

Family needs money for multi-organ transplant

MONEY, from Page 1

school and now needs a new stomach, pancreas and small intestine. If the money is raised so he can have the surgery, Vonna Basgall said, his mother will have to quit her job at Adams, Brown, Beran and Ball to be with him in the hospital in Pittsburgh, leaving a two-income family with one paycheck.

With pseudo-obstruction, the contractions of the intestines become altered and inefficient, and the digestive tract behaves as if it is blocked.

The most common symptoms are nausea, vomiting, abdominal bloating, pain and constipation. Jarrett has been unable to absorb nutrients from the food he eats, an article in the Sunday issue of *The Hays Daily News*, said, and since 2000, he has subsisted on nutrients delivered through a catheter implanted in a vein.

"He's had multiple blood infections that have been life-threatening," his mother said.

Besides the infections, the feeding system has caused damage to his liver. Two weeks ago, the article said, surgeons at the University of Kansas Medical Center removed his small intestine to save his life.

Following the surgery, Vonna said, he is in really bad shape on the inside. He was able to go home Wednesday, Sharon said, and is glad to be back in familiar surroundings. "He's doing really good," she said. "He's an inspiration."

He's not eating anything, though, and since the surgery, he is on a colostomy bag — though never comfortable, it is even more of a hardship for him.

He's become allergic to the tape, his grandmother said; when he had the bag after a previous surgery, his skin would seep and it came off. The doctors haven't been able to find a way to keep it on.

And he's living on borrowed time. A couple of years ago, Vonna said, the doctors said he might have only two years to live. If he hadn't had emergency surgery, she said, he

wouldn't be here.

Jarrett had a blockage, Vonna said, and doctors removed most of his small intestine and his gall bladder. When they took him to the hospital, she said, they didn't think he'd make it until Monday, Oct. 4, the day he had surgery.

Now he needs three organs transplanted to keep living, but his family has to raise some money to pay for it before he can have a chance. His family has two insurance policies, Vonna said, but one won't cover any of the operation expenses, and the other will pay only part.

The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center won't put Jarrett on the transplant list until \$200,000, beyond what the insurance will pay, has been raised toward his medical expenses.

That worries his grandmother. One boy in Florida needed an operation, she said, and people were raising money. By the time they got it, he died. She can only hope the money comes in faster for her

grandson.

Jarrett has had a lot of support, Sharon said, adding that she is confident the money will be raised. It's a matter of strength in numbers, she said; every dollar is going to make a difference.

The family has help from the Children's Organ Transplant Association and Sharon Basgall's co-workers at the Hays accounting firm to raise the money.

The family appealed to the association, based in Bloomington, Ind., for help. The non-profit association organizes fund raisers for children who need organ transplants. Tax-deductible donations can be mailed to the group at 2501 COTA Drive, Bloomington, Ind. 47403, payable to "COTA for Jarrett B." Credit card donations are accepted on-line at www.cota.org. On the site, at patient campaigns, there is information about his illness, Sharon said, and his condition will be updated. On patient campaigns, go to page four and find Jarrett's page.

Volunteers are needed to help with the fund-raising campaign, and anyone interested can call the campaign manager, Dave Herl, at 785-625-8396.

Herl is working on a mailing

campaign, and canisters are being set out in Hays businesses. Hays dentist Jeffrey Lowe, Lifetime Dental Care, 2701 Sternberg Dr., is offering teeth-whitening services at a reduced fee of \$200, with all the proceeds being donated to the "COTA for Jarrett B." fund.

Lowe said in order to get the discount, people who call for an appointment need to mention Jarrett's fund.

Jarrett has lived with a lot of pain because of the disease and has missed out on having a "regular" life. He has often been unable to attend school, so he took an equivalency exam a year ago to get his high school diploma.

"After I get healthy, I'm planning to go to college," he said, as quoted in the Hays article, "but I don't know what I want to study yet."

He also wants to enjoy the simple pleasures of life, such as playing video games, watching movies, cooking and riding motorcycles with his father.

In the last year, Vonna said, he has been in the hospital more than he has been at home; he has been in and out most of his life.

Jarrett's physician, Dr. Paul Hyman, in Kansas City, a pediatric

gastroenterologist, diagnosed him with the disease when he was 7. There are about 1,000 children and adolescents with pseudo-obstruction in the United States today, Hyman said, and a third die before their first birthday.

One reason the death rate is so high among infants, he said, is that it is often misdiagnosed, and the babies endure multiple operations looking for the obstruction rather than receiving treatment.

Also, infants are more susceptible to deadly infections, and they need to triple their birth weight during their first year of life.

