

Filling the boxes



Ralph Duell and Robert Moyer put cereal in the boxes that Genesis was giving out for Christmas. Boxes included flour, sugar, cereal, canned goods and fruit. The food bank passed out 160

boxes this year for Christmas, fifty more than last year. This is the 22 year for Genesis.

Photos by Pat Schiefen/ The Goodland Star-News

Dose of reality in teen maze

By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Star-News

In less than an hour, a teen could learn what it is like to find out she is pregnant, have to tell her parents, have a baby and learn about the costs and responsibilities of raising a child.

Another teen could visit the "emergency room," following an accident, and another could get a ticket for driving under the influence. All could get a dose of reality about the long-term costs to their futures, including added responsibility, financial challenges and a bad reputation.

These issues and more could be addressed in a "teen maze" before Goodland High's prom this spring, since the Sherman County Community Partnership for Prevention and Education formed a committee at its meeting last Tuesday to plan the event.

Kim Chain, a prevention specialist with the Regional Prevention Center in Colby, brought the maze idea to the meeting, and partnership members suggested ideas for doing one here.

There would be different rooms, Chain said, that could include a parking lot for dating violence, a safe house for domestic violence, a teen clinic, court, rehabilitation, jail, a STD (sexually transmitted disease) room, emergency room, labor and deliver room, welcome baby room, funeral parlor and graduation.

When teens come it, she said, they would get a tag with a fake name and description, go to a room where they learn local statistics, that on to a peer pressure room, then pick a card that says whether or not they had sex.

After attending the teen clinic, the ones who had sex learn whether or not they are pregnant or have an infection, then the pregnant ones go to the family room, where they tell their parents they're pregnant, then go to labor and delivery, where they then get "Baby Can Wait" dolls and learn about parenting and the cost of having a child.

The ones who didn't get pregnant go to the parking lot and Alcohol, Tobacco and Other Drugs rooms, where they may be charged with minor in possession or driving under the influence or get hurt in an accident — or die.

Each room takes less than five minutes, Chain said, with the whole maze taking 30-45 minutes.

Consequences might involve real judges, emergency room directors,

Winner sought

Giving away a prize has turned into a bigger problem than the Sherman County Community Partnership for Prevention and Education could have anticipated.

The partnership had a gift certificate from Safari Barbecue to give as a prize for Family Day in September. The prize was awarded on KLOE radio, but the restaurant went out of business, and nobody kept the winner's name and address.

The coalition voted at its October meeting to buy a gift certificate at Gambino's to give to the family instead, but several radio announcements have gotten no response from the family.

The winners are a family from Cheyenne Wells, Colo., said Kris Reibel, a teacher at Creation Kids preschool. Curtis Duncan of KLOE announced the winner on the air, she said, and the certificate was sent. However, the partnership didn't keep the family's name and address and neither did the station, she said, but until they do, nothing can be done about it.

"If they call," he said, "we'll give them something."

doctors and nurses and so forth, she said, even someone from a bank to talk about financial costs and saving for the future. Parents could get involved in role playing, she said, and consequences could range from losing a scholarship to time in jail and even death. To really give kids a wake-up call, she said, a funeral home could provide a casket.

"I think we should have it before prom," said Sharon Gregory, principal at Central Elementary School.

Dorendo Harrel, director of the Sherman County Health Department, agreed. She, along with Chain and Nathalie Higerd of Smart Start, formed a committee to plan the maze.

The committee needs to decide which issues Sherman County needs to focus on, Chain said, how many rooms to have, which scenarios to use and who will be able to help.

New director moving to high-tech

By Pat Schiefen
The Goodland Star-News

A cool head and a love for the job led Crissy Conger to her new job as director of Sherman County central dispatch.

With former director Mary Messamore going to Hutchinson, Conger became the interim director in October.

Conger has been a 911 dispatcher since Oct. 15, 2003.

"When I saw the classified ad for a dispatch officer," she recalled, "I said, 'I want to do that.'"

The funniest thing she remembers from dispatch was two years

ago when someone reported a miniature horse on the loose at Eighth and Washington.

