

Health fair has increase in numbers, vendors

By Sharon Corcoran
 scorcoran@nwkans.com
 The annual Sherman County Health Fair has seen an increase in vendors and people attending, and organizers are talking about increasing the length of the fair to reduce congestion for people coming to get checkups and information.

had to do with the number of blood draws for profiles, she said — there were 706 this year, a new record. Last year, she added, 548 people had blood drawn for the profiles, and the laboratory technicians did really well handling the increase this year. Thirty-six vendors set up at the fair, she said, including eight hospital departments. There were a lot of great vendors, and they gave a great representation of available health care. Goodwin said the hospital offered a lot of free tests. The group that

was planning to do free lead tests couldn't make it, she said, so the hospital had to improvise and do the tests themselves. They did 47, she added. The hospital did 67 carotid artery screens, she said, and Administrative Assistant Ericka Wieck was there to notarize advanced health-care directives that Mindy Greene, a social worker at the hospital, helped people fill out. "What I was most proud of," Goodwin said, "was Monday that week was when we were officially named a member of the Midwest

Cancer Alliance, and they were there in full force." The group did a lot of tests, she said, including dermascans, showing sun damage, and bone density and colorectal screenings. At least 496 people signed in, she said, and they estimated that about 150 didn't. The fair has really grown, she said. Board member Randy Coleman asked what she attributes the increase to, and Goodwin said it is mostly due to increased awareness about what the fair offers. Board member Joyce Moore

said people had asked her if the fair would be at the Goodland Activities Center next year. Many feel it needs a larger place, she said. Some wanted the bone density screening but gave up because of the long line. "We're thinking of lengthening the hours," Goodwin said. "If it went until noon, that would give people more time, so they wouldn't be there all at once. There was room for more vendors." In the past, she said, most who came to the fair were those who had blood profiles done. As they were planning the fair this year, she said,

the goal was to bring in younger families. Dance, gymnastics and taekwondo demonstrations did that, she said, as well as the lead screening, the backpack weigh-in and the University of Kansas dance group, Dance Revolution. They helped kids determine how heavy their backpacks should be, she said. Traffic flow was hairy there for awhile, Goodwin said, but the dance demonstrations were longer than intended. If they had been shorter, she said, people wouldn't have had to wait at the doors so long.

Man beaten with chain while asleep Sunday

Jan Katz Ackerman
 Free Press Reporter
 ackermanjk@ruraltel.net

"The suspect fled and got away," Shull said. As of this morning, he said, the identity of the suspect had not been verified, but had been narrowed down to three people. Shull said the beating may be related to a previous incident involving Helus, but officers were working on connecting the two cases. He said although Helus received facial wounds from the beating, he declined medical treatment due to financial reasons. "A red late 1990s model of a Dodge Durango was seen leaving the scene of the incident," Shull said. If anyone has information about the vehicle or this continuing investigation, they are asked to call the Colby Police Department at (785) 460-4460.

The January Country Clovers 4-H meeting was called to order by President BreAnna Nemechek. Sixteen members, two leaders and seven parents answered the roll call question of "What is your favorite winter activity?" Secretary Hope Cochran read the minutes of the previous meeting from November. Kaitlyn Daise gave the treasurer's report. Both reports were approved as read. Cochran then read two thank yous the club received. Emily Murray thanked the club for the \$500 college scholarship she was awarded. The Goodland Lions Club thanked the Country Clovers for sorting their eyeglasses collection. Upcoming activities were given by 4-H Council Member Cochran.

Jerry Nemechek and Teresa Sieck gave the leaders reports. Dalton Belshe and Tavean Stockman gave a demonstration on how to bottle feed a baby goat. Jamie Nemechek gave a talk on her meat goat project. BreAnna Nemechek gave a talk on her horse project regarding rabies. Cochran presented healthy snacks for children. Jamie Nemechek presented 20 questions for recreation. The Mike Sieck and Jerry Nemechek families served refreshments. The meeting was adjourned by saying the club motto and putting up chairs. Submitted by club reporters Peyton and Powell Sieck. The December meeting of the Country Clovers 4-H Club was

held at Howard Johnson's. We went swimming and had pizza. This was our club's Christmas party. Seventeen members plus parents and siblings attended. Submitted by club reporters Powell and Peyton Sieck. The November 2007 Country Clovers 4-H meeting was parents night. Greg Nemechek called the meeting to order. Samantha Siruta lead the club in a song and in the Pledge of Allegiance and the 4-H Pledge. Shannon Belshe asked, "What month were you born?" for roll call and she gave the minutes of the previous meeting. Rhea Daise gave the treasurer's report. During the business portion of the meeting we decided to hold

our Christmas party at Howard Johnson's. The food of choice was pizza. For the program part of our meeting, Lora Lake demonstrated unique pictures to make for gifts. Rhea Daise demonstrated a simple crochet project. The health and safety demonstration was given by Greg Nemechek. In lieu of recreation, we sorted the Goodland Lions Club's collection of eyeglasses. This looked like a major undertaking but turned out to be a fun activity. After refreshments, the meeting was adjourned by saying the club motto and putting away chairs. Submitted by reporter Teresa Sieck

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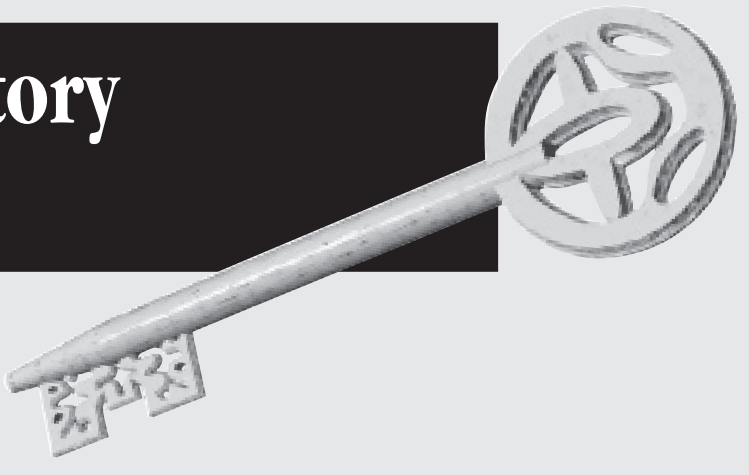
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