

People gather to learn about storms

SPOTTERS, from Page 1

nadoes, damaging straight-line winds and large hail.

During a break, door prizes were given away, which included a weather radio and rain gauge, among other items.

Roberta Bretz, who works with the American Red Cross, showed a short video called "Project Safeside" that was put together by the Weather Channel and Red Cross. The video showed how to develop a plan and be prepared for severe weather or disasters.

Bretz handed out pamphlets on making a family disaster supplies kit and developing a family disaster plan.

As for supplies, she said, there are six basics you should stock in your home. They are water, food, first aid kit, tools and emergency supplies, clothing and bedding and special items.

There are four steps to safety when developing a disaster plan. First, find out what could happen to you; second, create a disaster plan; third, complete a checklist; and fourth, practice and maintain your plan.

Lynnott told how tornadoes are rated from F0 to F5 on the Fujita Tornado Intensity Scale.



Roberta Bretz with the American Red Cross talked with people at the storm spotters meeting Thursday night before showing a short video on being prepared for disasters.

Photo by Janet Craft/The Goodland Daily News

He showed video clips of a tornado which occurred about 10 miles south of Bird City on June 29 and others in the state.

He told about three different tornadoes, which include an elephant trunk or stove pipe, wedge or rope.

"May is the month for the most

tornadoes," he said.

Lynnott also talked about the dangers of flooding and lightning.

He told people to respect the power of water. If you're close enough to hear the thunder during a storm, he said, you're close enough to be struck by lightning.

Hospital strives to improve

HOSPITAL, from Page 1

\$36,965, the net loss for February was \$11,425, about \$2,000 less than expected.

Taking the loss from February, the first two months show a net loss for the hospital of \$5,003, which is \$26,824 under budget, and \$161,000 less than the first two months of last year when the net loss was \$171,885.

"We continue to look at ways to improve our performance and are doing things differently than before," Laue said.

Mary Ann Elliott reported that Rural Health Ventures is working with Dr. David Younger of Burlington about providing services as a family physician and they expect him to have office hours a couple days each week begin-

ning in May. Elliott said there are some minor details about medical insurance because he is from Colorado. She believes these are being worked out with the state insurance and medical boards.

Penny Nemecheck reported on the status of the day care grant the hospital applied for about six months ago. She said the state Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services has a special day care fund and she was surprised when they called in January about the grant and a few weeks later she received notification that the center had received \$43,268.

She said the hospital has accepted the grant offer and was reporting to the board about the possible location for the facility. She said they have looked at several, and are considering the former Victory Baptist Church build-

ing near North School.

The board was reviewing details of the operation and the information from the real estate agent. Nemecheck said the day care would not be exclusively for hospital employees.

The board approved improvements to the hospital emergency generator to bring it up to date at a cost of \$7,300.

The board also discussed changing to a specially sized bed for swing bed rooms and decided to buy a 60-inch-wide bed rather than the current 48 inch. The board approved purchase of the bed, but delayed the actual date until the \$8,000 can be saved up.

With a number of closed sessions to discuss personnel, the meeting adjourned at 11:25 p.m. The next meeting will be 6:30 p.m., Monday, April 23, in the board room at the hospital.

Witness says customers deserve refund

TOPEKA (AP) — Residential customers effectively paid more than once for overpriced natural gas in the 1980s because other users passed the higher costs along or wrote them off, a state official testified.

The testimony came as the Kansas Corporation Commission resumed

hearings Wednesday on how to distribute about \$37 million from a settlement with natural gas producers.

The settlement stemmed from a 1997 finding by federal regulators that producers improperly passed property taxes along to consumers — both residential and business customers — in

the mid-1980s.

Joe White, a certified public accountant and KCC utilities supervisor, testified in support of the agency's plan to distribute the money to certain residential customers who earn too much to qualify for utility assistance programs.

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