

Family spends vacation walking for worthy cause

By Sharon Corcoran
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Some families spend their annual vacation at Disneyland, the lake or the mountains. The Corke family walks.

Kenneth and Delores Corke of Goodland, their daughters Carlotta McDermott of Goodland and Marian Corke and Marlene Regehr of Great Bend, son-in-law Don Regehr and granddaughter Allison Regehr, 8, have made raising money for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and walking for a cause that has touched their family an annual event.

"This is our way of helping," McDermott said. "Our family likes to walk and likes to be together. It's a fun thing to do."

They raised \$1,000 with a benefit dinner Saturday, March 24, at the Butterfly Cafe at Goodland's Renner Field. All the food was donated by businesses, McDermott



Corke



McDermott

said; about 80 people bought dinner at \$10 each, and some donated more.

They will do a fund-raising walk Saturday, April 28, at Hutchinson. Participants ask for donations or pledges ahead of time and then participate in the three-mile walk to raise awareness and give the donations to the society. The family is still accepting donations at the cafe.

Marian was diagnosed with multiple

sclerosis six years ago, and the family has raised money and walked each year since. Since there is no walk for the cause nearby, McDermott said, the family started walking in Hays, but they have been going to the walk in Hutchinson the last few years.

McDermott and Delores Corke, who both work at the Butterfly, have had "Tip Day" in past years, when all their tips at the restaurant went to the cause. They decided to do something different this year.

Food and supplies were donated by Cash-Wa Foods, Pepsi Bottling Co., Goodland Wal-Mart, Ellinwood Packing, the Almond Tree and Serendipity Flowers. Butterfly Aviation and the Butterfly Cafe donated the restaurant and ingredients for the pies.

"We were fortunate," Delores said. "Wal-Mart was very good contributing. They all were."

The family had help from Kyle Stefan, who needed community service hours for his youth group. Judy Finley baby-sat for one of the workers. Allison waited tables. No one was paid, Delores said, so there was no overhead.

The family served barbecued brisket, potato salad, cole slaw, corn on the cob and a buffet with 13 kinds of pie.

The family says they appreciate all the support, adding that it's not just for Marian, but for everyone who has the disease.

"We know over 20 people in Goodland who have been diagnosed," Delores said. "I'm surprised more people with MS don't support it. Marian has to take pills, which are 25 cents each with the insurance she gets through (the national society)."

There are definitely benefits available, Delores said.

The team name was changed from

Marian's Team to the M&Ms, McDermott said, which stands for Marian and Marlene (the team's captain), but also for the many, many people who have multiple sclerosis.

Hutchinson has a beautiful park for the event, McDermott said, so smooth the family has been able to push Marian in a wheelchair through the walk and Marlene and Don's son Madison in a stroller. Marian has a motorized scooter now, McDermott said, and Madison, 2, will probably walk. Allison started walking in the event when she was 3, McDermott said.

Delores said her husband has always been the oldest one in the three-mile walk; he will turn 86 the week after the walk.

Marian, 44, can't live alone, Delores said, so she lives with Marlene, a music teacher, and is nanny to her children. She is able to drive a little but not on the highway or in bad weather, her mother said.

City starts on two houses

By Tom Betz
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Hearings are set for Monday, June 5, on two allegedly dangerous houses which the city building inspector says need to be fixed or demolished.

At a meeting last Monday, the City Commission approved resolutions setting hearings for the owners of the houses at 1608 and 1519 Montana. Building Inspector Steve Criswell said the houses are unoccupied and badly in disrepair.

Criswell said the part of the roof on the house at 1608 Montana has collapsed, and there are holes in the roof, as well as broken glass in the windows.

He said he has not been inside the house at 1519 Montana, but the front porch fell off this winter.

He said the owner has contacted the fire marshal and the fire chief and ask if the city could burn it down. "There are asphalt shingles on the roof and the siding," Criswell said. "If those were stripped, off we could burn it down for training."

City Commissioner Josh Dechant said someone had asked him about a different house. Criswell said they should talk with Fire Chief Scott Gilmer about it.

He said there are other houses that have asphalt shingles and the old style asbestos shingles that would prevent the city from burning.

This is the second round of houses to be set for hearings before the commission. Criswell said a

house at 526 W. 16th is gone, but a deck has yet to be removed. Demolition has started on a house at 510 W. 15th, he said. New owners have cut the trees at the house at 204 W. Sixth and are beginning to work on repairs.

Criswell said the owners of these three houses have until May 7 to demonstrate substantial progress.

He said once the hearings are held on the two houses on Montana, the commission will determine if they are to be demolished or give the owners time to repair the homes.

In other business, the commission:

- Approved allowing the mayor to sign a resolution to have the state Department of Transportation begin the engineering phase of a project to repave K-27 from I-70 north to Business U.S..24 with concrete.

