

# Animal shelter rejuvenated by support, donations

Well it has been awhile since you've heard from me. There have been a lot of ups and downs since the last time I updated you. We were all pretty low around Christmas time — too many animals, not enough money, not enough help, too much stress.



**sandy  
rodgers**

• animal shelter

But as usual, you all came through for us with your support of our calendar project, the tree of hope and your generous donations. Thank you all so much. Your support rejuvenates us and keeps us going.

I feel the need to address rumors that I have been hearing. We are not closing down, and we are not going to put any healthy animals down. We never have. The only time we have put an animal to sleep was when it was in the best interest of that animal, due to illness or injury, or if the animal is viscous.

We work tirelessly to find rescues that will help us and good homes to adopt our animals to. Sometimes that takes longer than we'd like. We have been blessed with a rescue in Colorado that is helping us.

Between adoptions both local and off of our web site, as well as this rescue helping us place our

dogs and puppy rescue, we have placed over 40 dogs in the last two months.

Reputable rescues work with us because our animals are healthy, well adjusted and very adoptable. We have to get our numbers down not only for financial reasons but also because of the workload. It gets very scary for us worrying what we would have to do if the money and/or help was completely gone.

Unfortunately, we can't take every surrender that we are asked to, and believe me, we wish we could, but for the Shelter to survive, we are going to have to say "no" sometimes.

We always worry and wonder what happened in the cases we couldn't help. Some days are very hard; there aren't very many of us that do the hands-on care of the animals.

with us for several years, but when that animal finally gets to his new home and we hear back what a wonderful addition to someone's family this animal is, we still believe in our philosophy, and that is what makes us different.

We want to be able to provide the animals in our care the very best we can afford to give them until which time they are adopted. I would like to take this opportunity to thank two very special people who have put their heart and souls in this animal shelter for over 10 years. That would be Jan and Clyde Lambertz.

Jan resigned from the board last month, and she will be missed. They have promised to continue to help us in a more limited capacity. They have managed the food, the phone and the fundraising over the years, as well as hands-on with the animals, and if you see them, tell them

how much you appreciated their dedication.

Jan and I have been on many rescue missions together, looking for lost dogs late at night or holding a dying dog together that we know we

have to let go, and spending countless hours on the phone or in the car with a load of carsick puppies going to puppy rescue (sometimes you just have to hold your nose and keep going).

Clyde has built many a pen and transported animals here and there, and most of all, has picked up the pallets of food and distributed it every week. For all that and much, much more, thanks guys.

## Ducks Unlimited banquet set

By Pat Schiefen

The Goodland Star-News

People will get a chance to eat, shop and support Ducks Unlimited in their effort to preserve habitat for waterfowl and other wildlife at the Northwest Kansas Chapter banquet next month.

The dinner will begin at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 1, at the Goodland Elks Lodge, 1523 Arcade. There will be special ladies-only events and over 70 Ducks Unlimited items to be sold. The dinner will include smoked sirloin, pork,

bratwurst and smoked salmon.

"The first banquet of Northwest Kansas Ducks Unlimited Chapter was held last year, and was among the most successful first-time events ever held in Kansas," said William Jenkins, chairman of the local chapter.

There will be a live auction as well as a silent auction for exclusive Ducks Unlimited merchandise, shotguns, rifles, hunting and fishing trips. There will also be door prizes and raffles.

Ducks Unlimited has helped con-

serve 20,000 acres of habitat in Kansas and millions of acres in North America. Ducks Unlimited, by conserving wetlands for sporting purposes, help other species of birds and animals gain habitat.

People must have advance tickets for the dinner. For information, call Jim Kennedy at (785) 821-2439, Tom Palmer (785) 899-2424, Camron Paxton (785) 821-3661, Gerald Paxton (785) 821-3662, Jenkins (785) 821-1887, Michael Dorn (785) 821-4378 or Andy Davis (785) 462-4120.

## Is homework good for young children?

Parents often have different points of view as to whether homework is beneficial for young children.

Some feel elementary age students should have homework in order to better learn the basic skills of reading, writing and mathematics. Others feel homework causes undue stress on everyone involved.

Parental opinions also vary depending on the culture of the family. For instance, Chinese-American parents view homework as an essential component of learning and often establish the habit early, even in preschool, using homework time as "family time," with everyone sitting around the table working together.

Homework can have both positive and negative effects, depending on how it is accomplished. Homework in a child's early years can help him develop good study habits. In addition, early commitment to memory of basic mathematics and reading skills will result in automatic responses in the higher grades, less mental effort on calculation, writing and reading. In other



**high plains  
mental health**

• plain sense

licts can occur. When parents use a different teaching technique than the teacher, it can lead to confusion and frustration for everyone.

As with many issues in life, parents need to achieve a balance between too much and not enough when it comes to homework for their young children. When in doubt, parents should contact their child's teacher or school counselor for suggestions.

Contributed by Karen Beery, manager, Consultation and Education Department. The views expressed here are those of the individual writer and should not be considered a replacement for seeking professional help.

Mail questions to High Plains Mental Health Center, Plain Sense, Consultation and Education Department, 208 E. Seventh, Hays, Kan. 67601. Internet site: www.highplainsmentalhealth.com.

words, learning becomes easier.

Homework not only builds foundation skills and competencies, but also builds the discipline, concentration and self-motivation required for higher level learning.

According to the National Education Association, for children in kindergarten through second grade, homework is most effective when it does not exceed 20 minutes each day, while children in grades three through six can handle 30-60 minutes a day.

Too much homework can lead to inattentiveness and boredom and may deny children access to leisure activities that also teach important life skills.

When parents get too involved with the child's homework, con-

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