

Science team takes second

The Goodland High School Science Olympiad team missed first place at regionals Thursday by just one point, but still advanced to the state competition.

The team finished second to Hays High School at the event at Fort Hays State University. They will compete at the state tournament Saturday, April 1, at Wichita State University.

Individual placing included:

First: Sarah Borneman and Mack Witzel in forensics, and Kali Rietcheck and Dallas Price in tower building.

Second: Kali Rietcheck and Matt Rohr in Write It-Do It, Jared Hall and Andrew Pettibone in Storm the Castle, Aaron Duell and Molly Witzel in Scrambler and Derek Fenner and Tanner Oharah in Wright Stuff.

Third: Molly Witzel and Jon McClung in Remote Sensing, Rohr and Pettibone in Fermi Questions, Fenner and Borneman in Chemistry Lab, Pettibone and Hall in Don't Bug Me and Aaron Duell and Devin Mangus in Circuit Lab.

Fourth: Mack Witzel and Adam Duell in Dynamic Planet, Rohr and Oharah in Practical Problem and Adam Duell and Oharah in Astronomy.

Fifth: Rietcheck and Fenner in Physics Lab.

Sixth: Mack Witzel and Heidi Yonkey in Disease Detective, Hall and McClung in Compute This and Yonkey and Borneman in Health Science.

Seventh: Aaron Duell and Molly Witzel in Rocks and Minerals and Mangus and Mack Witzel in Ecology.

Eighth: Rietcheck and Yonkey in Designer Genes.

McClung and Adam Duell competed in Robot Ramble.

Hill City High School was the third-place team.

The Black and Gold Booster Club provided T-shirts for the Goodland team.



Andrew Pettibone and Jared Hall competed in Storm the Castle at regional Science Olympiad Thursday. Photo by Aaron Duell//Goodland High School

‘Rapid refund’ can be costly loan

Dear Attorney General Kline:

It looks like I may be getting a sizable Federal income tax refund this year. I have some bills due soon, so I've been thinking about getting a "rapid refund" loan. Since I've never done this before, what kinds of things should I be aware of?

Dear Kansas Consumer:

The first thing to remember is that you would be applying for a short-term loan that could turn out to be expensive. "Rapid refunds" or Refund Anticipation Loans are available through many tax preparation agencies as a means for taxpayers to receive loans equal to the anticipated refund more than a week sooner than if one were to file through the Internal Revenue Service (IRS).

These loans are secured by the presumed amount of the refund, which of course means you will pay bank and processing fees up front and face the possibility of high interest charges until you receive your refund.

It's a good thing to keep in mind that by securing a loan for a presumed amount, you run the risk of receiving a smaller refund than expected or that the IRS could disallow your refund altogether.

In some cases, consumers lose money as a result of these types of loans because if there is a mistake in preparing a tax return, and there will actually be no refund, the loan must be paid back in full.

If your refund were to be delayed, you could face high interest charges and expensive late fees.

There are more cost-effective and efficient ways to file and receive your refund rather than filing by mail. For example, the IRS now gives taxpayers the option of filing taxes and avoiding a middleman by filing either electronically or using tax software.

In addition, this year taxpayers with an adjusted gross income of \$50,000 or less can file electronically free by going through the IRS web site. Just go to www.irs.gov and click on "Free File" and you'll be able to



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• attorney general

select a private company that will file federal tax returns at no charge.

By using this service and designating your refund to be deposited directly into a bank account, many times your refund will be available in about two weeks.

An additional word of caution is necessary: the IRS has received reports of e-mail "phishing" scams from con artists posing as IRS agents. The messages may have slightly different formats but they all promise to send your refund after you provide some personal information.

The bogus e-mails are supposedly from the IRS with links to a web site very similar to the official IRS web site. Some of these fake e-mails promise to take you to a secure web site and use official language about tax laws.

Don't be fooled: these tricks are all designed to coax you to provide personal information that could lead to the theft of your identity. If you are not sure about any correspondence sent to you by the IRS, you can contact the IRS by calling (800) 829-1040.

If you are a tax procrastinator every year, there is some good news. You'll have two extra days to file since April 15th is on a Saturday, making this year's deadline Monday, April 17th.

Attorney General Phill 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 information or to file a complaint, write Attorney General Phill Kline, Consumer Protection Division, 120 SW 10th Ave., Second Floor, Topeka, Kan. 66612, or call the toll-free Consumer Hotline, (800) 432-2310.

matters of record

Municipal Court

These are cases decided by the Goodland Municipal Court:

Feb. 6: Elizabeth F. Phillips, Ulysses, disobey stop sign, fined \$76.

Feb. 7: Shirley K. Weber, Colby, speeding 51-40, fined \$80.

Timothy C. Hawkins, Jr., exhibition of speed, fined \$96.

Feb. 8: Kurt S. Zupko, disorderly conduct, fined \$136

Keeon Roberts, possession of tobacco by minor, fined \$61.

Eric S. Henson, Lamar, Colo., speeding 60-40, fined \$116.

Accidents

The following accidents were investigated by the Goodland Police Department.

Jan. 23 — 3:42 p.m., 202 E. 11th, a 2006 Lincoln-Continental driven by Patricia I. Cochran was backing up and did not see the 1985 Chevrolet driven by Mary A. Humrich.

