

# New report cards on tap

By Ramona C. Sanders  
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From A, B, C's to 1-2-3's, the Goodland School District is trying to make report cards easier for parents to understand.

Report cards distributed this week by North School for kindergarten students, West School for first- and second-graders, and Central School for third- and fourth-graders will have a different look, Superintendent Shelly Angelos said.

Report cards for grades 5-12 will not change.

The new format will forgo the standard grades of A, B, C, D, and F and instead use numbers from 1-4 to show progress. At the lowest end of the scale, 1 stands for "developing," 2 means "approaching standard," 3 indicates "meet standards," and 4 means "exceeds standards."

A single-sheet handout will accompany the report cards to help parents understand the new format.

Called a standards-based reporting system, the new format is based on the same progress scale and curriculum categories as the Kansas State Assessment taken by students in the spring.

The new report card will list specific skills within each curricula. For instance, the Reading objective will show parents how their child performed on word structure in Vocabulary, and topic identification in Comprehension.

Angelos said the new format was designed to better align a student's progress with the Kansas State Assessment.

"This is an attempt to give a truer picture of where our students are in relation to state standards," she said.

Angelos said the new format will give parents a better indicator of their child's strengths and weaknesses than the previous format.

"In our day-to-day work, typically our students do well because there's so much support, especially in the elementary grades," she said. "Often our report cards reflect that. And what happens in the springtime when we have to look at state assessments, there's a discrepancy."

Angelos said the new reporting system will help teachers and administrators understand why there is a difference between student performance on report cards and state testing. The revised reporting system will be based on a combination of daily assignments, homework and testing.

"It's been challenging to our staff because it's a more rigorous type of reporting," she said.

The new format will be a tool for teachers to use in classroom instruction because it will serve as a guide to help teachers focus on state learning standards, Angelos said.

"It has given teachers an heightened awareness of the curriculum and what's expected," she said.

## Happy Halloween Haunting



Scary creatures greeted visitors Monday at a house decorated for Halloween. The home on Caldwell Ave. was one of several in town decked out in celebration of the annual fall holiday, which is Wednesday. In order to keep your children safe during trick or treating, make sure they watch both ways before crossing streets and cross when the lights tell them to; make sure they carry a flashlight, glow stick or have reflective tape on their costumes to

make them more visible to cars; instruct them to never to into the home of a stranger or get into their car; have them plan a safe route and instruct them not to cut through alleys or back fields; tell them not to eat any treat until they bring them home to be examined by you.

Photo by Ramona C. Sanders/The Goodland Star-News

# Grant teacher gets money for kindness workshop

By Sharon Corcoran

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The Sherman County Community Partners for Prevention and Education voted to give Grant Junior High Teacher Brenda Linin \$150 to pay half of the cost for five students and a teacher to attend a Rachel's Challenge workshop in Hays.

The partnership had \$147 left from a grant to pay for a Town Hall Meeting held in April, said Treasurer Cris Riebel, and the workshop fits the criteria of what they could use it for. The group voted to donate \$150 for the workshop and just pay the difference from its treasury.

Rachel's Challenge is a program based on acts of kindness and diaries of Rachel Scott, the first student killed at Columbine High School on April 20, 1999, when she

was 17. Her family designed life-changing programs for schools to start "a chain reaction of kindness and compassion," said a web site at [www.rachelschallenge.com](http://www.rachelschallenge.com).

The workshop includes a school assembly, peertraining session and an evening community event. Students are encouraged to create their own legacy of kindness and compassion.

Breakout sessions give students tips on diffusing potential violence and transforming a school's climate and culture, the web site said.

The program will be Tuesday, Nov. 6, at Fort Hays State University, said Wendy Wellmann, community prevention consultant at the Regional Prevention Center. Wellmann said Linin had approached her about the workshop and given her some details. The partnership helped Linin with

registration for a student to attend last year, and she then used the information to help students at the junior high.

