

# Book will help Head Start parents with sick kids

By Sharon Corcoran

*The Goodland Star-News*  
Do you know what to do when your child is sick?

When your little bundle of joy has a fever, do you immediately call the doctor?

Parents of kids in the Sherman County Head Start program will get a copy of a book that can help them cut down on late-night emergency-room visits and reduce days of missed work with a sick child.

Head Start staff will provide training for the parents starting with a meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 18, in the mobile classroom next to West Elementary School. The staff will follow up with the parents over the next few months to

see what they have learned and if they are using the book, said Cory Dudley, a teacher aide for the program.

There will be a final meeting in April, she said, and Head Start is planning to hold a drawing for prizes to reward parents who complete the training.

Head Start needs donations of prizes, thermometers for the parents, money or gift certificates to buy prizes, even treats to serve at the meetings, Dudley said.

Head Start programs in 12 north-west Kansas counties are participating in the program, she said; anyone wanting to help in Sherman County can call 899-2552.

The program includes copies of

a book, "What to Do When Your Child Gets Sick," for each family, she said, but would like to buy more, since health care providers and others have expressed interest.

The book is by Gloria Gilbert Mayer and Ann Kuklierus, both registered nurses, she said, and the training program was designed by the University of California at Los Angeles and the Johnson & Johnson Health Care Institute.

The book is designed to help parents treat minor illnesses and injuries at home, Dudley said, avoiding unnecessary trips to a clinic or emergency room.

When a child has a fever, she said, parents usually take him to the doc-

tor, and that takes time and money. This program will try to get parents to do things at home, she said, saving that time and money and helping them to miss less work and the kids to miss less school.

The book, covering more than 50 common childhood illnesses, is written in an easy-to-read style, writers for the Institute for Healthcare Advancement say.

The book features everyday language with illustrations to describe each illness and discuss what needs to be done. Medical problems discussed include earache, sore throat, sunburn, diarrhea and nose bleed.

Questions answered about each condition are: What is it? What do I

see? What can I do at home? When do I call a doctor or nurse? What else should I know about it?

After the training, Dudley said, there will be a follow-up to see how the program has changed the way families react to illnesses.

In a three-year demonstration project in Head Start programs across the country, the university reported a 48 percent decrease in emergency room and 37 percent reduction in clinic visits.

A team from the university presented a two-day training to 35 staff and parents from the seven Kansas pilot programs, Community Action in Topeka, Community Children's Center in Lawrence, Head Start in Kansas City, Olathe Head Start,

Project EAGLE in Kansas City, SEK-CAP Head Start in Allen County and Sheldon Head Start in Topeka, in October 2005.

The follow-up showed that 77 percent of the parents who signed up participated. They completed pre-training and post-training surveys about their sources of health information and help.

When asked where they would first go for help when their child is sick, only 3 percent said they would consult a health book before the training, while 31 percent gave that answer afterward. Forty-four percent would go to a doctor, clinic or emergency room before the training, while only 27 percent would after.

# Oberlin youth ranch losing license, closes

By Kimberly Davis

*The Oberlin Herald*  
Sappa Valley Youth Ranch east of Oberlin shut down at the end of September, under pressure from the state Department of Health and Environment and local law-enforcement officers, with the last boys leaving Sept. 29.

Dick Kelsey, owner and president of King's Camp Inc., faxed a letter to the Oberlin School District, the City of Oberlin and *The Oberlin Herald* the day before saying the facility would close.

Kelsey, who also runs a boys' facility in Goddard and a youth alcohol-and-drug treatment home in Oberlin, reopened the ranch last April after Clarence M. Kelley Youth Services shut it down in March. Kelley had reopened the city-owned ranch after it was closed by the Cookson Hills agency.

Kelsey's letter listed two main reasons for the closing: problems with its state license, and changes in the way the state classifies youth offenders.

"We have been unable to develop an acceptable working relationship with the program consultant of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment in that area of the state," he wrote. "This makes operating very difficult."

Denise Gooden, with the health department in Hays, said she couldn't talk about the license. Her boss, Lynda Sturgin with the agency's office in Topeka, did not return phone calls from *The Herald*.

The health department inspects the ranch regularly and issues licenses for youth facilities.

