

# College asks county to donate building

COLLEGE, from Page 1

opened nationwide. "We are going to need some of office space," she said, "and Michael Solomon, city-county economic development director, mentioned the Southwest Bell telephone building."

Dr. Mills said the idea of using the telephone building goes back to the idea of remodeling an old house. "We felt that was a good idea," he said, "and would like to remodel the building in the same sort of manner."

Coumerilh said the plan would be to have classrooms on the upper floor and downstairs would be more of an office look allowing students to have access to office space and high speed Internet.

Strnad asked if the college people have been in the telephone building.

Stiles said they had seen it. Coumerilh said the grant would give the college the means to do it right. He said he has a connection with an architect with an eye to maintain the beauty of the existing building and develop it to bring people to downtown.

"I guess what we are asking," Stiles said, "if you would be willing to partner with us if we get the grant."

Coumerilh said the college would take care of the accessibility to the building. He said the plan would include an elevator and restrooms.

Commissioner Larry Enfield said the county would be donating the building.

Coumerilh said that would be what the college was asking if the college gets the grant.

Strnad said she would like to see the building used, and asked how long the process is going to take. She said if the college needs office space the county has three offices at the 17th Street building that are available and have access to a restroom.

Dr. Mills said the college hopes they will need the office space.

"The next two to three months will be interesting," Coumerilh said. "There is lots of buzz about what is going to happen, and it will be great when it gets up and becomes known. We do not know how many may apply to come here."

Enfield said if the county says the college can have the telephone building then the college could help move the fire alarm system to the 17th Street building to help protect the files the county has stored in the telephone building.

Dr. Mills said the college would do what they could to provide support.

Stiles said the college should know about the grant by the end of June.

Strnad called Commissioner Max Linin, who was not at the meeting because of the death of his mother. When she got Linin on the speaker phone said said this was really good news.

Enfield said it would be fantastic to have the telephone building up and running.

Strnad explained the college proposal to Linin and the plan about the building.

"I think that would be great," Linin said. "We could get some use out of it."

Strnad said the college had agreed to help move the fire alarm system and Linin said that sounded great

to him. After the phone call Enfield made a motion to donate the telephone building to Northwest Tech if they get the grant. Strnad seconded and passed unanimously.

Coumerilh said things are proceeding with Apple on the iPad documentary, and showed off an iPad2.

He asked Strnad how she is doing with the iPad she received recently.

Strnad said it was a really cool little machine, but she had not done a lot with it.

Coumerilh said he would be having a meeting on Monday, April 25 when the Apple people are in town.

Strnad agreed this is exciting for the community and the college.

Dr. Mills said at the meeting in Topeka he was told the iPad and app development program will cement Northwest Tech as a leading technical college. He said the people were complimentary about the college programs.

## Street project continues on Caldwell Ave.



APAC of Hays crews continue working on the curb and gutter and valley gutters on Caldwell Ave. getting the street ready for the upcoming mill and asphalt overlay to be done this spring.

The APAC crew finished the work at 11th and Caldwell and are now working on the two valley gutters at 13th and Caldwell. The project is nearing the end with the work at 13th.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

# City receives third refund check from Blue Cross, Shield

By Tom Betz

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For the third year Goodland has beat the odds on health care costs and received a refund check from Blue Cross and Blue Shield presented at the commission meeting on March 21.

Charlie Krull, area representative for Blue Cross and Blue Shield said he was glad to be back to deliver a refund check to the city for \$79,909 for last year.

Krull had told the commissioners on Jan. 17, he was glad to be in Goodland, but was not sure if the city was going to get another refund check this year. He said the city had an excellent renewal and would know in March if the city would get a refund check as they have in the past.

Over the past two years Krull has delivered refund checks to the city of \$59,907 for 2008, and \$116,637 for 2009. The large check was pre-

sented by Krull in July, and he said at the time he had good news on the city retro rate review.

In handing City Clerk Mary Volk the refund check for the past year Krull said Goodland has been one of the favorite children over the years as a group of over 50 with guaranteed retention.

"All we take out is the reserve retention," he said. "If that reaches 20 percent we give anything over that back."

The report Krull gave the commissioners showed the actual cost of services for the group and if the cost is less than anticipated the savings will be credited to the group reserve.

The figures for the last year up to Feb. 28, of this year were the city paid \$523,987. The claims expense was \$423,374. The retention was \$50,170 and the contribution to the group reserve was \$50,443. The refund of \$79,909 leaves a group

reserve of \$125,757.

He said Blue Cross and Blue Shield kept 2.2 percent for general operating costs or \$11,395. He said the rest of the retention (\$38,775) is for contingency reserve to cover unpaid claims.

Looking at a comparison with the year before Krull said the premium went down about \$24,000 from \$547,063 to \$523,987, but the total claims expense went up a bit from \$391,133 to an estimated \$423,374.