But Jarrett was different, the doctor said; he had symptoms that were not so intense in the beginning, but got worse later.

And now he is fighting for his life.

"It is a race against the clock because he needs an organ transplant," Hyman said. "If he doesn't get an organ transplant, he will die."

Hyman said doctors at Pittsburgh say the five-year survival rate for patients who have the transplant Jarrett needs is 80 percent.

"Truly, we've all seen miracles for people who've had the transplants," he said.

Candidate confident of ability

MCCOOL, from Page 1

In 1998, he became a corrections and transport officer at the Kit Carson Correctional Facility for about a year.

McCool then worked for Cook Trucking in Colby before getting a job with Schwan Sales Enterprises. However, after about three months he injured his knee, which took nearly a year heal. After that he worked as an over-the-road driver for a couple of companies before getting a job with Bursch Trucking, headquartered in Bird City, last May.

McCool is a 1974 graduate of Fort Gibson High School in Oklahoma, where he played football and was on the track and field team. In April 1973, he joined the 120th Engineer Battalion of the Oklahoma Army National Guard. McCool

went to basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., where he also was trained as a combat engineer.

After six years, he transferred to the Oklahoma Air National Guard, assigned to the Weapons Security Flight in Tulsa, where he served about a year before returning to the 120th Engineer Battalion as a company motor sergeant.

A year later, he transferred to the Army Reserve's 179th Training Regiment of the 95th Division (Training), where he became a drill sergeant and later a senior drill sergeant. He was named "Drill Sergeant of the Cycle" at Fort Leonard Wood during his annual training in 1986.

In 1992, after he moved to Goodland, McCool transferred to Detachment 1 of the 170th Maintenance Company here, first as a mechanic in the motor pool and later

as the unit's nuclear, biological and chemical noncommissioned officer. McCool retired as a sergeant first class in 1998 after 25 years service.

McCool married his wife Kristine in 1989 in Fort Smith, Ark. She has worked for Nor-west Press in Goodland since May. The McCools have a son, John Jr., or "J.P.", a seventh-grader at Grant Junior High and a member of the Mustang football team. Other family in Goodland includes Kristine's grandmother, Alice Tipton.

In July, McCool became the commander of Goodland's American Legion Post.

"I have made Goodland my home," McCool said, "and this is how I want to serve my friends, neighbors and all the people of Sherman County, residents and visitors alike."

Undersheriff believes he is best

BUTTS, from Page 1

when inmates can pay, they should, instead of the county carrying that burden.

Butts said he would like to start a program to educate the county's senior citizens on scams and confidence games targeted against them. On Wednesday, Butts will talk to the presidents of Wheatridge Acres about what they can do to protect themselves from scam artists.

One of the goals Butts wanted to accomplish as sheriff was to set up a Neighborhood Watch program for the entire county, but he has already started on that task. Earlier this week, deputies, working with members of Goodland's Watch program, put up signs in Edson, Ruleton and Kanorado. Butts said there are plans to put some up in Goodland in the near future.

Butts said he wants to establish an Explorer Scout program through which students can "shadow" law enforcement officers and see what goes on during an officer's day.

"This is a great way for our youth to appreciate what law enforcement officers do," Butts said, "and open the lines of communication between them."

Butts said his choice for undersheriff, if he is elected, is Deputy Roger Studer. Butts said he has worked with Studer for 10 years, and Studer has experience in all aspects of the department. He served as a Sherman County deputy off and on since August 1989, and continuously since October 1994.

"I plan to assemble a part-time deputy unit," said Butts. "These officers will be trained through the Kansas Law Enforcement Center and will be fully capable of performing

the same duties as full-time officers."

He said these deputies will help out when extra manpower is needed and will allow the sheriff's office to patrol outlying areas of the county, such as Kanorado and Edson, more frequently.

Butts was born and raised in Goodland. He earned his high school equivalency diploma in 1984 through Colby Community College, taking night courses there and at the downtown learning center here. He married his wife Cynthia in January 1990. They have two children, Shawnie, 14, a high school freshman and a member of the Cowgirls volleyball C team, and Brock, 5, a first grader at West Elementary.

"I want everyone to realize that my door is always open," Butts said, "and I want them to feel free about calling me."

matters of record

District Traffic

The following fines were paid in the Sherman County District Court: **Oct. 1** — Johnathan A. Baca, 16, Cincinnati, Ohio was fined \$225 for speeding and \$120 for no license.

Aaron T. Caffrey, 18, Hutchinson, was fined \$150 for speeding. Joseph W. Grant, 21, Durango, Colo. was fined \$120 for no license. Blake A. Amberger, 39, Colby, was fined \$177 for speeding.

