

Animal cruelty charges filed against Sherman County couple

By PAT SCHIEFEN
The Goodland Star-News
 A Sherman County man and his wife are charged with 14 counts of animal cruelty for neglecting their horses after a report to the sheriff Tuesday.

Derek Nichols, who works for Mueller Grain, from Kanorado, reported the animal cruelty to the sheriff's office on Tuesday. Deputy Jason Showalter and Undersheriff Roger Studer investigated the report at the residence of Tim and Shaunna Armknecht, 6975 K-27, about five miles north of Goodland.

Showalter found 10 horses with no food and water and he said from their appearance the horses had no water or food for several weeks. He also found four other horses dead including a mare and her foal. He saw four corrals with different number of horses in each with no food and water. The horses had eaten the weeds and grass to the ground outside the pens as far as they could reach. Live horses were in with the dead ones. One particularly bony horse just paced the fence line.

Some of the horses just milled around and a few had energy enough to try to escape the men

who were trying to load them in a horse trailer.

It took officers awhile to find enough hose to get water to the horses, said Sheriff Butts. One of the water tanks had the plug out and water was hauled by bucket to another horse.

Showalter said when he went in to give one some water the horse thought he was going to take the little water he had and tried to bite him.

In a couple of the corrals where the horses were in better shape there were bales of hay. When officers checked, the hay was moldy, said Butts, and horses will not eat moldy hay.

"From the way two of the dead horses were sinking into the ground they appeared to have been dead from three to four weeks," Showalter said.

The Armknechts had moved from the house across from the corrals to a new modular house on top of the hill looking down on the corrals.

Sheriff Butts ordered the arrest of Tim Armknecht when he came home and was in the Bastille on Wednesday. Showalter said he expected County Attorney Bonnie Selby to charge the Armknechts

each with 14 counts of animal cruelty. The Armknechts made their first court appearances Thursday afternoon.

Tim Armknecht told Butts the horses were sick and he had no money to feed them.

Showalter, Butts, Studer, Burton Pianalto, Charley Herl, Ryan Hill, who works for Herl and Gary Smith, veterinarian from Prairieland Animal Clinic, loaded the horses into a trailer owned by Herl and took them to the animal clinic.

Some of the horses loaded easily and some had to be encouraged.

Showalter said he had been interviewed by KBSL and ABCTV.

"We've had calls from all over the state," said Butts. "Citizens have been offering from pasture land to food for the horses."

Smith said they expected the horses to recover. They were very malnourished but not injured.

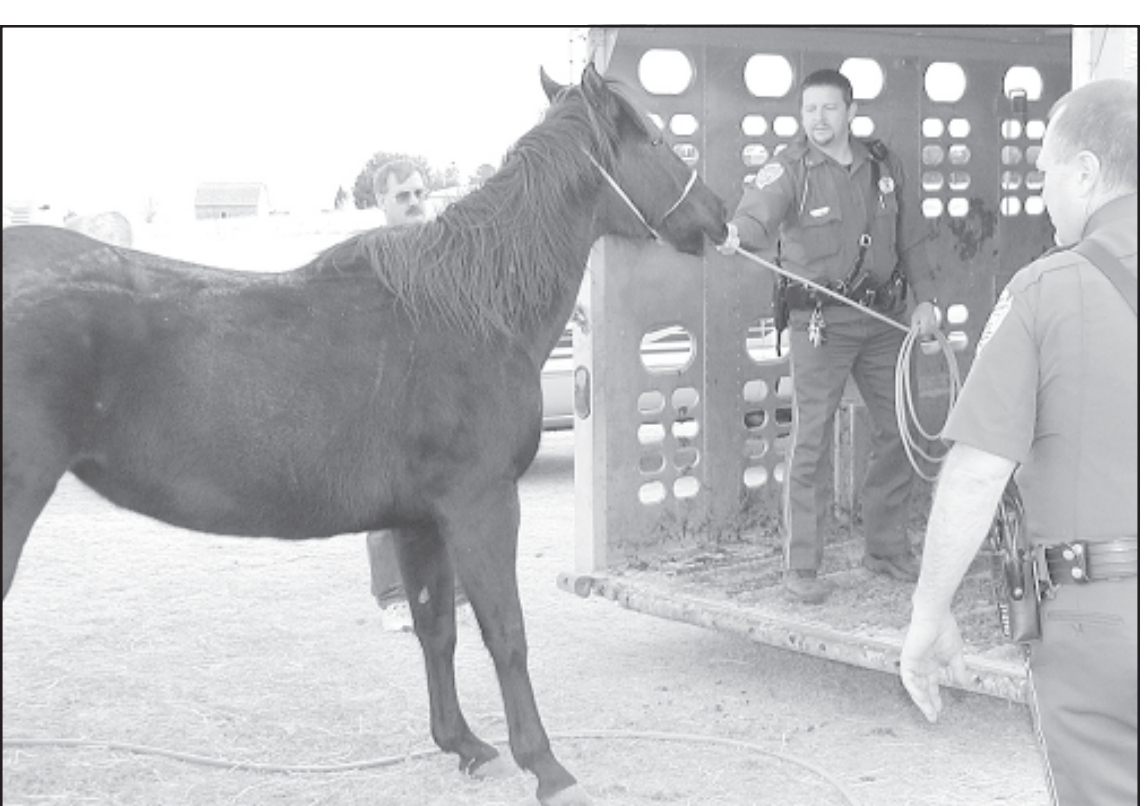
"Three of the horses were in good condition, four were in fair condition just slightly thin and three were in poor condition," Smith said. "I am most concerned about two yearlings."