The lower actual amount of claims for 2009 was why the city got a refund check of \$116,637 last year. He said each year the insurance company adjusts the premium and group reserve based on a formula taking into account the claims paid and claims that may have been incurred, but have not been paid.

He said the increase in claims for the past year was 69.4 percent of the total premium and was up 5

percent from the year before of 64.4 percent.

He said health insurance is not getting any cheaper, but the city has been bucking the odds and have less usage.

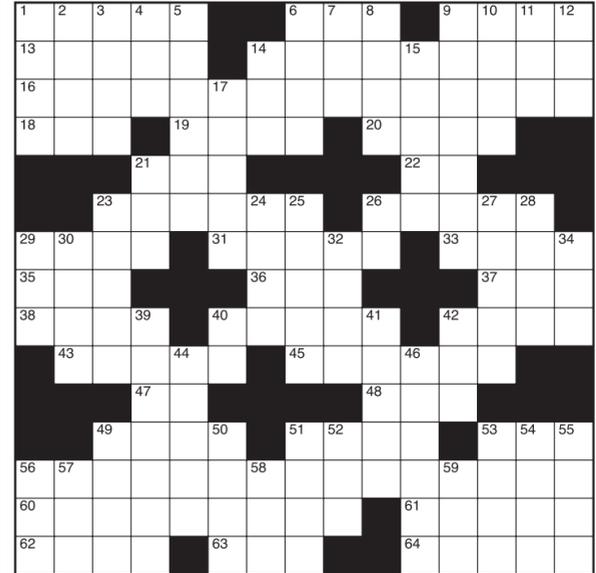
"Few insurance companies do guarantee retention," he said. "For now it is a good thing to be in the 100 percent positive position. If the city

is at a maximum positive when the guarantee retention goes away the company will refund the balance at that time.

"It has been three or four years since we have had a maximum change in rates."

Mayor Josh Dechant thanked Krull for coming to visit again and bringing good news.

## Crossword Puzzle



### CLUES ACROSS

1. Wolf groups
  6. Liquid propane gas (abbr.)
  9. Liz's 3rd husband Mike
  13. Quickly, rapidly
  14. Ventured into the unknown
  16. 2 floor rental
  18. Point midway between S and SE
  19. Jells
  20. Syringe
  21. Greek god of the woods
  22. Of I
  23. A way of cutting
  26. Italian cheese city
  29. Detailed design criteria for a piece of work
  31. Expressed pleasure
  33. Swiss river
  35. Harmless cyst
  36. Angry
  37. Airtight metal food container
  38. Cowboy star Autry
  40. Jupiter's closest satellite
  42. Greek goddess of youth
  43. Grass spikelet bracts
  45. Gazes
  47. Used to chop
  48. Escape to avoid arrest
  49. Imitators
  51. Air pollution
  53. Engine additive
  56. One who comments on events of the day
  60. In a way, pardoned
  61. Lizard of the family Agamidae
  62. \_\_\_ 'n boots
  63. A lumberman's tool
  64. Full of conversation
- ### CLUES DOWN
1. Blouse shoulder shapers
  2. European swift genus
  3. Cod or Good Hope
  4. Kilo-calorie (abbr.)
  5. Teetertotter
  6. Kissing tools
  7. Bluegrass genus
  8. Gonadotropin releasing hormone (abbr.)
  9. Poster paint
  10. Chocolate cookie with white cream filling
  11. The shelter of wild animals
  12. Insecticide
  14. Mrs. Nixon
  15. Plural of etymon
  17. 45385 Ohio
  21. Political action committee
  23. Plants of the genus Cassia
  24. Personal identifier
  25. Indian stairways to water
  26. Palladium
  27. Staffs
  28. United \_\_\_ Emirates
  29. Sine wave generator (abbr.)
  30. Look furtively
  32. Copyread
  34. Midway between NE and E
  39. Passes, as of time
  40. One thousandth of an ampere
  41. Hairdresser's shop
  42. A skirt's finished edge
  44. Company officers
  46. Shaggy or unkempt
  49. Slender grass appendages
  50. Drunkards
  51. Smallest merganser
  52. \_\_\_ student, learns healing
  53. Pierce with a knife
  54. Burial vault
  55. Address a diety
  56. Take a siesta
  57. Australian flightless bird
  58. Actress Farrow
  59. Honorable title (Turkish)

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**City of Goodland Becomes Efficiency Kansas Partner Utility**

Beginning April 1, the City of Goodland customers have a new way to make smart, energy-saving improvements in their homes and small business. The program is called the Good Idea program and is funded through Efficiency Kansas. City of Goodland utility customers receive low-cost financing and repay the loan on their monthly utility bill. The loans have a maximum term of 15 years. For a limited time, customers who receive financing are eligible for a \$500 rebate for implementing improvements to the "thermal envelope" of their homes which can include insulation, weather stripping, and many other improvements. To find out more contact Shauna or Amy at City Office.

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