Abdalla O. Safi, 41, Denver, was fined \$120 for speeding.

Sarah B. Biffar, 31, St. Louis, Mo. was fined \$138 for speeding. Joshua A. Shores, 30, Baltimore, Md. was fined \$150 for speeding. **Oct. 4** — Vernie J. Burns, 44, Rineyville, Ky. was fined \$106 for over weight limits on wheels and axles.

James A. Hayes, 19, Fort Morgan, Colo. was fined \$144 for speeding and \$10 for no seat belt. Guadalupe D. Martinez, 51, Terrell, Texas was fined \$204 for speeding.

Chad D. Mathis, 38, Hanover, was fined \$86 for over weight limits on wheels and axles.

Kristie M. Sommer, 26, Culver City, Calif. was fined \$138 for speeding.

Robert Z. Barry, 57, Glendale, Colo. was fined \$90 for speeding and \$10 for no seat belt.

Paul J. Colantvono, 39, Aurora, Colo. was fined \$138 for speeding. Salvador DeLuna, 34, Los Angeles, Calif. was fined \$138 for speeding and \$20 for no child restraint.

Shannon S. Wingate, 27, Royse City, Texas was fined \$195 for speeding.

James M. Oliver, 21, Lincoln, Calif. was fined \$138 for speeding.

Roger L. Johns, 52, Broomfield, Colo. was fined \$150 for speeding.

Kevin E. Dizmang, 45, Colorado Springs, was fined \$150 for speeding.

FIXTURE AND INVENTORY AUCTION

Tuesday, October 26, 2004

Time: 10 a.m. CT (Doors open at 8 a.m. day of sale)

Auction Location: McKee Heating & A/C, 895 W. Country Club Drive, Colby, Kan.

Auctioneer Note: McKee is offering excess fixtures, tools, equipment and inventory from the former Surmeier Plumbing Business. If anyone wants to preview items before sale please contact TNT Auction at 460-0050 or Tim McKee at 462-3132.

INVENTORY: Stool repair kits, shower kits, new and used hot water heaters, garbage disposal, spa chemicals, galvanized fittings - 1/2'-2', black pipe fittings - 1/2'-2', assorted sizes of registers, double wall vent pipe all sizes, pipe flanges, Yellow Jacket Recover system, pipe wrenches, all sizes of hand valves, small acetylene torches, small auger machine, block and tackle pulleys, assorted duct boots - 4'-8', lots of insulation tubes, assorted roof flashing, several zone dampers, assorted sizes of registers, several ammo boxes, new and used outside hydrants, brass gas shutoff valves, large assortment of new and used heating/AC parts

TOOLS AND EQUIPMENT: Caterpillar T30D forklift, Drafting table, Peck Stowe and Wilcox 8' Brake Model #1002, Roper Whitney pipe bender Model #662E, Ridgid 300 pipe cutter, 5 hp Coleman air compressor, 3' sheet metal brake, 3' sheet metal roller, (2) Torna 765 Rotary hammer drill, Hilti TE 60 Rotary hammer drill, Spectroline Model #CC-120A Leak detector, CFM balancing tester for duct work, DeWalt Laser transit - 2 years old, Wissota Bench grinder Model #33, Central 5 speed HD Drill press Model #C112

VEHICLES: 1978 Chevrolet dump truck; 1976 C-60 GMC truck; 1992 Chevrolet Lumina light brown mini van AC, PL, PW, AM/FM cassette radio

Terms of Sale: Driver License required. Cash or negotiable check day of sale. No Exceptions. Nothing removed until settled for. Not responsible for items after sold. Announcements sale day take precedence over printed material. Not responsible for accidents.

Tom Harrison, Auctioneer-Broker
(785) 443-0136 Mobile
Tom Simpson, Auctioneer
(785) 443-0137 Mobile

Bob Jones, Auctioneer
(785) 443-0138 Mobile

TNT AUCTION LLC
Jones Auction
Goodland, Colby and Jennings
and
Homeland Real Estate
of Goodland LLC

Check our web site for late additions and details about our upcoming auctions: www.tntjonesauction.com

Lunch will be served

Internet tonight!
899-2338

Did you Know?

It's time to check your antifreeze. Come in and we will check your antifreeze protection for free.

Tune up Specials

4 Cycliner

\$28.95 + parts

6 Cycliner

\$49.95 + parts

V-8

\$59.95 + parts

Lube, oil and filter special

includes safety inspection.

\$29.95 (most vehicles)

Stage Stop Sinclair



I-70 Exit 19

Goodland, Kan.

785-890-8284

Complete Auto and Truck repair available 7 days a week. Free estimates
New and Used tires in stock
Dent Repair (Hail Damage)

