

# Married for 40 years, but violence made for unhappy times

Charlotte Linsner, director of the Northwest Kansas Family Shelter in Hays and formerly of Goodland, says she has been married for 40 years, not all of it happily.

During a presentation to Colby Community College students for Domestic Violence Awareness Month, she told the students that for 20-25 years of her marriage, she was in a domestic violence situation.

"My husband and I both grew up in domestic violence homes," said Linsner. "We didn't even know that it was wrong — that there was another way to live. We were one of the lucky couples; we broke the cycle and managed to save our marriage."

Linsner said 70 percent of men who grow up in a domestic violence home will commit a crime. Sixty percent of American homes experience at least one act of violence. Only 25 percent of those involved in domestic violence ask for help.

The shelter in Hays offers 24-hour service to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, she said, including crisis

counseling, support groups and emergency shelter.



Linsner

"There is help for those in a domestic violence situation," said Linsner. "In addition to the shelter in Hays, law enforcement officials, the judicial system and acquaintances can provide support. If you are a witness to domestic violence, I urge you to take action. Call the police, and tell the victim that they 'don't deserve this treatment.'"

She gave the group a sobering statistic: The average number of attempts required for a victim of domestic violence to leave the situation is seven.

Domestic violence, she said, includes verbal, physical, emotional, sexual and financial abuse.

"It's hard to believe but we have women who come to the shelter and have no idea of how much money their husband makes and/or how to get money for themselves," said Linsner.

The shelter provides information and support for the 18 counties in northwest Kansas. For information, call (800) 427-6441.

# Woman joins rural fire volunteers

Woman, from Page 1

"They look at who I am as a person, not my gender. I have worked with them. I know them."

But she admits they could easily have seen it as risky to accept a woman on the department. Not having many women on the department, she said, they could have had trouble trusting a woman to have the ability to do the job. They wouldn't know how a woman would react to things, Knitig said, or if a woman was physically capable of doing the job, of carrying another firefighter out of a burning building.

That's true of any gender, though, she said; it takes a certain kind of person to fight fires. But then, she admits, it also takes a certain kind of person to be on "doggy patrol." It's an interesting combination, she said.

Though fellow firefighters have welcomed Knitig, she said a lot of people have had trouble getting away from saying "fireman."

At presentations at the elementary schools, Knitig said she has asked the children who can be firefighters. Most say, "boys," Knitig said. But then she takes off her gear. The little girls' faces just light up, Knitig said; it's really neat.

Griffith said he had done some research and could not find any record of a female firefighter with the Goodland station and had only found one in the history of the county, with the Brewster station.

But Knitig fits in fine, he said. She gets picked on and harassed like everybody does; she's not treated any different from anyone else. And she's expected to do the same things as everyone else, he said; there's no favoritism.

Knitig, the daughter of Annette and William Knitig of Goodland, has lived here all her life. She graduated from Goodland High School in



Leslie Knitig prepared to fight a fire engulfing a house in training. She's used her training on several fire calls, including one taking her and four others to a house northwest of town at 6 a.m. last Tuesday. The flames left extensive damage in one room, fire and water damage in another room and smoke damage throughout.

2003 and got the job at the police department that fall.

She enjoys playing guitar and piano, painting and drawing, four-

wheeling and playing sports, especially tennis. She was on the varsity tennis team in high school.

**TEXAS RED'S BAR-B-Q**  
Monday, October 31  
thru  
Thursday, November 3  
Frontier Equity Exchange  
in Goodland  
Beef brisquet • Turkey Breast • Chicken Halves • Sausages  
• Pork Ribs

**Now Leasing  
D'Lao Apartments**  
790 D'Lao Drive  
Call  
**Bob Willis**  
Manager  
**785-899-6471**  
\*1 and 2 bedroom units  
\*Income structured rents  
\*Appliances furnished  
\*Partial utilities paid  
TDD users  
1-800-766-3777

**Classifieds work!**  
**Call 899-2338**

**The Goodland Star News Service Directory**  
**785-899-2338**

**Your KEY to business success.**  
Have your name up front when a customer needs you.  
Repetitive advertising is the key to opening the door to new customers.

