

County may pay \$10,000 for Smoky Gardens well

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News
The Smoky Gardens lake has been dry all year because of a drop in the water table, and now the well at the caretaker's house has gone dry and needs to be replaced, Sherman County commissioners learned Tuesday.

The caretaker told commissioners the well serves the house he lives in and the public, including campers. They told him he could call in a Hoxie drilling firm, though the project may cost as much as \$10,000.

"If we are going to have people down there, we need to have water," said Commissioner Chuck Thomas. "The well went dry," said Bob McClure, caretaker at the county park. "I talked to the Smoky Gar-

dens Board members, and decided to pull the pump to see what was happening. The well has been there since 1961, and the casing collapsed when we got the pump out."

McClure said he had a new well drilled nearby, but there was no water.

"We drilled another about 30 feet north," he said. "It would pump 10 gallons of water, and that is all."

"Tried again and found no water and no sand. Moved again and it looked promising, it really did, because there was 10 feet of wet sand. Again no water."

McClure said the old well was about 13 feet deep and where they were trying to drill was about 30 feet down to shale.

Commissioners asked McClure what he recommended. He said he

would like to have Woofter Pump and Well come in with a bigger rig and drill a deeper well. It might have to be some distance from the house, he said.

"I want to bring in a real drilling rig to get a good well," McClure said. "I want the driller to test the water level before pulling out so we know it is a good well."

"I want to move about 1,500 feet west toward the old Hinkel place. I think there is water on the other side of the hill."

Commissioner Mitch Tiede asked how much has been spent trying to find water.

McClure said it was about \$3,000 so far

"What is the cost per foot?" said Curt Way, public works manager, who was at the meeting,

McClure said he thought it was \$13 per foot for a drill rig.

"Where I want to go it is probably 60 feet down to shale," McClure said. "Then there is the expense to get the water back to the house. That is estimated at \$2 a foot for pipe, and would be \$1.90 per foot for the electricity."

Tiede asked if Midwest Energy could hang a transformer and shorten the power line.

McClure said he had tried to contact the electric co-op, but without success so far. Asked what he estimated the cost of the new well and power hook up would cost, McClure said it would be about \$6,000.

Commissioner Chuck Thomas said he expected it to be closer to \$10,000 when done.

"The tank has been there since 1961, and needs to be replaced," McClure said. "If I can't get water I can't live there. This is the third week I've been hauling water."

"People can bring their own water, but we have a lot of people coming through who use Smoky Gardens as an overnight camping spot on their trips."

McClure said it is important for the driller to find water and a good supply before they consider having a separate drop from Midwest Energy and the cost of piping the water to the house.

"What this boils down to is how much does the county want to spend to get water down there?" McClure said.

Way said the area is on the outskirts of the Ogallala aquifer. He

said they had the same problem finding water at the landfill about half a mile south and west of Smoky Gardens.

"If we can get an eight-gallon-a-minute well, it is good," McClure said. "I want to get Woofter back over here."

"Do you want to go on or quit?" McClure asked.

"I have to have water," McClure said. "I am not prepared to move to town."

"I want to do a little more," Rasure said. "I am not prepared to go on forever."

"See what you can do. Find someone who can use their expertise. We do not have an unlimited budget. Find something that is reasonable."

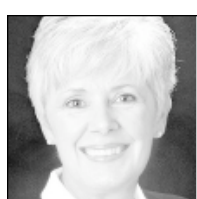
College students, parents should plan for health insurance needs

As the fall semester approaches, college students and their parents should think carefully about the students' ongoing health insurance needs.

A serious illness or injury could lead to catastrophic consequences for a college student without health insurance.

Coverage Through a Parent's Health Insurance Policy

The good news is that most individual and group health insurance policies cover dependents who are full-time students until the age of 23. Companies may have different definitions of a full-time student and the maximum age of coverage, so check with your health insurer. Most policies consider a student



sandy praeger

- insurance comm.

taking at least 12 credit hours per semester (six or nine in the summer) to be a full-time student. However, college students who marry will lose their status as a dependent under their parents' policy regardless of their age or status as a full-time student.

It is also important to know the difference between how a college student not living at home can obtain coverage through a Health Mainte-

nance Organization or a Preferred Provider Organization.

For example, a student insured through an HMO may be outside its service area of physicians and hospitals while away at school. If this occurs, the student likely will have coverage for emergency care but may have to travel to a physician and hospital within the HMO service area for other care.

Similarly, an insurer may pay benefits at out-of-network levels for students who are outside a PPO network. Check your plan provisions or speak with your insurer to know the level of benefits provided

when a student is away at school and outside the service area.

