

Bridge game to benefit arts

Could a "friendly" game of cards help support the arts? It can when it's a marathon benefit, spread out over several months.

The Goodland Arts Council Bridge Marathon will begin Friday, Oct. 7, and continue through May. Bridge players of any skill level are encouraged to participate. Find a partner and sign up.

Each player will pay a one-time fee of \$10, with part of that being given to the Arts Council and the rest set aside for prize money.

Teams will meet and play once a month. A host will be responsible for calling the other teams and setting up a time and place to play. Rules will be sent to each person

who signs up.

The Goodland Arts Center will waive rental fees for any players who would like to meet there in the evening. Cash prizes will be given to the top two teams at the end of the year. The more players, the bigger the prizes.

To sign up, call Joan Reid at 890-7301.

Goodland student plays husband

A Goodland student will play a role in the Colby Community College drama department's production of the comedy "Love Thy Neighbor" Thursday-Saturday, Nov. 3-5.

Daniel Blake, a 2005 Goodland High School graduate, and son of Rodney and Peggy Blake, will play Albert Crump in the department's production at the Cultural Arts Center.

The play, written by Colby alumnus Gary Ray Stapp (class of 1981), has a cast of 11. The comedy re-

volves around Leona Crump, who is concerned about who will buy the house across the street and is determined to keep out the "riff-raff." Still, a family of hillbillies moves in. Obnoxious Gafina and her Maw, as well as Gafina's "trampy" sister Bambi and amorous boyfriend Turner, make life unbearable for Leona. She vows to remove them from her neighborhood, with or without the help of her couch-potato husband and closest neighbors.

"Love Thy Neighbor" is directed and designed by the college's drama

instructor, Deb Bickner. Other cast members include Kristi Khan, Colby, as Leona Crump; Jonathan Miller, Burlington, as Paul Harrison; Regina Heier, Colby, as Judy Harrison; Tina Schmid, Colby, as Rose Bush; Challis Horinek, Gem, as Ava/Maw; Megan Ford, St. Francis, as Gafina; Josh Kenney, Seward, Neb., as Turner; James Mason, Winston-Salem, N.C., as George; and Wendy Bugbee, Ulysses, as Officer Doonan.

Tickets are available at the Campus Bookstore or at the door.

Gas company helps hurricane relief

Aquila, the company that provides natural gas in Sherman County, is matching contributions by employees and customers dollar-for-dollar up to \$500,000 to Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

The company also is providing job opportunity information to assistance agencies in the Gulf area, Missouri and Kansas that are helping hurricane victims.

"Our hearts go out to those whose lives have been changed forever by this disaster, and we want to do what we can to help them return to a more normal life," said Richard C. Green, Aquila chairman and chief executive officer.

Aquila will match employee, re-

time and customer contributions to recognized charitable organizations for Hurricane Katrina relief. Aquila's matching dollars, up to a \$500,000 maximum, will go to the American Red Cross. To qualify for the match, contributors can fax a copy of their check or Internet order to (816) 467-9780, or mail it to Aquila Hurricane Katrina Match, 20 W. Ninth St., Kansas City, Mo. 64105. Contributions will be matched through September 30.

Aquila is posting all of the company's open jobs with agencies assisting hurricane victims. The postings include all jobs open in the Kansas City headquarters, as well as natural gas and electric utility

operations throughout its seven-state service area.

The company said it has released 11 contract crews from its Missouri and Colorado electric operations to help restore power in the Gulf area.

Company employees are holding fund raisers for hurricane relief and volunteering for projects to supply necessities to families that have been displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

Based in Kansas City, Aquila operates electricity and natural gas distribution utilities serving 1.3 million customers in Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri and Nebraska, and also operates power plants.

Seed-spitting time



Whitney Schileds (left) and Justeen Koehler, both members of the Cowgirls volleyball team, chowed down on watermelon after classes Thursday at Goodland High School. Glenn Burk, a fan and booster, gave the school 30 melons from his patch, and Steve Raymer, athletic director and assistant principal, sliced them up to feed athletes and band members.

