

Colby Chamber names director from Goodland

By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

A 2001 Goodland High graduate is the new director of the Colby/Thomas County Chamber of Commerce.

Holly Stephens started part time Feb. 2 and will become full time after she graduates from Fort Hays State University in May.

Stephens, a senior, is majoring in communications with an emphasis in public relations.

She said she loves public relations, especially event planning, and that's what helped draw her to Colby. Also, she'll be closer to her family.

Her parents, Larry and Shelli Stephens, and grandparents, Dale and Ivallee Stephens, all live in Goodland. Her mother's parents, Rex and Doris Mayer, live in Brewster.

When Stephens heard about the job, she said, she didn't hesitate to apply.

"I really wanted to jump on it," Stephens said. "I'm coming fresh out of school."

She's juggling classes, work and meetings until May, spending as much time in Colby as classes will allow. She said she's living in Hays until graduation and will then move to Colby.

Familiarity helps, especially

when there are so many people to meet and meetings to attend, she said. Stephens already met with the Chamber board and Ambassadors. She said she will be getting to know the rest of the members and affiliates.

She's already jumped into the fray, helping plan the chamber's "Mini March Madness" fund raiser.

Scheduled for Thursday, March 30, the event will feature a basketball day camp for children in second through fifth grades, and games that night for everyone to see. A raffle and concession stand are planned.

"We're very excited to see how it goes," Stephens said. "It's going to be a lot of fun. It will be exciting to see the upcoming talent that we have."

Planning and meeting people are just her first steps in coming to a new community.

"I have no problem with hard work," she said. "The job excites me. I'm going to get to meet new people each day."

Stephens is replacing Mary Ann Downing, who resigned in December. Jada Tubbs, who served as chamber director from December 2002 to December 2004, has been filling in part-time for a few weeks. She will help train Stephens.



Stephens

Profitability focus of Ag Expo



Farmers listened to Art Barnaby of the K-State Extension Service talk about declining crop insurance guarantees caused by drought during the Ag Profitability Conference at the 15th annual High Plains Ag Expo held Thursday at Max Jones Fieldhouse. The day-long event featured speakers from K-State,

booths from about 30 area ag business and sponsors, plus a free Rally for Beef lunch featuring "the CowGuy," Ron Schilling. The expo was sponsored by KLOE/KKCI/KWGB, the National Sunflower Association and Goodland Energy Center.

Photos by Anne Hamilton/The Goodland Star-News

Goodland man sentenced to 47 months for sex exploitation

District Judge Jack Burr sentenced a Goodland man to 47 months, almost four years, in jail with no probation on Monday in a plea bargain on one count of sexual exploitation of a 16-year-old child and one of lewd and lascivious behavior.

Terry L. Sapp Jr., 38, was sentenced to a 14 months with the Kansas Department of Corrections on Jan. 31 in the Thomas County District Court. The case in Sherman County was a companion to the one in Thomas County.

Thomas County Attorney Andrea Wyrick and Sherman County Attorney Bonnie Selby asked that fines up to \$300,000 not be imposed in return for a guilty plea by Sapp. Sapp agreed not to appeal his convictions. Scott Beims, Atwood, was

Sapp's attorney.

Sapp has spent 269 days in the Thomas County jail with work release during the day, said Beims. He works at Herl Chevrolet in Goodland. In the presentencing evaluation by court services, though, he only got credit for one day served.

"I think he should get credit for the 269 days he has spent in jail," Burr said.

Burr ruled that the sentences from the two counts in Sherman County and the sentence from Thomas County should run concurrently.

Burr asked Sapp if he understood the terms of the plea agreement. Sapp said yes. Burr told Sapp he would have to register as a sex offender immediately after serving his time in prison and would have

to complete the Sexual Offender Course from High Plains Mental Health Service.

Burr asked Beims if he had any witnesses before sentencing. Beims called Jay Herl of Herl's Chevrolet.

Herl said Sapp had worked for him for four or five years washing and detailing vehicles.

Selby called the 16-year-old victim to testify. He said he was working with Sapp on the Jim Haigler

farm in mid February of 2004. He said Sapp asked him to perform oral sex.. He said Sapp's question scared him and he didn't answer.

