

Veterans Day program set for Monday



By Ramona C. Sanders
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The Veterans of Foreign Wars hopes more than 100 Sherman County residents join them to celebrate Veterans Day during the annual service at 11 a.m. on Monday, said quartermaster Joe Wahrman.

The national holiday is Sunday, Nov. 11.

Wahrman said Goodland's VFW Post 1133, located at 824 Main Street, has been holding a Veterans Day program since 1986 when he was the post commander. The Auxiliary American Legion Post 117 is also organizing the service.

"We started it because we're supposed to have a program to honor our

veterans, those who have served and those who are serving now," said Wahrman, a Vietnam War veteran.

There are currently three men and one woman from the 170th Maintenance Company of the Kansas National Guard who are deployed to Iraq, said Staff Sgt. Mark Reasoner.

Reasoner said four more men have recently returned from Iraq and 11 total have been sent to the war-torn country since Operation Iraqi Freedom began in 2003. Of those, two have served two tours of duty; one - Ernie Gonzales - has been injured; and one - Derrick Lutters - gave his life in military service to his country.

Reasoner will be recognizing those men and women during the service. The

ceremony will include the awarding of prizes for a Voices of Democracy speech contest and a Patriot Pen essay contest. Voices of Democracy is a high school club and Patriot Pen is an organization for junior high students.

Two Goodland High School students are competing for the Voices of Democracy \$75 cash prize with videotaped five-minute speeches. The winner will be eligible to compete in regional, state and national contests with the ultimate prize being a \$30,000 college scholarship.

The free ceremony will include a presentation by the Kansas National Guard Color Guard, a talk on the VFW auxiliary activities, a scripture reading, prayer and music. A reception will be

held before and after the program.

The event will be a time for veterans of all branches, wars and types of military service to "come out to visit and meet some of their good old comrades," said Wahrman.

Veterans Day was first celebrated as Armistice Day proclaimed by President Woodrow Wilson in 1919 after World War I. It became a legal federal holiday on Nov. 11, 1921 and was changed to Veterans Day in 1954 by a proclamation from President Dwight D. Eisenhower.

All government offices, including the Post Office and the Sherman County transfer station, and local banks will be closed on Monday. Schools in the Goodland School District will be open.

Hospital reviews emergency preparedness plan

By Ramona C. Sanders
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What if a tornado touched down in Goodland, striking the local grocery store, senior apartment complex and hospital, resulting in power outages and injuries? How would the staff at Goodland Regional Medical Center handle such an emergency?

Those are the questions medical staff, executives and employees at the hospital examined Wednesday as they held their first group exercise in emergency preparedness and response.

"To my knowledge this is the first full-blown hospital disaster drill of this kind we've had," said Bruce Gleason, the medical center's Emergency Management Coordinator.

Gleason said the hospital has had drills on a small scale before, but not on a level that involved representatives from every department sitting down together to discuss specific disaster responses.

"We can look at our disaster plan and see what we have, what we're doing and what we need to do," Gleason said.

Gleason provided the group with a demonstration of the statewide Emergency Management system. The on-line program links every hospital in the state and helps them communicate available resources including hospital beds, supplies and equipment.

Four groups of five to six employees huddled together for a table top discussion led by Ann Zielinski from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Zielinski's exercise introduced a hypothetical scenario of a tornado that destroys a local farm, Wal-Mart, Wheat Ridge Acres and a portion of the medical center.

Zielinski said the training exercise provides hospital staff with methods to analyze roles and responsibilities and to communicate more effectively.

"This makes them think through the whole process," she said. "They as a team talk about things and what they come to as a consensus."

The exercise posed questions such as what are you doing to prepare, what are your immediate actions, what are your resources and how will you notify others. Each table was required to discuss those questions and document their answers.

Gleason said he will be compiling the responses to create an improvement plan for the hospital. The improvement plan will be turned into the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Gleason said it is one of the medical center's requirements for receiving grants from the federal Department of Homeland Security.

But more importantly, Chief Executive Officer Jay Jolly said, the exercise better prepares hospital staff for an emergency.

"Those exercises raise questions you don't think of everyday," he said, "and it helps you continually identify things in your plan that need to be changed or need to be updated because circumstances are different."



Goodland Regional Medical Center held its first emergency preparedness and response table talk exercise Wednesday. The talk included medical staff, executives and employees from each department. One group included (from left to right) Chief Executive Officer Jay Jolly, Administrative Assistant Ericka Wieck, Outpatient Clinic Manager Pam Kinsinger, Human Resources Director Dale Schields and Director of Marketing and Volunteer Services Tina Goodwin.

Photo by Ramona C. Sanders/The Goodland Star-News

Children's Book Week encourages reading

By Sharon Corcoran
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The 88th annual celebration of Children's Book Week begins Monday. The week runs through Sunday, Nov. 18, and its theme is "Rise Up Reading!"

Building upon the energy and fun of this theme, said Karen Gillihan, director of the Goodland Public Library, Children's Book Week introduces young people to new authors and new ideas through books.

