

Bring a buddy, break a board



Taekwondo instructor Wayne Luckert held a padded bag Saturday as members of the taekwondo class at the Goodland Activities Center practiced hitting for "Bring a Buddy, Break a Board." The class started out with the bag and then practiced their stance by hitting a ball and a piece of paper before graduated to boards. After learning how to use their hands, the class learned to use their feet. Everyone in the class broke a board and took the pieces home as souvenirs. Photo by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News

Chamber looks toward festivals

By Kathryn Burke
The Goodland Star-News

The Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce board is already looking ahead toward the Fourth of July and the group's annual Freedom Fest. Chamber President Donna Swager said in a meeting last Tuesday that the business promotions committee has looked into some alternative events for the holiday. Since the Fourth falls on a Monday this year, she said, the committee is considering moving the fireworks display up to Sunday night. "Maybe we could shoot the last fireworks off at midnight to kick off the holiday," she said. Chamber Manager Courtney Warden said after talking about adding a concert to the weekend, she called the KXXX radio station in Colby for advice on music acts. She said the station recommended Ford Entertainment and Productions, a Missouri company, and she found musicians asking anywhere from \$3,000 to \$300,000 per show. Artists like Andy Griggs and Juice Newton were on the list. She said the Chamber could charge \$15 per ticket and come out ahead, or even sign on a beer or soda company sponsor the concert. Swager said the concert could be held on Saturday night to stretch the celebration over the entire weekend. "We've been trying to develop a bigger celebration," she said. "Maybe we could get people to stay one or two nights." Warden said the parade and other activities would be held on Saturday morning.

The promotions committee, Swager said, kicked around ideas, including adding potluck-style block parties to the festival. "There are a lot of good ideas floating around," she said. To promote the entire event, board member Dan Rasure suggested adding more advertisement to attract business sponsorship. Another part of planning, Swager said, is to make sure the event pays for itself. After losing money last year because of rain, she said, the Chamber has been raising money. So far, they have promises of more support from Sherman County and city for this summer's celebration. Monday, the city agreed to match funds up to \$2,500 to the Chamber for the fireworks. Ken Clouse, a board member and president of the Northwest Kansas Technical College, said after 30 minutes of discussion, the city approved a motion for the match with a 3-2 vote. "I guess the bottom line was we were successful," he said. The county already had agreed to give \$2,500 for the event this year. Hesaidto raisethere remaining money, the Chamber should go out to their members and service organizations. The Lions Club, Rotary Club, Veterans of Foreign Wars and other groups, Clouse said, should be approached at their regular meetings. The board agreed to ask groups to set up collection jars. Joshua Dechant, ag loan officer at Bankwest and board member, said the Chamber has to get the word out that they are accepting donations.

Board considers bus details

By Kathryn Burke
The Goodland Star-News

What color, which decals and how will they pay for it are the last decisions the Goodland School District board needs to make on the purchase of an activities bus. The final details on the used 1999 Van Hool bus being purchased by the district from ABC Bus Co. in Grand Prairie, Texas, were discussed at a board meeting last Monday. Superintendent Marvin Selby said he commissioned artists from the high school and Grant Junior High to sketch out options for the buses. He passed the designs around the room and board members voted on which they liked best. Designs ranged from a white-and-gold bus with "Cowboys" in block letters to a simple black bus with "Goodland" written in gold

ursive. One version of the bus featured the cowboy logo decal on the side while others decorated the rear of the bus with the logo. Selby said Mike Boyson, a Bird City artist who owns Hot Brush and who painted the Cowboy logo on the weight room and elevator, offered to paint the bus at a reduced price. He painted the St. Francis bus, Selby said, and saved them money. "That would make the money kind of be local," added board member Dick Short. The board's discussion Monday will narrow the choices to four or five decal options. The bus will cost the school \$135,000 plus \$4,500 for new seat covers, \$1,000 for a rear camera, \$800 for aluminum wheel covers and \$2,500 for decals. In the meeting, the board agreed to accept the lowest bid for financ-

ing the lease purchase of the bus through Western State Bank at 4.6 percent interest. The district will pay one-third of the cost at the time of purchase, followed by two payments over the next two years. The board shopped for buses over a couple of months. Transportation supervisor Bob Harkins recommended the Van Hool bus because of its record and durability. The district will put its oldest activities bus, a 1971 Motorcoach model bought in 1985, into retirement, using it only for emergencies. The schools' other activity bus, a 1981 Motorcoach, will still be in heavy rotation. When he goes to pick the bus up from Texas, Harkins will go through a two-day school to learn how to maintain it.

County road signs vandalized

A Goodland man allegedly vandalized road signs at two rural intersection around 9 a.m. on Sunday, March 6. Sheriff's Deputy Roger Studer filed the report stating Thad J. Hahn, 30, performed criminal damage to property after allegedly van-

dalizing five post and yield signs at County Roads 25 and 68 and at Roads 25 and 70. Studer reported getting a call on the signs at 9:46 a.m. He estimated the damage at \$250. "It's expensive," said Curt Way, public works director for the

county. Depending on the type of sign, he said, replacement can cost as much as \$75 each. The signs themselves run from \$18 to \$35. Way said the county would replace the signs with ones already in stock.

Pedophile pleads guilty

A Goodland man pleaded guilty Wednesday, March 2, after being held for almost two years on a charge of aggravated indecent liberties with a child, a level 5 person felony. Kenneth James Petrachich, 51, was charged with feloniously engaging in fondling and touching of his person by a child under the age of 14. The court reports allege the incident took place on April 24, 2003, with a 5-year-old. The report didn't state the location of the crime. After the incident two years ago, former Sherman County Sheriff Doug Whitson said Petrachich had the child touch him in an inappropriate manner and inappropriate location on his body. He said the incident was reported by the parents and investigated by the sheriff's department.

The charges are not the first child molestation accusations Petrachich has faced. In May 1990, he was charged in Scott County District Court with two counts of indecent liberties with a child under the age of 16, said Sandy Eitel, deputy court clerk. He plead guilty in August 1990 to two counts of aggravated sexual battery, and was sentenced to 3 to 5 years in prison. State records show he was released in September 1996. Sheriff Whitson said the conviction in Scott County was before those convicted of sex crimes were required to register. He said that law went into effect in 1994. Judge Jack Burr ordered a pre-sentencing investigation.

correction

An article titled "Athletic director retiring after 16 years" in the Tuesday, March 8, issue of *The Goodland Star-News* stated that Bob Hellerud's sister Marilyn is deceased. His late sister's name is Myrna. This was a reporting error. ☆☆☆☆☆

The photo information for the Right Combination Dancers on the front page of the Friday, March 11, issue was incorrect about the group tap dancing to "King of New York." That group was dancing to "Ease on Down the Road," and they are third-year dancers. The kids dance to "King of New York" — Holly Wilkening, Halton Witman and Bracelyn Redlin — were in a separate photo which was not published. This was a reporting error.

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