



Karen Hickson stood in front of a dryer at the Good Samaritan Center this morning. Staff members are throwing her a party on Friday between 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to celebrate her 25th anniversary of working at the center. Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

Woman shares memories at center

GOOD SAM, from Page 1

advanced, Hickson said.

She said she gave up her nursing duties for a job in the center's laundry room because having to lift residents was straining her back.

But now, she said, there is a machine employees use that does most of the lifting for them.

Even though she no longer cares for them, Hickson said, one of the best parts of working at the center has been getting to know different residents. She said some have made her laugh, and some have made her cry.

Hickson said one woman used to

clap her hands while chanting colorful words that shouldn't be printed in the newspaper.

"Oh, it was so cute," she said.

She learned early, she said, not to get too close.

Hickson said when she first started she developed a friendship with a resident named Sadie Wirth. When Sadie died, she said, it broke her heart.

"I said I would never do that again," she said.

Hickson said she has seen 10 administrators come and go, and she believes the current one, 23-year-old Phil Samuelson from Minnesota, is the youngest. She said she can recall all of

their names except one man who left after only two months on the job.

Hickson said she's not the type of person who likes a lot of attention, so when a staff member told her on Monday about the party, she had mixed emotions.

"I said 'You didn't have to do anything,' she said, adding that she is honored to be recognized.

Hickson said she'll work at the center for as long as she can. She's considered finding a new job, she said, but added that's probably not going to happen.

"Then I'd have to start all over," she said.

Firm asks to lease landfill

LANDFILL, from Page 1

company was looking at upgrading it to a Subtitle D, which would allow them to take more types of trash into the landfill without sorting.

He said the upgrade would require use of a synthetic liner on top of the current state approved two-foot clay liner.

He said they had made some contacts with the surrounding counties to see if there is interest to make it a regional landfill.

Rasure said he did not see how they could pay for the city collection system and the landfill with the proposed rates.

DiVello said they were studying the operation figures received from the county, but felt the operation would be OK with the planned rates.

He did say that was dependent on the county eliminating the annual solid waste fee.

The commissioners said they did not see how they could eliminate the fee since they do not know what the under-

ground contamination at the old city/county dump will cost in the next few years.

DiVello said the company has been in Colorado since 1990, and is looking to expand their business in Kansas.

The commissioners did not take any official action, and said they would look at any figures the waste company would present.

In related action, the commissioners approved leaving the county solid waste fee — \$150 a year for residents — at the same level as the previous two years on the basis they do not know what the contamination is going to add to the solid waste operations costs.

County Clerk Janet Rumpel told the commissioners that it was possible for them to lower the fee later in the year if a sale should be negotiated.

"You can always reduce the fee, but you can only raise it once a year," she said.

Crystal Linsner, county household hazardous waste person, reported that

she had successfully completed the state training program, and that she had received word the county has been approved for a grant to purchase some collection storage cabinets.

She said the cabinets will be ordered as soon as the official award of the grant is received. She expects that to be sometime in July.

Linsner proposed holding the first hazardous household waste collection in September using the trailer from Ellis County if it is available.

"We need to have a building," she said, "especially if we intend to recycle the latex paint."

The commissioners agreed she should put together a list of supplies needed for the collection, including safety gear for the volunteers. They indicated support for finding a building where the paint could be stored and to recycle the latex paint.

Linsner said she would develop a list of supplies and bring it back to the commissioner for review and approval.

Australian tries to solo around world around the world

By the Associated Press INTERNATIONAL

NORTHAM, Australia — So far, so good. Adventurer Steve Fossett drifted high above Australia today, after launching his sixth bid to become the first person to fly solo around the world in a balloon.

Luc Trulleman, the mission's chief meteorologist, called upper-level atmospheric conditions "very great," with strong winds blowing from the west. Trulleman said Fossett ideally would reach New Zealand in two to three days, then cross the south Pacific and reach the coast of Chile in six days. Fossett's goal is to complete the trip in 15 days.

Fossett, a 58-year-old investment tycoon with a yearning for adventure, clambered into his closet-sized capsule around dawn wearing a parachute and

crash helmet. Then, as winds that had delayed his launch for hours dropped, he fired propane burners to heat the helium and air filling his 140-foot-high balloon and rose into the blue skies over Northam, a western Australian farming town.

NATIONAL

AIKEN, S.C. — Gov. Jim Hodges said he would abide by a ruling barring him from blocking a federal shipment of bomb-grade plutonium bound for South Carolina, but his anger was evident.

"I make no apologies for the fact that I have aggressively pursued efforts to keep plutonium out of South Carolina without the assurances that we need," Hodges said after the ruling Tuesday.

Hodges was reacting to the stinging rebuke he received Tuesday from U.S. District Court Judge Cameron Currie, who banned him from blocking the Energy Department shipments.

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4. Persons age 18 or older are eligible to enter. No purchase necessary.

5. Deadline for entries: June 20. If the Sherman County harvest starts earlier, entry must be at least 24 hours prior to delivery of the first load.

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