



Julie Leiker's pencil drawing called "Simplicity" is going to an art contest in New York in April. The drawing was a gold key winner at the regional art show.

Senior has two pencil drawings going to art contest in New York

A Goodland High senior has two pencil drawings going to a national Academic Scholastic Art Contest in New York next month.

Julie Leiker, daughter of Delilah and Don Leiker, entered three pieces in the regional Academic Scholastic Art Contest in Montezuma.

"I had not entered before and no one from Goodland had," she said.

The third piece she entered was a watercolor. The contest had five best of shows and 50 "gold key" winners who go the national contest.

Leiker's pencil drawings were gold key winners while her water color got an honorable mention.



Leiker

She said she has been drawing since junior high. People are her favorite subject. She has had most of her art instruction in school but last summer she took a watercolor class.

Last year, she said, she had a pencil drawing, color pencil drawing and watercolor in the Northwest Kansas League Art Show in Oberlin.

"My favorite is pencil," Leiker said. "Water colors are easier for me than acrylics or oils. Charcoal is too messy."

She would like to paint in oils and do clay sculpture.

Leiker said her favorite artist is Leonardo da Vinci, especially the "Mona Lisa." She went to Europe last summer with Elaine Felver's group to Ireland, Great Britain and France. She got to see the "Mona Lisa" at the Louvre in Paris. Her other favorite was Johannes Vermeer, a Dutch painter.

Leiker plans to go to Kansas Wesleyan University in Salina but hasn't picked a major yet. "I'll always be drawing or painting," she said.

Mental health center has fewer patients here

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Business for the High Plains Mental Health Center was up by 2.5 percent in the agency's area, but down by about 12 percent in Sherman County, commissioners heard Tuesday.

Karen D. Beery, director of education and public relations for High Plains, presented the agency's report at the county meeting along with Tracy Hillmer, manager of the Goodland and Colby offices.

Berry said the agency was not asking for an increase in money from the county, but did want to maintain the \$35,000 the county gave last year.

Present at the meeting were Meripat Bowman of Golden West Community Services, who is the county's representative on the agency's board, and Dennis Daise of Big Brothers-Big Sisters, the alternate.

Berry said offices in the 20-county area saw 4,858 people, an increase of about 2.5 percent or 121 people. The Sherman County office saw 297 people, a drop of about 12 percent or 40 patients from last year.

She said patient income contin-

ues to increase and, last year 51.4 percent of operating costs, \$4,589,519, was paid by patients or their insurance. State aid last year was \$736,308, 8.3 percent, while county levies were \$570,250, or 6.4 percent. The federal mental health money amounted to 27 percent, or \$2,408,589.

For Sherman County, she said, the cost of patient care was \$461,610, but the income received through the center was \$423,741, leaving a shortfall of \$37,869.

Berry said the shortfall was being covered through the 20-county program, and they were not asking for an increase in the county's contribution.

She said the respite center in Hays is doing better, and that Hillmer has sent some people there for a few days of special attention.

"It is intense 24-hour supervision," Berry said. "Generally speaking, it is 3-4 days, but some can be longer depending on their needs."

"It keeps them out of the state hospital."

Looking at the chart of Sherman County clients, Berry said depression is the top reason people come to the center.

Hillmer said some classes are done by television conferencing. She said Eddie Blackwell of Hays handles stress management classes, and the video system allows people to attend without having to travel.

Bowman asked if they were seeing better results from the television classes. Hillmer said that about half the people do better after completing the classes.

Commissioner Kevin Rasure said it appeared the age of clients is going up. Hillmer said she felt it was because the people were getting older.

Of the 297 clients in Sherman County, 142 were men and 155 women. The largest age group was those from 25 to 59, which was 160 with 75 men and 85 women.

There were 19 age 9 and younger. Of those, nine were boys and 10 were girls. The second largest group was 10-19 with 59, 31 boys and 28 girls. In the 20-24 age group were 37 clients, 22 were men and 15 women.

Those getting close to retirement age, 60-64, amounted to seven clients with one man and six women. In the 65-and-over group, there were 15, four men and 11 women.

Storm spotter training offered by weather service

Spring, when plants turn green and the weather warmer, means storm season. It's also the time for the annual storm spotter training offered by the National Weather Service.

Basic spotter training will be offered at the Goodland National Guard Armory at 7 p.m. Tuesday.

Other times the class will be offered in the area are at 6 p.m.

(Mountain Time) Monday at the Atwood Prairie Development Center; Tuesday, April 4, and at the St. Francis High School cafeteria; and at 7 p.m. Friday, April 7, at the Sharon Springs Community Activity Building, and Thursday, April 13, at the Tribune EMS Building.

The classes are free, open to everyone and will last about 2 1/2 hours. Meteorologist David Floyd

will talk about types of clouds and storms and how they develop. There will be pictures of storms from the area. He will explain the importance of having the information only spotters can supply.

There will be an advanced storm spotter class in Colby in early May.

For information, call (785) 899-6412 or e-mail david.l.floyd@noaa.gov.

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.

Classifieds work!
899-2338

April 3, 2006

5:30 pm MT

The horses taken into custody by the Sherman County Sheriff, on the 28th day of February, 2006, will be available to purchase at an auction conducted by:

Colby Livestock Auction
 125 S. Country Club Drive
 (785) 460-3231

Sherman County Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Saturday, April 1, 2006
 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. Mountain time
 HHW Facility
 1820 Cherry Street
 Goodland, Kansas

For more information please contact Kenny Griffith at 821-1024.
 No early drop off or no drop offs without personnel present.
 There will be no **Used Oil** collected at this time.
 For Sherman County Residents Only!

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 ARE A PLUS
 FOR OUR
 COMMUNITY.**

**LET US
 HAVE
 PRIDE!**

**VOTE
 YES!**

**Paid for by Steve Duell, Treasurer,
 Road Improvement Committee**