

U.S. Attorney visits area cops

By Christina Beringer
colby.society@nwkansas.com

U.S. Attorney Barry Grissom and two top aides met with top law enforcement officials and community leaders last week at the Law Enforcement Training Center in Colby, offering help on cases that can be transferred to federal courts.

Barry Grissom, who's office covers the entire judicial district of Kansas, was in town for a speech to the Colby Rotary Club. Police Chief Randy Jones, Thomas County Sheriff Rod Taylor, Kansas Bureau of Investigation Special Agent Mark Kendrick and Thomas County Attorney Kevin Berens gave their views on crime and other issues, and learned how Grissom's office can help in cases here.

"Sometimes, law enforcement feel like no one has their back," the federal prosecutor said. "I'm here to let you know that if you want us and you think your case has federal nexus, then we are here for you.

"We can save the community some heartache and trouble."

He added that his office can allow the county attorney to join a case as a special assistant in federal court.

"A felony is a felony," Grissom said, adding that a convicted felon caught with a gun, ammunition or a bullet-proof vest can be tried in federal court.

"That's good to know," Berens said. "We do a lot of interdiction on the Interstate, and we've had three cases recently. One of those had a felony."

Jones added that Thomas County is known throughout the state for drug interdiction.

"This building is a result of a five-minute stop," he said, referring to an incident where city officers stopped a man driving a load of cash through the state.

"A lot of our major crimes have come off the Interstate," the chief said, "and we keep expanding. With Pilot and the Oasis Travel Center, we have hundreds of people coming through and stopping in Colby on any given night."

Grissom noted the increased risk

Colby and other Kansas towns have because of criminals traveling on Interstate 70 and U.S. 83, saying they are major routes for drug running, labor and sex trafficking and other illegal activities.

"There's a human traffic case going on in Logan County right now," said Kendrick. "The girl, who is now 17, began when she was 12 or 13. She's left and gone back to Minnesota, but still turning tricks up there. She is the victim, but she's paying for the guy's legal fees."

Berens said he just got a case regarding sex and solicitation with an online component, and has had some concerns with it.

Grissom told the group that his office pushes hard on crimes against children. Having one photo of child pornography is enough to start a case.

"Although we've never just come across someone with just one," the prosecutor added.

Taylor said he's already seen some similar cases, and expects many new types of cases in the

future because of an influx of new industries and nationalities to the area.

"You're right on point," said Jones. "These people are preyed on, more so than anyone they've been victimized in such ways that they don't trust or can't go to law enforcement either And older people are getting scammed on, too."

"So many cases are undocumented and we don't know about it because they are embarrassed. We hear about the scams from their (family)."

Many of the scammers live out of the country, using the Internet to reach people here.

"I get a helpless feeling when that happens," said Jones. "We can't just go over to Eastern Europe."

Grissom suggested officials here reach out to the Securities and Exchange Commission and the U.S. attorney's office when this happens. He said they can file federal charges of wire or mail fraud, depending on how the victim sends money.

KanCare details given at meeting

MEETING, from Page 1

Although some were heard coughing as the officials, few audience members seemed dissatisfied with what they had heard as they left the meeting.

"I thought it was not a tremendous amount of information for the time they set aside for it," said Karl Roten, "but it told me all I needed to know."

Roten came to the meeting from Mingo with his long-time

girlfriend Lisa Petry, who he said has had health problems including cancer and has not been able to work since 2000.

He said that he is optimistic that KanCare might be similar to laws passed in other states which he feels worked out well.

"From what I understand, people had better health care," he said. "I don't know which one of our congressmen got this system there, but it seems like he did a good job."

Goodland named as newest E-Community

CITY, from Page 1

time will be needed to get a sales tax on the ballot in April. He said the city will need to know by December or the first meeting in January.

