Gove: Community owned grocery

By Ron Wilson,
director, Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development at Kansas State University.

What happened at your local grocery store when the ice storm hit? Many stores struggled to provide needed supplies when an ice storm hit Kansas in December 2007. Today we'll learn about a rural Kansas store that found a way to serve its community members despite the storm - in part because the store is owned by the community itself.

Von Tuttle, Cheri Remington, Marvin Beesley, Kassie Remington, Don Zerr, and Megan Tuttle are members of the Board of Directors of the Gove Community Improvement Association.

Gove is a rural place. It has the distinction of being the smallest county seat in the state with a population of 103 people. Now, that's rural.

It's a challenge to sustain services in a town that size. The local grocery store in Gove closed in the early 1980s. In 1986, a group of concerned citizens came together to reopen and operate a store. They formed the Gove Community Improvement Association or GCIA and founded the GCIA Grocery.

By the early 1990s, the local café had closed as well. In 1995, the GCIA built a new building with volunteer labor, local donations, and a 10-year, no interest loan from the local rural electric cooperative which has been repaid. This building houses the GCIA Grocery as well as a community-owned eating place called the County Seat Café.

For $25, a person can join GCIA which entitles them to charge their groceries at the store. I don´t mean with a credit card, I mean that the store will keep a charge account for them which they pay at the end of the month.

The building is clean and well-maintained. But what is really unusual is that it is community-owned and directed by volunteers. There is a hired manager, but a board of volunteers gives direction and also provides legwork to operate it.

In 2006, GCIA purchased a local grocery distribution business. The wholesaler delivers groceries to GCIA which are then redistributed to other local stores. This helps all the stores meet the minimum purchase requirement from the supplier, as well as sharing needed produce or meat products. Board members and other volunteers step in to help sort the shipments each week.

The GCIA Board has seen firsthand the importance of having a store nearby for the elderly or young families. Cheri Remington saw this benefit while caring for her husband's grandmother. Or when there´s a sick baby in town, someone is willing to open the store to get the medicine they need.

A dramatic example happened in the ice storm of December 2007. The power in Gove was out for five days, but the GCIA Grocery opened to serve the community. The store had no power and no lights, but they found a way to make it work.

Marvin Beesley says, "We had flashlights and people went through the aisles. We didn't have a cash register but we wrote down who owed what, and when it was all over, they came in and paid their bills. It's another convenience of having a local store."

They used a portable generator to keep the refrigerator and freezer going at the café, but there was too much in the store to save it all. So they took a bunch of food to the gas grill in the café, cooked it up and fed a bunch of people, including the linemen who were working on the down electrical lines. The café itself was unlocked, because the generator cord went through the café door so it had to remain open. People took food to shut-ins and neighbors helped neighbors.

Marvin Beesley says, "It wasn't a good time, but it was a lot of community togetherness."

So what happened at your local grocery store when the ice storm hit? In the case of Gove, the people of the community and the community store came together and helped each other through tough times. We commend all those who are part of the Gove Community Improvement Association for making a difference by sustaining that local service. That spirit of cooperation helps rural communities to cope with whatever might be in store.

The mission of the Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development is to enhance rural development by helping rural people help themselves. The Kansas Profile radio series and columns are produced with assistance from the K-State Research and Extension Department of Communications News Unit. Audio and text files of Kansas Profiles are available at www.kansasprofile.com. For more information about the Huck Boyd Institute, interested persons can visit www.oznet.ksu.edu/huckboyd/.

Man rides horse for children's disease

By CAROLYN PLOTTS
cplotts@nwkansas.com

Phil Dawson believes in three things: kids, horses and America. That's why, he, along with his wife, Patty, and their two Appaloosa stallions, "Billy" and "Jet" are riding from their home in Hagerman, Idaho to Pocahontas State Park in Virginia, raising funds on the way.

Accompanying them is Dennis Copenbarger, also from Hagerman.

Mr. Dawson said, "Children are the future of America. But, not all children in America are lucky enough to experience even the smallest joys that other American children take for granted." These are the children who are affected with long-term illnesses.

The couple takes turns riding and try to average about 20 miles a day. Mr. Dawson said, "We'll go according to what the horse is capable of doing." He said he checks them very closely. He spent 25 years as a blacksmith so he is knows what to look for. He is able to shoe the horses and watches their hooves for injuries.

When the horses aren't being ridden, they get to ride in an air-conditioned trailer equipped with a gravity flow watering system invented by Mr. Dawson. They get plenty of hay, vitamins and a special-mix mash Mr. Dawson stirs up for them. Mr. Dawson said they expect to arrive in Virginia by Oct. 20. He said this trip was a year in the making.

By challenging every horse-lover, every parent and every veteran to donate at least $2, the couple hopes to raise ten million dollars to help children with medical expenses that are incurred during their treatment.

Mr. Dawson said all money donated stays in America and is dispersed by America Fundraisers through an application process.

Mrs. Dawson said, "People have been really good to us and I want the kids to know there's lots to do on our website."

Mr. and Mrs. Dawson have three sons and five grandchildren.

