

Farm wife works to bring college grads home to stay

By Ron Wilson

Director,
Huck Boyd National Institute
for Rural Development.

“Goodbye and good luck.”
Whenever there is a high school graduation, that phrase seems to be the message: Farewell and best wishes wherever you go.

Of course, that reflects our sentiment, because those graduates are leaving the school and we wish them well. But have you ever stopped to think what message that conveys to our graduates in a larger sense?

Is it telling them to go away and have success elsewhere, rather than here? That thought crossed the mind of a young Kansas farm wife recently as she attended a graduation. She is working with a program that, among other things, encourages grads to find opportunities in their own hometown, and she's seeing the beneficial results to the community. It's today's Kansas Profile.

We learned that Carolyn Dunn is a Kansas farm wife and community volunteer. One of her projects is working with a program called Hometown Prosperity, sponsored by Kansas Farm Bureau. Home Town Prosperity is based on the successful Hometown Competitiveness model of the Nebraska Community Foundation.

Dunn is part of a community coaching team which helping implement the program in three Kansas communities, including Atwood. Thanks to Carolyn for her report, which provided the information for this profile.

For years, the mantra had been simple: If you want to be successful, move away and get a good job in the city. But in Atwood, the attitude changed, and the message to young people became: “Go, get an education, but please consider coming back.” The results are significant.

Carolyn describes the recent turnaround in Atwood. Since 2000, 50 businesses in the Atwood area have successfully transitioned to a new owner – instead of simply closing when one businessperson decided to retire. This includes 30 farms and 20 nonfarm businesses, including a pharmacy, a law practice, an accounting firm, a chiropractor, a bowling alley and an electrician. Several of the new business owners have spouses who also have decided to begin a business.

For the first time in over 20 years, school enrollment increased. A bond issue was passed to build a new swimming pool – thanks in large part to a group of young moms – and it will be financed with no increase in the property tax levy. The high school is expanding its music room, and the hospital is remodeling and adding a wing. Young adults are gradually assuming leadership roles in the community.

The change has been gradual, but significant. Chris Sramek, former Rawlins County Economic Development director, attributes it to the focus on communicating with young people. It starts when they are in high school, but it continues by keeping in contact with young alumni after they have left

to continue their education or go to work elsewhere.

Sramek gives credit to high school activities like an entrepreneur fair and speakers who reinforce the message of commitment to the community, as well as strong alumni association that helps people stay connected to the community.

Recent economic development efforts in Atwood have focused on the four areas of the Kansas Hometown Prosperity Initiative: Youth retention, entrepreneurship, wealth retention, and leadership. Mary Holle of Atwood, who participated in the training four years ago, says the community's efforts focused first on the element of youth, and as a result there have been positive developments that followed in the areas of entrepreneurship and leadership as well.

“Goodbye and good luck.” That seems to be the message of our high school graduations. But what if the message to our young people included a clear statement of our wish that they would find opportunities right here in their hometowns, and bring their education and resources back to their community?

It's a change in mindset which Dunn thinks can benefit the community and state, as well as young people and their families. We commend her and the citizens of Atwood for making a difference by making the community more welcoming for youth. Instead of “Goodbye and good luck,” our new message can be, “Welcome Home.”

