



Fred and Lenna filled Easter eggs on Sunday afternoon at Gambinos for Goodland's Annual Easter Egg at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 22 at Gulick Park. The Studers filled the eggs for the two and under age group. Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Easter egg hunt planned Saturday at Gulick Park

The annual scramble for candy-filled eggs is set for 10:30 a.m. Saturday at Gulick Park for Goodland's annual Easter Egg hunt.

There will be three age group with separate areas for egg hunting for kids 2 and under, 3 to 5 and 6 to 8. In case of bad weather the hunt will be at Central Elementary School gym.

"There will be plenty of eggs," said Connie Grieve, a member of the sponsoring Goodland Lions Club and hunt organizer.

The Easter bunny's helpers will include Ed Carleton, Kenny Grieve, Fred and Lenna Studer, Ginger and Dusti Chadwick; and Pat Schiefen. The volunteers spent about two hours filling around 3,000 eggs on Sunday.

The Easter Bunny will be hopping around the park during the hunt. Sponsors for the event include the Lions and Wal-Mart.

Brewster schools planning to go to four-day school week

By Jan Katz Ackerman
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How long Brewster students' school day will be next year is uncertain, but they will be in school only four days a week when classes start Aug. 19.

"We started looking at it to save costs," said Superintendent Sherri Edmundson.

Students in kindergarten through high school currently attend class from 8:20 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Hours for the 2008-2009 school year have been set for 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Holidays and teacher training days which fall on a Monday will move school to a Tuesday-Friday schedule.

This year's enrollment stands at 97 students, the superintendent said, 48 in kindergarten through eighth grade and 49

in high school. Projected enrollment for next year is 90, down 10 in the high school, but with an increase of three in kindergarten through eighth grade, she said.

Board members Carrie Starns, Bonnie Holm, Don Allen, Willard Crumrine and Ed Ackerman supported the change to the four school week in mid-February. The only opponent was board member Leisha Carpenter.

"The final decision was not based on savings," Carpenter said. "The bottom line was about student achievement and demands on students to meet the challenges of the 21st century."

Edmundson said she researched the idea before taking it to the school board.

"My rough estimate is we'll see a savings of \$20,000," she said.

Primary savings should be 20 percent across the board in transportation, custodial and kitchen staff, and pay for aides, she said.

This year, custodial wages were budgeted at \$18,720. Edmundson has estimated the four-day school week will drop that figure by \$3,744.

Wages for cooks this year were set at \$22,622, while next year's figure is projected to come in at \$19,335.

Bus drivers' wages ran \$12,115, but next year that should drop to \$9,692. Fuel costs were budgeted at \$8,356. These are expected to drop to about \$6,685 with a four-day week.

Costs for food and supplies will also decrease from the current \$27,897. The projected figure for food and supplies for next year is \$22,652.

"Paraprofessionals (aides) will work 35 hours per week versus the 40 hours they are working now," Edmundson said.

The four-day school week is expected to cut pay for aides to \$44,640, down \$2,780 from \$47,420.

At least four northwest Kansas school districts — Cheylin in Bird City, Tri-Plains in Winona, Weskan and Healey — have moved to a four-day school week. Other Kansas districts using the four-day school week include Dexter and Central of Burden, and Ashland in south central Kansas.

"I'm told these schools have seen no decrease in test scores," Edmundson said.

Cheylin Superintendent David Zumbahlen said his district has been on a four-day week for 12 years with no decline in scores.

"That's the one thing we watch real

close," Zumbahlen said. "We've received several standards of excellence awards for both students and classes over the years."

Brewster students will spend 60 minutes in each class period, compared to 40 minutes this year.

"There's less startup and close down time," Edmundson said, adding topics discussed have included elementary students being in school longer days, possible loss of retention of material over a three-day weekend and what to do with younger students for daycare.

While the Brewster schools do not currently have daycare, Edmundson said it's something that might be addressed. She said with older students also out of school the one day of the week, they might pick up babysitting responsibilities as a job.

"It always works itself out," she said.

Classes can teach how to save lives

Would you know how to save someone from death after a cardiac arrest?

In April, Sherman County Emergency Medical Services and the Citizens Corps will be teaching people how to respond by offering a free cardiopulmonary resuscitation class through a partnership with the American Heart Association.

The class will be from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, April 5, at the 4-H building at the fairgrounds. Anyone interested in participating should call Judy McKee, Citizens Corps coordinator, at 890-5188 to register.

Cardiovascular disease is the nation's No. 1 killer, the association reports, and many deaths — about 250,000 a year — occur without warning due to sudden cardiac arrest.

A victim of sudden cardiac arrest is likely to die within minutes, McKee said, resuscitation and defibrillation. Immediate help can add critical minutes to a victim's life by pumping blood and oxygen to vital organs such as the heart, brain and lungs.

Most — 70 to 80 percent —

of all sudden arrests happen at home, the association says, and only about 5 percent of the victims survive. Signs include an abrupt loss of consciousness, collapse and the loss of normal breathing.

