

Service dog gives local woman hope

By Amanda Miller
amiller@nwkansas.com

Krysta Smestad has been living life a little fuller after receiving her service dog, Tyler, on March 6. People around town have probably seen the new service dog in town, and Krysta says he has made a huge difference in her life.

Krysta was just a normal young woman working and attending college in Goodland when she had an accident at the beginning of the year in 2011. In the first days after the accident, she couldn't even spell the word "cat." She struggled to regain the ability to read, follow directions and plan.

Krysta had sustained a traumatic brain injury, and it was determined that she has chronic seizure disorder. The illness is a painful and sometimes violent seizure disorder that affects Krysta daily.

She had to give up her home in Goodland, and move in with her parents, Randy and Dorothy Smestad. Someone had to be with Krysta at all times because they did not know when she would have a seizure, and she could injure herself if she was alone. The condition required constant monitoring.

Prior to Tyler coming into her life, Krysta could not leave the home without careful planning and preparation. Imagine not being able to walk to the mailbox for fear that you may have a seizure on the way, and hit your head on the cement. Every single day was a struggle, but she kept a positive attitude.

The Smestads found Canines 4 Hope, a service dog training school. A benefit to help with the cost for the expensive seizure response dog was organized. The community rallied around the Smestads, and the family was able to get Tyler to help Krysta.

Krysta waited for Tyler for seven months. She sent "scent packs" and seizure scents prior to her meeting him, so that he could recognize her. After traveling through 11 states, the day finally came when she got to meet him. But it was not exactly what she expected.

Before she got to see Tyler, there was a three hour "do's and don'ts" class for service animals. When the trainer brought him out, however, he came right up to Krysta and knew exactly who she was. He didn't want anything to do with anyone else. Bonding is the most important aspect of their relationship. In fact, no one else is allowed to pet Ty-

ler, not even her parents.

The pair went through four days of training, and had to take a Public Access Test. Tyler had to zig zag through the food court at a mall with lots of people on a Saturday, and the two had to prove that they were a team. Even with kids coming up, wanting to pet and play with him, Tyler had his working vest on and stayed committed to his job. He and Krysta remained a team, and they came home together.

Tyler has now been home with Krysta for about a month. He is getting used to "home," just like everyone in St. Francis is getting used to him. Having a service animal in town is a little different than the normal dogs you see walking down the street. Tyler is always working, making sure Krysta is not going to have a seizure, checking on her, constantly monitoring her scent.

He has already alerted Krysta six times before she has had a seizure. He has given her a 15 minute forewarning so that she could safely get home from church prior to having a seizure in the past week. Tyler's constant monitoring is crucial to Krysta's health, which is why it is important to not pet or distract him when you see him out in town.

Tyler was trained specifically to do his job of alerting Krysta to her seizures. His full attention must be on her at all times. If he is distracted, Krysta could get hurt as a result. A distracted service dog is potentially life threatening for a handler.

Krysta explained that it is best to think of Tyler as a medical device. When he puts his vest on, he gets very serious and is ready to work. He is treated the absolute best and given the best.

Tyler can not only alert Krysta before she has a seizure, but he is also trained to go get help, and to lay on top of her when she is having a seizure and is alone. This has allowed Krysta to stay at home alone for the first time in years.

The independence and comfort that Tyler has brought me has changed my life, Krysta said.



KRYSTA SMESTAD orders a sandwich while Tyler, her service dog, looks on keeping her safe.

Times staff photo by Karen Krien

Shelterbelts can still be restored

Salina, Kansas State Conservationist Eric B. Banks for the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has announced the extension of the cutoff date to April 18, 2014, for the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI). Even though CCPI is no longer a program under the 2014 Farm Bill, NRCS will honor existing CCPI agreements through fiscal year 2014. The CCPI provides financial and technical assistance through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program to owners and operators of agricultural land and nonindustrial private forestlands.

This year, the program is funded for shelterbelt renovation and forested riparian buffers. "For farmers and ranchers that need to restore a shelterbelt or want to

plant riparian forest buffers, CCPI can provide financial assistance to help with the project," said Banks.

In Kansas, socially disadvantaged, limited resource, and beginning farmers and ranchers will receive a higher payment rate for conservation practices related to CCPI.

For more information on CCPI projects and other natural resources conservation programs, please contact your local NRCS office or conservation district office. The office is located at your local USDA Service Center (listed in the telephone book under United States Government or on the internet at offices.usda.gov). More information is also available on the Kansas Web site at www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov. Follow us on Twitter @NRCS_Kansas. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



LAST SATURDAY Willy and Ray Martinez were seen at the Thresher show grounds dressed in winter clothes, mixing mud and filling in the holes in the sod house. As soon as the winds die down and the temperatures are more stable, the grounds will be full of workers constructing the new building and cleaning in preparation for the July 4 celebration, and the thresher show events.

