

Soldier has baby, then leaves for Iraq

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News
A brand new baby and her father were separated last week as a Cheyenne Wells, Colo., man was deployed half way around the world to Iraq less than seven hours after his wife gave birth to a new baby girl.

At just 7 pounds, 10 ounces and 19 3/4 inches long, baby Ella has no idea who her daddy, Army Capt. Carl Friedrichs, is, much less that he won't be with her for the next year.

Friedrichs, son of Dennis and LeAnn Friedrichs of Goodland and Linda and Kelly Beek of Cheyenne Wells, was shipped off to Al Asad, Iraq, at 11 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 31. His wife Carly gave birth to Ella at 4:20 a.m. that day.

Dennis, who was present for the birth, said it was an emotional time when Carl had to leave.

"It was pretty tough on all of us," he said.



Carl and daughter Ella Friedrichs

Dennis joked that he thinks Ella had to come early to get a glance at Carl.

"She wanted to see her daddy," he said.

Now stationed at Fort Hood,

Texas, Friedrichs is starting his second tour in Iraq in the past three years.

He was sent overseas three years ago, just a month after Bailey, his 3-year-old daughter, was born.

"It was not a very good experience the first time," Dennis said, adding Carl didn't talk much about his experiences. "I think it's gonna be better this time."

He said Carl spent his first nine months in a tent, but the Army has dorms set up this time. Carl should be out of harm's way, Dennis said, but the area is volatile.

"That's what he wants to do, so we support him," Dennis.

Still, the entire family will be on edge for the next year. Dennis said this will be the second year of listening closely to the news and thinking about his son.

While Carl's first tour was during heavy fighting, Dennis said he is a little more concerned about the action this time.

"I think he's gonna be in the middle of it," he said.

It may be easier for Carl to keep in touch during this tour, since he left with an Army-issued computer. Dennis said the family bought web cameras so they could talk live near the end of the last tour.

Friedrichs graduated from Cheyenne Wells High School in 1997. He went to college and earned a degree in criminal justice.

After school, Dennis said, his son enlisted in the Army. He went through basic training and then into Officer's Candidate School, where he was during the terror attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

The family hasn't heard from Friedrichs since day he left Fort Hood for Fort Campbell, Ky.

Dennis said his son would fly to Kuwait, where their crews were to unload their equipment. From there, he said, the group would ride in a convoy north to Al Asad, just west and north of Baghdad.

Carl works in munitions with a support group for the 4th Infantry Division. That means he works with arms and weapons.

Carly is involved in military support groups, Dennis said, so she has some help dealing with the new baby. Even so, he said, she wasn't happy to see Carl leave.

"They have good support groups down there," Dennis said.

The family lives off base near Fort Hood, where Carly is a fifth-grade teacher. She is originally from Cheyenne Wells, too.

So far, Dennis said, even with her daddy so far away, baby Ella has been good and is sleeping well.

Board set to fill seat

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

Two candidates for seats on the Goodland School Board will be grilled Monday by current board members.

The board will pose 12 questions each to John Hendrich and Andrew House.

Members are looking to fill the

seat left by Danny Whalen, who resigned when he moved to Colorado.

Hendrich, area farmer, will be first up at 6 p.m. in the board room at the district administration office.

The 41-year-old Goodland native is a third-generation farmer, living and working about a mile and 1/2 north of town across from the airport.

Hendrich and his wife Kelly have four children, Nicole, 11; John, 10; Hiram, 8; and Wence, 6.

The kids are in Goodland schools, at West Elementary, Central and North.

Hendrich was raised in town and graduated from high school here in 1982.

He said the schools haven't changed too much since he went through, adding that he attended North, Grant Junior High and the high school.

Hendrich said didn't want to talk about his feelings on school board issues, saying he expected to tell the board how he feels at the interview on Monday.

"I'm probably going to get a lot of those questions," he said.

At 6:30 p.m., House will be interviewed by the board. The order was determined by a coin toss.

House ran for a school board seat in April, missing a seat by only 61 votes. He came in fourth in the race behind incumbent Dick Short.

House is also a native of Goodland and an area farmer.

In April, he said he was running to get involved in the community.

"I have kids in the school system," he said, "and a vested interest."

He could not be reached for comment on Wednesday.

House and his wife Gennifer, also a Goodland native, have two children, Elizabeth, 9, and Drew, 8, both in Goodland schools.

He went to school here, graduating in 1984. House earned a degree in geography in 1991 from Kansas State University.

Superintendent Marvin Selby told board members the candidate questioning and the vote for the seat must be held in open session.



House

Work continues on Pioneer Park



Mike Bohme with Miller Construction helped the crew dig holes for plants at Pioneer Park last week. The park is starting to take shape as the contractor moves toward an October completion date.

Photo by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-

Schools help out with Katrina relief

By Kathryn Burke

The Goodland Star-News

A Goodland woman has found a way to reach out, help others and get kids involved by sending care packages to victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Robin Rains is working with students in the Goodland Schools to put together boxes full of necessities to send to the Love Box Co. in Wichita.

The boxes will be donated to Gulf Coast evacuees who are relocating to Kansas.

The "Faith, Hope and Love" care packages will be decorated and filled by students, and Rains will deliver them to the Wichita firm.

But Rains said she needs your help, too, because they need individuals to donate the toiletries and other items needed.

Rains said while the campaign is for all ages, the boxes from the school will be geared towards children and teens.

For children's boxes they need toiletries, toothpaste, toothbrushes, wet wipes (Purell), teddy bears and dolls, puzzles, board games, children's books, coloring books, crayons, small children's toys, child's T-shirts, baby bottles, rattles, baby teething items,

pacifiers. For teens they want toiletries, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, card games (Uno), puzzles, flip flops, socks, sunglasses, magazines, small mirrors.

The items can be dropped off at Wal-Mart, Mr. Jim's His and Her

Shop, First National Bank, Western State Bank and Bankwest.

Rains said they need the items to get the students going, but will accept pre-filled boxes, too.

"I'm just trying to get the community involved," she said.

Donations will be accepted until Friday, Sept. 23, and Rains plans to take the donations to Wichita by the first of October.

Rains said she started the project after she saw a television news story about sending the packages to help hurricane refugees who will be pouring into Wichita and Salina.

"I just wanted to do something for the hurricane victims," she said.

From the show, she contacted Love and school Superintendent Marvin Selby.

The drive is being promoted by the box company, KWCH Channel 12 television and KFDI radio in Wichita. Rains said they are working with the Salvation Army, too.



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.

<p>Sept. 9 - 15 Skeleton Key PG-13: Violence; disturbing images; some partial nudity; thematic material</p>	<p>Bring this AD to the theatre for \$1 OFF on a large popcorn & 2 med. drinks EXP. 12/31/05</p>	<p>Nightly 7:00 Sunday Matinee 1:30 Movie Bucks Make Great Gifts! Sherman 1203 Main - Phone 899-6103</p>
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