

Deserved rewards



Kendall Morris, coordinator of the annual St. Jude's Bike-A-Thon, awarded Lea Shores with a mini-stereo, sports bag, t-shirt and certificate on Monday for being the top collector this year. Shores, who participated along with about 15 other youngsters, raised \$124 for the event held in October. Carrie Babcock and Kiera Musil also received prizes for the amount they raised.

Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

Tragic loss leaves loved ones thinking

GURTNER, from Page 1

few seconds earlier? What if he hadn't landed on the truck's windshield? "It's just unbelievable," she said. "That so... well, like they said at the funeral, here's a man that wanted to commit suicide and he killed Lyn who was so full of life." The Baumans returned from Salina Tuesday night, and Kindi Bauman said she bought a pager so her sister can reach her anywhere. She said Traci is doing better than expected. "She said she's got to be strong for the kids," Bauman said. The couple was raising three children, Amanda, 16, Tanner, 11 and Tanzia, 2. Another of Lyn Gurtner's children from a previous marriage is

living in Ohio. Bauman said Lyn was a family-oriented man who loved spending time with his wife and children. "He worked for Schwan's," Bauman said, "so he wasn't home a lot, but Sunday night was family night. They kept to that like clock work." Each morning before the kids got up, she said, Traci and Lyn would sit at their kitchen table and talk. "That was their time," she said. "They had coffee together every morning. I noticed it was the hardest for her in the morning. I just think about how her routine will be changed." She said Traci, who stayed home to raise the children, didn't express anger towards the man who officers say murdered her husband.

"She's not mad," she said. "She's just so sad, has just such an empty feeling. Truthfully, I don't know if she's had time to let it sink in." People have asked, Bauman said, if Traci is going to sue the Salina Regional Health Center, which Burkhead, who had been in and out of psychiatric wards, had escaped from the day before. She said it hasn't been discussed. Burkhead had escaped from the hospital once before and had been found near a house in his hometown of Wilson carrying a bag filled with dead cats. The murder-suicide has prompted Kansas officials to question the state's ability to properly care for people with mental health problems. Bauman said she hopes her brother-in-law never knew what hit him.

"You know how loud it is when a bird hits your windshield," she said. "Imagine a huge man crashing through your windshield. We just hope because it was dark, Lyn never saw him and that it was over fast." The death, Bauman said, has gotten her thinking about making the most of every moment. She said it comforts her to know Lyn enjoyed life to the fullest. "He canoed, bungee jumped," she said. "He was a very outdoorsy guy." His favorite poem, Bauman said, was "Last Chance," and reflects his belief in living each day as if it was your last. A passage from the poem reads: "If I knew it would be the last time... could spare an extra minute or two to stop and say, 'I love you,' instead of assuming you would know that I do."

Young farmer wins money for wheat conference

FARMER, from Page 1

conference. "That was just fine with me," Emig said. Emig said the association is trying to get young people involved in the organization and expose them to some larger aspects of the organization. John Morris, director of communications for the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers, said the number of

awards given out each year varies, but is usually around 15 to 20 awards nationally. The money, he said, is set up for one winner per state association. Morris said each state association recommends at least one or two applicants who are wheat producers under 30. Brett Myers, executive vice president of the state wheat association, said the purpose of the awards is to help pay expenses for attending the national conference.

"To keep young blood and young growers involved," he said. The money helps to pay for registration fees, airfare and hotel costs, Myers said. Myers said there are 22 or 23 states that have associations and can submit applications. He estimated there were about 30-35

applicants. "It's a national honor," Myers said. "Kansas is very happy to have two selected from our state." Myers said the state association represents the wheat growers of Kansas, keeps them informed and represents them on state and national legislative issues.

Newly-elected sheriff fires dispatchers and deputies

STOCKTON (AP) — Newly elected sheriff Roger Mongeau kept his word to Rooks County voters to clean house. When he took over the office from 12-year veteran Dave Denton on Monday, Mongeau fired all of the depart-

ment's dispatchers and deputies. "Your employment with the Rooks County Sheriff's Department is terminated effective Jan. 8, 2001. Thank you for your faithful service to the county and this department," said the termination letter they each received Monday.

The letter also informed the employees of their right to request a hearing before the county commission. Four of the fired dispatchers — Misty Higdon, Darla Hrabe, Lea Ann Marsh and Lorna Webster — did just that. Higdon said she hoped the commis-

sioners would do something about their sudden terminations but wasn't surprised that they upheld Mongeau's decision on Tuesday. "They just told us that he's an elected official, he's the department head and we can't do much about it," Higdon said.

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