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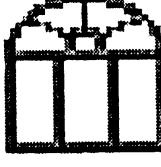
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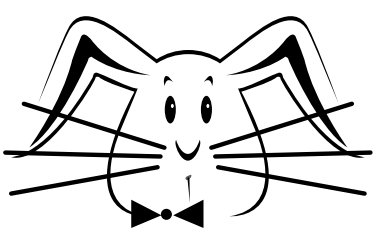



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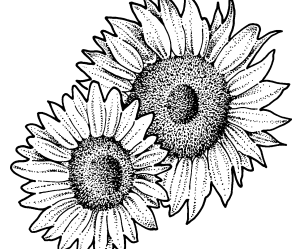


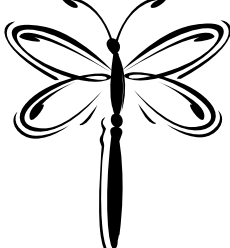
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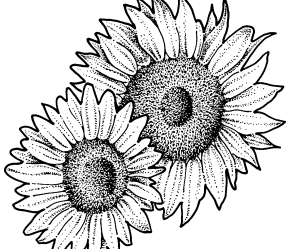












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Girl Scouts help raise awareness of child abuse



Junior Girl Scouts Troop 159 members who worked on the blue ribbon campaign for Child Abuse Prevention Month in April are (left to right) Chantel Coates, Amy Floyd, Trace Waugh, Rachel Hageman, Brooke Lockhart and Elizabeth Wellmann. Wellmann and Waugh (below) put blue ribbon pins on cards that explain that they are to raise awareness of child abuse and neglect and list ways everyone can help prevent it. One of the posters the girls made (bottom) urges people to wear a ribbon to show support. The posters were made into a quilt that hangs at the Goodland Public Library. Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

Activities planned in April

By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Star-News

Usually mentioning child abuse brings to mind abuse by parents and caretakers, but sometimes children abuse each other, and that problem is the focus of National Child Abuse Prevention Month activities in April.

Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect project director Roxy Cabral is working with junior Girl Scout troops in northwest Kansas on activities to prevent bullying as a way to raise awareness for the abuse prevention month.

Junior Girl Scouts in Sherman County have made posters that were made into a quilt that hangs at the Goodland Public Library, attached blue ribbon pins to cards to pass out to raise awareness of abuse and will have a “girls night out” pajama party.

Members of the junior Girl Scouts Troop 159 in Goodland who worked on the project are Rachel Hageman, Elizabeth Wellmann, Trace Waugh, Chantel Coates, Amy Floyd and Brooke Lockhart. Denise Floyd is the troop’s leader.

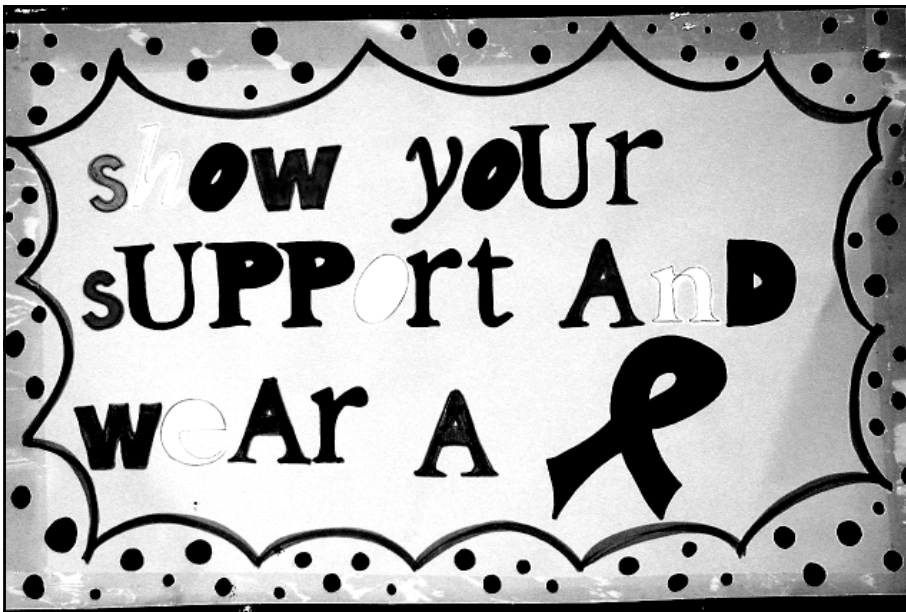
At the party, they will watch “Odd Girl Out,” a movie about girls bullying in high school, enjoy refreshments and talk about the movie and personal experiences with bullying.

“I’ll bring information,” Cabral said, “but the objective is to get them involved.”

“Odd Girl Out” is a good movie for them to watch, she said, because it is about girl bullying. Girls bully differently than boys, she said; rather than physical abuse, they employ emotional abuse. For girls, she said, it’s usually by rumors, name calling and isolating others. The movie shows what happens in high schools, she said, and what the girl’s mother when through dealing with her daughter being bullied.

The Girl Scouts are asked to bring a parent or other adult guardian, Cabral said, who will also participate in the discussion. There will also be prizes for those who attend, she said; names will be drawn for the winners.

Often people don’t think of it that way, Cabral said, but bullying is a form of abuse. Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect covers 11 counties, she said, and all of them



have talked about the bullying issue at prevention coalition meetings.

She wanted to address bullying in each county for the abuse prevention month in April, but the idea on how to do it took some help.

“If I come here,” said Cabral, who works in the Regional Prevention Center office in Colby, “people don’t know who I am. They’ll pay more attention to the youths here.”

When trying to decide how best to reach the target group with the message, Cabral talked it over with coworkers. Wendy Wellmann, prevention consultant, has a

daughter at North Elementary School who is in junior Girl Scouts, Cabral said; they have to do certain things to earn badges. This is a form of community service, she said.

Cabral asked Girl Scout troops in all 11 counties to do the same activities in their area. Sherman County was the first one to get on board, she said, and at least five others have decided to do it too.

Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect grants can be used to deal with several issues, Cabral said, including bullying, Internet safety and dating safety. There are so many forms of abuse, she said.



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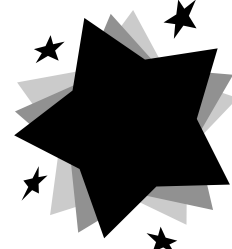


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