

Value-added grants help ag producers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development is inviting applications for Value-Added Producer Grants, which can help independent producers, farmer and rancher cooperatives and agricultural producer groups.

"USDA Rural Development assists rural producers in adding value to their agricultural products through the Value-Added Producer Grants," said Rural Development state director Patty Clark. "Investing in the development of value-added agricultural products provides producers with tools to help further develop additional revenue opportunities in rural America."

In 2009, Nu Life Market based in Scott City, received a Value-Added Producer Grant to establish markets for its grain sorghum bran. Grain sorghum used by Nu Life is grown, processed, packaged and marketed by regional farmers. The company's sorghum bran, which can be used in food and beverage products, contains

phytonutrients that can help prevent cardiovascular disease, cancer and obesity.

The application deadline for the grant program is Monday, Aug. 29. For further details about eligibility rules and application procedures, see the June 28, *Federal Register*.

Grants may be used for feasibility studies or business plans, working capital for marketing value-added agricultural products and for farm-based renewable energy projects.

Eligible applicants include independent producers, cooperatives, and agricultural producer groups. Value-added products are created when a producer increases the consumer value of an agricultural commodity in the production or processing stage.

For information regarding this and other Rural Development programs visit www.rurdev.usda.gov/ KS, or call the Agency's state office at (785) 271-2700.

Colby pair recognized for home ownership

Stock Realty and Auction Company and Nicole Ratzlaff, a Colby homeowner, were recognized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for their support of National Homeownership Month.



N. Ratzlaff



Molly Oliver

Kent Colwell, the department's rural development area director, singled out Stock realtor Molly Oliver as an "outstanding rural development partner." Oliver referred several potential borrowers to the rural development office and worked with Ratzlaff, a single mother who had been living in apartments, to find a home in Colby. Colwell gave each a certificate.

"I work with potential homebuyers to help them find a home

that they can afford and achieve the dream of homeownership," Oliver said. "USDA Rural Development has helped several individuals that didn't qualify for a loan with a traditional lender purchase a home."

Ratzlaff said she enjoys the privacy of her new home and being able to have enough room for her family.

The rural development office has two home loan programs for rural residents, the Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program and the Single Family Housing Direct Loan Program. For information, visit www.rurdev.usda.gov.

Celebrate 133 years with Nicodemus

The town of Nicodemus is holding its 133rd Emancipation Homecoming Celebration Thursday through Sunday, July 28-31 with several special events and guests planned.

Featured guests and highlights at this year's celebration are:

Special guest speaker at 1 p.m. on Saturday, July 30, is Joseph Marshall, a Lakota Sioux from the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota. He is a historian, educator, motivational speaker, and a Lakota craftsman, and has been both a technical advisor and an actor in television movies, including the Emmy-nominated TNT/Dreamworks TV mini-series *Into the West* and *Return to Lonesome Dove*. He is the author of 15 books, including "The Long Knives are Crying," about the Battle of the Little Big Horn, "The Lakota Way," and "The Journey of Crazy Horse." He will be speaking about the Native American and African American experience on the 19th

century plains. He will also be available for a book signing.

At 2 p.m. there will be a short theatrical presentation of the Life and Times of the Buffalo Soldier by Barrie Tompkins, president of the Nicodemus Buffalo Soldier Association a re-enactment riding group. Barrie lives in the area and appeared in TNT movies "Buffalo Soldiers" and "Rough Riders."

Another highlight will be a one-hour ballet of playwright Pearl Cleage's play *Flying West*. The ballet and play is about four sisters who settle at Nicodemus. Wavery Lucas and his wife Nina, co-founders of Ballethnic Dance Company are former members of Alvin Ailey dance company of New York.

After a visit last year to the Nicodemus celebration, Waverly was inspired to adapt play to a ballet. They will perform an hour of the full-length play, which they are hoping to bring in full to the area in the near future.

Forecasters give all clear after Boulder flooding today

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) — A second surge of water caused by heavy rain along Boulder Creek caused no serious damage but forced an unknown number of evacuations early today, officials said.

The surge followed a 4-foot surge Wednesday evening that also caused no major damage.

Sirens sounded in Boulder to warn people about the first surge, and automated warning calls were sent to residents warning them to

be aware of flood conditions.

Police and firefighters were stationed along Boulder Creek to tell people to evacuate. Roads in Fourmile Canyon west of Boulder were closed by water and debris.

Recent heavy rains have heightened flooding concerns in the area because a wildfire last fall burned vegetation off the mountainsides.

Meanwhile, about 1,000 people spent the night at Denver International Airport following a hail storm that damaged some aircraft.

On the Beat

COLBY POLICE

Tuesday

12:32 a.m. — Security check at Comfort Inn.

1:24 a.m. — Caller reported kids possibly going into the old hospital. Unable to find anyone inside, three subjects were walking by.

1:33 a.m. — Suspicious incident: caller reported a vehicle parked on W. Seventh. Vehicle still there, unable to locate anyone.

3:48 a.m. — Security check at the Aquatic Park.

6:19 a.m. — Unlocked building at Fike Park.

7:21 a.m. — Helped ambulance

crew.

7:48 a.m. — Caller reported barking and howling dogs. Unable to contact the owner.

9:16 a.m. — Caller reported two checks written on closed account. reports filed.

10:11 a.m. — Two dogs at large behind the Law Enforcement Center. Owner contacted to pick up.

1:16 p.m. — Caller reported problems with juvenile. Located juvenile report filed.

2:34 p.m. — Helped motorist at Range and Eighth.

3:45 p.m. — Provided information to subject at Twisters.

6:34 p.m. — Accident at Dillons.

11 p.m. — Locked building at Fike Park.

11:46 p.m. — Information provided on protection from abuse order.

THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF

Tuesday

1:43 a.m. — Police units requested assistance at the old hospital.

11:48 a.m. — Dispute: caller reported problem. Civil matter, meeting scheduled with commissioners.

3:34 p.m. — Driving while suspended report filed on incident.

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Congrats, Molly Oliver on your Recognition from USDA Rural Development!

June was National Homeownership Month and USDA Rural Development staff honored Molly Oliver from Stock Realty and Auction Co. and homeowner Nicole Ratzlaff.

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USDA Rural Development
Committed to the future of rural communities.

Pictured from left to right: Kent Colwell, USDA Area Director in Hays; Molly Oliver, Stock Realty & Auction Company; Nicole Ratzlaff, Colby Homeowner; Tracy McCubbin, USDA Housing Specialist; and Stacey Komarek, USDA Housing Technician.

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