

Programs turn kids lives around

By Tom Betz

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Programs in the Northwest Kansas Juvenile Service paid for in part by Sherman County have helped kids turn their lives around and saves the county money by keeping the young people out of the more costly detention centers.

Peggy Pratt, director of the Northwest Juvenile Services of Oberlin was at the Sherman County commission meeting on Monday, July 12, to report on the juvenile programs and ask the commissioners to consider giving them money in next year's budget.

Pratt told the commissioners the first time offender program has saved the county money. She said the program is a 90-day

agreement where the student involved has to write an apology and be passing in school. If the student is not getting passing grades suddenly the program doubles to six months rather than 90 days.

Kelly Dewey of Atwood handles this program, and County Attorney Bonnie Selby said it has been successful when she has used it.

Pratt said over all the first time offender program has a 90 percent success rate. She said Dewey goes to the schools and checks out how the student is doing by meeting with the teachers and principal.

She said the Thinking for a Change program, has been going for about a year teaching kids how to deal with situations through role playing. She said it is working on the kids with

their own peers.

"We have a program going in Goodland," she said, "and we bring kids from Colby to be sure we have enough in number to make the program work. It has been very successful."

Selby said these programs have been helpful to her office. She said if the situations are more serious the young person is moved out into more restrictive environments.

"Kids who get to the case management stage seem to have no one who cares about them," Selby said. "The agencies try to provide services to the parents to be able to handle the changes when the kid is brought back into the home."

Pratt said the statistics indicate 90 percent of the problems are boys being raised by

single mothers. She said many times the mothers find it difficult to provide the discipline the boys need.

Pratt said some of the kids who have been through the juvenile programs have done great. She had an example of a paper written by a young woman who has turned her life around and wants to be a nurse. Another example was a young man who has turned his life around and believes he has a chance for a good future career.

Pratt said she was asking Sherman County to continue the \$1,000 the county gave last year. She said the money is used to pay for travel costs.

See PROGRAM, Page 5

Final bill presented for Rd 14

By Tom Betz

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Sherman County commissioners received a change order and the final bill for the south portion of the County Road 14 project completed earlier this year.

Darin Neufeld, engineer from Evans, Bierly, Hutchison and Associates, was at the meeting on July 12 to present the change order and a final bill from Smoky Hill.

He said this was the non-state portion of the project. He said there is nothing more to do with the state portion of the project, which was mostly the one mile portion north of old U.S. 24 that was funded in part by a state economic development grant and money from the special sales tax Sherman County voters approved.

Neufeld said the change order had increased by \$18,000 because the contractor had to take out more of the road base to make it more stable.

He said there was money to cover the increase.

County clerk Janet Rumpel said she has been working on a final report on the sales tax, but was waiting on the Kansas Department of Transportation for their final figures on the Road 14 project.

Neufeld said KDOT always adds on a fee they call project administration.

See ROAD, Page 5

Stone work finishes Post Office front steps



Several weeks ago a company came to town to replace the front steps at the Goodland Post Office, and last week a company from Fort Scott came to put pre-cast stones on top to finish out the new steps. The front steps are expected to be open this week. Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Advance voting opens for Primary Election

By Tom Betz

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Ballots for those on the permanent advance list were mailed Friday, and today the advance voting opens in the Sherman County Clerk's office.

The Primary Election is on Tuesday, Aug. 3, and the county poll will be at the Veterans of Foreign Wars, 824 Main Ave. that day from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

However, for those who will not be able to vote on that day or who wish to vote early the county clerk's office will have a voting booth set up during regular office hours. The clerk's office is open from 8 a.m. to noon and from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

All Sherman County registered voters are eligible to vote in this election because there is a countywide issue about setting a 2 mill property tax levy to fund the Sherman County Economic Development Council said County Clerk Janet Rumpel.

The county commissioners passed a resolution at the request of the development council to establish the 2 mill levy to replace the money the city and county have been giving the council since it was created.

The economic development council is made up of seven elected members and one representative from each bank. All of the members are approved by the county commissioners.



Sen. Tim Huelskamp, Republican candidate for U.S. Representative, was in Goodland recently to meet with a small group of supporters. Huelskamp is one of six Republicans seeking the nomination in the Primary Election on Aug. 3. Advance voting opened today in Sherman County. Huelskamp is from Fowler where his family has farmed for more than 80 years. He told the people he is running to restore fiscal balance in Washington. Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

A citizens group met at Gambino's more than seven years ago and went to the county commissioners with the request to create an economic development program under the umbrella of the county.

Citizens petitioned the county commissioners to put the 2 mill levy for economic development on the Primary Election ballot. Another resolution passed by the commissioners for a 6 mill levy for

Goodland Regional Medical Center did not receive any petition and went into effect without a citizen vote. The hospital mill levy has been renewed several times and comes up every three years.

Because of the countywide issue everyone who is registered to vote will be able to cast a ballot regardless of whether they are registered as a Democrat or Republican or are unaffiliated.

The Primary Election is for nominating Republicans and Democrats who will be seeking office in the November General Election said Rumpel. This year the Democrats do not have any local races, and anyone registered as a Democrat or unaffiliated may vote in the open primary to decide the state and congressional candidates.

On the Republican side there is no race for county commissioner with Chuck Thomas being the only nominee.

For the state legislature there is a Republican contest between Brenda McCants of Goodland and Jim Morrison of Colby. McCants is seeking to unseat Morrison who has served in the state legislature for about 19 years.

Kansas United States Senator Sam Brownback and running mate Jeff Colyer are seeking the Republican nomination for governor, and face Joan Heffington and Mark Holick in the primary. On the Democratic side Tom Holland and Kelly Kulturala are seeking the nomination for governor.

First District Congressman Jerry Moran (R-Hays) is seeking election

See PRIMARY, Page 5

weather report

92°

noon
Monday

Today

• Sunset, 8:09 p.m.

Wednesday

• Sunrise, 5:38 a.m.
• Sunset, 8:08 p.m.

Midday Conditions

• Soil temperature 78 degrees
• Humidity 35 percent
• Sky sunny
• Winds south 13 mph
• Barometer 29.89 inches and falling

• Record High today 109° (2005)

• Record Low today 50° (1897)

Last 24 Hours*

High Sunday 97°
Low Sunday 63°
Precipitation none
This month 2.02
Year to date 12.75
Above Normal 0.30 inches

The Topside Forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 9 a.m., a high near 94, winds breezy out of the northeast at 15 to 30 mph and a low around 66. Wednesday: Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after noon, a high near 96, winds out of the north at 5 mph and a low around 67.

Extended Forecast

Thursday: Mostly sunny with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms at night, a high near 95 and a low around 66.

(National Weather Service)

Get 24-hour weather info. at 162.400 MHz.

* Readings taken at 7 a.m.

local markets

Noon

Wheat — \$4.40 bushel
Posted county price — \$4.38
Corn — \$3.20 bushel
Posted county price — \$3.54
Milo — \$2.91 bushel
Soybeans — \$9.08 bushel
Posted county price — \$9.71
Millet — \$5 hundredweight
Sunflowers
Oil current crop — \$16.55 cwt.
Confection — \$28/\$15 cwt.
Pinto beans — \$32 (new crop)
(Markets by Scoular Grain, Sun Opta, Frontier Ag and 21st Century Bean. These may not be closing figures.)

inside today

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Slammers at Emporia

Goodland Slammers 14 and under Fastpitch team met at the pitchers mound during a game in Dodge City. The Slammers were in Emporia last weekend. See photo on Page 10.

