

Big Brothers to raise money, boost awareness

With the fall season on the way, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Sherman County is planning some activities that should raise some money and boost the awareness of our affiliate.

With the help of the college carpentry department and the Kiwanis Club of Goodland, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Sherman County had a booth at the annual Flatlander's event.

During October, we normally have a Big For A Day event planned, and this October is no exception. We are working with Wheat Ridge Acres and invite all ages to that wonderful facility on Monday from



dennis daise

- big brothers big sisters

4 to 5:30 p.m..

Those who might be interested in Big Brothers Big Sisters can attend and share this time with some kids, senior citizens and everyone in between. Please give us a call at 890-3665 or Wheatridge at 899-0100 if you have any questions concerning the event.

At the end of the October, plans are being finalized for a Halloween Dance to support Big Brothers Big Sisters. So, get those costumes ready and plan on having a wonderful time to "Dance For Kids Sake." Please stay tuned for announcements concerning this fund-raiser.

The past few weeks, I have been sharing some information from an article by Jennifer Roback Morse entitled "Parents or Prison." The

following will complete the various bits of opinions from Ms. Morse.

As I complete interviews and visit with families and volunteers, there are always the past tragedies that these and all of us must deal with as we go through life. It is very easy to blame our past or others for what we are facing and to not take responsibility for actions today.

From the article, "A young woman needs to know that the decision to have a child by herself is a decision that exposes her and her child to a lifetime of elevated risks of poverty, of lower education, of depression and of prison.

"She might think it simpler to strike out alone rather than to put up with the innumerable adjustments and accommodations that are inevitable in married life But we are not doing the young person any favors by acting as if we are ignorant of the likely consequences of her choices.

"For years we have heard that single parenthood is an alternative lifestyle choice that doesn't affect anyone but the person who chooses

it. . . . The premise behind this official posture of neutrality is false. The decision to become a single parent or to disrupt an existing family does affect people outside the immediate household."

To finish, in my position I admit I feel blessed to have had a stable family and to not have had to make some tough decisions, but we are all faced with individual decisions that set our future.

I will tend to feel sorry for those less fortunate, but I must remember that the sorrow can only set them up for failure that will never end.

From a book by Andy Stanley, entitled "Louder than Words," Stanley makes it clear that rather than blame others, we should forgive those who have wronged us and move on.

"To make matters worse," he said, "the current trend in psychology is to place more and more blame for our nation's character deficit on our culture. Individuals are no longer responsible for their decisions and behavior because, it is said, individuals are nothing more

than by-products of our society.

"They had no choice in how they were brought up. Consequently, individuals are not to blame for the choices they make. Collectively, we are all to blame. And individually, we are all victims!

"The message is, 'It's okay for you to behave the way you do. You have no choice in light of your background. For you, this behavior is perfectly acceptable. You are under no obligation to change. You have every right to be the way you are.'"

Such thinking removes all incentive to change. After all, it's easier to stay the same and make excuses. Victims don't want to be proactive about changing. Instead, they want to be proactive about making sure the person who hurt them pays.

And so we spend our energy telling our sad stories rather than tackling the task of forgiving.

Facing difficulties are not easy in our lives, but I promise I will encourage you instead of helping you blame others. That is the least that all of us can do.

Travelers return, have tales to tell

Some of our travelers have returned home, and it sounds like the roads were a fun place to be. The main purpose was just traveling, visiting and sightseeing, and this proved to be a meaningful venture. That is an ideal trip, to just get in the vehicle and "hit the road." I learned some facts just listening to one couple relate about the trip they took.

Did you know that U.S. Highway 83, which goes north to the Canadian border and south to the Mexican border, is designated the World War II Veteran's Highway?

This highway is the one that makes the north/south part of the "nine mile corner" east of Colby, where it intersects with U.S. Highway 24.

George and Roberta Luckert drove on this road to the Canadian border and stopped several times along the way. They said they saw more hay than thought possible in North Dakota, and a lot of areas have had plentiful rain.

Returning back to Brewster, they took different routes that allowed them to visit relatives and see other sights. It sounds like a delightful kind of trip for just seeing what you want to see.

