

Weather open house on Saturday

The National Weather Service forecast office in Goodland will have an open house from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at 920 E. Army Road. Employees will give tours to show how the latest computer technology is being used in daily forecasts and warnings, said Joy Hayden, administrative assistant. Children in Halloween costumes will get a goody bag and free face painting.

Hayden said they encourage anyone who owns a weather radio and needs help setting it up to bring it. There will be a balloon launch for kids at 12:30 p.m. and drawings for five weather radios. A ceremony will honor weather observers and other volunteers who take daily temperature and moisture reports across the area. There will be stations throughout the building where forecasters can answer questions about Doppler

radar, how to interpret satellite images and where to find weather information on the Internet. Ham radio operators show how spotter reports are relayed to the office during bad weather. People can sit down and issue a tornado or severe thunderstorm warning as if they were the radar operator that day on a Weather Event Simulator. A video will show severe weather on the High Plains. Visitors can get a lesson on how

to set up a backyard weather station. "The way in which we prepare and disseminate forecasts and warnings has changed dramatically over the past ten years", said David Floyd, warning coordination meteorologist at the Goodland office. "We want to give the public an opportunity to stop by and visit with us, ask questions about High Plains weather, and see how technology is used in our daily operation."

County health flu shot clinics this week

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vaccine this year." "We like people to get their shots at the end of October," she said. "They are good for six months." "The shot will cost \$18 and here is no charge for people on Medicare and Medicaid," Harrel said. Flu viruses are spread easily from person to person in tiny droplets expelled when victims sneeze or cough, she said. People can also pick up the virus from handling items that were recently contaminated by the virus and touching their mouth or nose, or not washing their hands before they eat. A sick person may be able to infect others several days before showing symptoms and five days afterwards. Flu is a virus that affects the res-

piratory system and there is usually a seasonal outbreak in the fall. Symptoms include a fever of 101 degrees or more, headache, extreme tiredness, dry cough, sore throat and muscle aches. A runny nose is not typical. The state of Kansas is trying to prepare for a worldwide outbreak of flu, a pandemic, which experts suggest is overdue. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment has been preparing a plan in case one arrives. Quarantines are generally used to slow the spread of an epidemic, which means people may have to stay home for several days, state officials say. Businesses will have to figure out how to operate and no public meetings would be held. Officials suggest people should

have some preparations for any emergency such as a blizzard. They should have food and water, clothing, medications, a way to communicate with family, flashlights with batteries and food and water for pets. There were three major influenza pandemics during the 20th century causing millions of deaths worldwide. All three were caused by influenza Type A. The pandemic in 1918 to 1919 called the Spanish flu (H1N1) was thought to have been brought back from Europe at the end of World War I. The Spanish flu caused 500,000 deaths in the U.S. and 20 million worldwide, the state says. The next pandemic was in 1957, the Asian flu (H2N2). It caused 70,000 deaths in the U.S. The third was the 1968 Hong Kong flu (H3N2),

which caused 34,000 deaths. People who had had the Asian flu were thought to have had some immunity to the Hong Kong flu. There have been seasonal outbreaks of H3N2 flu each year. People affected generally have been 65 and older. The most likely candidate to cause a pandemic today is the bird flu (H5N1). Presently, the virus is found in birds in Asia, parts of Europe, the Near East and Africa. It is a rare disease in humans and most victims have been exposed to infected poultry or contaminated surfaces. The bird flu does not spread easily from person to person, but there is no vaccine for the bird flu yet. "It's important for people to get their flu shots," said Harrel.

Self-defense class planned

Women have the chance to learn from a police officer how to protect themselves by taking a self defense course planned for National Crime Prevention Month in October. Officer Joni Meyer from the police department will teach the course from 10 a.m. to noon Saturday. Class size is limited to 30 and will be first come, first served, sponsors say. To register, go to www.sherman.kansas.gov, click on "sheriff" then on "women's self-defense" under Neighborhood Watch, then print the form and turn it in at the city office, or call Judy McKee at 890-5188. Forms will be available the day of the course, sponsored by Sherman County's Neighborhood Watch Program and the Goodland Police Department, if it is not full.

Meyer recently received certification in Controlled FORCE I and is working toward certification in Controlled FORCE II. The class will cover material about how to defend yourself in an emergency. The class instruction and demonstration will include controlling and takedown techniques with which anyone can manipulate even a much larger and stronger aggressor, McKee said, defensive tactics intended for personal protection only. "It is important for individuals participating in this class to give their full attention to learning these skills," Meyer said. "Otherwise, it will not only be a waste of time for the student but a waste of time for the instructors as well. Being trained to handle a physical confrontation could save your life."

Fur harvesting classes planned for Saturday, Sunday

There will be two fur harvesting classes this weekend, one in Sherman County and one in Cheyenne. Mike Hopper, wildlife officer for Sherman, Cheyenne and Wallace counties, said the free classes required for anyone born on or after July 1, 1966, to get a fur harvesting license. The Sherman County class will at 8 a.m. Saturday at the Randy Belamy farm south of Goodland. Hopper said the one-day class covers fur hunting and trapping, with instructors from the eastern part of the state and this area. The Cheyenne County class will be at 7 a.m. Mountain Time at the gun club in St. Francis. There is no cost, but Hopper asks that people to register by calling him at (785) 899-5199. Lunch will be provided.

A fur harvester license is required to hunt, trap or pursue fur bearers or to sell their pelts. The season for hunting or trapping of badger; bobcat; gray, red, swift fox; mink; muskrat; opossum; raccoon; striped skunk and weasel is Nov. 15 to Feb. 15. The license cost \$20.15 for an adult, \$12.15 for youths under 16 and \$252.15 for a nonresident. A nonresident bobcat permit can be purchased for \$102.15, which allows the hunter to bag one animal. Anyone born after July 1, 1957, must complete a certified hunter education course to purchase a hunting license or furharvest license, except on lands they own. Those under age 27 must carry an approved hunter education card with them while hunting in Kansas, but the state recognizes approved courses in all other states.

Crimes matters of record

Goodland Police
The following crimes have been reported to the Goodland Police Department:
Oct. 9 — 7:36 a.m., 521 E. business U.S. 24, Orscheln Farm Supply reported a theft.
Oct. 10 — 4:45 p.m., 1309 Cherry, Nathan W. Schmidt reported a burglary and Thomas

Hellerud reported criminal damage to property.
Oct. 11 — 10:38 p.m., 1024 Kansas, arrested Noe Musquiz on a warrant. Case referred to county attorney.
Sherman County Sheriff
The following crimes have been reported to the Sherman County Sheriff.

Sept. 23-25 — Paul W. Walz, Valentine, Neb., reported arson with damage more than \$2,500 and burglary of a 2000 Ford F350 pickup at County Road 57 and K27. Property was valued at \$11,525.
The following accidents were reported to the Sherman County Sheriff.

Sept. 30 — Felicia McGrath, 16, of Edson was going west on County Road 73 following a pickup. She lost control due to the dust in the air and ran off the road, hitting a dirt embankment. The white van she was driving belonged to Curtis Doxon.

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