"When performed effectively, CPR doubles the chance of survival," McKee said. "Taking a CPR class is a great opportunity for residents to learn a skill that may save the life of a friend or family member."

"CPR is a vital, life-saving skill that everyone needs to know. When your spouse, parent or child's life is on the line, the training allows you to overcome your fear and act quickly and confidently."

Instructors will train participants using the American Heart Association's "Family and Friends" course, a community class that does not meet certification requirements or require professional credentials.

It will address airway management and choking, McKee said, and will teach skills useful in any case where someone isn't breathing.

Technical college, Pittsburg State University sign agreement to make transferring easier

Northwest Kansas Technical College and Pittsburg State University are making it easier for tech college graduates to earn a four-year degree through an agreement signed last week.

The articulation agreement signed by Presidents Kenneth Clouse of Northwest Kansas Dr. Tom Bryant of Pittsburg State will make it possible for graduates with an Associate of Applied Science degree to enter Pittsburg State's Bachelor

of Applied Science programs as juniors.

"It is important that the state's universities, community colleges and technical colleges work together to meet the educational needs of all Kansans," Bryant said. "This agreement will help broaden opportunities for Kansas citizens to earn baccalaureate degrees, improve their standard of living and contribute to the economy of the state."

The agreement is the one of at

least eight Pittsburg State officials say they expect to sign with two-year colleges across Kansas this spring.

The pact, establishing the "AAS to BAS Pathway Program," aligns the two-year associate programs with bachelor's degrees offered by Pittsburg State's College of Technology.

For information about the Associate of Applied Science program at Northwest Kansas, go to www.nwktc.org or call the college at (785) 890-3641.

Contact Dr. Robert Masters, director of community college and workforce partnerships at Pittsburg State, for information on the transfer program. He can be reached at (620) 235-4172, on by e-mail at rmasters@pittstate.edu. The university has informatin at www.pittstate.edu/tech, or call the department at (620) 235-4365.

Congressman disappointed with growing debt

All parents work to instill in their children wisdom, values and manners. We tell kids to eat their vegetables and treat others as they wish to be treated.

Sadly, for future generations, parents will now have to add one more to the list — save every penny you can because the government will need it to get out of debt. This new lesson comes as a result of the federal government amassing debt at an alarming rate with no end in sight. The latest evidence of this out-of-control spending by Congress is the recent passage of a \$168 billion measure will force the government to borrow money from other countries in an attempt to stimulate the American economy.

As part of this package, an estimated 131 million Americans will receive rebate checks varying from \$300 per individual to \$1200 per couple, with an added \$300 per child. While I do feel it is important to return money to hard-working Americans, this is not good policy and the money is not ours. To pay for these rebates, the government is borrowing money from our friends in Asia. This is merely a note being taken out on the future earnings of our children and their children's children.

The national debt is currently



jerry moran

• in Congress

more than \$9 trillion, growing by \$1 million every minute. This means that every person in the United States would need to contribute more than \$30,000 to erase the current debt. Of that \$9 trillion, foreign governments and investors hold some \$2 trillion, or about 44 percent. Of that \$2 trillion, we owe Japan \$581 billion, China \$387 billion and the United Kingdom \$316 billion.

We need to start governing responsibly. I am a sponsor of legislation to amend the U.S. Constitution to require Congress and the

president to balance the federal budget each year. Almost every state, including Kansas, is required to balance its books by year end, just as you and I do with our budgets at home. The federal government does not.

I have also sponsored legislation to place a hold on congressional earmarks until we can reform the system so that taxpayer dollars are allocated in an open and responsible manner. The American people deserve to know how their money is being spent and elected repre-

sentatives deserve the opportunity to advocate for responsible use of taxpayer dollars.

Thomas Jefferson said it best when he said, "I place economy among the first and most important of republican virtues, and debt as the greatest of the dangers to be feared."

Our country is on an unsustainable path. Congress must become more responsible and set a better example for our future generations. Otherwise, eating vegetables and treating people kindly will be the least of our children's concerns.

business tip

A free Microsoft Small Business Summit will be held on March 24-27, offering valuable tips and advice for small business success.

Go to www.sbsummit.com for more information or to register, then tune in LIVE online to watch the programs.

This tip was brought to you by Western Kansas Business Consulting. We offer free and confidential business consulting to Kearny, Scott, Sherman, and Wichita coun-



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ties. For more information or to set up an appointment, contact Jamie Morphew at 620-874-0771 or e-mail wkbc@wbsnet.org.

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Need a Ride?

Call General Public Transportation Bus Services are available within the City limits of Goodland, Kansas

To schedule a ride call:
Monday thru Friday
9:00 am to 3:00 pm MST
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Improvement Grants

The Sherman County Economic Development Office is offering two separate grants for Sherman County residents for improvements to housing or businesses. If you are interested in this program, please stop by the office located at 104 E. 10th and pick up the requirements and application. The deadline for applications to be turned in is March 21st. For questions, please call (785) 890-3743.



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