Be sure the college student has a copy of the relevant insurance cards and knows how to obtain any required approvals before seeking treatment.

Student Health Insurance Plans

Students who don't have health insurance through a parent's health insurance policy, or who have limited coverage due to network service areas, may buy a student health insurance plan.

Student plans are sold by an insurer that has contracted with a college to offer coverage to its students. In general, these plans have more limited benefits and more exclusions than traditional health in-

surance plans.

For example, most student plans have limited catastrophic coverage of \$50,000 per accident or illness. Many policies also exclude routine examinations and injuries sustained while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Dental and Eye Care

Routine dental care and eye care generally aren't included as part of a health insurance plan, although many will cover non-cosmetic dental work that is medically necessary due to an accident.

In addition, some plans may include limited coverage for dental procedures, such as the removal of wisdom teeth, if performed in a hospital. Finally, most health insurance plans do not cover expenses related to periodic eye examinations,

glasses or contact lenses. But most health insurance plans do cover medical care as a result of an eye disease or injury.

Sandy Praeger, Kansas Insurance Commissioner, oversees the activities of the Kansas Insurance Department, which is headquartered in Topeka. Her objective is to protect consumers and help maintain the financial stability of the insurance industry.

The department regulates and monitors the activities of 23,000 resident agents, 48,000 non-resident agents and 1,684 insurance companies licensed to do business in the state. It offers financial, actuarial, legal, computer, research, market conduct and economic expertise. Visit www.ksinsurance.org for more information.

Marching band picks up new skills at camp



Members of marching band practiced during the band camp put on by band instructors Deanne Spanier and Melanie Biel. The band camp started Thursday, Aug. 3 and ended Wednesday. The

students showed off what they had learned at noon on Wednesday.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Insurance counselors trained, recertified

The Northwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging held three-day training for people to become Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas counselors.

A Sharon Springs woman completed the training, and three Goodland women were recertified as counselors. Mary Ann Schmitt at the Prairie Manor Good Samaritan Center in Sharon Springs completed training to become a counselor.

Donna Swager, administrator and Wheat Ridge Acres, Virginia Terry at the Goodland Regional Medical Center and Carol Guyer of Goodland were recertified.

The counseling program is paid

for by a grant from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. Its purpose is to provide trained volunteers to help with questions concerning Medicare and other health insurance.

lincoln larks

The Lincoln Larks Family, Community and Education Club met and decided to put a display up at the fair.

The display was the new food pyramid which added grains to it. The other categories are vegetables, fruits, milk and meats and beans.

Posters were also the kernel of wheat and the food groups and how much you should eat.

There were a lot of leaflets available to the public. So eat right, exercise and have fun!

The club will meet in September to fill out reports. The club plans to use the display for National Home-maker Week in October.

Submitted by Arbutus Topliff

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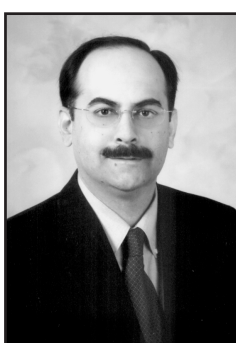
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Hays Medical Center
WELCOMES
Adeel Pervez, M.D.
to Pulmonology Associates
of Hays

Dr. Pervez completed his Internal Medicine Residency and Critical Care Medicine Fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center in McKeesport, Pennsylvania. Dr. Pervez has also completed a fellowship in Pulmonary Medicine at the Western Pennsylvania Hospital in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Dr. Pervez is board certified in Internal Medicine. Dr. Pervez is accepting appointments for pulmonary and sleep disorder patients beginning September 11th at Pulmonology Associates of Hays.

Please welcome Dr. Pervez and his family to Hays!

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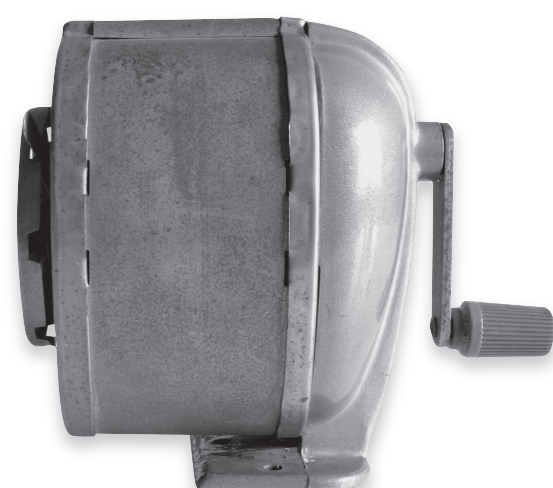
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