The bright lights of cities aren't what they enjoy, but they can drive and admire good growing areas and see what other areas use for farming techniques. It's good to have them home again, and I'm glad they had a relaxing time.

Bonnie and Warren Reid also enjoyed their trip to the northwest and through the southern part of Canada, and they were glad to get home also.

Since they had run into rain during most of their trip, they weren't surprised that it was raining here



sally michael

- brewster beacon

when they pulled into town, and they were glad to see it was doing it here also. She said they were able to visit friends and relatives across the area and also to see new areas. It is good to have them back too.

I got a call from some other folks who were traveling in the southwest, and they are cutting their trip a little short because they are tired of the rainy weather in that area. So I might have another adventure to report on next time. Rain, rain — it is wonderful to have that in our vocabulary again, isn't it?

The showers were beautiful, and I know many were like me and wondering whether it was going to miss us again, but when it came, it was perfect. We had about two inches in 24 hours, and we noticed the wheat is leaping up where it has been planted.

I am sure it will make a good start for that planted in the coming days also. I think there is more hope in the farmers' eyes this year than there has been for a few years. There are also a few doubters, but each rain drops that number a little.

Troy Dillinger is spending some time in the hospital, and we hope he has a speedy recovery. He is improving each day, and I am sure he will soon be making his trips to the post office.

Sherry Horney is also having some problems with pneumonia, and we hope she is soon back on her feet, and I know the kids will be glad

ailment also.

When I talked to my sister Harriett Demaree Thursday, I found out she was looking forward to being honored as Grand Marshall of the Goodland Homecoming Parade.

I am very happy that she and Thurl are going to ride at the head of the parade, as she has had a rough year. I've written about her surgeries and illnesses, and one of the things I was visiting with her about was the time of funeral services for a nephew of ours. Give 'em a war whoop, Harriet!

The nephew that we were visiting about is Patrick Kear, the youngest son of our sister Joline and Darrell Kear. Patrick was raised in Goodland and Stratton, Colo., and although we didn't see him often, he was a nice kid. Pat seems to have decided that things were too rough, though, and it really makes me angry that so many "nice kids" think the solution to their problems is getting clear out of the picture.

I'm going to miss seeing him at the rare family gatherings or hearing about him from his sister that has done so much for him when we see her or just knowing that his kids are missing him. Now we will have a family gathering, and I may meet his children for the first time, but I won't see Pat. I am sorry about that.

Back to the weather, Thursday was a beautiful day. See you all next time.

Colby college to be accredited for 10 years

Colby Community College has been recommended for 10 more years of accreditation by an evaluation team from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

Ten years is the maximum length the team can recommend. Colby's last evaluation was in 1994, when it also received the maximum.

The team's report and recommendation is just part of the evaluation process. The final determination will come from the commission's Institutional Action Council, whose report is expected in the spring.

"Comments by the team members and the initial report are confirmation that Colby College is well-positioned to fulfill its mission of providing learning opportunities while supporting lifelong experiences that meet the needs of the

communities it serves," said college President Mikel Ary.

In their exit briefing last Wednesday, after a three-day visit, the team's members said some of the comments they will include in their report are:

- The college has a quality faculty with the appropriate credentials.
- The campus is a spacious environment conducive to student learning.
- The administrative team provides stable leadership.
- Students are satisfied with the education they receive, specifically mentioning small classes, individual attention, competent faculty and adequate support services.
- Colby has a successful history of student recruitment and retention.

Accreditation by the North Central Association, or another nationally recognized agency, ensures that

a college's credits can transfer, and allows the school to continue receiving federal money for grants, projects and student aid.

In other college news, Ken Johnson, the dean of fiscal affairs, submitted his resignation effective Oct. 15. He has been the college's chief financial officer since January 1989.

Johnson, a certified public accountant, plan to return to his home state of Iowa and join a public accounting firm there.

"Ken Johnson has served the college very ably during his long tenure at Colby College," Ary said. "He has guided the college skillfully through annual audits and maintained a steady, positive course to our financial well-being. I have always appreciated and depended upon his honesty, knowledge of his field and foresight concerning the future of the college."

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