Angels on Hospice tree honor people, donations

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News Each hand-made crocheted angel hanging on the Hospice Memorial Christmas Tree at the First National Bank represents someone with a connection to the organization.

Even if just through the donation the ornament represents, those honored or memorialized on the tree help support hospice throughout the vear.

"It's just for anybody who wants to honor somebody who is living," said Linda Knott, Sherman County coordinator for Hospice, "or to remember someone who has passed awav.'

Hospice helps care for those who are dying. One nurse and a social worker are stationed in Goodland to

and ease them and their families through death.

"Hospice is not set up to prolong life," she said. "It is to make patients more comfortable, not just physically, but spiritually and emotionally."

The nurse takes care of any medical needs, she said, and the social worker helps patients and families cope with terminal diseases.

Knott added that the service is not just for cancer patients, but any terminal disease, and it is available to patients of any age.

Right now, she said, Hospice is only serving one family, but they have been up to four or five at a time in the past.

helps to keep patients comfortable Phillipsburg to coordinate care. "They do a fantastic job," she

> said, "of running the whole show." Along with services from the professionals, Knott said, patients are matched up with volunteers. She said the volunteers will help clean, run errands or even just spend time with patients and their family.

"You name it," she said, "and we'll do it."

She said seven to 10 active volunteers are essential to the organization.

"We couldn't do it without our volunteers," she said. "They are so good. I call them up and they change their schedules to help. They're very giving people."

Most insurance policies and She said the social worker and Medicare help pay for hospice serhelp people. Knott said Hospice nurse work with the main office in vices, Knott said, but some patients vice requirement and helps out McKee. She said the contribution help with the donations.

need help to pay for extras. Dona- Hospice. tions through fund raisers like the memorial tree raise money for those.

The money raised from the memorial tree, she said, will be used for everything from medical supplies to prescription drugs.

There are several organizations that have helped raise money for Hospice," said Susan Johnson, with trust operations for First National Bank.

Judy McKee, president of the 'Tis the Season Hallmark Club, said the group raised \$962 for Hospice in the weeks leading up to Christmas.

Through a holiday garage sale, bake sale and drawing, she said, the eight-member club fulfills its annual community ser-

"We feel like they're one organization that's sort of in the background," McKee said.

This year, the sale was held at McKee's house, and she said, the club plans to organize it again next year.

A drawing for a Barbie collectable gift set started at the garage sale and moved from there to the orthodontist office of Dr. Chris Lovell then to the First National Bank and on to Jacque's Hallmark for their Holiday Open House.

Judge Jack Burr won the prize, which was donated by Jacque's.

The club donated another \$150 through a charitable contribution from Gary Lucas, a sales representative for Pioneer Seed Co., to

came right in time for the Hospice fund-raising project.

Knott said more Hospice donations come from cans scattered throughout town. Picnic in the Park Chester Fried Chicken has one set up near the drinks station, asking for a donation for each refill.

She said the memorial tree is still their major fund raiser.

"We've had it up for quite a few years now," she said. "There are some gorgeous angles out there."

Donations to Hospice are tax deductible, and the angel tree will be up through the end of the year.

To buy an angel, people are asked to come into the bank and fill out an "in honor of" or "in memory of" request along with the donation. Johnson said anyone at the bank can

Year nearly over; Christmas a time of sadness for several families

It's one week to Christmas and another before 2004 is gone forever. It's a year that many will remember forever with pain and tears.

This Christmas will be one of extreme sadness for several families who hope 2005 will help to heal some of their grief.

So far, I've had a good Christmas. Several of my many friends are remembering me with gifts of food. Among these gifts was some homemade bread and beef stew from a former bowling member Alice and Leslie Watkins; Chex mix, made by Tia and from Mike Brannick, Milan and Cieanna; friend Lucille treated me to some beef and bacon; and my



while in rehab, brought two of his homemade coffee cakes.

Speaking of Al, he calls me every they may come up with some sugso often to keep me posted on his progress. This man spent most of 2004 battling paralysis from the use of his hands and arms. neck down but has made tremendous improvement.

