

4-Hers train dogs to assist handicapped

By Ron Wilson
Director
 Huck Boyd National Institute
 for Rural Development
 at Kansas State University
 It's fun watching a puppy grow. Seeing a dog grow and learn is one of the benefits of taking the dog project in 4-H.

guide dog services. As the 4-Hers tracked where those dogs went, they found that virtually none of the dogs were being placed in the Midwest. The dogs were being shipped to the populated areas on the east and west coast.

So, 4-H leaders and others in Washington County wanted to set up a service through which dogs could be trained to serve people with disabilities in the central section of the county.

In 1990, these leaders organized the Kansas Specialty Dog Service, also known as KSDS Inc. It was established in the county seat: the rural community of Washington, population 1,197 people. Now, that's rural.

A former restaurant building in Washington was available. It be-

came the dog training center with a canine housing unit next door. Local volunteers set out to train dogs to assist people who are blind or otherwise handicapped.

KSDS now offers three separate programs: Guide dogs to help the visually impaired, service dogs to help those who are physically impaired, and social dogs which are utilized in medical settings, by educational facilities, and by social work professionals.

The primary breeds of dogs used in this service are yellow and black Labrador retrievers and golden retrievers. Most of the dogs are born and bred in Washington County and then placed with puppy raisers across 17 states. The puppy raisers care for the dogs from the age of eight weeks to 18 or 20 weeks, at

which point the dogs come back to Washington.

All of the dogs are screened at the Kansas State veterinary school to evaluate their temperament and physical characteristics such as the dogs' eyes and hips. If a dog should not meet the standard for some reason, the puppy raisers get first choice to acquire the dog. If the puppy raiser declines, there is a waiting list of others who are interested in the dogs.

But those dogs that do pass are slated for a rewarding career as an assistance dog. The trainers evaluate what type of service work the dog is best suited for, and what type of training would be most appropriate for them.

Meanwhile, the service receives applications from individuals who

have a need for a service dog trained for special needs. In order to help understand the type of setting in which the dog will work, applicants might be asked to send in a video of their home and surroundings. The service will evaluate the physical demands and type of assistance needed, and then try to find the ideal match of the person and the dog. When the dog is two years old, it will be matched and placed with a person.

Remarkably, this service is free of charge to the recipients. The service has been offering this service from its home base in Washington for 21 years. Glenda Keller, now retired from Kansas State Research and Extension, is vice president of the board of directors.

"We've defied all odds to be suc-

cessful here," Glenda said. "There were a lot of naysayers when we got started. But these dogs are changing the lives of the people they work with. It's almost a miracle," she said.

It's fun watching a puppy grow. It can be rewarding to see a dog grow and develop, as we experienced in the 4-H dog project. Glenda Keller and other 4-H leaders have made a difference by helping their 4-Hers and their dogs to grow, and by helping the Kansas Specialty Dog Service to grow as well.

And there's more. Next week, we'll learn about the remarkable performance of these assistance dogs in the day-to-day life of their owners.

sunflower 4-h

The Sunflower 4-H Club met on Dec. 19 at the 4-H building. President Kinsey Volk called the meeting to order and Vice President Jake Anderson led the club in the flag salute and 4-H Pledge. There were 13 members, two parents and one leader present.

After a short business meeting the parents drove the members to the

Goodland Regional Medical Center to sing Christmas carols. After singing Christmas carols everyone returned to the 4-H building for a Christmas party. The members present enjoyed pizza and cupcakes and participated in a gift exchange. The next club meeting will be held on Monday.

Ryan Berls, Reporter

matters of record

Divorces
 The following marriage licenses and divorces have been issued by the Sherman County District Court:

Divorces
 Dylan E. Glover and Heather L. Glover, Sherman County.
 David M. Goodwin and Mellanie M. Goodwin, Sherman County.

Real Estate
 The following real estate transactions have been reported by the

Sherman County register of deeds. Kenton T. Grubbs, Successor Trustee of the Mabelle W. Grubbs Trust Dated October 12, 2007, to Kenton T. Grubbs, Trustee of the Grubbs Farm Land Trust dated August 27, 2011, the S/2 of Sec. 7, T7S, R38W; NE/4 of Sec. 7, T7S, R38W; NW/4 of Sec. 7, T7S, R38W.

Federal National Mortgage Association to John Wilber Backes, Lot 7 and S/2 of Lot 8, Block 27, Beahm's Addition to City of Goodland.