- Heard a report from Gerber that the city hauled 950 tires as well as 11 tons of solid waste during city cleanup week. The commissioners thanked the city staff for their hard work during the cleanup.
- Spoke with property owner Lee Dimmick about his lot on 17th Street. Dimmick said he has been using the lot to store or park trailers. He had a letter giving him 10 days to remove those trailers.

Dimmick said he hadn't been told exactly what

the problem is. He said he had his associates in Colorado look at the city's letters and research city statutes. He said he met with the planning commission earlier this year, who told him everything he wanted to do was permitted.

"I don't understand what you want me to do with that property," he said.

While weeds had been cleared, Dimmick said he hadn't done much with the property until recently because he had been living in Colorado.

Code Enforcement Officer Brian James said the property is zone Commercial I, in which storing vehicles is prohibited. He said he had given Dimmick a copy of the relevant zoning information when the issue first came up.

Gerber said he believes the city has followed

due process. He said Dimmick has several options, either to abate the nuisance, appeal to the zoning board or file a suit in district court. Appealing to the zoning board would be the appropriate venue, he said, rather than speaking to the commission, since the commission does not sit as a judicial body.

Mayor John Garcia said the commission couldn't make a decision in this case and advised Dimmick to appeal to the zoning board.

"All we can tell you is this is the process you can follow," he said.

Dimmick requested James take another look at the property at his convenience, to which James agreed.

Plan for growth

Growth isn't automatic. It doesn't just happen as time passes. If you want your business to grow and yourself to grow, you need to be intentional. You need to plan for it, and you need to make regular time for it.



jamie morphew

• business tips

John Maxwell has a new book out called The 15 Invaluable Laws of Growth that will help you with this process. Go get it today! John says, "When you get better, the business gets better."

This tip was brought to you by Western Kansas Business Consulting sponsored in part by Sherman County. We offer free and confidential business consulting to Kearny, Scott, Sherman, and Wichita counties. For more information or to set up an appointment, contact Jamie

My dad has a garden. He works hard at making rows, at pulling the weeds and at watering regularly. He's intentional about his garden, and as a result, it grows wonderfully.

I tried to have a garden once. I watered it when I remembered. I work at it every now and then, and as a result, it died.

How are you trying to grow? Is it working for you?

matters of record

District Court

These are cases decided by the Sherman County District Court:

Aug. 25: Emerson J. Paredes, speeding, fined \$93.

McKayla Rian Taylor, no seatbelt (14-17 years of age), fined \$60.

Mckenzie Taylor, no seatbelt (14-17 years of age), fined \$60.

Aug. 26: Courtney L. Doxon, reckless driving, fined \$198.

Courtney L. Doxon, speeding, fined \$150.

Sandra S. Harwick, vehicles, unlawful acts, e.g., registration, fined \$193.

Gennifer House, no seatbelt, fined \$10.

Frankie J. Newkirk, no seatbelt, fined \$10.

Chelsie D. Thomas, no seatbelt, fined \$10.

Jamie L. Thomas, no seatbelt, fined \$10.

Aug 28: Karen E. Menard, speeding, fined \$149.

Robert C. Thigpen III, unlawful parking, blocking access ramp or aisle, fined \$185.

Dwaine P. Olberding, motor carrier safety rules and regulations, fined \$213.

Aug. 29: Glennis T. Lamb, over weight limits on wheels and axles, fined \$146.

Aug. 30: Mark F. Devane, speeding, fined \$179.

Saul R. Epstein, speeding, fined \$155.

Jaden Weaver, failure to stop or obey railroad crossing signal, fined \$293.

Linville Charles Woodruff, over weight limits on wheels and axles, fined \$213.

Aug. 31: Gregory R. Asia, speeding, fined \$143.

Javier J. Hoggard, speeding, fined \$197.

Sept. 1: Karry L. Cahill, speeding, fined \$149.

Rajatendu Chandra, speeding, fined \$149.

Jalisa M. Davis, speeding, fined \$197.

Benjamin L. Deis, unlawful parking, blocking access ramp or aisle, fined \$161.

