



Chili by the Boy Scouts

Boy Scouts Charles Lammers (standing left in left photo) and Zach Breining served some of the guests their choice of beverage at the Scouts' annual chili feed Saturday afternoon in the Goodland United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall. Jed Snethen (left in above photo) and Kevin Amthor cleaned up a table to make ready for the next guests. More than 600 people were served.

Photos by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News

Storm spotter class Wednesday at Goodland armory

Everyone is invited to a storm spotter class at 7 p.m. Wednesday at the Goodland National Guard armory.

The free class is for people of all ages interested in severe weather on the High Plains, said Joy Hayden of the National Weather Service's Goodland office.

Training is scheduled once a year, usually a month or two before the start of the most active season for severe weather.

Storm spotters help watch approaching storms and give early warning of developing tornadoes and other severe weather.

Weather service radar detects only a weather pattern that produces tornadoes, said Keith Brewster of the Center for Analysis and Prediction of Storms, and spotters report the actual development of tornadoes and their location.

Certain tornadoes can develop before radar can spot them at all.

Through slide and film presentations, said Brewster, students will see what to look for and how to stay safe while watching a storm.

Other classes are scheduled at the Colby Community Building at 7 p.m. (Central Time) next Tuesday; at the St. Francis High School at 7 p.m. (Central Time) Monday, March 29; at the emergency medical services building in Tribune at 7 p.m. (Mountain Time) Tuesday, March 30; and at Decatur Commu-

nity High School in Oberlin at 7 p.m. (Central Time) Monday.

The time for Wallace County has not been confirmed.

For information, call Mary Messamore, Sherman County emergency management director, at 899-4575 or the weather office at 899-7119.

Wednesday's training falls in Kansas Severe Weather Awareness Week, which began Monday.

At 9:30 a.m. today, the weather

service will issue a test tornado warning for Goodland and the sirens will be sounded.

About 15 minutes later, the test will end with the all clear.

The warning will be a solid tone lasting about three minutes, people will be notified of all clear by the media.

David Floyd, warning coordination meteorologist in Goodland, said everyone is encouraged to take part in the drill and seek shelter as

if it were a real warning.

In 2003, 91 tornadoes were reported in Kansas, killing eight people and seriously injuring 84, said Joy Moser, public information director for the state Adjutant General's Department.

Both figures are the most since 1991. The peak season is April, May and June; last year 78 of the 91 storms appeared during this period. There were 21 on May 8 alone.

New director enthusiastic

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News
Courtney Warden is enthusiastic about her new job as executive director of the Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce, and she has a lot to be excited about.

Warden attended her first board meeting last Tuesday and, after a short introduction all around, found out just how busy she will be. Since she started work on March 1, she been tasked to: plan the annual meeting, put a website together and increase membership by winning the people's confidence in the Chamber back.

"I'm really enjoying the job,"

Warden said, "I am excited about the new look of the Chamber. I want to have people talking about the positive things the Chamber of Commerce is doing, instead of all negative comments."

"I am looking to get involved in every aspect I can in the job. I want the Chamber's membership list to be a list everyone wants to be on."

Before taking the Chamber job, Warden was a massage therapist at Unruh Family Chiropractic, 1015 Main Ave.

She and her husband Dylan arrived in Goodland in June from the Naval Submarine Base at Groton, Conn., where he was stationed as a

dental technician until his release from active duty in May. He is now a dental hygienist for Dr. Tim Poling in St. Francis.

Warden said she grew up in Sharon Springs graduating from Wallace County High School in 1995. She attended Barton County Community College in Great Bend, receiving an associate's degree in athletic administration in 1998.

Next Warden attended the Colorado School of Healing Arts in Lakewood, where she earned certification as a massage therapist in June. She earned a bachelor's degree in general studies from Fort Hays State University in May, mostly working through the Virtual College.

She married Dylan, a native of Tribune, in June 2000 and moved to the Marine Corps Air Base in Twentynine Palms, Calif., where he was stationed before Connecticut.

Warden's mother and stepfather, Kelly and Bruce Livengood, live in Kanorado. Her father is Stan Weeks of Sharon Springs, and she is the granddaughter of Leo Stephens, also of Sharon Springs.

liams and Louise Ehmke were chosen as delegates.

Selected as alternates were Cal Williams, Tom Betz, O.D. Calhoun, Bob Hooper, John Ostmeyer, Rosalee Seemann, Tracey Perkins, Rebekah Petersen, Vera Sloan and Tisha Cox.

After the rules were explained, everyone had 10 minutes to decide who they wanted to support and line up in a designated spot.

When the caucus started, more than two-thirds of the room went to the Kerry side and eventually almost every one ended up casting their vote for Kerry.

Howard Dean had two supporters during the caucus, Bob Hooper and his wife from Bogue. Hooper gave a pitch on Dean to the Kerry group but didn't have any takers.

Judith Sears with the Thomas County party said people should be outraged by what the current administration is doing.



Warden

State delegates chosen

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

Thirty to 40 Democrats turned out for the state's Democratic Party caucus Saturday in Colby, with an overwhelming majority lending their support to the front-runner, Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts.

Ten delegates and 10 alternates were selected to attend the 1st Congressional District convention in Ellsworth on Saturday, April 3.

Tim Petersen, 1st District party chair, talked briefly before the caucus.

"It's good to see we have the support out here," he said, adding the caucus' purpose was to elect the 10 delegates to the district convention. Five men and five women were chosen, along with alternates for each.

Bob Strevey, Chris Gordon, Tim Petersen, Ken Poland, Tom Dreiling, Carol Barnes, Sandra Stenzil, Cathy Gordon, Diane Wil-

Commissioners learn about clinic

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

The High Plains Mental Health clinic in Goodland has a new therapist, Sherman County commissioners learned last Tuesday.

Tracy Hillmer, head of the clinic, and Meripat Bowman, a member of the advisory board, talked to the commissioners about the operation.

Hillmer said the therapist, Kathleen Harris, moved from Denver and bought a house in Goodland.

That brings the staffing to three therapists, two case workers and two secretaries, Hillmer said.

The third therapist is Elizabeth Hernandez

She said one of the case workers, Tammy Pettijohn, handles the load in St. Francis and the other, Sharon Gray, handles Sharon Springs.

The two secretaries are Marilyn Hefner and Diana Dycus.

She said they have no problems to report, and Commissioners Mitch Tiede and Kevin Rasure said they had not heard any complaints.

Hillmer said there is some concern about the state

changing its mental health program, because it would allow more groups to use prescription drug money.

That might cause some problems for High Plains, which works with families to help with prescription needs.

Bowman said statistics for the 18-county service area show Sherman County in the top three for use, and the county has the highest admission rate to state facilities.

She said the center's director plans to talk with commissioners in May about the budget and the property tax levy, and he will bring a complete breakdown on the people being helped through the clinic.

Hillmer said they have a new brochure about emergency after-hours telephone service, adding that the person answering the calls is a licensed clinician.

She said the after-hours service is to provide help when the office is closed, including weekends and holidays. The number is (800) 432-0333.

corrections

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

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