Times staff photo by Norma Martinez

Your hometown. Their future.



Imagine the possibilities for your community if everyone designated just 5% of their estates to hometown needs.

With the help of community foundations, we can create permanent sources of funding for local charities, schools, churches, parks, and so much more!



A little planning. A big impact.

Learn more at keepfiveinkansas.com

Public Notices

Ordinance to exempt board requirements

(First Published in the Bird City Times on April 10, 2014)

CHARTER ORDINANCE NO. 14-01

A CHARTER ORDINANCE EXEMPTING THE CITY OF BIRD CITY, KANSAS FROM THE PROVISIONS OF K.S.A. 12-1222 RELATING TO THE REQUIREMENT THAT MEMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL LIBRARY BOARD BE RESIDENTS OF THE MUNICIPALITY.

- The portion of K.S.A. 12-1222 requiring members of a municipal library board to be residents of the municipality shall not apply to the City of Bird City.
- Prospective board members who are not residents of the City of Bird City, Kansas may be considered in the same manner as those prospective members who reside within the city of Bird City, Kansas, provided the prospective board member resides in Cheyenne County, Kansas and resides within the U.S.D. 103.
- Membership of the Library Board for the City of Bird City, Kansas shall be made up of seven members, no less than five of which shall be residents of the City of Bird City, and no more than two of which may be chosen from persons residing outside the City of Bird City, Kansas. Nothing shall prevent membership of the library board to consist of more than the minimum number of residents of the City of Bird City as provided herein, but in no event shall members chosen from those persons residing outside the City of Bird City exceed the number provided herein.

PASSED by the governing body of the City on April 7, 2014 and signed and APPROVED by the Mayor.

(SEAL)

Mayor

ATTEST:

Clerk

Primary election is coming in August

Published in The Saint Francis Herald and Bird City Times Thursdays, April 10, April 17, April 24, 2014. (15, 16, 17)

NOTICE OF PRIMARY ELECTION

I, the undersigned County Clerk, hereby give notice that a Primary Election will be held on August 5, 2014, this being the first Tuesday of said month, at which time candidates for the following offices will be nominated according to the provisions of law by EACH of the political parties of this state who qualify to participate in said Primary Election as specified by law:

- One candidate for United States Senate.
- One candidate for United States Representative 1st District.
- One pair of candidates for Governor/Lieutenant Governor.
- One candidate for Secretary of State.
- One candidate for Attorney General.
- One candidate for State Treasurer.
- One candidate for Commissioner of Insurance.
- One candidate for State Representative 120th District.
- One candidate for Member, State Board of Education 5th District.
- One candidate for County Commissioner 1st District.
- One candidate for Township Clerk for Benkelman Township.
- One candidate for Township Clerk for Bird City Township.
- One candidate for Township Clerk for Calhoun Township.
- One candidate for Township Clerk for Cleveland Run Township.
- One candidate for Township Clerk for Jaqua Township.
- One candidate for Township Clerk for Orlando Township.
- One candidate for Township Clerk for Wano I Township.
- One candidate for Township Clerk for Wano II Township.

The following officers will be elected in EACH political party which has qualified to participate in the Primary Election:

- One Precinct Committeeman in each Precinct.
- One Precinct Committeewoman in each Precinct.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I hereto set my hand and cause to be affixed my official seal. Done at the County of Cheyenne, this 4th of April, 2014.

Debra Lindsten
Cheyenne County Clerk / Election Officer

Petition has been filed in county district court

Published in The Saint Francis Herald, St. Francis, Kansas, Thursdays, March 27, April 3, April 10, 2014. (13, 14, 15)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF CHEYENNE COUNTY, KANSAS FILED PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 59 OF THE KANSAS STATUTES ANNOTATED

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DARLENE FAY PETER
Case No. 14-PR-4

Deceased

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are notified that on the 19th day of March, 2014 a Petition for Issuance of Letters of Administration was filed in this Court by Timothy Lee Peter, one of the heirs of the decedent praying that he be appointed Administrator of the Estate; that he be granted Letters of Administration herein.

All creditors of the decedent are notified to exhibit their demands against the Estate within the latter of four months from the date of first publication of notice under K.S.A. 59-2236 and amendments thereto, or if the identity of the creditor is known or reasonably ascertainable, 30 days after actual notice was given as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

Timothy Lee Peter, Petitioner

VIGNERY & MASON LLC
214 E. 10th PO Box 767
Goodland, KS 67735
Telephone: 785-890-6588
Attorneys for Petitioner

