

Youth ranch may become treatment center

By KIMBERLY DAVIS OBERLIN — The Oberlin City Council discussed an option for opening a teen alcohol and drug treatment facility at the former Sappa Valley Youth Ranch at its meeting last Thursday night.

Mayor Ken Shobe said the former operator, King's Achievement Camp, had moved all of the boys out at the end of September. All the employees were let go.

City Administrator Gary Shike said he got a call saying that King's Camp would have everything cleaned up and the buildings fixed by Saturday.

Although the ranch doesn't have any boys, the actual closing day is two months from the final day on September 26, because the facility had to give two months notice. That means the facility won't actually go back to the city until November.

Councilman Jay Anderson said the city should check on the repairs. If the company doesn't do the repairs, he asked, will there be any repercussions?

Police Chief Wade Lockhart said he drove around the ranch one day and peaked into house No. 1 and all of the trash had been cleaned up.

King's Camp, said City Clerk Deanna Castle, is current on rent and utilities. The firm will owe one more month of rent for November, she said.

Mayor Shobe said he heard rumors of an alcohol and drug treatment center opening up at the facility, operated by the same company that runs the 180 house on North Elk. That firm, King's Alco-

hol/Drug Treatment Center is related to King's Camp.

Cathy Rieken, assistant director of treatment services, said the house near The Gateway is an independent living facility.

Is your organization interested in the ranch? asked Mayor Shobe.

She said she had talked with Heath Bechler, president of King's Alcohol/Drug Treatment Center, about renting the ranch and opening an "interdependent house." She said they have lots of questions, including how much rent would be and if they could paint the buildings so the teens would feel it was more like home. She said they also want to know for sure what happened at the ranch.

"We don't know what happened," said Mayor Shobe. "The paper said the Kansas Department of Health and Environment shut it down for violations."

Ms. Rieken said what she heard was the violations were from back in May. For our operations, she said, we have a different training for staff.

Do you have control on who you accept into the facility? said Mayor Shobe. Yes, she said, these kids are ones who have used alcohol or drugs in the past month.

How long are the teens in the facility? said Mayor Shobe. Around 28 to 30 days, said Ms. Rieken. Usually the teens do school classes on site in the morning and then drug and alcohol classes in the afternoon.

She said they could put six to seven kids in a house.

What about the teens at the house in town? asked Mayor

Shobe. The 180 house is a different level, she said. The boys have been clean for awhile and just need support. They go to school in town. The idea is to teach them how to live on their own.

If King's Treatment Center opens a house at the ranch, she said, it would be a level 3 facility.

Would it be for boys or girls? asked City Administrator Gary Shike. Ms. Rieken said she wasn't sure. Before starting into an operation, she said, they would want the backing of the community.

Councilman Jay Anderson asked Chief Lockhart what his experience has been with the 180 house. The chief said he hasn't had any problems with the house or the teens in it.

The teens from the 180 house, said high school Principal Charles Haag, are personable and present no problem. He said the school district would have to look at the possibility of having a school at the ranch and how it would work, depending on the money from the state. At the youth ranch, classes were pretty rocky at first, but there was a turnaround, said Mr. Haag, and everything was going well.

If a drug and alcohol treatment facility opened at the ranch, said Mr. Haag, the school district would probably be better off providing education there, especially if the teens turn over every 30 days.

Is there a market for this kind of facility? asked Dr. Anderson.

Ms. Rieken said she will be calling Valley Hope in Norton because she thinks that facility works with adolescents, but she doesn't know if they have an inpatient program.

The city still owes \$183,871 on the buildings over the next five years, said Mayor Shobe. If someone interested can help work on that amount, it would be good. It

sounds like this could be an option. The count has already been made for the schools this year, he said, and it sounds like the teachers will still be working.

Ms. Rieken said if her firm opens a facility at the ranch, they probably wouldn't hire back all of the staff. There is a different screening process, she said.

How many people would this kind of facility hire? asked Councilwoman Rhonda May. There would be a counselor and a case manager in each house, then several house parents. She said there would be five to six people in each house. They would also need a cook, office manager and nurse.

Are there any other opportunities? said Mayor Shobe. Connie Grafel, Economic Development Corp. marketing director, said the facility could be advertised for sale. That might mean no jobs for teachers or anyone else. It was started for kids and it should be used for them, she said.

Mr. Haag said Rep. Dick Kelsey, the principal of King's Camp, is a nice man, but he often wasn't available when they needed him. Ms. Rieken is here and works with the boys one on one, he said.