Public Notice

4 THOMAS COUNTY		TREASURER'S QUARTERLY STATEMENT	
STATE OF KANSAS	ENDING JULY,	2009	
GENERAL FUND		834,003.08	
SPEC RESERVE EQUIP FUND		25,000.00	
MICRO ENTERPRISE LOANS		66,151.22	
REVOLVING LOAN REPAYMENT		13,573.82	
TH CO SHER FORFEITURE FD		3,206.75	
FEDERAL FORFEITURE FUND		22,605.53	
TH CO ATTY FORFEITURE FD		1,237.47	
INSUFF CK FEE TRUST FUND		5,212.60	
CONCEALED WEAPONS		1,710.00	
LANDFILL CLOSURE FUND		85,438.16	
OFFENDER REGISTRATION FD		3,800.00	
TEMP PENDING-JAMES MMA		25,276.61	
PENDING DRUG FORFEITURE		5,400.00	
PENDING DRUG FORF MMA		499,890.16	
SHERIFF FORFIT-GOLDING CD		386,155.51	
ATTORNEY DIVERSION FUND		1,002.82	
BUILDING MAINTENANCE		17,657.41	
BIOTERRORISM GRANT		18,752.58	
IMMUNIZATION GRANT		3,153.74	
STATE FORMULA GRANT		11,633.02	
CHRONIC DISEASE RISK REDU		3,750.00	
E911 CELL PHONE MMA		63,212.28	
911 INVESTMENT FUND		83,469.03	
ROAD AND BRIDGE FUND		298,642.44	
FREE FAIR MAINTENANCE		2,631.79	
FAMILY PLANNING		4,285.07	
MATERNAL & INFANT GRANT		1,201.09	
HEALTH FUND		132,359.06	
ELECTION FUND		6,781.71	
EMPLOYEE BENEFIT FUND		279,685.15	
EXTENSION COUNCIL FUND		10,294.61	
NOXIOUS WEED FUND		93,007.43	
HISTORICAL SOCIETY		6,187.44	
AMBULANCE FUND		169,027.23	
SPECIAL EQUIPMENT FUND		141,160.03	
SPEC. HIGHWAY IMPROV FUND		222,951.69	
R OF D CAPITOL OUTLAY		18,004.04	
AMBULANCE CAPITOL OUTLAY		74,166.61	
NOXIOUS WEED CAPITOL OUTL		90,407.42	
SANITARY LANDFILL CAP OUTL		66,824.90	
SERVICES FOR THE ELDERLY		.01	
SPECIAL ALCOHOL FUND		37,276.52	
COMMUNITY VAN FUND		8,312.44	
HAZARDOUS WASTE PROGRAM		98.93	
RE-APPRAISAL		2,303.26	
PARCEL SEARCH FUND		5,140.00	
SANITARY LANDFILL		204,379.96	
SPECIAL LIABILITY		9,308.16	
HERITAGE TRUST FUND		175.98	
LAND FILL NO FUND WARRANT		54,298.12	
LANDFILL-CELL PROJECT		272,018.59	
BARRETT GENERAL		2,105.97	
EAST HALE GENERAL		64,822.98	
E HALE EMPLOYEE BENEFIT		180.15	
W. HALE ROAD & BRIDGE		867.14	
KINGERY GENERAL		2,953.14	
LACEY GENERAL		785.90	
LACEY DEBT SERVICE		11,730.81	
MENLO GENERAL		1,338.11	
MORGAN ROAD & BRIDGE		1,986.03	
MORGAN SPECIAL ASSESSMENT		9,548.60	
NORTH RANDALL GENERAL		1,200.55	
S. RANDALL ROAD & BRIDGE		2,509.89	
ROVOHL GENERAL		78,843.31	
ROVOHL SPECIAL EQUIPMENT		5,975.20	
SMITH GENERAL		1,183.38	
SUMMERS ROAD & BRIDGE		2,867.76	
WENDALL GENERAL		1,442.42	
EXCISE TAX		1,137.51	
MTR VEH OPERATING FUND		5,898.76	
PATF		10,564.63	
REG OF DEEDS TECH FUND		34,180.26	
MTR VEH SALES TAX TO ST		27,582.00	
MTR VEH-ST. & COUNTY AUTO		7,437.46	
PAYROLL WITHHOLDING FUND		213.18	
BANKRUPTCY PENDING ACCT		3,468.29	
ANTIQUE TAXES		1,152.00	
CURRENT TAX FUND		761,766.08	
DELINQ 16/20 PERS TAX		932.73	
PRIOR YEARS ADDED TAX		8.01	
ADVANCE TAX		373.27	
IN LIEU OF TAX		25,791.00	
MOTOR VEHICLE TAX-2605		231,208.13	
RV MTR VEH TAX-2605		2,772.53	
16/20M MTR VEH TAXES		3,017.00	
DELINQ. PERSONAL TAX FUND		41,743.76	
REDEMPTION & ASSIGNMENTS		173,470.32	
PARTIAL PAYMENT ON TAXES		2,935.87	
CURR YEAR DELINQ PERS TAX		59,056.76	
STRAY LIVESTOCK FUND		1,920.13	
INT ON CURR TAX FUND		29,223.49	
CASH OVER AND UNDER		26.66	
TOTAL ALL FUNDS		5,964,904.32	

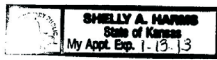
I do solemnly swear that the above statement is complete, true, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, so help me God.