Linin wants to take five students this year, Wellmann said, and the registration fee is \$50 each, \$300 for the teacher and five students. Breakout sessions, she said, include one called "How to Be a Friend" on bullying. The fee includes the sessions, lunch, a snack and a T-shirt.

In other business:

Wellmann reported that Red Ribbon Week to discourage drug use would begin Oct. 22. The Kansas National Guard sponsored ribbons to be distributed at area schools and businesses for the event, she said, and Zona Price, secretary and accounting manager of the Goodland Elks Lodge, was to help distribute red ribbons sponsored

by Elks U.S.A. provided by the Goodland Lodge to the elementary schools and red bracelets to the junior high on Monday.

Maureen Ostmeyer, program director for Smart Start of Northwest Kansas, told the group about a "Bouncing Babies, Twisting Toddlers, Beautiful Books" presentation that will be given at area libraries. Karen Merryman, Smart Start's professional development coordinator, will teach parents and childcare providers techniques for reading to babies and toddlers from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 14, at the Goodland Public Library. Call Smart Start at (785) 465-9103.

She will also present the program as training for child care providers from 6 to 8 p.m. (Mountain Time) Monday, Nov. 12, in the basement of the Colby Community College library. Call the college's Child

Care Resource and Referral office at (785) 460-5482 to register.

Tanya Koehn, infant and toddler consultant at the college, handed out copies of "Kansas Child," a magazine published by the Kansas Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies. The magazine to help parents work with their children on such topics as learning to pay attention, bullying, childhood obesity and protecting them from on-line predators. By joining the association for a donation of \$25 or more, people can help with their child care education efforts and receive the magazine. The association's web site is [www.kaccrra.org](http://www.kaccrra.org).

The partnership gave Riebel a portfolio as her prize for winning a board challenge to attend all meetings last year.

# High school students perform musical 'The Music Man'

TB HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL  
10-23

By Pat Schiefen

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Let the students of Goodland High School take you on a journey back to River City and the salesman/band director Harold Hill.

The musical, "The Music Man" by Meredith Wilson, will be presented on Friday, Saturday and Sun-

day, Nov. 9 to 11, at the High School Auditorium, 1209 Cherry. The show starts at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday and at 2 p.m. on Sunday.

"Musical practice started on Sept. 11," said musical director Randy Berls. "There are 48 students on the cast. We lost a great number of talented seniors last year, so we have new students stepping up to fill their shoes."

The cast includes Chris Irvin, Brook Redlin, Martin Stadelmann, Andrew Shores, Stephen Buller, Tyler Jones, Taylor Tomsic, Jake

Kling, Brennen Clouse, Dallas Price, Bryan Gray, Kade Sheldon, Tanner Oharah, Devin Mangus, Talison Crosby, Taylor McLemore, Courtney Sheldon, Kaitlin Fugleberg, Abby Jolly, Holton Witman, Sandra Redlin, Kirsten Topliff, Bracelyn Redlin, Julica Bonsall, Alexandra Borders, Shonna Webster, Ashley Archer, Kaitlyn Lammers, Katlyn Topliff, Ben Waugh, Brooke Lockhart, Eryn Topliff, Michelle Smith, Ashley Martell, Day Waugh, Kendra Promise, Heidi Lawson, Ashley McDonald, Jordan Knitig,

Ryleigh Paxton, Mara Kling, Kristina Stasser, Milan Brannick, Cooper Slough, Tim Fugleberg, Jed Gray, Parker Sieck, Michael Pettibone and Caleb Fugleberg.

Ticket prices will be \$5 for adults and \$3 for students.

"All proceeds from the musical go to pay for the royalties, rental fees, costumes, printing, and stage

design and building," said Berls. "We encourage the community to come out and watch this Goodland High school tradition and keep it going strong."

## corrections

First National Bank would like to announce the retirement of **Ann Weber** after 31 years of service. Thank you Ann for your loyal service & dedication to the First National Bank.



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