Councilman Joe Stanley said he had been in favor of getting rid of the facility, but this idea sounds like a better deal and could bring back some of the lost jobs. Ms. May agreed.

This could be a very positive step, said Mayor Shobe, instead of the city washing its hands of the whole thing and selling the ranch.

Ms. Grafel said she talked to three of the neighbors next to the 180 house and they were all positive.

Ms. Rieken said she needed to talk with Mr. Bechler about the idea.



The Leadership Norton class had agriculture as its last learning experience. The class toured Husky Hogs in the afternoon. Terry Nelson (above) showed the class the soon-to-be new office space at the feed mill. Husky Hogs Manager Bradley Hopkins (below) chatted with class member Donna Foley outside at the feed mill.

— Telegram photos by Janis Monier



SCHOOL CALENDAR

NORTON Senior High:

Saturday — Mid Continent League Volleyball Tournament at Stockton, 8 a.m.

Sunday — FFA Dodgeball Tournament, Norton Community High School Stull Gym, 2 p.m.

Monday — Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.; FFA/FCCLA/KAY Hayrack Ride, 7 p.m.; Cheerleader Practice, 8 p.m.; Dance Team Practice, 8 p.m.

Tuesday — Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.; FFA Dairy Judging at Fort Hays State University, 8 a.m.; Senior Announcement Presentations, 2:15 p.m.; SADD, a.p.; Class Ring Delivery, a.p.; FCCLA Board, 7 p.m.

Wednesday — FCCLA Andbe Home Party, 1:30 p.m.

Thursday — Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.; Norton Community High School KAYS Holly Sales Begin; FFA Officer Interviews, 7:30 p.m.; Cheerleader Practice, 8:00 p.m.; Dance Team Practice, 8:00 p.m.

Friday — Pep Rally, 3:10 p.m.; FCCLA Soup Supper: JH-SH Cafeteria, 5 p.m.; Football vs. Phillipsburg; District Game #2 (H), 7 p.m., Senior Night

Saturday — Regional Cross Country at Lyons, Girls at 1 p.m.; Boys at 1:30 p.m.; Sub-State Volleyball at Scott City, TBA

Next Monday — Jay Singers, a.p.; Fort Hays State University Marching Contest, Noon

Next Tuesday — Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.; School Assembly for Presentation by Dr. Patrick, 2 p.m.; Vocal Concert at East Campus, 7:30 p.m.

Junior High:

Monday — Junior High Girls Basketball Practice Begins, 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday — Junior High Boys Basketball, 3:30 p.m.

Next Tuesday — Vocal Concert at East Campus, 7:30 p.m.

Eisenhower:

Monday — Lyceum: Chinese Acrobats; EC-6 at East Campus, 1:30 p.m.; Site Council, 7 p.m.

Tuesday — Lightning Jack Presentation: KDG A, 10 a.m.; 3rd-4th Grade Vocal Concert at East Campus, 7 p.m.

Thursday — Kindergarten Conferences; No Kindergarten Classes, 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.; 5th-6th Grade Meetings, 3:40 p.m.

All Schools:

Monday-Friday, October 16-20: School Bus Driver Appreciation Week

Tuesday — Hastings College, GCCC BBSchrimmage; Stull Gym, 6 p.m.

Wednesday — No School, Parent-Teacher Conferences

Friday — Plato Training: Junior High Art Room, 8:30 a.m.-11 a.m.

Next Monday — KSHSA Regional Admin. Meeting in Oakley,

1 p.m.

JR-SR High Menus:

Monday — Breakfast: Hard boiled egg, sausage patty, fruit or juice or cereal, toast, milk; Lunch: Birthday Meal: Ham and cheese rollup, corn, broccoli and cauliflower salad, strawberry shortcake or chef salad, milk

Tuesday — Breakfast: French toast stix, fruit or juice or cereal, toast, milk; Lunch: Hamburger with fixings, cheese, lettuce and tomato, hashbrown patty or chef salad

Wednesday — NO SCHOOL

Thursday — Breakfast: Coffee cake, fruit or juice or cereal, toast, milk; Lunch: Chicken fajitas, lettuce and chopped tomato, green pepper, onion, shredded cheese, hot roll, peaches, chef salad, milk

Friday — Breakfast: Breakfast casserole with sausage, fruit or juice or cereal, toast, milk; Lunch: Macaroni and cheese, green beans, carrots, hot roll, fruit cup or chef salad, milk

Eisenhower Menus:

