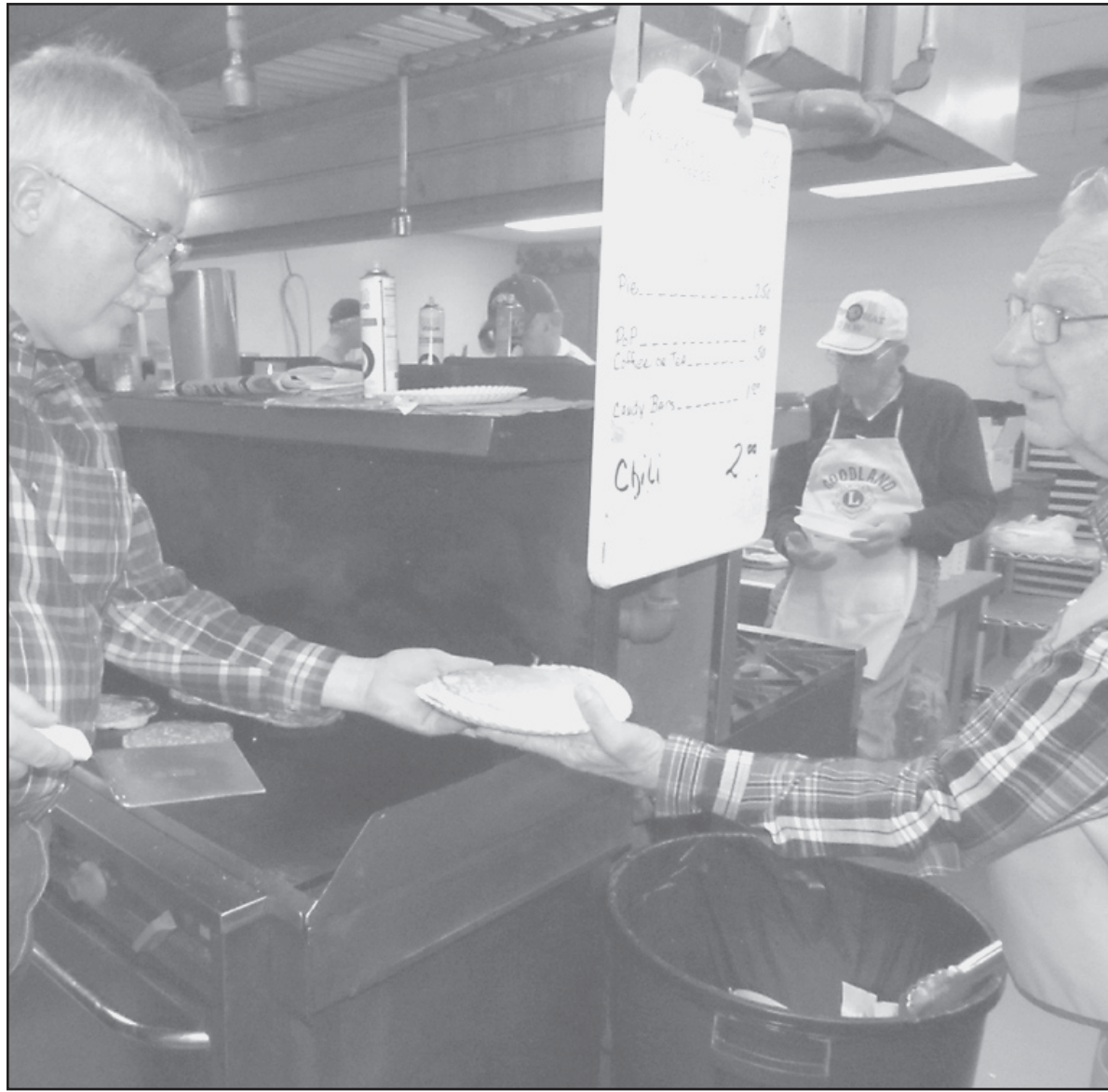


Goodland Lions pancake breakfast draws good, hungry crowd on Saturday



Goodland Lions member Mike Bretz hands a short stack of pancakes (left) to Alvin Rethmann at the pancake breakfast held Saturday at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall. Ken and Carol Baum (above) talked to Rethmann while waiting for their pancakes. The Goodland Lions estimated about 250 people attended the special event that featured the pancakes and sausage plus orange juice and coffee. Those attending could help the Lions raise money by buying a broom, nuts and candy, or by buying something from the "recycle sale" that was added this year. The Lions will use the money from the recycle sale to support diabetes awareness in Sherman County.

Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

County ponders insurance plans

COUNTY, from Page 1

Fernandez had another option from Benefit Management Inc., of Great Bend for a self-funded program that could save the county some money depending on the option the commissioners took. The total estimated cost would be \$844,931 for a 12/15 plan that would cover a full year plus a three months run out to cover all allowed claims. Without the three-month plan would cost \$665,702, plus \$23,093 for a self-funded dental plan.

Enfield asked if it wasn't too late to change, but Fernandez said it was not too late.

Fernandez said at this time she felt her recommendation to the commissioners was to renew the Blue Cross and Blue Shield fully funded plan, but expect to get more reports in the next year to allow the county to begin to make some steps to shift the plan in the future.

She said she would have Rumpel ask for two mini-utilization reports from Blue Cross and Blue Shield to help let the county know what is happening.

"We do not know who, but we need to have an idea of what is happening when you get ready to look at your budget for next year,"

she said.

She said it is important to have a meeting with the employees every year to remind everyone what the programs are and to explain the programs. She said it is important to talk to all the current employee and any new ones.

