

## Moving toward the future



Early Thursday morning the new computer to plate machine arrived at *The Goodland Star-News*. Gary Farris of Farris Manufacturing provided the forklift to move the machine which weighed 1,100 pounds. The editorial staff will be able to send their proofed

pages to this machine, which will put them on the plates that are used on the printing press. Currently a page is printed full size on paper and photographed. The negative is then reproduced on the plate. This plate is used to print the papers. Changing

technology and the scarcity of film and chemicals prompted the update. Systems Manager Evan Barnum from Nor'West Papers was on hand to help.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

# Medicare enrollment approaching

For those of us with Medicare, the fall season means more than watching our favorite football team and enjoying the foliage. Monday, Oct. 15, through Friday, Dec. 7, is also Medicare open enrollment season.

Medicare open enrollment is the only time of the year when the more than 435,000 people who have Medicare in Kansas can review and make changes to their Medicare coverage. Any changes you make will be in place on January 1.

During open enrollment you can:

- Switch to a Medicare Advantage plan;
- Switch from one Medicare Advantage plan to another;
- Drop your Medicare Advantage plan and return to Original Medicare; or
- Join a Medicare Prescription Drug plan, change to a new one or drop your coverage.

It is always a good idea to review your plan to make sure you are get-

ting the most out of your Medicare coverage. Evaluating your plan options is easier than you think. Just follow the four "Cs": coverage, cost, convenience and customer satisfaction.

### Coverage

Comparing Medicare plans is simple. The official Medicare website has a tool at [www.Medicare.gov/find-a-plan](http://www.Medicare.gov/find-a-plan) that helps you find and compare all of the plans available in your area. When reviewing plans, focus on the benefits, such as the coverage offered while you are in the "doughnut hole," the period during which you pay a higher share of your drug costs. Find out which drugs are covered.

If you need help comparing coverage options, you can work with SHICK (Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansans) counselors. Be sure to ask the counselor questions about issues that matter to you, such as whether you will have coverage if you get sick while

traveling out of state.

### Cost

From year to year, your Medicare plan costs may change. During open enrollment, you should compare all of the costs, including premiums, deductibles, drug costs and out-of-pocket maximums.

### Convenience

When it comes to going to doctor's appointments and filling prescriptions, convenience matters. When comparing Medicare plans, find out if you will have access to nearby doctors. Use the Medicare Plan Finder ([www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan/](http://www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan/)) to locate plans that your local pharmacy accepts or plans that provide online prescription-filling or mail-order options.

### Customer service

Have you ever wondered how your Medicare plan stacks up against the

rest? When you're comparing plans, use Medicare's star-rating system. Medicare health and prescription drug plans are rated on how they perform in different categories, such as responsiveness and care, member complaints and customer service. A plan can rate between 1 star ("poor") and 5 stars ("excellent"). You can view the star-ratings at [www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan](http://www.medicare.gov/find-a-plan) by clicking on the plan name. You can compare up to three plans at once.

After the Four Cs, You are Ready for D (Decide)

Remember, even if you are happy with your Medicare plan, it is wise to evaluate your options since the open enrollment period is the one time each year you can switch plans. Once you go through the four Cs of comparing coverage, cost, convenience and customer service, you

can make a well-researched decision to either change your plan or stay with what you have.

Remember, it is important to review your options carefully. In some cases, if you drop your coverage you might not be able to get it back.

Of course, you may decide to keep the coverage you have. But, if you miss the Friday, Dec. 7, deadline, you'll have to wait until next fall to switch to a different Medicare plan.

## 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**

## Patient & Family Support Programs at Goodland Regional Medical Center

Wednesday, October 3:

**Pain Management Basics  
For Patients & Families  
4:30-5:30 p.m. MST**

The presentation will take place over televideo and will cover common pain complaints and the use of medication and non-medication to control pain.  
Facilitator: *Melanie Simpson, PhD, RN-BC, OCN, CHPN*

**All programs are FREE  
Meet in the Large Boardroom  
220 W. 2nd  
Goodland KS 67735  
See more information on our website:  
[www.goodlandregional.com](http://www.goodlandregional.com)**



## GHS Cowboys of the Week

Based on positive academic performance, attendance improvement, positive attitude or random acts of kindness, the student nominees this week are:

Week of September 10, 2012



Dustin Wendt, Senior

No information provided.



Lacie Cowan, Senior

Lacie was nominated by Mrs. Porterfield. Her favorite subject is English Comp and she loves to attend the GHS Football games. Her parents are Brad and Kris Cowan.

Proud Sponsor this week:

**Truck & Tractor  
Repair, LLC**

714 E. Hwy. 24, Goodland, KS  
785-899-2401



October 5th & 6th, 2012 - Kanorado, KS

## Oktoberfest

Friday, October 5: Chili Cookoff  
Saturday, October 6:

7:30-10:30 AM: Biscuit & gravy breakfast at Senior Center  
11 AM: Parade Top Side of Kansas  
11:30 AM-1:30 PM: Ham & beans at Senior Center  
1:30 PM: Horseshoe tournament up at School  
2 PM: Bingo at Senior Center

- Food vendors • Kids Games • Cake Walk
- Crafters • Pie & Ice Cream at Senior Center
- Octoberfest Fair • and much more!
- Vendors/Crafters welcome!

For more information on the Chili Cook-off and other events, call Tammy at (785) 399-2348 or Hazel at (785) 399-2282.