

Property to be improved

By Sharon Corcoran
 scorcoran@nwkansan.com
 Hammers, saws, paintbrushes and levels will be busy at four Goodland addresses in the next 60 days, and the property owners will have \$1,500 each to help pay for their repairs.

The Sherman County Economic Development Council awarded \$1,500 rehabilitation grants to two homeowners and two business owners. The homes are at 1516 Center and 233 Cherry, said Executive Assistant Helen Dobbs, and the businesses are at 921 and 1008 Main.

The grants don't require the recipients to match with money of their own, she said, but all of them are planning to spend more, adding that she won't know how much until the projects are done.

The businesses — 1008 Main,

owned by Jeff Soper, and 921 Main, owned by Timothy Isham — plan improvements to the fronts, Dobbs said. Isham has a woodworking business and is planning to add a new business, she said.

The owner at 233 Cherry, Maggie Hernandez, is getting new windows, and at 1516 Center, Lou Spinney, is doing a lot of work. They have 60 days to complete the work for the grant, she said, weather permitting.

Those who get the grants have to buy their supplies in the county, she said, and work with a contractor here.

She said she gave information on contractors and businesses to buy building supplies from to those who receive grants and information on ways to get free and discounted supplies and low-cost

financing to those who don't. Those who aren't chosen are welcome to apply again and many do, she said, plus there are always new applications, which shows the interest in the program.

Applications for the next round of grants will probably start in about two months, she said, adding the council will advertise in the newspaper and on the television "roll-around" ads when they are ready to start.

The board voted to do up to four rounds of grants, Dobbs said, since there is money in the budget for that many, but that depends on whether there is time to do them all.

"I don't want to start more until these projects are done," she said.

Goodland chief trains 16 St. Francis firemen

By Karen Krien
 karen.k@nwkansan.com

Goodland Fire Chief Brian James helped train 16 St. Francis Firemen and two from Bird City with the Kansas Fire and Rescue Training Institute's interior burn lab in St. Francis this month.

The lab is a semitrailer equipped with a room that simulates a stove fire and another with a bedroom fire. Propane gas simulates the flames, James said, because it's easier to control, but the heat of a real fire is still there.

Before going into the training, firemen were required to take a test and make sure their masks fit right. Firemen Derrick Tice, Shannon Grover and Dan Blair were trained to prepare the volunteers for the mask fitting.

George Harper, St. Francis fire chief, said the firemen had to have a tight hood over their head and needed to be clean shaven. Their mask was fitted with a filter and a bad odor was released. If the mask leaked, the men would be able to smell the odor.

"This was the way the masks were tested to see if they did leak," Chief Harper said.

Before firemen entered the trailer, they were briefed on exactly what to expect and what to do. The trainers told the firemen to take their time and see exactly what was happening, since this was not a life-threatening situation. This would give them a better understanding if they were ever faced with such a fire.

Firefighters wore protective equipment including self-contained breathing apparatus, plus a device that would beep if the fireman wasn't moving. As they entered, wearing full gear, they carried the hose lines into the smoke-filled trailer.

Another trainer operated the gas controls to ensure that the trainees got the full impact of fighting a live



Goodland Fire Chief Brian James helped with a fire training program held in St. Francis to give volunteers an opportunity to experience putting out test fires contained in a special trailer.

Photo by Karen Krien
 St. Francis Herald



fire in a dangerous situation, but would be safe. Everyone was in continual contact with each other throughout the training to ensure safety.

Chief Harper said it was an excellent training and he was happy to see so many of the firemen attending.

Council accepts resignation

By Sharon Corcoran
 scorcoran@nwkansan.com

The Sherman County Economic Development Council voted Tuesday to accept the resignation of its interim director's, and members said the search for a new director is moving forward.

On another issue, the board decided to table a decision on continuing its cell-phone contracts until the next meeting, Tuesday, May 20.

The board accepted the resignation of Darwin McClung as interim director and decided to ask him before the next meeting to find out if he wants to be reinstated to the board.

McClung, former manager for Rhoads Construction, was a board member when Executive Director Jeremy Jennings resigned Tuesday, March 4. He took a leave of absence to serve as interim director but three weeks later turned in his resignation to accept a job out of town.

Board Chair Chuck Wilkens said he would find out if McClung wants to be reinstated as a board member until he moves, but recommended thinking about who could replace him.

Wilkens said he has received eight applications and had done two telephone interviews. In-person interviews will be set up in the next two weeks, he said.

Executive Assistant Helen Dobbs recommended discontinuing the office's two cell phones. It could save \$1,000 to cancel them now, she said, because the contract is for two years, and only six months of it has been used. At nearly \$78 a month, it would cost about \$1,402 for the next 18 months, she said, as opposed to paying \$200 per phone to cancel the contract.