His hands, right leg and feet are still not totally awake, but he can friend Al, who I made friends with use them with his being very care-



There's no guarantee that they will find all the answers, but at least gestions. At first, he was told he's never going to walk or even get the

When he got to the center, they had just taken out the trach tube and got him off the respirator and ventilator.

He couldn't even feed or dress

aids except the use of the handrails in the halls.

Now at home, he uses the walker only rarely, the same with no help other than an occasional use of a cane.

He's even been doing a little driving. In fact, he brought himself over to my house. It's good to see him at this stage, and I hope this study will bring him even closer to normal movement. You never know what is on deck for us tomorrow.

Birthdays in the week of the 19th

ful. He will be at- himself or take care of his basic Milan Brannick, Marilyn Imel, Harden and his metal sculptures, needs. I watched him progress from Lucille Nash, Mary Brady, Derrick wheelchair, braces, walker to cane Bose, Chris Sun, Michelle and then some walking without any Hartman, Sally Farr and Lucille illnesses, either at home or in a hos-Bose. The Boses are from Nebraska, Lucille being the former Lucille Fixsen. Best wishes to these and any others having a special day these last two weeks of 2004.

There's one anniversary, that of Sidney and Richard Rasure. Best wishes to them and any others.

I had a phone call that someone in the Lloyd Harden family was having medical problems. I have ing the loss of loved ones. It's tough been unable to find out who and at any time but especially hard at what or where. Maybe next week. holiday time. On that note, I will The caller thought I might know close and get this ready for the painclude belated best wishes to since I had written about Mr. per.

but I don't know anything.

Get well wishes to those battling pital. May they improve and feel like normal once again.

I will close and finish my cards. I have had more interruptions, but maybe it just seems like that, since it is a chore, not one of my favorites. I like to get them and hear from former Colorado friends, but it's not a happy chore for me.

Sincere sympathy to those feel-

Some of us need a script, a dropcloth and a personal secretary to get through life

No one likes to spill food on himself in a public place. Whether it's soda or coffee down the front of a blouse or gravy on a tie, it's embarrassing.

A friend suggested that maybe some of us (meaning me) should wear a bib or an apron while eating. Sometimes that would be handy, but there's no way to pass it off as fashionable.

Of course, I don't blame myself. I'm no klutz. And I'm so careful. I usually grab a stack of napkins, just in case, and use silverware for almost everything that isn't a sandwich or french fries.

So someone else must be to blame. For example, last Sunday, while eating out with friends, I ended up with salsa down the front tually at fault for these things. I can lunch on my clothes. of my entire outfit. Why? I blame it complain to friends and relatives on the restaurant.



finger food, yet the waiter didn't ticing the obvious, so I keep my bring a plate with it. So I tried to eat mouth shut. it with my hands.

but I didn't want to be a bother. I stupid once in a while. Like Sunday, don't know why. I was the customer; it was my job to be a bother kins to soak up the mess and still had if that's what it takes to get things done right.

Don't ask me why, but I hate to complain to the people who are ac-

I hate to make someone feel bad about not doing what they should have done in the first place, so I say nothing. I don't want to make anyone feel stupid for not no-

I should have asked for a plate, than it would cause others to feel when I had to use a big stack of napa salsa-soaked outfit to wash when I got home.

about it, but I hate to say anything me humility or made me look hu-The burrito I was eating was not to the people who could change man. Sometimes I don't like to be

humble, and most of the time, I don't like to be human.

If I could be perfect, I would, in a heartbeat. If I could wake up clean and with every hair in place, put on a perfectly-coordinated outfit that looks fabulous on me and go to work without forgetting anything I need for the day, I would be on cloud nine

If I could make it through an entire day without doing anything that makes me sound stupid, look foolish or seem in any way to be deficient at anything, life would be grand.

If I could look like one of the professionally coifed and made up models, airbrushed and in designer clothes that we always see in magazines, and not have to spend hours each day to accomplish it, I could walk with a spring in my step.

To never shove my foot in my

mouth, trip over my own two feet or one writes our lines for us, so unexsneeze in public would take a tremendous weight off my shoulders. our real, honest-to-goodness, un-And to be able to say what I mean varnished personalities with all when I need to and not blurt out what I really think when I least want people to know what I'm thinking would save me a lot of trouble.