Combined rates are available to feature your services in the Star-News and The Country Advocate.

"Seek Shelter Today!"  
LIFE • HOME • CAR • FARM • BUSINESS

**Jim Alcorn, Agent**  
1624 S. Main Street  
Goodland, KS 67735-0727  
Business: (785) 899-2553  
Home: (785) 899-3974  
www.shelterinsurance.com

**American Financial Group**  
of Polar Investment Counsel Inc. - member SIPC, NASD, NFA, MSRB  
"Investments for a Better Tomorrow"  
**Stock market have you SCARED?**  
See us for Alternative Investments!!!  
www.lamerican-financial.com  
Sheryl Davis  
Registered Representative  
1109 Main • Goodland, Kan.  
• 785-890-6942

Mike van Maarth  
Registered Principal  
470 14th St. • Burlington, Colo.  
• 719-346-9435

AFFORDABLE  
HEALTH  
INSURANCE  
OF  
WESTERN KANSAS  
Major Medical Coverage  
Let us shop for you!  
Toni Eder, Agent  
**1-877-587-2535**

**D & D Builders**  
Michael Downing  
General Contractor  
Concrete Work • Patios & Decks  
• Garages & Etc. •  
• Remodels & Additions •  
**785-626-3529 or 785-626-0060**

**NEW SYSTEM  
Professional  
WINDOW  
CLEANING**

**Schedule your  
Fall cleaning**

650 N. Grant  
Colby, Kan.  
785-462-6995 or 1-800-611-6735  
Serving NW Kansas & Eastern Colorado

Chris & Beth Lewon • "We do windows"

**Ringneck Country**  
Dealer for **Black Gold**  
and **National** dog foods.  
We also provide a full line  
of dog training supplies.  
Rex and Sandi Murray  
785-899-5882.  
**www.ringneckcountry.com**

**Bison**  
Rx compounding & Therapy  
James E. Hampton, RPh, PCCA Member  
416 State Street, Suite A  
Atwood, Kansas 67730  
(785) 626-3237  
(800) 696-3214  
Bison Rxcompounding@atwoodtv.net

**Pro Floor Care**  
Carpet and Upholstery Steam Cleaning Specialists!  
Call for This Month's Steam  
Cleaning Special!  
785-462-8313 • Cell: 443-1091  
Toll Free: 1-800-473-4138  
Commercial and Residential Carpet  
Office and Dining Room Chairs  
Recliners - Sofas - Autos  
Drop off at our location or we can steam clean at your location

**Truck Lettering**  
**800-886-2423**  
AWARD WINNING SIGNS AND PINSTRIPING SINCE 1974  
**Hot Brush** 204 W. 4th Box 309  
Bird City, Kan. 67731

Residential & Commercial  
**ROOFING**  
Local DURO-LAST  
Contractor  
**Murray Roofing**  
740 E. 4th  
Colby, KS 67701

**THE WORLD'S  
BEST ROOF**  
© Duro-Last Roofing, Inc.

**FREE ESTIMATES**  
785-462-6908  
800-794-3204  
Jeff Dreiling/Sales

**Brandon's Carpentry**  
Drywall • Painting • Flooring • Roofing  
Doors • Windows • Siding • Decks • Ramps  
Small Building Construction • Garages and More  
BRANDON LEE (785)332-3370  
St. Francis, KS 67756 Cell: (785)332-5264  
**Serving the tri-state area.**

**Stage Stop Sinclair**  
I-70 Exit 19, Goodland, Kan.  
**Car and Light Truck Rental**  
By the Day, Week and Month  
"No one way drop offs"  
Car and Truck Repair 7 days a week  
Tune-up/Batteries  
New and Used Tires  
**785-890-8284**