

'Horton Hears a Who!' at Goodland library



Marci Melia, children's librarian at the Goodland Public Library, and Keegan Bowling put up a giant cardboard model of Horton from Dr. Seuss' "Horton Hears a Who!" Monday afternoon. David Branda, owner of the Sherman Theatre, donated the model, a movie display, to the library, and Melia decided to put it up in honor

of the children's author's birthday, which is Sunday. Bowling and Jeremy Brown, who also helped, visit the library regularly and often help Melia with chores.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

Self-defense course set

Sometimes, violence comes despite all the precautions we take, and when it does, there may be no opportunity for a woman to call for help.

The Sherman County Neighborhood Watch Program and the Goodland Police Department plan a free self-defense course for women from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, March 8, at the Max Jones Fieldhouse.

Officer Joni Showalter, certified in Controlled Force I and II, will be teaching women how to use self-defense techniques.

Class size is limited to 30 participants 18 and older, and preregistration is required to determine the number of assistants needed for each practical skill. To register, call Judy McKee, Citizen Corp coordinator, at 890-5188 or get a registration form at www.sherman.kansasgov.com. Click on Neighborhood Watch and locate the Self-Defense link to print a copy.

All forms must be returned to the City Administration Building, 204 W. 11th, by Monday.

In many cases, McKee said, a woman is forced to face her attacker alone, using only her own resources and knowledge to survive. Fighting back is a difficult and uncomfortable subject for many to think about, she said, but it does not have to be that way.

"Unfortunately, you can't always

help becoming a victim," Showalter said, "but you can control what kind of victim you are going to be."

Women who are properly trained and confident in their ability can protect themselves quite effectively, she said. If more women and girls learn to defend themselves, they could begin to turn the tide of abuse or at least avoid becoming a statistic of a violent crime.

"We don't want to scare anyone," McKee said. "The best protection against any crime is prevention. However, if prevention fails, your best chance is to fight back."

The course will include self-defense strategies and escape tactics, she said, and teaching women how to defend themselves and perhaps gain the advantage over an assailant willing to cause serious bodily harm.

These techniques will be practiced in a fun but serious atmosphere, McKee said, while the instructor emphasizes that these skills and techniques could save your life.

The course will include hands-on practical activities, so wear comfortable clothing and tennis shoes. Each participant will receive a security whistle, chemical spray and information as part of the crime prevention program offered by Neighborhood Watch and the Regional Prevention Center.

Task force talks about future school district issues

By Pat Schiefen

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A task force assembled by Goodland School Superintendent Shelly Angelos met to talk about future options for the district in dealing with declining enrollment, teachers and buildings.

Angelos told the group when it met Saturday, Feb. 9, that change is a threat to people when they feel they have no say in the changes being made. The task force is an attempt to listen and to gather suggestions, she said.

The district plans a town meeting at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 17, at the high school cafeteria. The task force hopes to make proposals to the school board, Angelos said, and the board will then decide if it wants to follow them. These might include closing or consolidating some of the district's five schools.

Task force members are farmer Stan Cebula, mother Jessica Cole, teacher Terry Daise, farmer Gerald Franklin, Goodland Regional Medical Center Director of Marketing and Special Events Tina Goodwin, farmer and business owner Doug Irvin, hospital dietician Sarah Linton, engineering tech/inspector Jerry Nemechek, farmer Alan Townsend and Western State Bank President Steve West. School representatives include board members John Hendrich and Jane Philbrick, Angelos and board Clerk Pat Juhl.

"The declining enrollment is a problem," Angelos said. "Each student lost costs us over \$4,374 off the top. We see that our head count has declined and that more students have increased needs."

Hendrich said once people heard the enrollment numbers are half of what they were in the 1970s, dropping from 130 high school graduates to around 70 with the same amount of buildings, they were surprised.

"Everyone realized there needs to be change," he said. "Too few kids and too many buildings."

Enrollment for 2002-3 was 1,011 full-time equivalency students and the projected number for 2008-9, done by research specialist Jim Hay of the Kansas Association of School Boards, is 886. This is down 13 percent in just six years.