The Children's Book Council, the national sponsor of the week, encourages all parents and caregivers to spend time with their kids during the week exploring the exciting world of children's books in a bookstore or library, Gillihan said.

The first Children's Book Week celebrated the goal of bringing parents, teachers, librarians, booksellers and publishers together, she said, quoting Frederic Melcher, a founder of the program, "to talk about books and reading and, out of our knowledge and love of books, to put the cause of children's reading squarely before the whole community and, community by community, across the whole nation."

Eighty-eight years later, she said, this noble cause is as important as ever before. During Children's Book Week, and indeed every week, parents have the opportunity to share with their kids the joy and wonder

of reading.

Reading is a tool, Gillihan said, a tremendous tool, without which life is very difficult. But reading can, and should, also be an enjoyable, moving, and exciting experience.

Everyone who's ever cried with Wilbur the Pig, laughed with Charlie and Willie Wonka, run with Tom and Huck or just spent an afternoon with Harry Potter, knows how a book can change lives in ways both great and small, she said.

Visit the library and spend time looking through books, she said — look at the covers and the pictures inside, read the descriptions, a few pages, or even the entire book. Take a couple of books home with you.

If you can't go out, Gillihan said, celebrate at home. Read your favorite books together. Act out a favorite scene. Have a party featuring snacks from your kids' favorite stories, such as "Stone Soup" or "Green Eggs and Ham."

Reading shouldn't be a chore, she said, and there's no better way to make reading fun for your children than to make it a family activity. You'll have a great time with your family and give your children a love for this valuable experience that will serve them well for years to come.

"The Goodland Public Library will be having regular story times as well as contests to participate in during the week," Gillihan said. "Come in and Check Us Out!"

Christmas gift donations to be collected

Sometimes great things come in small boxes.

KGCR Radio located west of Brewster is the collection point for Samaritan's Purse's Operation Christmas Child. People are asked to donate gifts for children and package them in a shoe box. The boxes will be distributed around the world.

"It goes to needy children," said James Claassen, KGCR station manager.

"There's been quite a few churches in the area doing this," he said. "Last year, Hoxie collected over 600 boxes. Some of our staff got involved and that developed into us contacting them. They needed a collection point. We were a good fit."

Collection dates at KGCR are Nov. 12-19. Boxes can be left at the station from 10-8 p.m. weekdays and from 2-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. All times are Central.

The Goodland Church of the Nazarene, located at 305 Caldwell Ave., will be accepting shoe box donations until Monday.

Claassen said the general rule is if the gift does not fit in a shoe box, don't put it in a box. That does not mean the gift won't be accepted. Using shoe boxes makes it easier to ship and meet overseas shipping regulations.

"Stuffed animals and bags of pencils can be accepted. We can package those things. There are some limitations," Claassen said. "The size of shoe box doesn't matter. But please no guns or violent toys. The gifts are mainly for kids under 12." Other than toys, school supplies or personal items will not be accepted.

The goal is to have 1,200 boxes. The truck at KGCR will hold 4,500 boxes.

Gifts are broken down by age groups 2-4, 5-9 and 10-14. Labeling

the box with the age and gender of the gift is suggested. A \$7 donation per box to cover shipping costs is encouraged but not required.

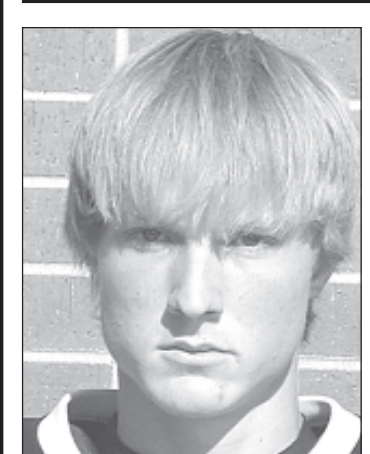
The truck will be loaded Nov. 20 and sent to Minneapolis. The gifts will eventually be distributed among the former Soviet countries.

KGCR is located about four miles west of Brewster. To reach

the station from Brewster, go west on Manchester Street, which is on the north side of town. The station is adjacent to its tower.

For more information, go to www.kgcr.org and click on the link to Operation Christmas Child. For those without Internet access, the station can be reached at 888-882-5427.

student of the week



Name: Josh Doke
Parents: Frtiz and Susan Doke
Grade: Senior
Age: 17

We've nominated this student because: of his work in Calculus. He has done an excellent job in calculus and has also been selected by the mathe department to participate in the Fort Hays Math Relays.

Student Comment: I have enjoyed my years at Goodland High School and I will always remember all

the great times I've had with my friends.

Activities involved in at school: football, basketball, baseball, Future Career Community Leaders of America, American Red Cross, G Club, National Honor Society

My choice of movies, books, and games: I like any movie with Will Ferrell or Christian Bale in it and my favorite musical artists are Kenny Chesney and Fall Out Boy

After I leave Goodland High School I intend to: go to college and work towards a degree in film.

And 10 years from now, I think I'll be: settling down and making a living doing what I truly love.

Favorite Quote: "Strive to be better than others deem necessary" Anonymous.

corrections

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