The hardest time was the blizzard last week, Conger said. She likened it to a trail by fire. Dispatch can normally be handled by one person, she said, but during the blizzard it took three. One answered the phones, one handled the radio and the other coordinated things for the shelters.

Conger said she grew up in Kanorado and graduated from Goodland High School. She then graduated from Fort Hays State University with a Bachelor of Sci-

ence in justice studies. Before becoming a dispatch officer, Conger worked at the veterinary clinic and the Farm Services Agency office.

Her parents are Bruce and Kelly Livengood and Bill and Anita Kendrick of Goodland. Her husband, Jake Conger, a mechanic for McArthur Implement in Burlington, grew up in Stockton. They have a 20-month-old son, Chase.

A new dispatch officer has lots to learn and not a lot of time on any one thing, said Conger. The first thing have to study is the 10 codes, the shorthand used by dispatchers in radio conversations. Handling a fire call, she said, the dispatcher learns to ask the address, where the fire is

and a call back number. Dispatchers work shifts, holidays and weekends. If someone gets sick or there is an emergency, she said, they may be called in.

Conger said one of her goals is to have regular training. With a full staff, that should be possible. She said would like dispatchers to be able to learn more about the new 911 mapping ability. With the new system, she said, when someone calls in on the telephone, their location is displayed. A location also comes up for one of the wireless companies in town.

Conger said, she hopes that eventually every call will work with the 911 mapping system.

Bank has new consumer lending officer



Cody Tupps is the new vice president for consumer/residential lending at Bankwest of Kansas.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Cody Tupps is the new vice president for consumer and residential lending at Bankwest of Kansas in Goodland.

Tupps and his wife Kristen live in Sharon Springs, where her parents, Steve and Paulette Unruh, live. The Tuppses have a 5-month-old son, Gracen.

Tupps started his job in October. He was born in Byers, Colo., and graduated from high school there.

He attended Metro State College in Denver, earning a Bachelor of Arts in history.

Tupps has an elementary teaching certificate and minored in business management.

He said his first job when he got out of college was as an insurance agent. Then he went to work for

Wells Fargo Bank in Aurora, Colo., as a loan officer and then as a manager in Grand Junction, Colo., overseeing other loan officers.

He works with people on consumer loans, which are loans for things like cars and boats, and home-equity loans.

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.

Medicaid Part D got you confused?



We can help!

Janie at Goodland Medical Arts Pharmacy is now taking appointments to help you through those forms that can become confusing

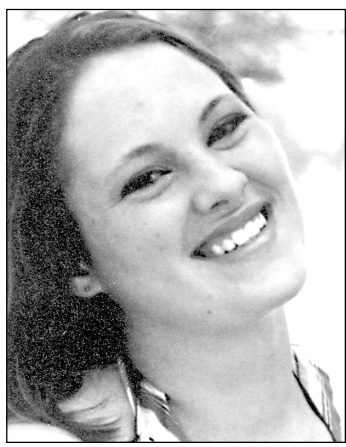
Just another example of our great customer service!

We have the right answers for you!

We will be closing early on December 23 and closed December 26!

Goodland Medical Arts Pharmacy
202 Willow Road — 785-899-5111

student of the week



Name: Lisha Tedford
Parents: Myron & Penny Tedford
Grade: 12
Age: 17

We've nominated this student because: Lisha demonstrates academic focus and intellectual integrity. She is a pleasure to work with and is an asset to the school and community.

Student Comment: My favorite subject is art. I like attending all of the sports

activities. I will always remember the good times with all of my friends at GHS

Activities involved in at school: Volleyball, track, and GAA

My choice of movies, books, and games: I like all kinds of music. I enjoy action and comedy movies.

After I leave Goodland High School I intend to: go to college and major in secondary education.

And 10 years from now, I think I'll be: Happily working as a high school English teacher and coaching.

Favorite Quote: To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe. Anatole France



HWY 24
899-2592

SINCE 1934

Want to get a property tax rebate?

If you improved your home or business this year, you may be eligible for a property tax rebate. Pickup an application from the County Assessor or online at www.sherman.kansasgov.com. Deadline for rebate applications is noon, Friday, Dec. 30.