



Goodland Elks Exalted Ruler David Gailey hands Webster Student Dictionaries to Blake Sanderson and Colby Perryman, third grade students in Joy Boyington's class at Central Elementary.
Photo by Zona Price/The Goodland Star-News

Third graders get dictionaries

The Goodland Elks Lodge continued their program of handing dictionaries to third graders at Central Elementary this month.

This is the eighth year the Elks have provided Webster Student Dictionaries. Exalted Ruler David Gailey helped hand out 84 to Goodland students, bringing the total distributed to 580 dictionaries.

The dictionary project was initiated in South Carolina by Mary French, Goodland Elks Secretary Zona Price said. It has now branched out to the extent organizations throughout the U.S. have taken over the project in their own communities.

The overall goal is to help students become good writers, active

readers and creative thinkers by having their own personal dictionary, Price said. This is just one more effort to improve literacy throughout our country.

With his or her own personal dictionary, the student will benefit from "the power of words" and become more self-reliant and have more self-esteem, she said.

City approves plan to clean out sewer pond

By Tom Betz
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City commissioners approved a plan to clean out the accumulated sludge in the city sewer pond north of Renner Field.

City Manager Doug Gerber said he recommended the commission approve a contract with Evans, Bierly, Hutchinson and Associates to develop a plan to clean the sludge out of the sewer pond at a cost not to exceed \$39,500.

Jeff Mills of EBH said the cost depends on how much time they have to spend out at the site.

Gerber said the city has been putting money aside for this, and felt it would be good to deal with EBH about this as the company has done a similar project in Protection.

Mayor Josh Dechant asked if this was more complicated than what the city employees could handle.

Rich Simon, public works director, said it is more complicated. He said the city has done some of the work on state permits, and the state is allowing the city to build a temporary lagoon while the main one is being cleaned out.

He said they will have to find a contractor to bring in equipment to dig a hole in the liner, and find a place to haul the silt to.

Commissioner Dave Daniels asked what kind of liner the sewer pond has.

Simon said it is a bentonite liner, and said the state was OK with the temporary lagoon plan rather than the plan of allowing the sludge to flow into the stream.

"This is not raw sewage," Simon said. "It is what is left after the water has been treated and allowed to evaporate."

Commission Kevin Rasure said the contract with EBH is for the planning, and asked if the city had put money aside for the cost of cleaning the sludge out.

Dechant said the city has been putting money aside for this for the past two years.

City Clerk Mary Volk said the city has about \$400,000 in a sewer fund to handle the project.

Simon said there are basically two ways to do the project: dredge it or clean it out with a loader down in the pond. He said talking to others he

has been told the dredge is probably the best way to go.

He said the Kansas Rural Water Association had someone come out and look at the pond. He said they know there is at least 30 inches of silt. He said the city built the pond in 1983, and it has not been cleaned out since.

Commissioner John Garcia said when former City Manager Wayne Hill was here he was looking at it and working with the state department of health on a way to bypass the pond to allow it to dry out and be cleaned out.

A question was asked about how long it would take. Mills said they hope to get it done this year.

Commissioner candidate Bill Finley asked if the sludge is considered hazardous waste.

Simon said it is not, and can be put directly on the land. He said he will be looking for a local farmer who is willing to put the material on his land as a fertilizer.

Daniels made the motion to approve the contract with EBH, and Kevin Rasure seconded. The vote was unanimous 5-0.



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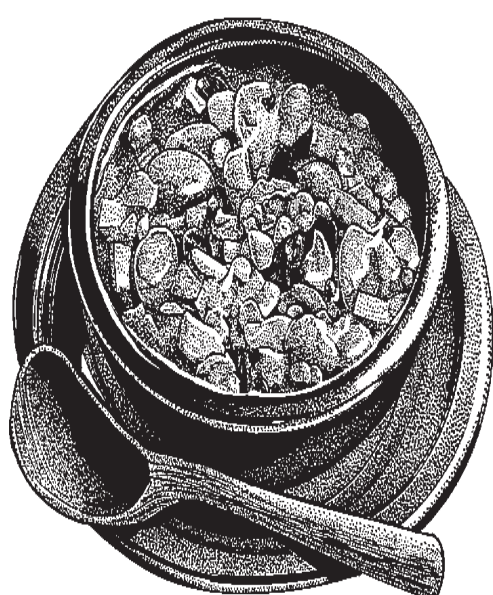
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