The state will pay up to \$750,000 for each phase of the project, but the city must pay the engineering cost, a maximum of \$75,000 for the total project.

Mayor Rick Billinger said his concern is that the city doesn't end up paying the \$200,000 estimated in the first discussion.

"I don't think the city should be paying anything for a state highway," Billinger said, "but I sure don't want to pay more than we have to. I think our cost is going to be about \$36,000 per phase by changing the project."

"People don't see it as the state's highway," Dechant said.

When the project was approved,



This house at 1529 Montana is one of two unoccupied homes the Goodland City Commission will hold hearings, asking the owners

to decide if they will tear them down or try to repair them.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Billinger said he wanted City Clerk Mary Volk to make a note to be sure the city's maximum amount is closer to the \$36,000.

- Heard that the city will hold a tree planting ceremony at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, May 4, to celebrate Arbor Day and the 27th year of Goodland being named a Tree City USA. City Manager Wayne Hill said the tree board has arranged with Kevin Zimmerman to plant a tree at Phillips Park that day.
- Heard that the National Weather

Service will present the city and county with the Storm Ready designation at 10 a.m. Thursday in the city commission room.

- Agreed to charge off a list of about 50 unpaid utility accounts. Volk said the accounts include three people who died and five that went bankrupt. She said the city will continue to attempt to collect from the people, and that the list is checked anytime someone tries to reconnect to city utilities. She said the accounts are charged off for account-

ing purposes, but they are always on the lookout to collect these bills.

- Established July 9 and 10 as the nights for the annual budget workshops with the commission and department supervisors. Volk said the budget has to be published by July 24.

- Heard a report from Hill that he was missing phone connections with John Topliff about the old hangar at the airport. Hill said Topliff had called the city and missed him, and Hill had called Topliff and

missed him. Hill said he would continue to try to contact Topliff to determine if he remains interested in buying the old hangar. Hill said he was surprised the roof had withstood the heavy winter snows, but felt there was some additional damage to the stringers in parts of the roof that will have to be repaired if the hangar is purchased.

The next commission meeting will be 5 p.m. on Monday, May 7, in the commission room of the City Administration Building.

Woman falls asleep, wrecks pickup on K-27

A Goodland woman was hurt when she apparently went to sleep while driving on K-27 south of town Saturday and her car went off the road into the west ditch, striking a utility pole.

Carol Aaron, 44, was taken to Goodland Regional Medical Center, where she was treated and released.

Trooper Joe Greene of the Kansas Highway Patrol reported that she was driving a 1979 Dodge pickup northbound about noon

about 10 miles south of Goodland when her car went off the curve about a mile south of the Smoky Hill River bridge.

Her three passengers, Monica Aaron, 20, Reese Thomczek, 2 weeks, and Aubrey Aaron, 1, were uninjured. Everyone had safety restraints, Trooper Greene reported, but Aubrey's child seat was not secured well.

The vehicle was towed by Alex's Radiator.

corrections

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should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

Vietnam vets invited to meetings

An organization that helps Vietnam-era veterans get government benefits might start a chapter in northwest Kansas.

Vietnam Veterans of America has a chapter in Hays, and its president is inviting veterans from northwest Kansas to come to meetings there to see what the group can do for them. The group will meet at 1 p.m. (Mountain Time) Saturday at the Hays Veterans of Foreign Wars, 22nd and Vine.

Mark Ward, 30, Army recruiter in Hays, will speak. He recently returned from serving at Camp Anaconda in Iraq. Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend, said President Kolb Kobler; joining the organization is not required.

The group is trying to get members in the Goodland and Colby areas to carpool to Hays,

Kobler said, and see if there is enough interest to start a chapter out here.

Members don't have to join to come to the meetings, he said; they can just come see what the organization can do for them. Many veterans don't realize, he said, it's best for them to be in the system for benefits before they actually need to go to a Veterans Affairs clinic.

Many also don't realize that the group is for everyone who served on active duty in the Vietnam era, Kobler said, not just those who went overseas. It is for men and women who served in the military, he said, whether a soldier, a pilot, a secretary or a nurse.

Membership is open to those who served in Vietnam after Feb. 28, 1961, or anywhere from Aug. 5, 1964, through May 7, 1975.

The group meets at 1 p.m. (Mountain Time)

the fourth Saturday of each month except July and November, Kobler said. To get to the hall, he said, take the Vine Street exit (U.S. 183), he said, and go south to 22nd.

If a veteran wants to join, he said, the cost right now just \$30 for the first three years. Normally, it's \$50, he said, but the state council take off \$20 of a new membership.

The organization helps veterans get in touch with the government for life insurance, education benefits and health benefits, the Board of Veterans Appeals and Social Security, helps them get copies of their military records and provides other services, he said.

For information, call Kobler at (785) 650-1378.

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