

Board members retire after 25 years

By Karen Krien

After over 25 years, Rachael Keller and Naomi Holliman are retiring from the Northwest Kansas Council on Substance Abuse Board.

The Regional Prevention Center of Northwest Kansas started with a small grant of \$17,000 and a staff of one full-time director and a part-time secretary. After hiring and firing several directors, in 1982, they hired Sue Evans as the executive director and there are now 21 to 22 employees. The budget has also grown to \$760,000 a year.

Mrs. Keller said she felt that the program was important and has enjoyed seeing it grow into a profitable organization.

Mrs. Holliman said she wanted to do something good by helping people so she just continued to serve on the board.

Mrs. Keller served as president and Mrs. Holliman as secretary/treasurer for 20 years. They traveled to meetings (at their own expense) in Colby once a month. As the years passed and Mrs. Keller and Mrs. Holliman were a little older, the board members would often meet in St. Francis so they wouldn't have to travel. There was also the introduction of conference phone calls.

The first programs dealt with drug and alcohol prevention. Mrs. Keller said they were instrumental in getting Fred Waters, McDonald, trained as a counselor and he is still helping people today. They also started the Cheyenne County Drug and Alcohol Abuse Council.

Today, the Regional Prevention Center of Northwest Kansas offers a number of programs including: Start talking before they start drinking (underage drinking), the prevention of child abuse and neglect, AIDS and HIV training, nine community coalitions, promote Red Ribbon Week and Family Day, curriculum in the schools for life skill, project alert and class action — all



BOARD VOLUNTEERS Naomi Holliman, left, and Rachael Keller, were honored at a retirement party on Monday, March 12. Serving cake is Wendy Wellmann. Times staff photo by Karen Krien

are targeted to elementary, middle school and high school about substance abuse....meth training and awareness.

"We are available for more information on any of these programs and more," said Wendy Wellmann, community prevention consultant for the county. "Call us at 785-460-8177.

"I appreciate the fact that we have a coalition in Cheyenne County and

that Rachael and Naomi have put in all their time."

Representing Cheyenne County in place of Mrs. Holliman and Mrs. Keller is new board member, Glenn Isernhagen, St. Francis.

The Kids Making a Connection program board meets at 7 p.m. on the first Monday of every month in the basement of the Cheyenne County Clinic in St. Francis. The group was led through the Communities That

Care process and identified problem behaviors by assessing student survey data reports from the previous year. Substance abuse was identified as one of the top five concerns in the county and the group is targeting this problem area.

Their mission is to provide educational opportunities which include early childhood development, abuse, neglect and drug-free life styles.



ALLIE FRISBIE and Casey Vandike participated in the National Honor Society's games.

Times staff photo by Melinda Basnett

Club Clip

Go-Getters 4-H Club

The Go-Getters 4-H Club had their monthly meeting on March 13.

Cindy Burr was present to give officer training.

Denise Keltz made sloppy joes and the club enjoyed eating them.

President Aryn Sturgeon called the meeting to order and secretary Isaac Sturgeon took roll call. There were 11 members who answered to "How many miles have to walked or run?" There were also four parents present.

The secretary read the minutes from the last meeting.

The 4-H council will pay the \$300 and put all four of the 4-H clubs names on a park bench in St. Francis.

The club will be serving the alumni banquet on May 26 in Bird City.

The Go-Getters decided to invite Jamie Banister to do an educational presentation. Caleb Keltz is going to contact her and report back at the next meeting.

March 24 is 4-H Family Fun night in the St. Francis high school cafeteria from 5:30 to 7:30. Everyone is welcome to come.

Song leader Rachel Keltz led the club in the song "Five Little Monkeys Swinging on a Tree."

There were two project talks. Elizabeth Keltz gave a talk on "How to Loom." Isaac Sturgeon gave a talk on "How an Engine Works."

Recreation leader Josh Keltz led the club in a game of "Mother May I?"

The next meeting is tentatively set for April 19 in the Lutheran Church basement at 7 p.m.

Reporter, Isaac Sturgeon



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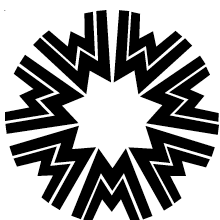
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Power Lineman Position

Midwest Energy has an opening for a Lineman in Bird City. Duties include the operation, construction, maintenance and troubleshooting of electric distribution and transmission facilities. Applicants must have the ability to learn and perform lineman job duties, customer service and public relations.

Are you interested in this position? Midwest Energy will have a representative available in Bird City at City Hall, Wednesday, April 4 from 1pm to 4pm. Please stop by and visit with us to learn more about the position.



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