

Businesses add decorations



Peggy Moberly of St. Francis painted holiday greetings and scenes for businesses on Main Avenue on a beautiful Monday afternoon. Her handiwork is evident on different businesses. Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

District to use Paypal for fees

By Pat Schiefen
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The Goodland School Board on Monday night heard that Superintendent Bill Biermann report that he would be making calls to firms that stabilize foundations to get an idea of the cost of repairs that may need to be made at Goodland High School.

Head of Maintenance Kenny Studer noticed that there seemed to be some issues on the west side of the high school where an addition foundation joined an existing one. Superintendent Biermann said he called Glen Strait of Strait Associates of Colby to look at what was going on. Strait suggested that he check with firms that stabilize foundations to get an idea of cost.

The board agreed to let the district set up the system where people could pay for school fees by using paypal for education. Marcia Harkins, district treasurer, said she had researched paypal and thought it would be a good answer for people wanting to use credit cards. The district would not be charged by paypal. Those using paypal would be charged 30¢ and 2.9 percent of the amount.

If a person wanted to pay \$20 on a student's school lunches paypal would charge them 30¢ plus 2.9 percent or 88¢. The student would have \$19.12 added to their lunch

money. "It's worth a try," said Biermann.

"It works well for Northwest Tech," said Board Member Diane Stiles.

Board Member Jessica Cole made the motion and Gennifer House seconded.

House reported on the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center meeting in Oakley. She said the Kansas Governor Sam Brownbeck wants to put infant and toddler services under SRS. The service center was opposed to the plan as SRS were not educators.

She said Goodland is funded for 232 kids in Head Start. Currently there are 227 enrolled.

The board accepted the resignation of Karla Murray as the district's technology coordinator as of Saturday, Dec. 31.

Superintendent Biermann asked if anyone on the board would like to be on the board when interviews for new candidates are set up. It was decided the committee for the interview would have two administrators, two teachers and two board members on it.

Board members House and Mike Cochran wanted to be on the board with Stiles as alternate.

The next board meeting would be at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 19, instead of Monday, Dec. 12.

Arts Center sale Sunday

Goodies, goodies and more goodies will be available to purchase at the Carnegie Arts Center Open House and Bake Sale, 120 W. 12, from 1 to 3 p.m. on Sunday.

The Arts Council Board members have prepared cookies, candies, breads and more. The customer gets to pick out their assortment at \$8 for a small box or \$12 for a large box.

The center gift shop has a new selection of original Christmas decorations to add to your festivities. These decorations are of heirloom quality and would make wonderful gifts. This Sunday only all non-signed Christmas ornaments will be 50 percent off the

original price.

There will be a large selection of paintings and photography available for purchase. During the open house all 5x7 and 8x10 Stasser Gallery prints will be 15 percent off.

All the local artists who have been displayed at the exhibit have been invited to attend the event on Sunday. It will be a wonderful opportunity to visit with them.

The Goodland Recorder Ensemble will provide seasonal music.

The gift shop at the Carnegie Arts Center will be selling items to help you with your Christmas shopping.

Sheriff reports jail expenses

By Pat Schiefen
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Sherman County Sheriff Kevin Butts was at the end of the month bill paying meeting of the Sherman County Commissioners on Wednesday morning. Commissioners Cynthia Strnad and Larry Enfield were at the meeting and Max Linin was missing due to illness.

Sheriff Butts said the jail is running over budget for the year.

The jail charges \$40 a day to house prisoners. He said part of the problem is city prisoners who are detained in the jail have not been kept long enough to pay the \$40. The unwritten policy has been if the jail does not keep a city prisoner 12 hours they weren't paying any fees.

Butts said of the 120 city prisoners the jail has had for the year the city only paid for 35 of them.

The rest of them were not there 12 hours. This meant the jail collected \$14,000 instead of \$48,000.

Most of the prisoners for the city were there for violations of city ordinances, he said. Prisoners the jail keeps for Wallace and Cheyenne Counties are charged the fee when they come in and thought the city should do the same.

Commissioner Strnad said, "We need to be consistent about \$40 per day."

Commissioner Enfield said he would talk to City Manager Doug Gerber.

Sheriff Butts said the county would no longer be transporting prisoners for the Goodland Police Department or for High Plains Mental Health.

Sheriff Butts reported on the proposal by Motorola from the state to buy new radios for the sheriff's

department that will communicate with the state radios. The state has changed the trunk line for the radio. The old radios will go to narrow band and not be able to get state transmissions.

He said the department would need to buy six mobiles for vehicles and 13 handheld for the officers to carry.

Commissioner Strnad asked if they needed all 13. Butts said yes.

The bid was for \$31,000 if they bought them and had them shipped before the end of December.

Sheriff Butts said they had \$8,000 to use coming from insurance for a lightning strike to the repeater at Caruso. County Clerk Janet Rumpel said after checking \$25,000 could come out of capital outlay.

The commissioner approved the purchase of the radios for the sheriff's department.

The commissioners talked to a representative of ESPY Services on the speaker phone. The company reviews telecommunications bills to look for over charges and errors. Clients often get a 25 percent reduction in their bill.

The company looked at the customer service record instead of the bill.

If the company gets a reduction for the current and upcoming bills it collects 50 percent of the savings. If there are no savings there is no cost.

The company researches old bills and looks for errors going back three years. If they find errors in the bill the county can get some of their money back the company would get 50 percent of the amount.

The Sherman County commissioners will meet at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 13.

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Sherman County Senior Citizens

Mr. Biermann and the USD 352 Board of Education cordially invite you to attend our Holiday Dinner on **December 14, 2011 at GHS Gym.**

11 a.m.: Entertainment by GHS and GJHS students
12 noon: Dinner at Goodland High School

The members of the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCCLA), National Honor Society (NHS), and G-Club, will service as the hosts and hostesses.

Please RSVP before December 9th by calling 890-5656. If you need transportation, please call. We will also deliver meals to those who are not able to leave their homes.

Enter through the south doors on 13th Street and remember: Valet parking will be available.

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