

Northwest Tech selects candidates for Student of the Year

Candidates for Northwest Tech Student of the Year were announced at a special banquet, and the winner will be announced at graduation to be held at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, May 21 at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

Dr. Ed Mills, college president, congratulated all of the students as outstanding students of the year at the banquet held in their honor at Sugar Hills Golf Club.

"Each one of these students are very deserving of this honor," said Dr. Mills.

Student candidates include Zachary W. Lohr, a student in the electrical technology program. Lohr is a 2009 graduate of Goodland High School.

"Zachary is a very accomplished student and well deserving of this honor," Mills said.

Other candidates include: Brent White, Automotive Technology

Kayla Bentley, Business Technology



Lohr

Casey Beasley, Carpentry
Kylor Campbell, Collision Repair
Randall Osban, Communication Technology
Jacob Korte, Computer Graphic Technology
Lynn Moss, Cosmetology
Brent McArtor, Diesel Technology

Alan Bruggeman, Engineering Technology
Linc Ostmeyer, HVAC/R
Kara Melchert, Medical Assistant

Pleasant Reese, Respiratory Therapy

Tyler Biernacki, Telecommunications Network
John Meitl, Welding

For information on programs Northwest Tech offers, go to www.nwktc.edu or call 1-800-316-4127.

Stroke topic for weekly Doctors on Call program

Stroke is the topic for the Doctors on Call program at 6 p.m., on Tuesday, on Smoky Hills Public Television.

Dr. Daniel Sanchez, Plainville Medical Clinic and Phil Sechtem from Fort Hays State's Herndon Speech-Language-Hearing Clinic will answer questions in this live viewer call-in program.

The half-hour program will air at 6 p.m., on Tuesday, with an encore performance schedule for 2:20 p.m., on Sunday.

Smoky Hills Public Television is a non-profit organization providing programming and services for 71 counties in central and western Kansas. For more information, visit www.smokyhillstv.org.

matters of record

District Traffic

The following fines have been paid in the Sherman County District Court.

February 2: Samuel W. Beckman, speeding, \$146.

Ricardo G. Lopez, motor carrier safety rules and regulations, \$186

February 3: Armando Armandariz, no valid license, \$146.

Richard D. McHenry, operating vehicle with no valid license,

\$60; attempting to operator motor vehicle with no valid license, \$60; no oversize permit, \$136.

Eric D. Cullens, unlawful parking, \$176.

February 4: Nicholas M. Molin, speeding, \$176.

Ariel K. Hapke, speeding, \$185.

Donald H. Shannon, Jr., no oversize permit, \$136; motor carrier safety rules and regulations, \$186.

Green house coming together



Carpentry students from Northwest Tech are getting into the finishing work in the 'green' house on Center Ave. Students taped around the shower and tub installed in one of the bathrooms to finish the walls. The water system has been installed and was tested for leaks last week. The house has a new porch and sidewalk in front. The main walls inside have been painted and the students are beginning to install the kitchen fixtures. The work continues inside with installation of stairs to the unfinished basement.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Two new plans to be offered for Medicare Supplement

Kansans who have Medicare Supplement plans will see additional plans offered and some current plans sales eliminated on Tuesday, June 1, according to Sandy Praeger, Commissioner of Insurance.

Two new Medicare Supplement plans (also called Medigap plans) will be available then and the sale of four current plans will be stopped. Currently, there are 12 types of Medicare supplement plans, labeled Plan A through Plan L.

"The changes will provide lower out-of-pocket expenses to consumers and give some additional benefits in the ongoing plans," Praeger said.

Medicare supplement plans are plans sold by private insurance companies to cover health care costs that are not benefits of Medicare in original Medicare plans. The Kansas Insurance Department does not regulate Medicare, a federal program, but it does have the power to regulate supplemental plans.

"Medigap plans available in Kansas must abide by all federal and state laws that are designed to protect consumers," Praeger said.



sandy praeger

- insurance comm.

"However, because these plans are sold through private insurers, prices for the same plan may vary from company to company.

Information about the supplement plans is available on the department's web site at www.ksinsurance.org, under the quick link "Medicare/Seniors." Additionally a department booklet "Medicare Supplement Insurance Shopper's Guide" is scheduled for publication in the near future. Booklets can be ordered or downloaded from the web site.

The guide complements "Choosing a Medigap Policy: A Guide to Health Insurance for People with Medicare," which was created by the federal centers for Medicare and Medicaid and the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.

A summary of the basic Medicare

supplement changes are:

- The "at-home recovery" benefit will be dropped from 2010 Medigap Plans D and G. The benefit was deemed underutilized and outdated, give the limited availability of the benefit in the old plans.

- All plans will have a hospice care benefit added to them. The preventive care and at-home recovery benefits will be eliminated from all supplemental policies.

- Preventive care will be dropped from 2010 Medigap policies. This was considered underutilized, given the enhanced benefits now available for preventive care under Medicare Part B that are not subject to Medicare's deductible and co-payment requirements.

- Plan G will have 100 percent coverage for excess charges; it currently has 80 percent coverage for such charges.

- A new hospice benefit will be added to all plans except Plans K and L, which already include a hospice benefit. This will ensure that hospice coverage is available to all beneficiaries. The new hospice benefit covers cost sharing for all Part A eligible hospice and respite care expenses. Medicare provides coverage for inpatient respite care up to five days, less a co-pay amount of five percent of the daily benefit. The new hospice benefit will pick up this five percent co-pay.

- Plan E will no longer be available for new sales because Plan E is the same as Plan D once benefit eliminations are made.

- Plans H, I and J will no longer

be available for new sales, due to the elimination of the prescription benefit.

- Two new Medigap plans - Plan M and Plan N - will be available for sale beginning Tuesday, June 1. The two new plans are designed to give beneficiaries higher cost-sharing responsibilities and lower estimated premiums. New Plan M include 50 percent coverage of the Medicare Part A deductible, but does not cover the Medicare Part B deductible. New Plan N includes full 100 percent coverage of the Part A deductible, but no coverage for the Part B deductible, similar to Plan

D. Coverage of the Part B deductible is subject to a new co-pay structure. The co-pay is up to \$20 for office visits and up to \$50 for emergency room visits (waived upon admission to the hospital.)

"I ask older Kansans to review their Medigap plans to see if they will be affected by the changes," Praeger said. "The Medicare Supplement agents who sold them the plans can also help check to see if lower rates are available."

For more information, call the department at (800) 432-2484 to discuss concerns with consumer assistance representative.



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