the firemen arrived, Selby said.

A sealed box of cigarette cartons and an opened box had been loaded onto the fire truck, Selby said. When confronted by witnesses, though, Normandin unloaded the cigarettes.

"(Normandin) is the one believed to have loaded the two boxes," she said, adding that he also was accused of putting cigarettes into his firefighter's suit.

Fire Chief Gilmer allegedly put a carton inside his firefighter suit, but took it back out.

A jury in Sherman County District Court found Gilmer not guilty on a misdemeanor charge of attempting to steal cigarettes on Monday, Dec. 4. He was reinstated as chief after that by the City of Goodland.

# 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.

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# student of the week

**Name:** Jena McCall  
**Parents:** Steve & Susan McCall  
**Grade:** Senior  
**Age:** 18

**We've nominated this student because:** Jena has been an outstanding student in Calculus this year. She comes prepared for class and is always willing to ask questions and help others in class.

**Student Comment:** I have enjoyed the past four years at Goodland High School because of the memories I've made with my friends. I also

want to thank all the teachers at GHS for their support and hard work.

**Activities involved in at school:** X-Pressos, Show Choir, AFS, FCCLA, National Honor Society, Scholar's Bowl, Tennis, Musical and band.

**My choice of movies, books, and games:** I love comedies, horror and chick flicks. My favorite books to read are non-fiction mystery.

**After I leave Goodland High School I intend to:** go to college majoring in pre med with minors in music and spanish.

**And 10 years from now, I think I'll be:** hopefully be out of medical school and starting out my career.

**Favorite Quote:** "Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever."  
- Mahatma Gandhi

**BOY SCOUT TROOP 142**

**Chili Feed**

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