

# Big Brothers help kids after school, plan dance

Get those dancing shoes on! Our inaugural Dance for Kids Sake will be held at the Knights of Columbus Saturday.



## dennis daise

- big brothers big sisters

Starting at 8 p.m., the live band Acres and Eights will provide the music and a chance for those wanting to dance or entertainment for those just wanting to assist Big Brothers Big Sisters to continue to make a difference in our community.

If you are into dressing up for Halloween, there will also be a costume contest during the event. So come on out and have a great time at a smoke-free and alcohol-free fund-raiser for the kids.

Our affiliate, with help from various organizations and several dedicated volunteers, recently helped with the Community Partners Coalition after school program involving nearly 35 kids.

Wednesday, Oct. 20, the students involved were able to go through an obstacle course that was intended to duplicate the possible paths they would face in real life.

The kids did a good job of handling the course, but what really stood out was how several kids helped the younger ones manage the course. They assisted on their own initiative, realizing that a person needs some help at times.

With the obstacle course, the kids could visually see what was ahead of them, but with life, at times, many obstacles are hidden. I encourage you to begin this approach-

ing holiday season offering your assistance to mentor a child to handle life's obstacles.

The Thanksgiving and Christmas season is coming, and needless to say, it's a difficult time for single-parent families providing for their households during the year, much less during this season of giving.

I encourage you to think of giving your time to mentor a child needing a friend. There could not be a better time to make a child's day or year by volunteering.

We continue to have kids on the waiting list under our community-based option and also some children who would love to meet a volunteer at their school one day a week.

Recently, Big Brothers Big Sisters was privileged to spend some time at Wheat Ridge Acres for Big for a Day. It was a neat opportunity to see the generations come together in laughing, talking and playing games of all types.

At times, I will hear a person relate that they are too old to be a volunteer, and that statement could not be further from the truth. The interaction of the kids and the Wheat Ridge residents were immediate smiles and laughter.

Older volunteers at times can fill a void of a child who might not see a grandparent or have even known their parent's mom or dad. It is not the age of the volunteer that is im-



Sherman County youths went through an obstacle course as part of the Big Brothers Big Sisters and Community Partners Coalition after school mentoring program. The obstacle course was intended

to teach the youngsters about overcoming life's obstacles.

Photo by Dennis Daise

portant but the desire to be a friend to someone needing a friend.

Coming up soon will be my two-year anniversary as executive director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Sherman County. It has been a journey of highs and lows, victories and

defeats.

The matches have been made, and yes, the matches that have closed have been for a reason and hopefully will all work out for the best. We have maintained an office at the west end of Rhoads Construc-

tion, who have been supportive along with all the corporate sponsors and those who continue to donate their time and support through our various activities.

Our affiliate is gradually helping Wallace County to begin to make

matches, and coming up in April of 2005, will be our fourth Bowl for Kids Sake.

To remind everyone, please come out and enjoy yourselves this Saturday evening, and Dance for Kids Sake.

# Now is the time to put down compost, keep Asian lady beetles out

It is the time of year to put down organic materials for compost and time to try to keep the Asian lady beetles out of homes.

Organic materials can be composted to partially decompose as a soil amendment. However, there is an easier way to use organic materials at this time of year by direct application.

This allows the composting process to occur directly in the soil. It will work in vegetable gardens and flower beds where annual plants have completed their season.

Add two to four inches of organic materials, such as leaves, lawn renovation materials, grass clippings or similar organic materials and till into the soil. If the soil is dry, water to begin the decomposition process.



## dana belshe

- ag notebook

After about two weeks, you can repeat the process with another application of organic materials. This can continue until the soil begins to freeze in December.

If rainfall occurs, don't work soils when they are wet because soil structure can be damaged.

Organic materials will decompose over the winter and be ready for your spring planting next year.

On another note, I have been seeing information on lady beetles be-

coming a problem on the sides of homes. Though lady beetles usually cluster together when over-

wintering, only the Asian lady beetle tends to do so around buildings.