Fernandez said if the commissioners decide to go with a self-funded plan it needs to be a five-year commitment to get the reserve built up.

Enfield said if the county had a bad year they could lose it all.

Fernandez said the county would lose the 25 percent, but the reserve would build up over five years to give the county enough to be able to fund the plan at a better rate.

Enfield said it was like asking the taxpayers to pay \$100,000 a year to get the reserve built up.

"Based on what you have your renewal rates were not bad," Fernandez said. "I am not saying we need to do anything. What I am saying is we are looking at everything."

Strnad said when she was a county commissioner before the county was self-funded, and had built up a reserve. She said she has concerns about the self-funded because of the potential for a major claim, and the cost.

"I don't like to gamble with other

people's money," she said.

Enfield said another consideration is the county employees are not getting any younger.

At the end Fernandez said her recommendation was not to change anything this year. She said the self-funded is something the county could look at for the future, and possibly look at a health reimbursement arrangement as part of a total program.

Fernandez said her company would be part of a health care reform meeting to be held in April in Dodge City and will be inviting people from the county to attend.

She said one thing the commissioners need to look at is changing the plan in the future to protect the employees from being charged income tax on the insurance benefit. The possible income tax charge is part of the health reform law dealing with the "Cadillac" health plans, and the present county plan would fit the definition.

She said the county can make small step changes in the next few years to protect the employees and look for ways to reduce the costs.

Fernandez said her company could provide some additional information for the county employees tailored to Sherman County.

Attempted murder charges filed

CHARGES, from Page 1

and shooting. Director Robert Blecha said the investigation had been completed, and with the recommendation of the Sherman County attorney, had been turned over to the attorney general for prosecution.

The defendants were advised in Sherman District Court on Jan. 18, and both requested court-appointed attorneys. Doug C. Spencer of Oakley was appointed to represent Patrick and Lawrence A. Taylor of Colby for Stout-Briese.

Both lawyers filed first appearance and discovery motions on Jan. 20, with a preliminary hearing tentatively scheduled for 9 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 16. Stout-Briese's attorney filed a plea of not guilty along with the discovery motion.

County Attorney Bonnie Selby

said Friday she felt it was the right move to have the case handled by the attorney general's office. Nicole Romine of the Criminal Litigation Division will be handling the case, said Jeff Wagonman, spokesman for the attorney general.

The complaint filed in the Sherman County District Court charges that Patrick was driving the Toyota and told his passenger to "shoot those cops." The document alleges that Stout-Briese shot a .22 rifle at Trooper Perry, hitting the windshield of his car, and as they approached Edson, she shot at Trooper Brattin and one bullet hit near the gas tank area. Trooper Brattin was using the car to shield himself.

Selby said she has not seen the particular charges being sent by the attorney general, but the original charges included two counts of

aggravated attempted first degree murder, two of aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer; and attempted aggravated battery of a law enforcement officer.

Both Patrick and Stout-Briese remain in the Sherman County Bastille on \$1 million bonds.

Patrick listed himself as homeless. Stout-Briese had an address from Palmdale, Calif.

A note on the back of the request for a court appointed lawyer in Stout-Briese case file said, "I would be happy to do my time with you. I never would give you up. I thought that Cy was the reason, not you. I die for you. Good luck," signed Piper Patrick.

Sheriff Kevin Butts and Selby both said when Stout-Briese was in court for advisement she told the judge, "Piper was dead, and she was Star."

Storm spotter classes planned in March

CLASSES, from Page 1

- 1101 W. U.S. 36
March 10, Grainfield, 5:30 p.m., 4-H Building, West of town on Third St.
March 11, Leoti, 5:30 p.m., Firehouse, Fourth Street (K-25) two blocks north of Hwy 96
March 14, Goodland, 6:30 p.m., (mountain daylight time), Murray Center, Northwest Tech College, 1315 Eustis.
March 15, Wray, Colo., 6:30 p.m., Ambulance Building, Corner U.S.

34 and Blake Street.
March 16, St Francis, 5:30 p.m., High School Cafeteria, 100 S. College.

March 17, McCook, Neb., 5:30 p.m., McCook Senior Center, 1400 W Fifth St.

March 21, Benkelman, Neb., 5:30 p.m., High School Distance Learning Room, 400 Ninth Ave. W.

March 22, Hoxie, 5:30 p.m., Bowen Scout House, 1041 Sheridan St.

March 23, Oberlin, 5:30 p.m., Gateway Building, 1 Morgan

Drive.
March 24, Cheyenne Wells, Colo., 5 p.m., Middle School, 325 W Fourth St N.

March 25, Sharon Springs, 6:30 p.m., CAB Building, Fairgrounds south of town.

March 26, Burlington, Colo., 4 p.m., Burlington Community Center, 340 S 14th Street.

March 28, Trenton, Neb., 5:30 p.m., EMS Building, 333 Main St.

March 29, Tribune, 6:30 p.m., EMS Building, Greeley Ave west of K-27.

3rd Annual NW Kansas Beginners Pheasant Hunt & Hunter Ed Class

February 25 and 26, beginning at 4:30 p.m. MT

Hunter Education course and Pheasant hunt at Kuhrt Ranch
www.kuhrtranch.com (for directions)

Pre-registration and deposit are required.
Class room limit: 25

Call Brent Flanders at (785) 899-5306 or Mike Hopper at (785) 899-5199



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\$15 Vase/Daffodils
\$25 Boyd's Bear and A Bundle
Order by February 20th; Deliver second week of March
Contact: Sherida Shoff
(785) 899-5047

A SPECIAL PUBLIC INVITATION
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KCCMH Specialty Clinic • 286 16th Street • Burlington, CO
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