The council has a contract on two phones, one for the director and one for Dobbs, but she said neither she nor Jennings used them much,

preferring instead to just carry their personal phones.

"It's awkward to carry two of them," she said. "Even when I forward calls to my personal phone, I have not gone over the minutes (on her personal plan)."

When Tiffani McMinn, the director before Jennings, was in Texas, Dobbs said, her personal cell phone went over the minutes, and the board reimbursed a certain amount, but it was nowhere near \$1,000.

"I'm thinking of ways to save money," she said. "Jeremy did not use his very much. Looking at the actual minutes on the cell phone bill, we didn't use them that much."

Board members Steve West and Mike Cochran suggested tabling the decision for next month's meeting and see whether a new director will need a phone before canceling the plan. Board members present agreed.

1209 Harrison Street
 P. O. Box 668
 Goodland KS 67735

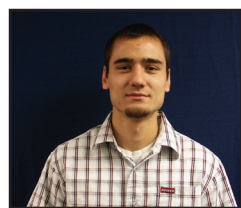
NORTHWEST Kansas Technical College

785.890.3641
 800.316.4127
 www.nwktc.edu

Salutes

2008 Student of the Year Candidates

Student of the Year candidates are selected by their peers to represent their departments. A five-member committee of community members makes the final selection based on an interview, resume and student essay. The 2008 Student of the Year will be announced at the May 23 NWKTC Commencement Ceremony.



Anthony Banman
 Auto Technology
 Hometown: Ulysses



Laura Berning*
 Cosmetology
 Hometown: Leoti



Tyler Biernacki*
 Computer Graphics
 Hometown: LaCrosse



Dwain Dent*
 Welding
 Hometown: Wiley, CO



Tony Escarsega
 Heating & Cooling
 Hometown: Ingalls



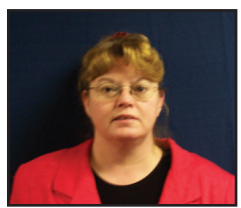
Clinton Hansen
 Electronics & Computer
 Hometown: Phillipsburg



Toby Hill
 Carpentry
 Hometown: Joes, CO



Matt Isley*
 Engineering Tech
 Hometown: LaCrosse



Tonya Knapp
 Medical Assistant
 Hometown: Bird City



Jesse Miller
 Communications Tech
 Hometown: Selden



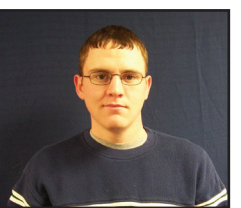
Matthew Nothnagel*
 Telecommunications
 Hometown: McCook, NE



Freddy Sanchez Resendiz
 Collision Repair
 Hometown: Garden City



Heather Simmons*
 Business Tech
 Hometown: Las Animass, CO



Nathan Simmons*
 Electrical Tech
 Hometown: La Junta, CO



Dirk Vapenik
 Diesel Tech
 Hometown: Wauneta

2008 National Technical Honor Society Inductees

The National Technical Honor Society is America's highest award for excellence in career and technical education



Laura Berning*
 Cosmetology
 Hometown: Leoti



Tyler Biernacki*
 Computer Graphics
 Hometown: LaCrosse



Mindy Cooper
 Medical Assistant
 Hometown: St. Francis



Dwain Dent*
 Welding
 Hometown: Wiley, CO



Skylor Flaska
 Engineering Tech
 Hometown: Victoria



Blaine Harvey
 Electrical Tech
 Hometown: Scott City



Jonathan Hawkins
 Engineering Tech
 Hometown: St. Francis



Juan Miguel Hernandez
 Electrical Tech
 Hometown: Goodland



Karissa Hill
 Cosmetology
 Hometown: Quinter



Matt Isley*
 Engineering Tech
 Hometown: LaCrosse



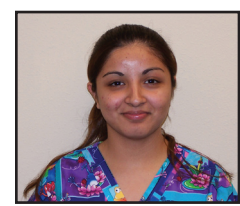
Sharona Lander
 Medical Assistant
 Hometown: Goodland



Matthew Nothnagel*
 Telecommunications
 Hometown: McCook, NE



Cynthia Salmans
 Business Tech
 Hometown: Goodland & Benkelman, NE



Lillian Sigala
 Medical Assistant
 Hometown: Granada, CO



Heather Simmons*
 Business Tech
 Hometown: Las Animass, CO



Nathan Simmons*
 Electrical Tech
 Hometown: La Junta, CO



Jeremy Steimel
 Collision Repair
 Hometown: Manter

*Dual distinction as Student of the Year candidate and National Honor Society inductee.