

**On the Beat**

**COLBY POLICE**

**Tuesday**

3:52, 4:03 a.m. – Security checks at Bosselman's and Oasis.  
 9:20 a.m. – Counterfeit \$20 at People's State Bank.  
 11:25 a.m. – Vehicle parked on grass at 1150 S. Franklin #57.  
 1:22 p.m. – License tag found at Franklin and Second.  
 1:25 p.m. – Barking dog at Ash and Walnut. Spoke to owner.  
 3:20 p.m. – Served packet to Midwest Energy.  
 4:33 p.m. – Mike Albers reported possible open container on Range and Ash. Made traffic stop; everything OK.  
 6 p.m. – Harassing by text message. Left message with suspect.  
 7:07 p.m. – Window shot out with a BB gun at Amber Waves Apartments.  
 8:10 p.m. – Manager at Quality Inn reported wallet found. Owner reached; wallet taken to station.  
 8:18 p.m. – Garage door opening and closing on Mentlick. Secured; garage door button stuck.  
 8:41 p.m. – Accident at 805 E. Fourth.  
 10:36 p.m. – Loud music at 485 Walker #1. Spoke with subjects.  
**Wednesday**  
 12:34 a.m. – Domestic in the basement at 1255 W. Fourth.  
 1:26 a.m. – Question answered about several different incidents.  
 3:44 a.m. – Security check on the Orschelns lot.  
 8:01 a.m. – Spoke to owner at 175 E. Ash #4 about barking dog complaint on Tuesday.  
 11:09 a.m. – Funeral block.  
 12:19 p.m. – Large, unidentified bird behind Colby Grade School;

requests check. Bird OK.

3:37 p.m. – Driving while suspended report on traffic stop at Range and Third.  
 4:20 p.m. – Cindy Hake reported accident in 1700 block of W. Fourth.  
 8:35 p.m. – Vehicles parked in lot behind post office, blocking semi. Vehicles were moved.

**THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF**  
**Tuesday**

11:13 a.m. – Report filed on child in need of care in Rexford.  
 12:54 p.m. – Transported two juveniles from WaKeeney Detention Center to the Law Enforcement Center.  
 1:18 p.m. – Sheridan County advised of truck and trailer southbound on U.S. 83 from Rexford with back door of trailer open. Located vehicle; door was secured.  
 1:30 p.m. – Cattle out on U.S. 83 mile 161. Not found.  
 8:21 p.m. – Assisted stranded motorist I-70 mile 49 eastbound.  
**Wednesday**  
 9:11 a.m. – Vehicle driving erratically at nine-mile corner westbound on U.S. 24. Not found.  
 10:06 a.m. – Cattle out on U.S. 83 mile 161. Not found.  
 2:43 p.m. – Served arrest warrant on Amy Ingandela  
 3:25 p.m. – Possession/introducing contraband to jail: report filed on incident in jail.  
 6:10 p.m. – Erratic driver on Main St. in Brewster.  
 10:27 p.m. – Towed a vehicle from County Rd. 5 and U.S. 24.  
 11:22 p.m. – Assisted motorist at mile 68 eastbound I-70. Help coming from Colby for flat tire.

# Web site promotes small towns

By Ron Wilson

Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development

The call came from Illinois. The caller said, "I'm tired of the big city, tired of the rat race. Would you send me some information about the small towns you have on your web site?"

It made Nicole Godek's day, for this was the first call she had in response to her brand new site on the World Wide Web which promotes small-town America. That's the subject of this Kansas Profile.

Nicole Godek is the founder and creator of a new Web site, www.lovesmalltownAmerica.com.

Nicole is a native of Grainfield. She studied graphic design at K-State and embarked on a career that took her to Nebraska, California, and Colorado. After working in the print field, she started working in Web site design and then founded her own web design business in 2002. She called it StirStick Studio because it mixes design and communication. More information can be found at www.stirstick.com.

By 2007, she and her husband had a young family and they moved back to her hometown of Grainfield. They now own the grocery store in Grainfield, and Nicole continues to operate stirstick.com. Then something happened which sparked a whole new line of thought.

Nicole said, "We wanted to redo a room in our house, so I did a Google search for a contractor just like I would have done in the city. But hardly any of our local contractors came up, and I realized they weren't online." Not only did the local businesses not come up on the Internet, the rural communities in her region were not well-represented either.

Nicole said, "I thought to myself, how can I get my small town back on the map and give back to a community that has been so gracious to us? The people here in Grainfield are excited about the school and the town. I figured we could use the web to share this excitement with others."

That was the beginning of Nicole's initiative to promote rural communities and businesses online. She created a website, www.lovesmalltownAmerica.com.

This was a natural extension of Nicole's existing business in print and web design and new media. She already has clients as far away as California and Florida.

Nicole said the goals of the website are two-fold: One, to provide a site where small town businesses and organizations can expand and reach an online market affordably, and second, to provide families and businesses looking to relocate with a comprehensive resource to find the right fit for them.

Nicole said, "We offer the Web site as a service for the communities and businesses. Because many of them are unfamiliar with the Web, we do the writing and updating so it is as easy for them

as possible. We also do search engine optimization."

First, Nicole approached the city council in her home town of Grainfield. After they signed on to the service, she started expanding the scope of communities and businesses. Her Web site features truly rural communities such as the town of Park, population 148 people. Now, that's rural.

Nicole is passionate about small town America. She hopes others will come to small communities and bring their businesses with them. Her feelings were brought home, so to speak, when she and her husband moved back to her hometown. Nicole said, "We have more house here than we had in Colorado for much less than half the price."

But beyond the economic factors, Nicole said, "The atmosphere was different than the big city we had moved from. People welcomed us with open arms, there was real one-on-one interaction at the schools for my kids, real estate was inexpensive and there was an authentic community spirit that lived among everyone."

The call came from Illinois. Someone had visited Nicole's Web site, www.lovesmalltownAmerica.com, and was calling to get more information because they were tired of the big city rat race. It was an example of utilizing the power of technology to promote rural communities.

We commend Nicole Godek for making a difference with her community spirit, and for using the tools of technology to help rural communities reach out to the world through the world wide web.

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