



Big audience treated to dino high jinks

By Pat Schiefen

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West Elementary School first graders wowed an almost full high auditorium with dino high jinks and songs on Tuesday night.

They sang about how dinosaurs differed in their sizes, teeth, shapes and what they ate.

Part of the program had a musical variety show in which musical numbers were judged by a panel of three.

The judges gave the numbers ratings from 7 to 10 and above. One judge decided the T. Rex could the score it wanted.

The group was invited by the judges to perform at La Brea, Calif. (home of the infamous tar pits)

Linda Lucas was the group's director.

In Janet Davis' class are Madison Albers, Olivia Bassett, Tarren Cloyd, Javy Conde, Dexter Dautel, Caleb Duell, Rebekah Galindo, Juan Luis Guzman, Baylee Hillmer, Logan Ihrig, Tori Ketter, Danny Langley, Ethan McDaniel, Nicholas Nguyen, Kadon Rickard, Abby Tremblay and Adam Villalobos.

Devon Rickard was the Brontosaurus that the first grade was in love with. Laura Ledesma was on the left and Melinda Vasquez on the right.

Students of Katie Fulwider are Max Barela, Rhiannon Cacavio, Caleb Dechant, Natalie Dorn, Blake Drennan, Brock Ferguson, Alexis Franz, Riley Frazier, Austin Gambos, Asaph Garcia, Miles Gould, Eli Greene, Mia Hamilton, Matthew Laliker, Logan Luera, Gantzen Miller, Sabian Mills and Justin Saxe.

In Emily McQuitty's class are Tristen Bradley, Chase Conger, Kaitlyn Dible, Emmi Ensign, Rilynn Frazier, Reid Fritz, Nathan Gillming, Meadow Hillman, Ryley Humrich, Paige Julin, D. J. Knox, Laura Ledesma, Cade Mitcheck, Israel Mojica, Matthew Nemechek, Andrew Trejo and Emily Wolf.

Students of Kara Smith are Athena Armstrong, Bryce Belshe, Chase Brown, Chandler Clayville, Eve Cole, Nicole Eli, Walker Esslinger, Jesse Gould, Raelyn Hillmer, James Isham, Brooklynn Jones, Christian Koch, Cassidy Mitcheck, Ashley Rodriguez, William Schaffer, Dane Shores, Bryson Terry, Melinda Vasquez, Teagan Vaughn and Malaki Young.

In Sandra Timm's class are Elisa Ayers-Hernandez, Garrett Helton, Kristina Holub, Angel Lazo, Shadd Miller, Max Quinlan, Angela Ramirez and Titus Smith.

Photos by Pat Schiefen
The Goodland Star-News

corrections

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County, hospital look at service

By Pat Schiefen

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The Goodland Regional Medical Center board and Sherman County Commissioners Cynthia Strnad and Larry Enfield talked about the ambulance service that the hospital operates at the hospital board meeting Monday, April 4. The board wanted the county to take over the operation of the ambulance service.

The hospital's financial officer Jim Precht explained that because the ambulance is under the hospital it shows up in the hospital books and under Medicare and Medicaid rules the hospital has to pay \$42,000 back to the federal government.

Precht said the county gives the hospital \$62,000 to \$67,000 from a sales tax to run the ambulance service. The revenues from the ambulance is from mileage, per runs and supplies. The total revenues for

2006 was \$195,000 and for 2010 \$333,000. So far the revenue for the year is less than estimated but Precht expected that it would even out further in the year.

The hospital showed a \$50,000 negative cash flow for the ambulance last year, he said.

The costs include salaries, wages, benefits, supplies, utilities, fuel and maintenance.

The head of the ambulance Bruce Gleason said the service has two full-time EMTs and the rest are volunteers with six or seven doing most of the calls. The wages were \$168,000 for 2010.

Gleason said that the volunteers get \$1 an hour for being on call and \$25 for each run. They get \$80 for a run to Denver and \$120 for a run to Hays. The weekend person gets \$250 which is from 6 p.m. on Friday night to 6 a.m. on Monday

morning.

He said that Medicaid only pays 22 percent of the ambulance bills, Medicare pays 51 percent and Blue Cross/Blue Shield 53 to 57 percent of the amount billed. Medicare has started wanting ambulance calls billed to the nearest .1 of a mile.

The ambulance services and the hospital each have its own separate boards, said chief executive officer of the hospital Jay Jolly. The licensing done by the state is also separate.

Commissioner Strnad asked, "What is the goal of the administration of the hospital?"

"Not to lose money," said Jolly.

President of the hospital board Brenda McCants said the goal of the board is provide services to the community but they don't want to lose money doing it.

In the state only 39 ambulance

services are under hospitals out of the 169 ambulance services in the state, said Gleason. In Graham and Sheridan Counties the ambulance service is county based. No one in northwest Kansas has an ambulance service based in the hospital.

Jolly said the county actually owns the ambulances.

Sherman County Clerk Janet Rumpel said if the county takes over the ambulance then she would need information that would need to be included in the next county budget in June in the next three or four months.

It was suggested that Precht and Rumpel get together to talk about what the county needs.

"We are all trying to do the best for the citizens of Sherman County," said Enfield.

Colby College locked down after threat

By Kevin Bottrell

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Colby Community College was evacuated and locked down Thursday morning after officials learned of threats posted on a former student's Facebook page.

Police Chief Randy Jones said the student, Jamie Adams of Atwood, had been removed from campus on Wednesday, and the Facebook threats - against himself and oth-

ers - were discovered Thursday morning.

College officials said they received a call from a third party informing them of the threats early in the morning, he said, and administrators called the police and sheriff's office around 8 a.m.

The college's Emergency Response Team met in the morning and decided to close the campus at 10 a.m. Classes were cancelled for

the day and the staff and students told to leave. The dorms were not evacuated, Schwanke said, but they were locked down and students told to stay put.

Colby Public Schools were put on a "modified lockdown," officials said in a "reverse 911" notice sent to parents. Outside doors were

locked, with employees stationed to monitor them, but students were not restricted to classrooms.

Colby High School had no regular classes today, since it was the site for the State Large-Group Music Festival. The festival went on as scheduled.

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