Angelos said another problem is that in the next five to 10 years, the district may lose a lot of teachers to retirements. Most are older, with 17 in the 23-35 age group, 19 who are 36-50, 51 in the 51-65 range and three over 65.

The bulk of the teachers are from 51 to 65, she said, and at the same time, the state has a shortage of teachers which is not expected to improve.

Another problem is that the district's buildings are aging. They need repairs and renovations, and with declining enrollment some work has been put off.

"Our facilities, the cost to update, repair and renovate is becoming a reality," Angelos said, showing a chart with the strengths and weaknesses of each building.

The high school was built in 1916 and added onto in 1937, the superintendent said. Its strength is in its neighborhood location and closeness to Max Jones Fieldhouse, the football stadium, practice fields and technical college. Things that need

to be done include general updating, auditorium sound and lights, air conditioning the whole building, windows, decide what to do with two modular units and new bleachers for the fieldhouse.

Grant Junior High School was built in 1927 and its strength is in its location and room for expansion, she said. Things that will need to be done include updating, air conditioning, windows and the fate of two modular units.

North Elementary was built in 1969 and its strength is in its relative newness, neighborhood location and it has the most expansion room. It will need updating, air conditioning, windows and doors and playground work, she said.

West Elementary was also built in 1969 and its strength is in its newness, neighborhood location, room for expansion and central air conditioning. It will need updating and work on the north lot parking, doors and playground.

Central Elementary was built in 1950 and its strength is in its Main Street location and room for expansion. It will need updating, air conditioning, windows and playground work.

She gave information on how much it took to operate each of the buildings and the costs for custodi-

ans, cooks, secretaries and administrators, including taxes and benefits.

The group broke into two smaller groups to brainstorm. Hendrich said almost every idea possible came up.

Suggestions included closing of Grant Junior High and moving the students to the high school. Also talked about was the closing of Central, moving the administration to Central and selling the current administration building across the street. Another idea was to house the elementary students in one building.

Angelos said two people from the task force were planning to attend site council meetings at each school in February, March or April to listen to comments and ask for ideas about declining enrollment and the benefits or costs of

those ideas. Those people will report back to the task force.

She said the administration plans to discuss the issues with the staff and listen to the teachers.

She said she knows the board has to be careful with the timing of any changes, and that everyone has to be aware of when the decisions are made and how long before the changes actually take place. She said she sees getting the discussion started now for changes that would be done in about two years.

"The meeting was very positive," Angelos said.

"We have to do something," said board member Philbrick.

corrections

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Listings That Will Suit Any Family!

1626 Caldwell

Looking for a wonderful family home as well as a property with home based business potential, this property offers both. It's had many updates & new exterior paint. It has 4 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, a neat kitchen-dining area, formal dining-living rooms, beautiful woodwork, full finished basement, attached single garage & the 30'X60' detached garage which is zoned commercial. It has a beautiful backyard with a pond & nice landscaping. Call Rose.



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Starter home. 2 BR, 1 Bath with loft area. Property is being sold with 8 lots. Plenty of room to expand the house or build a shed. Call Tom to see this great opportunity.



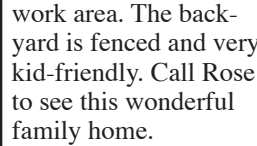
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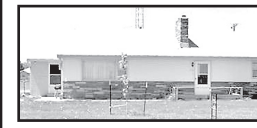
1528 Wyoming

You will be SO impressed when you walk in the front door and see how neat and clean this home is. It offers 3 bedrooms with new windows, newly remodeled bath, spacious kitchen-dining area and attached garage with work area. The backyard is fenced and very kid-friendly. Call Rose to see this wonderful family home.



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Seller is offering \$3,000 to buyer towards any improvements they want. This roomy ranch offers 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths, full basement & a large attached workshop. The main floor has newer carpeting. The home is heated with clean & even hot water heat. Let Rose show you this neat family home.



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