Karen R. Nelson, unlawful parking, blocking access ramp or aisle, fined \$149.

Ramachandran Vijaychandran, unlawful parking, blocking access ramp or aisle, fined \$149.

Christopher L. Kifl Jr., operating a vehicle without a valid driver's license, fined \$158.

Wayne L. Plucheck, speeding, fined \$239.

Sept. 2: Nathan R. Broadbent, speeding, fined \$155.

Maria F. Lopez, speeding, fined \$179.

Sept. 4: Ruslan Koropetsky, motor carrier safety rules and regulations, fined \$213.

Sept. 5: Danny G. Archer, unlawful parking, blocking access ramp or aisle, fined \$248.

Olevia Pena, no seatbelt, fined \$10.

Irma Trevino, no seatbelt, fined \$10.

Sept. 6: Brian J. Hoytal, speeding, fined \$308.

Linda L. Vitelli, speeding, fined \$161.

Sept. 10: Davey L. Renfro, over weight limits on wheels and axles, fined \$248.

Sept. 12: Clinton E. Meek, motor carrier safety rules and regulations, fined \$213.

Sept. 13: Patricia P. Arcobasso, speeding, fined \$155.

Kelly A. Stevens, speeding,

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids will be received by Sherman County, Kansas at 813 Broadway in Goodland, Kansas for the construction of:

RENOVATION OF 1006 CENTER STREET BUILDING SHERMAN COUNTY AMBULANCE / RURAL FIRE

Until 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday the 31st day of October, 2012 at which time the Bids will be opened publicly and read aloud.

Copies of the Drawings, and other contract documents are on file and available for public inspection at the Sherman County Clerks Office, 813 Broadway, Goodland, Kansas 67735. Telephone No. 785/ 890-4806, Fax No. 785/ 890-4809; and BG Consultants, Inc., 4806 Vue Du Lac Place, Manhattan, Kansas 66503, Telephone No. 785/ 537-7448 x 1104, Fax No. 785/ 537-8793, Email: dan@bgcons.com.

A complete set of the Contract Documents may be obtained by a prospective bidder by sending a cash payment of Sixty-Three Dollars (\$63.00) along with a written request for a said set of Documents addressed to: BG CONSULTANTS, INC., 4806 VUE DU LAC PLACE, MANHATTAN, KANSAS 66503. This is a non-refundable plan deposit to cover the cost of plan and specification reproductions. The Contract Documents are also available, in PDF format, for FREE download upon request. Please email request for electronic files to Dan Hall at dan@bgcons.com.

The amount of Bid Security to be furnished by each Bidder is stated in the Instructions to Bidders. The Bidder to whom a contract is awarded will be required to furnish acceptable Performance and statutory Bonds. A Bidder may withdraw any Bid he has submitted at any time prior to the hour for the closing of the Bids provided the request for withdrawal is signed in a manner identical with the Bid being withdrawn. No withdrawal or modification will be permitted after the hour designated for closing Bids. No Bidder may withdraw his proposed Bid for a period of Thirty (30) days after the date and hour set for the opening of Bids.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all Bids, to waive formalities in considering Bids and to accept the Bid which in its opinion is the best Bid.

Principal Items of Work Are:

Renovation of Existing Building approximately 132'-6" x 144'-4" in size
Demolition, Concrete Replacement, Windows and Doors, Overhead Sectional Doors, Interior Partitions and Finishes, HVAC Systems, Plumbing, Electrical

A PROPOSITION to amend section 1 of article 11 of the constitution of the state of Kansas, relating to classification and taxation of watercraft, to be submitted to the electors of the state at the general election to be held on November 6, 2012.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 5017

