

# Couple adopts wild mustangs, starts group

By Ron Wilson

*Director of the Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development at Kansas State University*

A group in Burns, Ore., has gathered here to study the wild mustangs which range in this area. In fact, one couple is here to adopt a mustang and take him halfway across the continent to be cared for in rural Kansas. In today's Kansas Profile, we'll meet this young couple that is working to preserve and promote the wild mustang breed.

Randy and Kristi Billinger are passionate about their horses. Kristi had horses while growing up in Oklahoma and Randy rode while growing up near Solomon in central Kansas. Randy went on to Kansas State and became a geologist. He was doing oil exploration in Oklahoma when he met Kristi. They married and moved to eastern Kansas

where Randy took a geologist position with the Kansas Department of Transportation.

Kristi went back to school at Kansas University. She told Randy that after she graduated, she wanted to get a horse again. Kristi completed her studies and took a job at Kansas University. Shortly after that, Randy had been working in western Kansas for a week. He got home on Friday night and Kristi said, "Oh, guess what? We own a horse."

That's how it began. Kristi had purchased a thoroughbred. Then they decided that this horse needed a partner. They did some research and learned about the wild mustangs in the western U. S. They became intrigued by the romance and excitement surrounding this historic breed.

While looking online, they saw a striking picture of a red dun mustang by a juniper tree and thought,

"We want a horse from that herd." It turned out that this mustang is from the Kiger herd in Oregon. Kiger mustangs are one of the major bloodlines found among the wild horses of the west. Kigers bear some of the original markings of the historic Spanish mustangs.

Randy and Kristi made a trip to Oregon. Eventually they adopted several wild horses through the Bureau of Land Management, which maintains western lands and occasionally gathers and disperses wild horses. In fact, the Billingers currently have 12 horses, six of which are Kiger mustangs.

One of their horses is a beautiful, award-winning Kiger stallion named Hawk. Among his distinctions is that he serves as a celebrity spokesperson. Okay, maybe he doesn't actually speak, but he is featured on the publicity materials for the Equerry's Inc. company.

At least that would make him an equine celebrity.

Randy and Kristi keep their horses in their rural location near the community of Wellsville, population 1,607 people. Now, that's rural.

In 2002, Randy and Kristi participated in a wild horse workshop in Lawrence. It went so well that people were saying, "Wouldn't it be neat if we could all stay in touch?" So they formed an online network called the Midwest Mustang and Burro Saddle Club.

At first it was essentially a wild horse owner support group via email, but in 2006 it expanded to include camping and trail riding, parades and demonstrations. Randy said, "It's really a close knit group of friends with a love of mustangs." This virtual saddle club now has nearly 100 members from Oklahoma to Minnesota to Oregon.

In 2008, they had a chance to ride

their mustangs in the American Royal parade.

"We cannot explain what an awesome feeling it was to be riding our mustangs through the streets of downtown Kansas City," Kristi said.

"We rode over huge bridges with trains passing underneath tooting their horns, while helicopters circled overhead. We rode past a carnival, down some narrow streets and past many skyscrapers. The feeling of riding a once wild horse past skyscrapers was very cool!"

We could not have asked for a better day for a parade and all the horses did awesome."

For more information, go to [www.midwestmustangandburro.com](http://www.midwestmustangandburro.com) or [www.tornadoalleykigers.com](http://www.tornadoalleykigers.com).

It's time to leave Burns, Oregon, where this young couple is adopting a Kiger mustang to be cared for in

Kansas. We salute Kristi and Randy Billinger for making a difference by not only adopting these horses, but encouraging others to experience them as well. If I had the chance to go see these Kiger mustangs, wild horses couldn't stop me.

*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.*

## matters of record

### Accidents

The following accidents were investigated by the Goodland Police Department.

**July 31** – 9:14 a.m., 1400 Arcade Ave., a 1997 Dodge driven by Curtis Lee Sawatzky was driving north on Arcade Ave. A 1995 Cadillac driven by Sandy Janell McLemore was driving south on Arcade Ave. Sawatzky was turning into a private drive on the west side of the 1400 block of Arcade and turned in front of McLemore. McLemore said she could not stop in time to prevent a collision. Sawatzky said he did not see the Cadillac as he was looking toward the private drive.