Maybe what I really want is to be a character in a movie. Someone else picks out and puts together perfect outfits for them. They have their hair and makeup done by professionals, and someone writes all their lines for them and makes all ing as it's ending because I failed to the necessary revisions before they ever open their mouths.

And if they have to eat a burrito, or heaven forbid, spaghetti, in public, they can have numerous takes if necessary to accomplish it without spilling all over themselves.

Maybe the real problem with life is that there is no dress rehearsal. No

pected situations arise that bring out their flaws.

No matter how hard we try not to, we end up at some point showing others the things we don't like about ourselves. And then we're embarrassed.

But when it's someone else showing their flaws, we enjoy it. Then we don't feel so bad about our own.

So next time I show up to a meetnotice on the agenda what time it was to start, appear in public with food on my clothes, fail to see what's in front of my face or ask a question for which the answer should be obvious, don't laugh at me. Just say, "Thank goodness I'm not the only one who does that."

Then I won't be alone.

Usually, it causes me more pain

And in the meantime, I had to look foolish running around with

Some would argue that it taught

Former director asked to join Cavalry

One of the newest members of the Kansas Cavalry is Carolyn Applegate, former director of the Sherman County Economic Development Council office.

The Cavalry is a group of volunteer business leaders who are "ambassadors" to promote the state as an attractive place to do business.

Applegate was invited to join by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, who serves as the commander in chief, in late the same within the state. November.

"I believe the program is one that members, personally recruited by helps bring business to the state," said Applegate, "and feel honored to have been asked to join."

The Cavalry says it was organized in 1973 by Gov. Robert Dock- ment in the state and sponsors the ing after a trip to Japan to promote state's Business Appreciation investment here with a delegation Award program. The group continof Kansas business people. Dock- ues to be business ambassadors for ing believed the group worked so the state, and had developed a rewell he organized the Cavalry to do

The Cavalry started with 50-75

Docking. Since then, the group has grown and today comprises a wide variety of Kansans.

The Cavalry promotes developgional approach to encourage increased involvement.

S&T donates \$1,120 to school district

Communications donated \$1,120 to the Goodland School District last Tuesday for high-tech equipment and a music trip.

Goodland branch Manager Don Newell presented two checks to Superintendent Marvin Selby at the district office.

things like this in the future," said ing the Goodland Booster Club.

The Goodland branch of S&T Newell. "We couldn't have done this without community support."

Newell said \$910 came from S&T's fall service promotion, where \$5 from every new customer service signed up for during a 60-day period was earmarked for the school district.

The other \$210 came from a spe-"We fully plan to continue to do cial advertising promotion support-

Selby said he was very grateful for the donation. He said the \$910 would be used for technology for the elementary schools, although the specific items have yet been chosen.

Selby said the \$210 would be used to help pay for a trip to Branson, Mo., this summer for the high school vocal group Xpressos.

Area individuals, groups donate to Northwest Kansas Family Shelter; more donations needed

have donated to the Northwest Kansas Family Shelter in the last six months. The shelter is always needing items on its wish list.

Those who donated July through ist Church. November are Cindy Bohl, Deb

Nine area individuals and groups Boyle, Janet Mehling, Mary Porter- include Hays Access Van tickets; purpose kitchen and bathroom Norma Stoher of Sharon Springs; paid phone cards. the City of Brewster; Sherman County; and the Goodland Method-

field and Ada Taylor of Goodland; Dillon's or Wal-Mart gift cards; pre-

78 printer cartridges; Lexmark #16, peanut butter; boxed meals (maca-20, 26 and 70 printer cartridges; roni and cheese, Hamburger Items on the shelter's wish list laundry soap and dryer sheets; all- Helper, etc.).

cleaning supplies.

Over-the-counter medicines; Postage stamps; HP# 56, 57 and coffee and tea; Pam cooking spray;

new bath towels; business envelopes; paper supplies (toilet paper, paper towels, napkins and tissues); women's new undergarments; and pepper; new infant/child car kitchen and large trash bags; 60 or seats; new sleepwear for ladies; and 75-watt light bulbs; boxed money.

Quart and gallon freezer bags; children's snacks; small gift bags; women's new socks; contact lens solution; a VCR; copy paper; handheld can openers; sugar, flour, salt

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