Monday — Breakfast: Sausage link, tater tots, orange juice, milk; Lunch: Chicken fry, whipped potatoes, gravy, green beans, dinner roll, fruit cocktail, milk

Tuesday — Breakfast: Blueberry

muffin, peaches, milk; Lunch: Western bean bake, cheese stick, corn, Jell-O with pears, cornbread, milk

Wednesday — NO SCHOOL

Thursday — Breakfast: pancakes, apple juice, milk; Lunch: Hamburger gravy, whipped potatoes, peas, peaches, cinnamon rolls, milk

Friday — Breakfast: Hard cooked eggs, toast, apple juice, milk; Lunch: Cavatini, tossed salad, mandarin oranges, garlic bread, milk

NORTHERN VALLEY

Monday — Fast ForWord Mini-Conference at Kansas City, 12:30-5 p.m.; Grade 5-8 Band and Vocal Concert in Long Island, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday — Fast ForWord Mini-Conference at Kansas City, 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m.; High School Volleyball Regionals, TBD; State Writing Assessment and Standards at Fort Hays State University, 9 a.m.-12 noon

Thursday — Jr. High Volleyball and Football vs Golden Plains in Alma; Volleyball at 4 p.m.; Football at 5:30 p.m.; Barton Community College Rep visit in the High School Library, 9 a.m.; Fort Hays State University Rep visit in the High School Library, 10:15 a.m.

Friday — Jr. High and High

School band practice in Alma, 11:55 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; High School Pep Rally in the big gym, 3:15 p.m.; High School Football vs Brewster/Triplains at Alma, 7 p.m.

Saturday — High School Cross Country Regionals, TBD; High School Sub-State Volleyball, TBD.

Thanks for reading
The Norton Telegram

THIS ELECTION, VOTE YOUR V.O.I.C.E.

Vote
Out
Incumbents
Committee for
Efficiency

Our elected representatives no longer pay heed to the will, or best interests, of the people, and they need to be replaced.

It seems that our Congress in Washington has deteriorated into a gaggle of, hate Bush Democrats whose only agenda is to destroy the Bush Administration. And, with the aid of their lapdog mainstream media, will sacrifice the safety, security, and sovereignty of our country to accomplish it. The rest of the gaggle is composed of Republicans who probably know what is best, but don't have the courage to stand up to the Democrats or their media.

These people refuse to close our borders to stop the invasion of illegals that refuse to learn our language or assimilate into our society and are a burden on our educational, medical, and welfare facilities; they refuse to reduce spending; they refuse to increase our oil supplies so we can become independent of our enemies for the product; they refuse to reign in activist courts and the ACLU; they stand by while the Supreme Court rules to allow the elimination of private property rights; they pander to a corrupt and anti-American United Nations; they refuse to eliminate waste, graft, and corruption in the government; plus too much more to mention.

The welfare, safety, security, and sovereignty of our country is in peril because of these self-serving politicians and the bureaucracy they have spawned. We can clean out the House in this election, and the Senate in the next two.

Help save America, vote with your....

Vote
Out
Incumbents
Committee for
Efficiency

Pol. Ad Pd for by R.W. Yeager

FREEDOM OF THE OPEN ROAD

- Experience rewarded but not required
- Company-provided CDL training for qualified candidates
- \$33,500-\$60,500 (depending on experience)
- Immediate benefits for experienced drivers

Apply Online at
schneiderjobs.com

Or call
1-800-44-PRIDE
(1-800-447-7433)

SCHNEIDER
NATIONAL

FOR SALE BY SEALED BIDS

The following Real Estate will be offered for sale by sealed bids:

Listed below are the appraised values of each parcel. The appraisals were performed by a Kansas State Certified appraiser who has no relationship with the bank and is independent of the bank.

Farmers & Merchants Bank
Summary of Appraised Values

Legal Description	June 20, 2006 Market Valuation
(1) - N/2 S/2 NE/4 of 6-6S-24W, Graham Co. KS	\$52,800
N2 NE/4 of 6-6-24, Graham Co, KS	
(2) - W/2 W/2 of 8-6S-24W, Graham Co, KS	\$80,500
TOTAL VALUATION	\$133,300

Bids may be submitted on each parcel separately.
Bids must be submitted by November 2, 2006.
Farmers & Merchants Bank has the right to refuse or reject any or all bids.

Farmers and Merchants Bank

120 E. Main, P.O. Box 338, Hill City, KS 67642
PH 785-421-2131; Fax 785-421-2209
fmhc@ruraltel.net