He's already talking about his next endeavor; he and his wife will go on a tour with the two horses that are trained to do tricks. The have added a new member to their fund raising team. A Corgy/heeler mix named, "Short Stop" who will become a trick dog. Again, they plan to raise money to help children.

You can follow the Dawson's progress by logging on to their web site at: *www.americafundraisers.org*. On the site you will find a link on which you can donate to their organization.

The *Colby Free Press* wants to maintain an accurate record of our town. Please report any error or lack of clarity in a news story to us at 462-3963.

We want your local news e-mail to pdecker@nwkansas.com

Vehicles for Sale

2000 Ford Expedition. Eddie Bauer, leather, 3rd seat, 96K, asking $10,500. Call 443-3637.
-----7/7---7/11-----

1983 Buick. New transmission, new gas tank, new carb., 30,000 miles on engine. 785-460-5817. $995
-----7/2---7/9-----

1996 Freightliner 60 series Detroit, $12,500. 9N Ford tractor with 5ft Bush Hog mower, $3,750. 1970 Ford 1 ton dually $850.00. 1984 1 ton dually $850.00. Both are flat beds. 17ft boat $2,195. 1982 Beachcraft motorhome 49k $5,200. 785-673-9475.
-----6/30---7/14-----

2001 Ford Super Crew, 4dr, 4x4, keyless, topper, 88k, 5.4 $12,500 OBO. 785-460-9791, 785-443-2291.
-----6/30---7/7-----

Services

Need a Handyman? Minor plumbing, electrical, remodel, painting, int/ext. Call Stan Gallagher 785-672-3677.
-----6/26---7/10-----

Backhoe Service Call for any underground leak repairs or replacements. Insured for your protection. Agricultural, oil-field, commercial, residential. Other light and heavy duty equipment available. Call 785-673-3100.
-----6/20---7/17-----

Daycare Kountry Kids Daycare has openings. Contact Kristina Deges for details. 462-7384.
-----5/14---7/19-----

Tired of Leaks every time it rains? Murray Roofing and Construction. 1-800-794-3204 or 443-1339.
-----5/2---TFN-----

Free Estimate Flat and sloped roofs, all kinds. Murray Roofing and Construction. 1-800-794-3204 or 443-1339.
-----5/2---TFN-----

Free Estimate Automatic, computerized, underground sprinkler system. 1-800-794-3204 or 443-1339.
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Free Estimate Lawn power rake, aerate and edge program. JM Tree and Lawn Service. 1-800-794-3204 or 443-1339.
-----5/2---TFN-----

Free Estimate Lawn fertilizer and weed control program. JM Tree and Lawn Service. 1-800-794-3204 or 443-1339.
-----5/2---TFN-----

Free Estimate Tree spraying promotes healthy trees! JM Tree and Lawn Service. 1-800-794-3204 or 443-1339.
-----5/2---TFN-----

Free Estimate Landscaping, tree trimming and removal. JM Tree and Lawn Service. 1-800-794-3204 or 443-1339.
-----5/2---TFN-----

Up to 80% savings possible on many medications. Generics now available for Celebrex, Lipitor, Nexium, Plavix, Singulair, and all ED meds. Canada Drug Topeka, 1-866-804-6100.
-----G 4/26---TFN-----

Garage Sales

Saturday, July 12th 8-12 noon, 520 E. Hill. Clothes, MK Summer Sale, Crafts & other fun stuff.
-----7/7-7/11-----

Public Notice

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THOMAS COUNTY, KANSAS

In the Matter of the Estate of STEVEN LEROY BIXENMAN, Deceased

Case No. 2008-PR-0 I

NOTICE OF HEARING

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified a Petition has been filed in this Court by David A. Bixenman, duly appointed, qualified and acting Administrator of the Estate of Steven Leroy Bixenman, deceased, praying Petitioner's acts be approved; account be settled and allowed; the heirs be determined; the Estate be assigned to the persons entitled thereto pursuant to the Valid Settlement Agreement; fees and expenses be allowed; costs be determined and ordered paid; the administration of the Estate be closed; the Administrator be discharged and Petitioner and the surety on Administrator's bond be released from further liability.

You are hereby required to file your written defenses thereto on or before July 22, 2008, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. in the District Court, Colby, Thomas County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

David A. Bixenman
Administrator

Bruce Flipse #10897
FLIPSE & FLIPSE
485 West Fourth St.
P. 0. Box 606
Colby, Kansas 67701
(785) 460-3365 Attorney for Petitioner

(Published in the Colby Free Press June 30, July 7, and 14, 2008)

TV LISTINGS

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COLBY FREE PRESS

WEEKDAYS JULY 8 - JULY 14

	6 AM	6:30	7 AM	7:30	8 AM	8:30	9 AM	9:30	10 AM	10:30	11 AM	11:30
KLBY/ABC (4)	[illegible]		[illegible]				[illegible]		[illegible]		[illegible]	
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WEEKDAYS JULY 8 - JULY 14

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TUESDAY JULY 8

	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30
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WEDNESDAY JULY 9

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ESPN (9)	[illegible]						[illegible]		[illegible]		[illegible]	[illegible]
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