

## Take charge challenge win goes to Colby

At a special presentation held in Topeka last week Colby was named the winner of the Northwest Kansas Take Charge Energy Challenge and will receive the \$100,000 prize.

The Goodland Take Charge Leadership Team was disappointed the city did not win, but feels the nine-month effort brought some good community awareness and a friendly competitive spirit.

Team would like to thank the community for all the support during the past nine months of the challenge," said Amy Thorson, who along with Shauna Johnson led the city efforts. "Although the energy efficient prize was not awarded to Goodland, we feel the message about saving energy and cost has been valuable to our community.

"Our vision for the future is to continue to provide the tools to

improve properties and increase savings."

City Manager Doug Gerber said he attended the announcement ceremony and was disappointed Goodland was not the winner.

"We felt the efforts of our community had put us in a good position to win," he said, "but that was not the final outcome."

During the challenge, 55 residents took advantage of the whole house

audits. The City became a utility partner with Efficiency Kansas and although the state has cut funding the city is researching additional funding options for the "Good Idea Program," which would allow opportunities to assist individuals who would like to upgrade their property, Johnson said. For information about programs homeowners need to contact Johnson at the city office for details.

Gerber said the city will receive ownership of some of the tools to do home energy audits, and will be interested in finding anyone who is qualified or can become qualified to do home energy audits.

Our community committed to changing out 14,546 standard light bulbs to CFL light bulbs, which saves approximately \$65,900 in energy costs," Thorson said. "We were able to deliver lots of energy saving

information with goodies, prizes and had tons of support during our events from those who attended. The city was able to invest 25,000 grant dollars into the community through the Challenge.

Gerber said "We feel Thorson, Johnson and the other Take Charge team members did a great job, and the city will continue to work to continue the energy saving programs started during the competition."

## Wreck on Exit 19

A Fort Riley woman got off on the wrong exit, failed to stop at the stop sign and hit another vehicle trying to return to the Interstate on Friday, Oct. 28.

Mitzy Ortiz, 29, was driving her 2006 Chevy Equinox westbound when she got off on Exit 19.

Ortiz' vehicle hit Melissa Reed, 41, of Colby in a 2006 Chevy on the left front side. Ortiz' vehicle spun out and came to rest in the ditch off mile marker 19. Reed was going south on U.S. Business 24. Reed was injured and was taken by ambulance to Goodland Regional Medical Center. There were two children, Thomas Renyon, 10, and Luis Ortiz, 6, were passengers and were unhurt.

McBs towed off both vehicles.

Rural Sherman County Fire Rescue helped emergency medical technicians get a wreck victim ready for transport in the ambulance to the Goodland Regional Medical Center.

Photo by Pat Schiefen  
The Goodland Star-News



## Sherman County woman honored for service

The Friend of 4-H award was presented to a Goodland woman at the Sherman County Achievement Awards program held Sunday at the Methodist Fellowship Hall.

The Sunflower Extension District Sherman County Friend of 4-H Award was presented to Cris Wilson by Dana Belshe, Sunflower Extension Agent. Wilson owns and operates Joyful Noise Preschool.

She was honored with the Friend of 4-H award for her years of outstanding volunteer service and dedication to the Sherman County 4-H program. She believes in helping kids have a good learning experience and that extends into her volunteer service to the 4-H program.

Wilson's roots in 4-H go back to her days growing up in Morton County. She was a member of the Best Yet 4-H Club. During her 4-H

career she was in: clothing, foods, beef, horse and swine projects. She was a member of the square dance club and toured the area with the troupe.



Wilson

As a volunteer for the Sherman County 4-H program Wilson has served as a camp counselor and helped take kids to the Rock Springs Ranch 4-H Camp numerous times.

She is a project leader for several projects including: Exploring 4-H, Level One Foods, Citizenship, Reading and will be taking on the new Clover Buds project. Clover Buds is a new 4-H project designed for 5 and 6 year old kids.

In addition to being a project leader, she serves as the club leader for the Sunflower 4-H Club and is a 4-H Council Advisor. She is a registered Master Volunteer for the

state 4-H program and conducts volunteer training for the V.I.P. (Volunteer Information Profile) program within the district.

Wilson is a member of the Sherman County Fair Board and serves as secretary. She can be seen at most 4-H dog, horse and livestock events working the computers and documenting the results. Her involvement with the fair does not stop with the fair board. She is an active member of the home-owned carnival committee helping to insure our youth have a great fair experience.

Among Wilson's 4-H highlights would be her son, Jordan's, participation. He was a 12 year 4-H member; he was a two term 4-H Ambassador; he received the I Dare You Leadership award and the 4-H Key Award. The Key award is given to about 1 percent percent of states 4-H membership.

## Colby postmaster under investigation

Colby Postmaster Kenton Krehbiel and customer services supervisor Stanley Strange were placed on paid leave last week in an ongoing internal investigation.

The Office of the Inspector General for the U.S. Postal Service issued a statement this morning, saying they conducted an investigation at the Colby Post Office. They found there was a violation of Postal Service procedures regarding the External First Class Measurement system. The system involves using an outside contrac-

tor to independently measure delivery time of local mail.

The Inspector General's office said no one was arrested, and the results of the investigation were turned over to Postal Service management so they could take appropriate action.

Brian Sperry, regional spokesman for the Postal Service, said that due to privacy laws concerning personnel, the service couldn't comment any further.

Goodland Postmaster Penny Sheldon will temporarily filling

the Colby post.

Krehbiel has been postmaster in Colby since February of 2004. Before that he was postmaster in Goodland for seven years. He has also worked in post offices in Oakley, Garden City and Hutchinson since joining the Postal Service in 1975 as a clerk and carrier.

Krehbiel is currently the president of the Colby Community College Board of Trustees. He has been on the board for 22 years and before that served on College Endowment Association board.

### corrections

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news 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.

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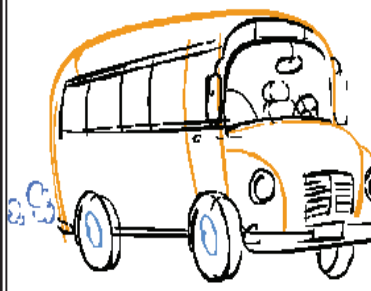
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