

Men learn construction, job skills building sheds

Golden West center has storage sheds for sale

By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Star-News

Running out of places to stash your stuff? Closets overflowing and garage so full you don't have room for your car?

Clients of Golden West Community Services are building solutions, 10-foot by 10-foot sheds which they will deliver in northwest Kansas and even lay down a cement slab to install on.

The tan sheds with white trim are double-walled with pre-engineered siding and asphalt shingles. The siding comes down over the cement pad, preventing water from running under the buildings, said Lorna Thorpe, supervisor at the Golden Horseshoe Ranch, 10 miles north of Goodland, where the sheds are built.

"Our sheds have lips," she said. They are sold at a price that allows Golden West to recover the cost of materials, Thorpe said, and the cost of labor for clients working on them. The center actually loses money on them, she said, since employees are paid to work with and supervise the clients, and that money is not in the price.

The sheds cost \$1,400, including the cement pad and installation, in Goodland, and can be taken to surrounding towns with a delivery fee added.

Working on the sheds helps the men learn skills, Thorpe said, and work with supervision as they would need to for a job. Golden West had materials to make four sheds this spring, she said, and three are already sold.

Clients had made several in the past, she said, but had stopped, then started again five months ago. The program was developed by Bob Simmons, director of support services, and Tim Armknecht, director of programming, she said.

The first shed was done in September 2004, Simmons said, in Goodland. The idea, he said, came from a search for something the clients could do — and the sheds

looked like a product they could sell.

Golden West didn't have to buy a lot of tools, he said, just a few hammers, a power drill and a few other things. He already had most of the equipment.

"I have a pretty well-equipped woodworking shop," he said.

Administrator Meripat Bowman said the shed-building operation was moved to the Golden Horseshoe Ranch, 10 miles north of Goodland, when Golden West began leasing the property in August 2004.

The ranch was Armknecht's vision, Bowman said; he wanted the clients to experience country living. The workshop came with it, she said, so the operation was moved out there.

The men work on a variety of projects, she said, but will concentrate on the sheds for a while. They made wood Christmas tree lawn ornaments again this year, she said, and are looking at a picnic table design and an arbor.

It helps the clients gain carpentry and woodworking skills, Bowman said, and earn an income. With experience, they can get jobs in town, she said, which is a long-range goal. One man who used to work on the sheds now washes dishes at Pizza Hut now, Armknecht said.

Working at the ranch are Alvin Martinez, Derek Moreland, Leroy Hoffman, Chet Hatfield and David Roberts. The shop foreman is Greg Garcia.

Those are great people out there, Bowman said, and they have Simmons' and Armknecht's support. Simmons is the go-to guy, a jack-of-all-trades, Bowman said. He's a pretty innovative guy and developed a method to deliver sheds to people.

That method, Thorpe said, uses a hydraulic lift, made from a log splitter. It allows the crew to put the sheds on and remove them from a trailer that can haul them to their new homes.



Bob Simmons (above, left), director of support services at Golden West Community Services, handed a bolt from his homemade hydraulic lift to Derek Moreland, one of Golden West's shed builders, last Tuesday. Greg Garcia (left), shop foreman, watched as Moreland worked on the lift. The men were unloading a new shed that is for sale.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran
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matters of record

District Traffic

The following fines were paid in the Sherman County District Court:

Jan. 1, 2006 — Rodney E. Morrill, \$168 for speeding.

Jan. 2 — Joey J. Perez, \$114 for speeding.

Jan. 4 — Umit Benek, \$124 for no Kansas motor carrier permits on insurance.

Stacey L. Fonte, \$120 for speeding.

Marcia A. Hess, \$150 for speeding.

Jan. 5 — Bryce E. Burden, \$120 for unlawful acts with vehicle.

Janet G. Doxsee, \$150 for improper parking.

Ricky S. Nishida, \$132 for speeding.

Jan. 7 — Juan G. Garcia, \$120 for operating a motor vehicle with-

out a valid license.

Gregory L. Orr, \$114 for speeding.

Jan. 8 — Jason R. Althoff, \$120 for speeding.

Jason M. Kaspar, \$132 for speeding.

Thomas P. Kierl, \$120 for speeding.

Jan. 9 — Guy H. Matthews, \$130 for speeding.

Scott A. Souther, \$120 for speeding.

Jan. 10 — Marlon C. Davis, \$150 for speeding.

Jan. 11 — Gary K. Ball, \$124 for no Kansas motor carrier permits on insurance.

Lorrin C. Bates, \$120 for improper parking.

Albert J. Forlini, \$225 for over weight on wheels and axles.

Laxmi Gambir, \$120 for improper driving on laned roadway.

Jason D. Hendrix, \$114 for speeding and \$60 unlawful acts with vehicles.

Jade L. Huxoll, \$138 for speeding.

David R. Myers Jr., \$144 for speeding.

Jan. 12 — Monty L. Robinson, \$132 for speeding.

Jan. 13 — Clyde V. Adams, \$126 for improper parking.

Thomas J. Webb, \$130 for speeding.

Jan. 14 — Juan M. Gutierrez, \$120 for speeding.

Jose Roberto-Molinerros, \$100 for no license, \$160 for unlawful use of non-driver's ID card and \$78 for speeding.

DEADLINE

for the Country Advocate for the **Week of March 22** will be noon on **Thursday, March 16**. This is one day early; our staff will be at a training session on Friday.

The Goodland Star-News The Country Advocate



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