Butts said the county will pay the vet bill and hope to recover the costs. They will petition the court for restitution.



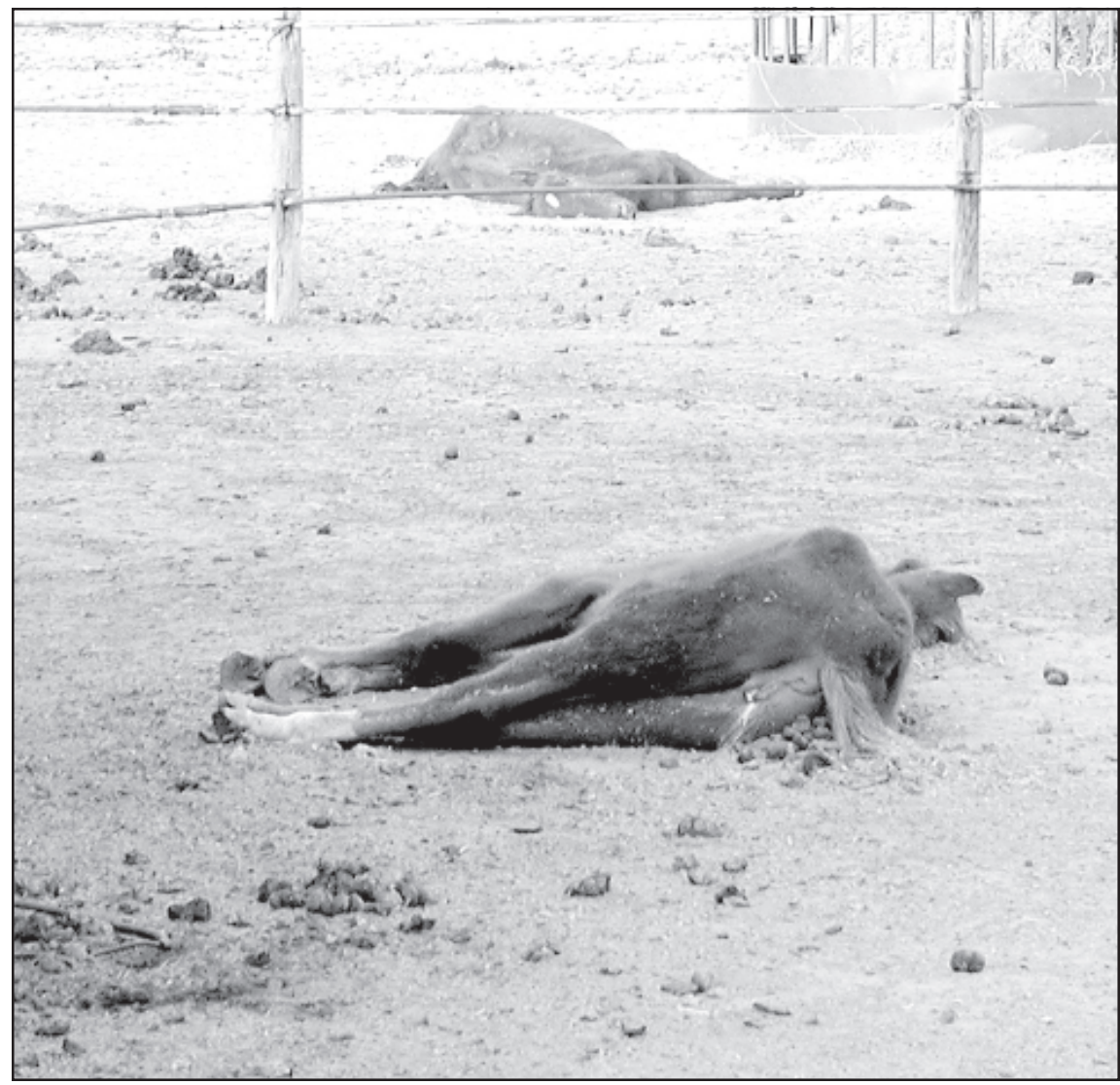
Burton Pianalto (above), Sherman County Deputy Sheriff, gives hay to some very hungry horses found at Tim Armknechts, 6975 K-27. The officers found 10 very hungry horses and four dead ones. Two of the dead are pictured (below).