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<p>Goodland United Methodist Church 1116 Sherman 899-3631 Pastors: Dustin and Shelly Petz Saturday: Worship: 5:30 p.m. Sunday: Adult Classes: 9:15 a.m. Worship: 10:30 a.m. Wednesday: Wednesday Nite Live 5:45 - 6:45 p.m. Simple Supper "Free will Offering" 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. Classes for all ages</p>	<p>Pleasant Home Church Serving the rural community for over 120 years Rt. 1, Box 180 • 3190 Road 70 (785) 694-2807 Pastor: Perry Baird Sunday: Worship Service: 9 a.m. Sunday School: 10 a.m.</p>	<p>Promiseland Baptist Church Pastor: Rick Holmes • 890-7082 225 W. 16th (785) 890-7944 Sunday: Sunday School: 10:30 a.m. Morning Service: 11:30 a.m. Evening Service: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday: Bible Study Service 6:30 p.m. Thursdays: Adult Bible Study 7-8 p.m.</p>
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<p>Bible Baptist Church Pastor: Clifford Middlebrooks Fifth & Broadway 890-7368 Sunday: Sunday School: 9 a.m. Morning Service: 10 a.m. Evening Service: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday: Evening Bible Study: 7 p.m.</p>	<p>Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints 1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO (719) 346-7984 Sacrament Meeting: 10 a.m. Sunday School: 11:15 a.m. Priesthood/Relief Society: 12 a.m.</p>	<p>Iglesia Del Dios Vivo La Luz Del Mundo Spanish Speaking Church Minister: Esteban Ortiz B. 1601 Texas • 899-5275 Daily Prayer: Sunday thru Saturday: 5a.m. & 6 p.m. Sunday: Sunday School: 10 a.m.</p>
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<p>United Methodist Church Brewster: Pastor: Dorine Chambers Worship Service: 10:45 a.m. CST Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. CST Winona: Minister: Sheryl Johnson Worship Service: 9 a.m. CST Sunday School: 10:15 am CST</p>	<p>First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Pastor: Rev. Carol Edling Jolly Eighth & Arcade • 890-5233 Sunday: Church School - All ages 9:15 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m. Youth Group: 1st and 3rd Sundays 5-7 p.m. Thursday: Prayer Class - Noon Pastor Carol's Class 5:30 p.m. www.goodlandfccdoc.org</p>	<p>Kanorado United Methodist Church Pastor: Leonard Cox 399-2468 Sunday: Sunday School: 9 a.m. Worship Service: 10:15 a.m.</p>
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<p>Church of the Nazarene Pastor: Bob Willis Third & Caldwell 899-2080 or 899-3797 Sunday: Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Worship Service: 10:50 a.m. Evening Service: 6 p.m. Wednesday: Evening Service: 7 p.m.</p>	<p>St. Paul's Episcopal Church Celebrant: Father Don Martin 13th & Center Church 890-2115 or 890-7245 Services: 5 p.m. Saturday evening</p>	<p>Goodland Bible Church 109 Willow Road • 899-6400 Pastor: Chad DeJong Sunday: Sunday School: 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship: 10:45 a.m. 6 p.m. AWANA during school Evening Worship: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday: 6:30 youth group Growth groups call for information www.goodlandbible.org</p>
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<p>First Baptist Church Pastor: Travis Blake 1121 Main 890-3450 Sunday: Coffee fellowship: 9:30 a.m. Morning Worship: 10 a.m. Sunday School: 11:15 a.m. Thursday: Bible study 9:30 a.m. Wheatridge Center</p>	<p>Our Lady of Perpetual Help Celebrant: Father Norbert Dlabal 307 W. 13th • 890-7205 Sacrament of Reconciliation: 5-5:45 p.m. Saturday or by appointment Mass Schedule: Saturday: 6 pm, Sunday: 10:30 am Spanish Mass: Sunday: 12:30 pm</p>	<p>Harvest Evangelical Free Church 521 E. Hwy. 24 • 890-6423 Pastor: Brian Fugleberg Sunday: Worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday school: 9:30 a.m. Wednesday: Senior High: 6:30 p.m. at the church Junior High: 6:30 p.m. at the church www.goodlandefree.com</p>
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<p>Seventh Day Adventist Church 1160 Cattletrail Pastor: Jerry Nowack Saturday: Sabbath School: 9:30 a.m. Worship Service: 11 a.m.</p>	<p>Emmanuel Lutheran Church 13th & Sherman • 890-6161 Pastor: Darian Hybl Sunday: Christian education/fellowship: 10:15 a.m. Worship Service: 9 a.m.</p>	<p>Church of Christ 401 Caldwell 890-6185 Sunday: Bible Study: 9:45 a.m. Worship Service: 10:45 a.m. Wednesday: Bible Study: 7 p.m.</p>
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