Jan. 24 — 2:15 p.m., 1408 Broadway, 1997 Ford driven by Roseanne M. Koggie was driving south on Broadway, and getting ready to park. Koggie was going to park in front of a 1974 Chevy owned by Rafael Mecias, and cut the turn to short and clipped the front of the other vehicle.

Feb. 2 — 11:40 a.m., 2160 Commerce Road, a 2002 Chevrolet driven by Kegan E. Hemel was pulling across empty, marked lanes to

leave the Wal-Mart parking lot and did not see a 2002 GMC driven by Kelly Rippe. Hemel's Chevy hit Rippe's GMC.

Feb. 4 — 6:48 p.m., 2218 Commerce Road, a 1997 GMC driven by Roger Enfield was backing up in the parking lot, and hit a 2005 Chevy driven by Joseph Randall Bondell which was driving west in the parking lot. Enfield said he did not see the Bondell Chevy.

District Traffic

The following fines were paid in the Sherman County District Court:

Oct. 11, 2002 — Michael C. Duncan, \$125 for speeding and \$60 for unlawful acts with vehicle.

Dec. 31, 2003 — Bishara F. Mufdy, \$132 fine reinstated for speeding.

April 7, 2004 — Jeffrey R. Brown, \$177 fine reinstated for speeding.

student of the week



Name: Brittney Espinoza

Parents: Toni Espinoza

Grade: 12

Age: 17

We've nominated this student because: Brittany is an excellent student in class, works hard on her Marketing Education Works job, and is active in the local DECA club. Brittany is DECA's nominee for SnoBall Royalty and is planning to compete in the Apparel & Accessories Series Competition at the Kansas State DECA Career Development Conference in March.

Student Comment: My favorite subject was Earth Science II. After graduation I will remember all of the good times I had with my friends. My favorite aspect of school life is taking class work to prepare for my future career as a beautician.

Activities involved in at school: DECA

My choice of movies, books, and games: House of Wax for my movie, rock for my music and A Child Called "It".

After I leave Goodland High School I intend to: stay in Goodland to attend the Northwest Kansas Technical College to study Cosmetology.

And 10 years from now, I think I'll be: operating my own Beauty Shop.

Favorite Quote: Never be bullied into silence. Never allow yourself to be made a victim. Accept no one's definition of your life; define yourself. Harvey Fierstein

KC's Video

1018 Main Goodland
890-0200



220 West 2nd
Goodland, Kan. 67735
890-3625
Call for Appointments
785-890-6030

March Consultant Schedule

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|-----------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| ALLERGIST** | Jeffrey Rumbyrt, M.D. | March 9 |
| AUDIOLOGIST | Sherri M. Beck, Au. D. | March 10 & 24 |
| CARDIOLOGIST | Barry Smith, M.D. | March 8 & 22 |
| CARDIOLOGIST | Vijay Subbarao, M. D. | March 9 |
| DERMATOLOGIST | Charles Ruggles, M.D. | March 16 |
| DIETITIAN | Sarah Linton, RD, LD | Mon - Fri |
| EARS, NOSE, THROAT | Alfred N. Carr, M.D. | Mar. 3, 10, 17 & 24 |
| ENDOCRINOLOGIST | Gerald Poticha, M.D. | Mar. 9, 10, 23, 24 |
| GASTROENTEROLOGIST | Jeffrey D. Huston, M.D. | March 20 |
| GENERAL SURGEON | David. D. Beck, M.D. | March 9 & 23 |
| GENERAL SURGEON | Jeffrey Cross, M.D. | March 2, 16 & 30 |
| GYNECOLOGY | Laura Rokosz, M.D. | March 1 & 8 |
| NEUROLOGIST | Steven J. Gulevich, M.D. | March 8, 22, & 29 |
| OBSTETRICS/GYNECOLOGY | David Forschner, M.D. | March 15 |
| ONCOLOGY/HEMATOLOGY | Martin Rubinowitz, M.D. | April 4 |
| OPHTHALMOLOGIST | Kent Bashford, M.D. | March 9 |
| OPHTHALMOLOGIST | Brian Joondeph, M.D. | March 15 |
| OPHTHALMOLOGIST | David Pfoff, M.D. | March 7, 14, & 28 |
| ORTHOPEDIST | John Gargaro, M.D. | April 3 |
| ORTHOPEDIST | Tim Birney, M.D. | March 13 |
| ORTHOPEDIST | Armond Hatzidakis, M.D. | March 6 |
| ORTHOPEDIST | James Holmes, M.D. | March 20 |
| ORTHOPEDIST | Edward Parks, M.D. | March 27 |
| ORTHOPEDIST | Raj Bazaz, M.D. | March 13 |
| PSYCHIATRIST | John C. Faul, M.D. | March 8, 10, & 24 |
| PODIATRIST | Erik Ouder Kirk, D.P.M. | March 6 |
| PULMONOLOGIST | Ken Weisiger, M.D. | March 6 |
| RADIOLOGISTS | Professional Radiology Services | WEEK DAYS |
| RHEUMATOLOGIST | Karl Chambers, MD | March 16 |
| SPEECH THERAPY | Lisa Paxton | By Appt. Only |
| SUSTANCE ABUSE DIR | Fred Waters, CADC, III | Mondays |
| UROLOGIST | Darrell D. Werth, M.D. | April 4 |
| UROLOGIST | Wallace Micheal Curry, M.D. | March 14 |

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