**Aug. 3** – 9 a.m., 1500 Clark Ave., a 1991 Honda driven by Adam L. Ford was driving east on 15th and hit a 1992 Chevrolet driven by Kenneth Dean McDaniel driving north on Clark Ave.

### Municipal Court

These are cases decided by the Goodland Municipal Court:

June 11: Christopher Lee Chestnut, speeding in work zone 22 mph over limit, fined, \$244.

June 18: Brandon C. Redlin, speeding 10 mph over limit, diversion, \$150.

Susan L. Terry, parking, standing, stopping in prohibited area, fined, \$80.

June 21: Damion L. Jackson, disorderly conduct, diversion, \$210.

Joshua H. Thompson, minor consuming alcohol, diversion, \$360.

June 23: Beverly J. Albers, disobey traffic control device, fined, \$100.

Jennifer A. Arnold, stop, park or leave vehicle unattended, fined, \$80.

Jennifer D. Hernandez, parking, standing, stopping in prohibited area, fined, \$80.

Sarah A Morgan-Fisher, battery – domestic violence, fined, \$560.

John S. Pearsall, battery – domestic violence, fined, \$460.

Joseph Andrew Rohr, careless

driving, fined, \$310.

Santjuanita Vasquez, speeding 10 mph over limit, fined, \$100.

June 25: Braden S. Lucas, stop, diversion, \$478.

July 1: Lois E. Canfield, driving under influence, diversion, \$660.

July 6: Stacey M. Kaliher, careless driving, fined, \$160.

July 8: Mitchell James Unger, racing exhibition of speed, diversion, \$170.

July 9: Danny Ray Fisher, battery – simple, fined, \$260.

July 12: Rolland L. Tockey, stop, park, or leave vehicle unattended, fined, \$80.

July 13: Kamisha Colee Noma-maker, minor consuming alcohol and furnish alcohol to minor, diversion, \$460.

July 14: Daniel Gomez, Rs., speeding in school zone 11 mph over limit, fined, \$148.

Jeremy W. Johnston, theft of services, fined, \$515.

Roerto Reyna Moreno, transporting liquor and expired license or no drivers license, fined, \$513.

Kayla S. Weber, speeding in work zone 12 mph over limit, fined, \$156.

July 22: Jorge Acosta, disorderly conduct, diversion, \$210.

July 26: Jerry Lee Gross, speeding in work zone 15 mph over limit, fined \$180.

Heather D. Leibrandt, speeding in work zone 10 mph over limit, fined, \$140.

Donna R. Richardson, speeding 10 mph over limit, fined, \$100.

July 27: Doris M. Beard, speeding in work zone 15 mph over limit, fined \$180.

John L. Jones, Jr., speeding in school zone 1-10 mph over limit, fined \$130.

July 28: Zachary A. Potterf, speeding in work zone 14 mph over limit, fined \$116.

Kendall L. Morris, inattentive driving, fined, \$120.

Andrew K. Ragles, careless driving, fined, \$160.

Aug. 2: Kendra R. Salyers, speeding in work zone 16 mph over limit, fined, \$188.

Aug. 5: Darrell Hininger, Jr., speeding in work zone 19 mph over limit, fined, \$212.

Aug. 10: Grady T. Bonsall, speeding 10 mph over limit, fined, \$100.

Carl D. Cheney, speeding in work zone 16 mph over limit, fined, \$188.

Duane W. Frasier, speeding in work zone 16 mph over limit, fined, \$212.

Aug. 11: Zachary Aris Moore, minor consuming alcohol, diversion, \$360.

Adam L. Ford, theft, fined, \$160.

Rosalinda M. Martinez, no animal license, fined, \$80.

Erika L. Sutherland, dog at large, fined, \$80.

Aug. 12: Dennis B. Murphy, speeding in work zone 17 mph over limit, fined, \$196.

### Goodland Police

The following incidents have been reported to the Goodland Police Department:

**July 25** – 3:12 a.m., 300 W. 16, arrested Landon Zachary Williams for driving left of center, fleeing or attempting to elude, obstruction of legal process and transporting an open container. Case referred to city attorney.

**July 26** – 10:25 a.m., 815 Center Ave., Dairy Queen reported case of counterfeit.

4:51 p.m., 804 E. Eighth, Bill Gallagher reported criminal damage.