Kelsey said the ranch had only a temporary license, which was up at the end of the month. Last Tuesday, he said, he found out that the state wasn't going to renew that license. That is how the department always works, he said; they give a temporary license first and then renew it.

Normally, if the license isn't going to be renewed, said Kelsey, the business is given a little more time.

Kelsey said last Monday he received some write-ups about the ranch from the health department, some of them citing problems back in May. Some of the write-ups, he said, were about things that weren't even valid.

Normally if there was a citation, he said, then the ranch would have

five days to write an action plan to correct the problem and five days to implement it. With a temporary license, said Kelsey, they were in a different situation, but he has never heard of something like this.

Some of the write-ups were for things that took place back in May, he said, and the agency is supposed to send them in a few days, not months later. In the business of helping kids, he said, sometimes they break things. The ranch was cited for those incidents, Kelsey said, although he didn't give particulars.

Kelsey said no one from the agency was here to witness things that the ranch received citations about. Some of the charges weren't true, he said, and some came from a videotape that Decatur County law enforcement sent the health department of an incident that happened at the ranch this fall.

He claimed officers made a tape of a recent incident when one of the boys broke something on property. Instead of stopping the incident, he said, officers filmed the boy and sent the tape to the state. The sheriff's office did send in the tape, said Sheriff Ken Badsky, because of all of the damage that occurred.

The second reason Kelsey gave for the closing of the ranch was that the state Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services had changed the way it classifies youths, merging the "Level V" class housed at the ranch with Level VI, youths who have committed more serious acts.

The ranch was designed to handle nonviolent kids who need help and education, he said, but now the agency doesn't want that kind of service.

The state is trying to set up psychiatric residential treatment facilities which will make all level V's into level VI's, he said. The requirements for that type of facility can't be met in this area of the state, he claimed.

Kelsey said all jobs at the ranch would end when the boys are gone. The ranch employed around 36 to 37 people, he said, plus five teaching jobs with the Oberlin School District. Kelsey, a state representative, said he has talked with his partner about possibly putting in an alcohol and drug treatment center at the ranch, but nothing has been decided yet.

## Jumpin' Juniors keep tradition alive



The tradition continues at Goodland High School with the Jumpin' Juniors, who performed at the pep rally on Thursday and at halftime of the Homecoming game on Friday. Juniors this year included Amanda Amthor, Eryn Topliff, Halli Stone, Hannah

West, Ashley Christians, Jessica Swager, Holly Kibel, Marissa Acuff, Heidi Yonkey, Sami Raymer, Tiffany Wing, Callee Warren, Jennifer Cole and Mindi Keith.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

## matters of record

### Real Estate

The following real estate transactions were reported by the Sherman County Register of Deeds:

Phyllis L. Long quit claim to Gary Long, Bradley Long and Nichole Travis, N1/2 Lots 23, Lot 24, Block 29, Second Addition to the City of Goodland.

### corrections

The story "Golf Team Takes Third Place at Lakin Invitational Tournament" on Page 11 of the Friday, Oct. 6, edition of *The Goodland Star-News* incorrectly identified Sammie Raymer as a senior. She is a junior. This was a reporting error.

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The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

# What you can't see can hurt you

While **natural gas has an excellent safety record**, it is possible to have a leak by accident or misuse. If there were to be a leak, you wouldn't be able to see it. That's why we add a harmless odor to make sure you can smell it. **If you smell natural gas, don't** strike matches, turn lights on or off, use the telephone or ring the doorbell. These can create a spark that could ignite the natural gas. **Leave the premises immediately**, go to a neighbor's house and **call Aquila at 1-800-303-0357**. Leave doors and windows open, but don't open them if they're not already open. **Don't take chances.**

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*You are invited to the Shine on Sherman County*  
**COMMUNITY CONVERSATION**  
**Tuesday, October 17th ~ Elks Club**  
5:30 p.m. FREE Supper  
6:15 p.m. Conversation  
**BRING YOUR IDEAS....**  
**Help plan OUR COMMUNITY'S FUTURE**  
**Steering Committee Members:**  
Shelly Angelos      Drew Pilger      Tiffani McMinn  
Gary Farris          Steve Rains      Roberta Normandin  
Brian Linin          Jessica Cole      Donna Price  
Andi Nelson        Jay Jolly        Alan Townsend  
**Conversation Leader:** Terry Woodbury, Kansas Communities LLC