Most of us are familiar with lady beetles and know they are beneficial and feed on certain insect pests, such as aphids.

The Asian lady beetle (*Harmonia axyridis*) does feed on other insects, such as other lady beetles, but it differs from its cousins in ways that can make it a nuisance.

They are attracted to light-col-

ored buildings; especially those that receive direct sunlight. Once several beetles have found an attractive site, they will emit a chemical signal to bring in their friends. Unfortunately, their friends can number in the tens or hundreds of thousands.

They then look for nooks and crannies in which they can hide and will invade a home if they can find a way in. Once inside, they will fly around lights and crawl on furnishings.

When disturbed, Asian lady beetles emit a yellow-orange liquid (their blood) that produces a foul smelling odor. This material can stain walls and home furnishings. More beetles mean a more intense smell.

The beetles can also pinch when they land on bare skin. Fortunately,

they are unable to break the skin surface.

Control of these insects is difficult. Caulking cracks and plugging other openings will help, but it is difficult to get every possible entry point.

Beetles that make it inside can be removed with the use of a vacuum cleaner. Be sure to remove and seal the bag, or still-living beetles may

escape.

Insecticides may be used outside as a perimeter treatment. The most effective products will be wettable powders and microencapsulated formulations or residual pyrethroids. Examples of products that can be used include bifenthrin, cyfluthrin, deltamethrin, esfenvalerate and tralomethrin. Trade names vary, so check the label.

# Nominations sought for conservation awards

The Conservation Awards Program committee needs nominations for this year's conservation and windbreak awards.

Anyone in the county can make a nomination. They should be sent to the county Extension office by Monday.

The awards will be presented at the Soil Conservation Districts Annual meeting on Feb. 14.

This program is sponsored by the agricultural committee of the Kan-

sas Bankers Association. Sherman County farm operators are eligible for both awards..

Last year, awards were made to Vernon and Karen Isaac for their windbreak and David, Lori, Michael and Megan Leonard of Leonard Farms for soil conservation.

The program is designed to stimulate interest in conservation of the agricultural resources by recognizing farmers and landowners who

have made outstanding progress in soil and water conservation.

Points to be considered in selecting soil conservation award winners include:

- Use of land according to its capabilities.
- Completeness of conservation plan.
- Balance of farm enterprise;.
- Quality of conservation work completed and maintenance of practices.

- Special practices unique to the farming operation.

The windbreak award considers windbreaks which provide protection from damaging winds for residential areas or other structures, livestock or fields. Windbreaks should be a minimum of three years old.

Points to be considered in selecting winners include design, management, location, density and length.

Internet tonight! Call 899-2338.

State of Kansas Township 2005							
NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING							
The governing body of <u>Iowa</u> Township, <u>Sherman</u> County will meet on the <u>15th</u> day of <u>November</u> , 2004 at <u>7:00 P.M.</u> , at <u>Brian Kling Res</u> for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax.							
Detailed budget information is available at <u>Brian Kling Res</u> and will be available at this hearing.							
BUDGET SUMMARY							
Proposed Budget 2005 Expenditures and Amount of 2004 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2005 budget. Estimated Tax Rate* is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.							
Fund	2003 Prior Year Actual Expenditures	2003 Actual Tax Rate*	2004 Current Year Estimate of Expenditure	2004 Actual Tax Rate*	Proposed Budget 2005 Expenditures	Amount of 2004 Ad Valorem Tax	Est Tax Rate*
General	334	0	700	0	343	0	0
Special Machinery Fund							
Totals	334	0	700	0	343	0	0
Less: Transfers	0		0		0		
Net Expenditures	334		700		343		
Total Tax Levied	0	0	0	0	0		
Assessed Valuation:							
Township	1,714,824		1,653,282		1,665,736		
City	0		0		0		
Total	1,714,824		1,653,282		1,665,736		
Outstanding Indebtedness, January 1							
	2002		2003		2004		
G.O. Bonds							
No-Fund Warrants							
Lease Purchase Principal							
Total							
* Tax Rates are expressed in mills.							
Brian Kling Township Officer							
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