Selby said Sapp should get the maximum penalty. She said he had

had ample opportunity to get in the sex offender program, but hadn't.

"I wish I had a little more faith in counseling," said Burr. "Treatment doesn't seem to work for sexual addiction."

Man pleads not guilty in drug conspiracy

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News

A Kanorado man pleaded not guilty Monday before District Court Judge Jack Burr for conspiracy to sell drugs and not having a drug stamp, charges stemming from an operation which stretched from Goodland to Wallace and Dighton.

Jesse J. "Jesus" Sandoval appeared at his arraignment with his attorney, Mike Day of St. Francis.

The Quad County Task Force, Wallace County Sheriff's Department, Sherman County Sheriff's Department, Goodland Police Department and Kansas Bureau of Investigation were involved in the drug operation on Saturday, Aug. 27.

Sandoval is accused of being the supplier of methamphetamine to man in Dighton who took the drugs to Wallace and then to Goodland.

An undercover agent, Johnny Kreigh, testified at Sandoval's preliminary hearing that he made arrangements to buy the a quarter of a pound of methamphetamine from Rod Hill, Wallace. Hill allegedly reported to Sandoval and asking permission to take the drugs to Goodland.

The task force had Kreigh in a motel room with camera and audio surveillance from the next room. They arrested Hill after he delivered the drugs to Kreigh and left with the money.

Hill was convicted of selling a stimulant on Thursday, Jan. 5, in

Wallace County and will serve 59 months, just shy of five years, in prison.

Burr and Bonnie Selby, Sherman County attorney, said they would rather wait for a trial in Lane County to finish before having the one here. Day said he preferred to have the one in Sherman County first.

Sandoval has had his arraignment in Lane County, with the pretrial set for April.

Day moved to dismiss the stamp tax charge and limit the other charge. Burr did not rule on his motions.

Burr set the trial for Wednesday and Thursday, May 17 and 18.

School board takes no action after closed-door meeting

The Goodland School Board held a special, closed-door meeting over the lunch hour last Tuesday to discuss personnel.

The meeting started at 11:30 a.m. and ended at 1 p.m. with all board members present except Marty Melia. Present were board President Jane Philbrick, LeAnn Friedrich, Andy House, Amy Sederstrom, Fritz Doke and Dick Short. At 11:35, Doke moved to go into closed session to discuss non-elected personnel until 12:30 p.m. with Superintendent Marvin Selby.

At 12:30, the board decided they needed another 30 minutes in closed session. At 1 p.m., the board was back in open session and ad-

joined with no comment or public discussion.

Selby thanked the board for their advice.

State legislators here Saturday afternoon

Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer and Rep. Jim Morrison will hold a town hall meeting at 2:30 p.m. Saturday at the Sherman County Farm Bureau boardroom, 1610 Main.

The two legislators will be

talking about what is happening in the session, and hear from citizens about the issues. They are on a tour of Ostmeyer's north-west Kansas district.

correction

A device in a picture from the Sherman County Health Fair on the front page of the Tuesday, Feb. 7, *Goodland Star-News* was incorrectly identified as a driving stress instrument. Kermit Morris was gripping a fat analyzer while Melinda Daily from the Sunflower Extension District watched. This was a reporting error.

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.

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student of the week



Name: Megan Stefan
Parents: Bernie & Diane Stefan
Grade: 12
Age: 18

We've nominated this student because: Megan comes to class everyday with a positive attitude. She is courteous to other students and her teachers and gets her work done on time.

Student Comment: My favorite aspect of school is being able to see

and hang out with my friends.

Activities involved in at school: FCCLA, GAA, Tennis & Class Vice President.

My choice of movies, books, and games: My choice of movies and comedies. I like all kinds of music and playing card games.

After I leave Goodland High School I intend to: go to a 4 year college of my choice and major in business.

And 10 years from now, I think I'll be : pursuing a career I love and enjoying life.

Favorite Quote: Work like you don't need the money. Dance like no one is watching. Love like you have never been hurt.

Author Unknown

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