— Photos by Pat Schiefen



Burton Pianalto, Sherman County Deputy Sheriff, (above) leads a horse trying to get it into a trailer to be transported to Prairieland Animal Clinic. Roger Studer (behind horse), Sherman County Undersheriff, and Sheriff Kevin Butts helped load the animals into Charley Herl's horse trailer.

— Photo by Pat Schiefen



Hunters' education class to be held Saturday

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks in cooperation with the Kansas Hunter Education Instructors' Association will present a workshop in Colby on Saturday, March 4 for certified hunter education instructors, guest hunter education instructors, and potential instructors. The topic is "Improving Presentation Skills for Hunter Education Classes." The presenter will be Dave Oakes from Skillpath Seminars.

Anyone who attends this workshop will receive credit for recertification. If instructors attended the same workshop

last year their certification will be extended again. The Colby workshop will be the only one offered in this area to recertify hunter education instructors. This is described as an excellent workshop that will benefit all instructors.

The workshop will be held at the Colby Law Enforcement Center at 360 N. Franklin St. The workshop will start at 8:30 a.m. and end at 5 p.m. Pizza will be provided for lunch. Drawings will be held for door prizes. There is no cost to attend.

To register call Stacy at 800-272-3488.

I-70 opened again to traffic

A two-mile stretch of Interstate 70 that was closed when an overpass just west of Hays was damaged on Feb. 13, has been reopened.

King Construction Co. Inc. of Hesston removed a 45-foot section of the Hall Street bridge after an excavator being hauled on a tractor trailer struck the overpass, causing extensive damage.

Eastbound I-70 drivers had been re-routed onto a detour around the southern portion of the city.

The target date for reopening the eastbound lanes was March 1, said Kansas Department of Transportation Area Engineer Kevin Zimmer, but King's work progressed a lot faster than expected.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

NORTON Senior High:

Monday — Mid-Continent League Forensics, Here, 7:30 a.m.; No School 7-12; Junior Class Invitation Committee, 6 p.m.

Tuesday — Cheer Practice, 7 a.m.; Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.; Cheer, a.p.; Prom Server Meeting, a.p.

Wednesday — Cheer Practice, 7 a.m.; Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.

Thursday — FFA, a.p.; FCCLA, a.p.; FFA Meeting, 7 p.m.; State Girls Basketball Tournament at Hutchinson

Friday — Jazz, a.p.; State Basketball Semi-finals at Hutchinson

Saturday — State Basketball Championships at Hutchinson

Next Monday — Cheer Practice, 7 a.m.; Jay Singers, a.p.; Cheer Parent Meeting, 6 p.m.

Junior High:

Monday — No School 7-12

Tuesday — Kay Board, a.p.; Scholar Bowl at Oberlin, 4 p.m.; Vocal/Band Concert, JH Gym, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday — Faculty Meeting, 7:45 a.m.

Eisenhower:

Monday — Kindergarten Roundup, 4-6 p.m.

Tuesday — AR Meeting, 3:40 p.m.

Wednesday — Faculty Meeting, 3:40 p.m.

Thursday — IEP Day; Grade 3 and 4 Level Meeting, 3:40 p.m.

Next Monday — School Resumes, Section A Kindergarten Reports, 8:30 a.m.; Site Council, 7 p.m.

All Schools:

Wednesday — Administrators Meeting, Alice Tweed Center, 9:30 a.m.

Friday — End of Third Nine Weeks

March 13-17 Spring Break, No School

Next Monday — Board of Education Meeting, Alice Tweed Center, 7:30 p.m.