**July 29** – 2:55 p.m., 2160 Commerce Rd., Cynthia Lynn Bohl reported theft.

**July 31** – 8:31 p.m., 1104 Clark Ave., arrested Matthew Jeffrey Brooks for domestic battery against Kayla Brooks, and charges are pending for domestic battery for Kayla Brooks against Matthew Jeffrey Brooks. Case referred to city attorney.

**Aug. 1** – 1:32 a.m., 900 Grand Ave., arrested Aaron Marshall Gittinger for driving under influence. Case referred to city attorney.

6:52 p.m., 2160 Commerce Rd., arrested Adam L. Ford for theft from Walmart. Case referred to city attorney.

**Aug. 2** – 9:42 a.m., 902 Center Ave., arrested two juveniles for criminal damage against city property. Case referred to county attorney.

**Aug. 3** – 2:21 p.m., 220 W. Second, Heather Rae Banda reported criminal damage to property.

### District Traffic

The following fines have been paid in the Sherman County District Court.

**May 25:** Yaron Arul, unlawful parking, \$165.50.

**May 27:** Kathleen M. Haddix, speeding, \$186.50.

Natalie K. Harris, speeding, \$174.50.

**May 28:** Jose Duarte, speeding, \$154.

Andrew L. Potterf, no seat belt, \$5.00.

Jess C. Johnson, speeding, \$192.50.

**May 29:** Elias Armijo, unlawful parking, \$153.50.

**May 30:** Douglas S. Doffing, unlawful registration, \$193.00; transfer of ownership of vehicles, \$60.

Mariah Q. Hill, unlawful registration, \$153.50.

**May 31:** Malaree C. Jacobsen, unlawful registration, \$143.50.

Martin Levario, Jr., fail to yield to emergency vehicle, \$288.50; no seat belt, \$5.00.

**June 3:** Keith D. Beahm, unlawful parking, \$153.50.

Ty C. Jacobs, speeding, \$168.50.

**June 5:** Elizabeth a. Hayes, no seat belt, \$5.00.

**June 6:** Phonda L. Fox, unlawful parking, \$135.00.

## kansas classifieds

### Misc.

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assistance. Computer available. Financial Aid if qualified. Call 888-220-3977. [www.CenturaOnline.com](http://www.CenturaOnline.com).

### Misc.

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Jean from France, 17 yrs. Loves camping and playing soccer. Jean's dream has been to spend a school year in the USA.

Make this year the most exciting, enriching year ever for you and your family. Share your world with a young foreign visitor from abroad. Welcome a high school student, 15-18 years old, from France, Spain, Germany, Thailand, Denmark, China, Japan, Russia or Italy as part of your family for a school year and make an overseas friend for life.

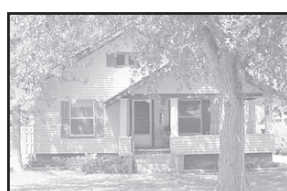
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## Great Listings from HomeLand!



**1312 Cherry...**This very nice Bungalow has 4 bedrooms, 1 bath and a large living room. Hardwood floors through out home and some remodeling. Close to school. Seller will pay 1/2 of the closing costs and 2 months of mortgage not to exceed \$1,000.00. Call Tom today.

**1407 Arcade...**You need to see this home to appreciate all it has to offer. The living/dining room is spacious and the built-in hutch is a great focal point. There is a family room, sun-room, two spacious bedrooms and a convenient kitchen. You will love the built-in desk and storage. The fenced backyard is lovely and includes underground sprinklers. The package is completed by the heated garage. Call Rose for your opportunity to check out this wonderful home.



**314 E. 15th...**This comfortable 1 bedroom home with nice front porch and fenced back yard has newer carpet, original woodwork and oversized attached garage. It is being sold AS IS. Has some hail damage. Call Hazel to see all this home has to offer.

**867 Centennial...**Ranch home in the Paxton Addition offers over 1,800 sq feet of main floor living area and a full unfinished basement which is partitioned off into 2 rooms plus a storage area and is plumbed for a bathroom. The home includes 3 bedrooms, 1 3/4 baths, family room off the kitchen with fireplace and a formal living room. The kitchen has been completely remodeled with new cabinets, counter tops, built in hutch, and flooring. Included also is a fenced backyard, large patio, all new steel building which is insulated & heated and a double car oversized attached garage. This home is priced to sell. Call Tom to see this property.



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