Photo by Kathryn Burke/The Goodland Star-News

When someone buys things with your credit card, you are responsible for \$50

Dear Attorney General Kline: I opened my bills today and discovered that someone else used my credit card to purchase furniture, pay for a hotel room and buy gasoline. Am I responsible for these charges?



phill kline

• attorney general

Most people affected don't become aware that their personal information has been stolen until the credit card charges show up on their billing statements. When their bills arrive, the immediate question on most consumers' minds is usually "do I have to pay this?"

Federal and state law limits the liability a consumer may incur as a result of lost or stolen credit card information. A cardholder is responsible to pay the first \$50 charged against a stolen credit card

account.

Credit card issuers are required to notify consumers of this potential liability, so if you consult the specific terms and conditions contained in your credit card agreement you should be able to locate this information, as well as the steps to follow to resolve it with your credit card company.

Many issuers also provide a toll-free hotline for the reporting of stolen cards or fraudulent activity.

Consumers should scrutinize monthly statements, watching for bogus billings and reporting them immediately to your credit card company, because what is only \$5 on this month's statement could be

\$5,000 on next month's statement.

It is much easier to prevent identity theft than to correct it. By taking the following precautions, you will be on your way to protecting your good credit:

- Always keep your credit card statements in a secure location and keep them to yourself. Lending your credit cards to others, sending them via e-mail, or giving them out over the phone (if you did not initiate the call) makes it easier for identity thieves to hijack your numbers.
- Shred or otherwise deface any unwanted documents containing your credit card information, as well as old cards and pre-approved credit solicitations you receive in the mail. If you simply throw them in the trash, there's no telling who might find them.

- If you use a credit card when making an Internet purchase, be sure the site is secure and make sure the site uses a payment service or escrow service that will protect your money until you receive the item and are satisfied with it.

Again, should your credit card be lost, stolen or used without your approval, immediately contact your credit card provider and follow their directions on review and reporting.

If this procedure results in charges of more than \$50 per account, you should then notify the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division at 1-800-432-2310.

Identity theft is a serious crime. People whose identities have been stolen can spend months or years — and their hard-earned money — cleaning up the mess the thieves

have made of their good name and credit record.

As with any crime, you cannot completely control whether you will become a victim. But you can minimize your risk by carefully managing your personal information.

Attorney General Phillip Kline offers this public service to help you avoid becoming a victim of consumer fraud. Although some of the details have been changed, the cases appearing in this column are based on actual complaints or questions.

For further information or to file a complaint, please write Attorney General Phillip Kline, Consumer Protection Division, 120 SW 10th Ave., 2nd Floor, Topeka, Kan. 66612, or call the toll-free Consumer Hotline, 1-800-432-2310.

matters of record

Goodland Police

The following crimes have been reported to the Goodland Police Department:

Sept. 1 — Hannah West and Starla Kear reported theft of cell phones at 1300 Arcade.

Keith Schorzman Jr. reported criminal damage to property valued

at \$500 at 904 W. 16th.

Sept. 2 — Two juveniles were referred to the county attorney for battery and disorderly conduct at 1209 Cherry.

Richard Billinger reported theft of a Motorola cell phone valued at \$150 and a pair of sunglasses valued at \$50 at 1209 Cherry.

Sept. 3 — Jeffrey Aultman was arrested for driving under the influence at 100 W. 16th.

Wal-Mart reported theft at 2160 Commerce.

Robert Gittinger reported criminal damage to a vehicle window estimated at \$400 at 303 Sherman.

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*Pictured with Cris, is husband Steve, Sandy Vazquez, Lynn Hoelting and other invited guests.

The Goodland Star-News

and The Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce and Ambassadors

welcome

Joyful Noise Preschool, Inc.

416 Caldwell
890-8895

Director Cris Riebel, opened the doors September 12th to Goodland's newest preschool. Licensed with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Cris has a place for kids to feel secure, where play is priority, but where that play is carefully designed to develop children's social and school skills. Her commitment to quality care is a guarantee to you and your children.

The preschool has a Board of Trustees - Lynn Hoelting, Juli Shelley, Sid Unruh, Sandy Vasquez and Cris Riebel.

The preschool has also established a scholarship fund to assist families with tuition payments. Class sessions are available Monday, Wednesday, Friday mornings and afternoons, Tuesday and Thursday mornings for children ages 3-5.