High School Menus:

Monday — No School

Tuesday — Breakfast: Breakfast burrito, potato puffs, fruit or juice or cereal, toast, milk; Lunch: Pigs in a blanket, pork and beans, coleslaw, lime Jell-O with pears or chef salad, milk

Wednesday — Breakfast: Coffee cake, fruit or juice or cereal, toast, milk; Lunch: Cheddar chowder and crackers, vegetable salad, hot roll, peaches, cookie or chef salad, milk

Thursday — Breakfast: Monkey bread, fruit or juice or cereal, toast, milk; Lunch: Baked ham, scalloped potato, hot roll, carrots, pineapple, or chef salad, milk

Friday — Breakfast: Biscuits and sausage gravy, fruit or juice or cereal, toast, milk; Lunch: Bean tostado, lettuce and chopped tomato, hot roll, mandarin oranges, brownie or chef salad, milk

Eisenhower Menus:

Monday — Breakfast: Waffles, bacon strips, orange juice, milk; Lunch: Sloppy Joe, homemade bun, corn, tater tots, bananas, milk

Tuesday — Breakfast: Applesauce muffins, peaches, milk; Lunch: Pizza roll-ups, tossed salad, peaches, cookie, milk

Wednesday — Breakfast: Breakfast burrito, fruit cocktail, milk; Lunch: Potato boats, baked beans, fruit cocktail, whole wheat roll, milk

Thursday — Breakfast: Canadian bacon/cheese, biscuit, apple juice, milk; Lunch: Macaroni and cheese, Little Smokies, mixed veggies, rosy applesauce, French bread, milk

Friday — Breakfast: Pumpkin bread, rosy applesauce milk; Lunch: Peanut butter and honey sandwich, cottage cheese, peas, celery stick, mandarin oranges,

NORTHERN VALLEY

Monday — High School Dance Practice; World's Largest Concert, Grades 3-6 at Almena Auditorium, 7 p.m.; Post Prom Meeting at Almena in the Lunchroom, 7 p.m.

Tuesday — High School Dance Practice; Third Grade State Reading Assessment Testing, 8:45 a.m.; Baker University Rep Visit, 1 p.m.; GNEC Instrumental Clinic at Agra, 1 p.m.; Track Rules Meeting at Hays, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday — Third Grade State Reading Assessment Testing, 8:45 a.m.

Thursday — High School State Basketball; Third Grade State Reading Assessment Testing, 8:45 a.m.; Egyptian Animals Wildlife Encounter at Logan Grade School, 2 p.m.

Friday — End of Third Nine Weeks, Dismiss at 1 p.m.

Saturday — High School State Basketball

Northern Valley Menus:

Monday — Breakfast: Sausage muffin, orange juice, cereal; Lunch: Ham patty on a bun, tater tots, dill spear, beets, spice cake

Tuesday — Breakfast: Breakfast bucket, hashbrowns, diced peaches, cereal; Breakfast for Lunch: Sausage gravy/biscuits, grape juice, hashbrowns, fruit cup

Wednesday — Breakfast: Blueberry muffin, sausage patty, peach half, cereal; Lunch: Potato bar, garlic sticks, relishes, tapioca pudding

Thursday — Breakfast: Sausage in a blanket, fruit punch, cereal; Lunch: Shepherd's pie, French bread, Jell-O, cookie

Friday — Breakfast: pancake/syrup, ham slice, apple juice cereal; Lunch: fish filet, hot roll, mashed potatoes, California blend vegetables, cherry pudding pie

Hospital gets good financial report

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 hospital is required to file for the 20-year loan it received for its renovations. The letter, he said, stated that the hospital is financially able to pay the debt and no special management actions would be needed.

In other business, the board:

- Held an informal discussion with the Colby Community College board of trustees regarding the future of the nursing program in Norton. Mr. Miller said Colby will be continuing the program in Norton.
- Met Melissa Wachendorfer, the new director of nurses.
- Introduced Amanda Shannon as the newest board member. Other board members are Dennis Gilhousen, Don Lowry, Jennie Goldsby, Warren White, Von Fahrenbrun and Steve Berry.
- Heard for January, the hospital had 314 in-patient days, 54 ad-

missions, 3 births, 14 surgeries, 3,405 out-patient procedures, and 1,416 Doctor's Clinic visits.

• Bought a new mailing machine for \$3,474 from Pitney Bowes. Mr. Miller said \$8,000 had been budgeted for the new machine.

• Approved a policy handbook revision. All employees will now be able to take sick leave and vacation time in one hour increments.

• Reviewed the hospital and

Center gives youth place to hang

(Continued from Page 1)
 board games, electronic games, an electric stove and folding chairs.

Anyone interested in helping may pick up a volunteer application at The Rock or by calling Trent Richmond at 877-4016, Mrs. Douglas at 877-3125 or leave a message at the center at 874-4870.

clinic patient summaries.

• Heard the first meeting of the Tobacco Free Committee had been held. They have a July 1 goal of making the hospital grounds tobacco free, Mr. Miller said. Right now, they are preparing a policy for the board's approval.

• Set the next meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 15.

• Held a 10-minute closed session for non-elected personnel.

The board meets the second Monday every month, 7:30 p.m. at The Rock. Anyone is welcome to attend. The board will approve the calendar of events one month in advance of the meeting.

If any group is interested in using the building, they may come to the meeting to present their request.