§ 1. System of taxation; classification; exemption. (a) The provisions of this subsection shall govern the assessment and taxation of property on and after January 1, 2013, and each year thereafter. Except as otherwise hereinafter specifically provided, the legislature shall provide for a uniform and equal basis of valuation and rate of taxation of all property subject to taxation. The legislature may provide for the classification and the taxation uniformly as to class of recreational vehicles and watercraft, as defined by the legislature, or may exempt such class from property taxation and impose taxes upon another basis in lieu thereof. The provisions of this subsection shall not be applicable to the taxation of motor vehicles, except as otherwise hereinafter specifically provided, mineral products, money, mortgages, notes and other evidence of debt and grain. Property shall be classified into the following classes for the purpose of assessment and assessed at the percentage of value prescribed therefor:

Class 1 shall consist of real property. Real property shall be further classified into seven subclasses. Such property shall be defined by law for the purpose of subclassification and assessed uniformly as to subclass at the following percentages of value:

- (1) Real property used for residential purposes including multifamily residential real property and real property necessary to accommodate a residential community of mobile or manufactured homes including the real property upon which such homes are located.....11 1/2%
- (2) Land devoted to agricultural use which shall be valued upon the basis of its agricultural income or agricultural productivity pursuant to section 12 of article 11 of the constitution.....30%
- (3) Vacant lots.....12%
- (4) Real property which is owned and operated by a not-for-profit organization not subject to federal income taxation pursuant to section 501 of the federal internal revenue code, and which is included in this subclass by law.....12%
- (5) Public utility real property, except railroad real property which shall be assessed at the average rate that all other commercial and industrial property is assessed.....33%
- (6) Real property used for commercial and industrial purposes and buildings and other improvements located upon land devoted to agricultural use.....25%
- (7) All other urban and rural real property not otherwise specifically subclassified.....30%

Class 2 shall consist of tangible personal property. Such tangible personal property shall be further classified into six subclasses, shall be defined by law for the purpose of subclassification and assessed uniformly as to subclass at the following percentages of value:

- (1) Mobile homes used for residential purposes.....11 1/2%
- (2) Mineral leasehold interests except oil leasehold interests the average daily production from which is five barrels or less, and natural gas leasehold interests the average daily production from which is 100 mcf or less, which shall be assessed at 25%30%
- (3) Public utility tangible personal property including inventories thereof, except railroad personal property including inventories thereof, which shall be assessed at the average rate all other commercial and industrial property is assessed.....33%
- (4) All categories of motor vehicles not defined and specifically valued and taxed pursuant to law enacted prior to January 1, 198530%
- (5) Commercial and industrial machinery and equipment which, if its economic life is seven years or more, shall be valued at its retail cost when new less seven-year straight-line depreciation, or which, if its economic life is less than seven years, shall be valued at its retail cost when new less straight-line depreciation over its economic life, except that, the value so obtained for such property, notwithstanding its economic life and as long as such property is being used, shall not be less than 20% of the retail cost when new of such property.....25%
- (6) All other tangible personal property not otherwise specifically classified.....30%

(b) All property used exclusively for state, county, municipal, literary, educational, scientific, religious, benevolent and charitable purposes, farm machinery and equipment, merchants' and manufacturers' inventories, other than public utility inventories included in subclass (3) of class 2, livestock, and all household goods and personal effects not used for the production of income, shall be exempted from property taxation.

Explanatory statement. This amendment would allow the legislature to classify and tax watercraft upon a basis different from other property. A vote for this proposition would permit the legislature to provide for separate classification and taxation of watercraft or to exempt such property from property taxation and impose taxes in lieu thereof. A vote against this proposition would continue the taxation of watercraft in the same manner as all other property.

Online Subscription Program

The Goodland Star-News

The Goodland Star-News is announcing an online subscription program, and will be restricting access to most pages for those who do not have an online subscription.

For more information, please call us at (785) 899-2338.

NEEDING TO ADVERTISE?

Send your ad to The Goodland Star-News via FAX or EMAIL.

All we need is your contact information!

FAX #
785-899-6186

OR

EMAIL ADDRESS
Jessica Corbin, Ad Design
jcorbin@nwkansas.com

The Goodland Star-News
1205 Main Avenue, Goodland, KS • Phone: (785) 899-2338