COUNTY TREASURER

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME THIS 11 DAY OF August 2009

COUNTY CLERK/NOTARY PUBLIC

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES 01-12-2012



(Published in the Colby Free Press on Wednesday, August 13, 2009)

Focus on the beat



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press
Colby High School marching band drummers Brady Rose (standing, left), Lauren Shoaff and Michael Tubbs (seated) concentrated hard on their music during practice Wednesday morning. They have been learning several '80s tunes for their performances during the school year and at next year's Independence Day Parade in Washington D.C.

Sign up for bridge

Area bridge players are getting an early “heads up” on the annual Marathon Bridge games sponsored by the Colby chapter of the American Association of University Women.

Players should find a partner, pay \$20 and play once a month, from September through May.

The event helps raise money for scholarships to young women who have graduated from Thomas County high schools. The club has been sponsoring the marathon games for 30 years, raising over \$20,000 for scholarships.

Once players get the brackets, they do their own scheduling, and play where they wish.

For questions or to sign up, call Naomi Ward at (785) 462-7840 or Sandra Harper at (785) 462-3759.

Bridge Club

Meadow Lake Bridge winners for Monday were: first, Elaine Ptacek; second, Jean Snyder; third, Sarah Jane Barrett; fourth, Barb Ulmer; fifth, Dave Ulmer; sixth, Margaret Denneker.



Rotary Club

The Colby Rotary Club met Tuesday, Aug. 11, at Colby Community College with 30 members and guests present. Guests included visiting Rotarians Art Mai of Sharon Springs and Steve Haynes of Oberlin, along with Deanna Smith, Brennan Ziegelmeier, and Daniel Blake.

Melinda Olson had the program, featuring Daniel Blake, who spoke on services provided by Northwest Kansas Domestic and Sexual Violence Services Inc. The nonprofit organization provides 24-hour crisis intervention for 18 Northwest Kansas counties with satellite offices in Colby and Phillipsburg and the main office in Hays.


Glen Kersenbrock was the Rotary-Lotto winner.

The club meets at noon each Tuesday in the Student Union.


—Relda Galli

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LOCAL TV LISTINGS

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Saturday Evening August 15, 2009										
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
KAKE/ABC	Shark Tale				Castle		Local			
KBSL/CBS	Flashpoint		Criminal Minds		48 Hours Mystery		Local			
KSNK/NBC	Gymnastics				Law & Order: SVU		Local	Saturday Night Live		
KSAS/FOX	Cops	Cops	Most Wanted		Local		MADtv	Talkshow	Local	
Cable Channels										
A & E	CSI: Miami		CSI: Miami		CSI: Miami		The Sopranos		CSI: Miami	
AMC	The Bone Collector					Out for Justice				Braddock
ANIM	Dog House Dog House	It's Me or the Dog		It's Me or the Dog		It's Me or the Dog	Dog House	Dog House		
BRAVO	Housewives-Atl	Training Day								Training Day
CMT	The Singing Bee	The Singing Bee		The Singing Bee		The Singing Bee	Strict Parents			
CNN	Campbell Brown	Larry King Live		Newsroom		Campbell Brown	Larry King Live			
COMEDY	RENO 911!: Miami			The Comedy Central Roast		Dave Attell's Insomniac Tour				
DISC	Extreme Loggers: Ice	Extreme Loggers: Ice		Extreme Loggers: Ice		Extreme Loggers: Ice	Extreme Loggers: Ice			
DISN	Ratatuille			Wizards	Montana	The Suite	So Raven	The Suite	Cory	
E!	M. Jackson			Kendra	Kendra	The Soup	Chelsea	Comedians	Kendra	
ESPN	Little League	Little League				SportsCenter	Baseball Tonight			
ESPN2	ATP Tennis	ATP Tennis				NHRA Drag Racing	X Games			
FAM	Pinocchio			Willy Wonka						Fresh Pr.
FOOD	Chefography	Chefography		Diner, Drive-In		Iron Chef America	Chefography			
FX	The Marine					Epic Movie				Anarchy
HGTV	Divine	Genevieve	Color	Top 10	House	House	Rate	Design	Divine	Genevieve



We Celebrate Hometown Life

Stories from hometowns just like yours. Look for us each week in this paper.

HIST	The Universe	The Universe	The Universe	The Universe						
LIFE	Twelve Mile Road	Do You Know Me			Army Wives		Drop Dead Diva			
MTV	True Life	True Life		True Life	America's Best Dance Crew		Band			
NICK	iCarly	True Jackson, VP	Malcolm	Malcolm	The Nanny	The Nanny	Malcolm	Malcolm		
SCI	Total Recall	The Terminators			War of the Worlds 2					
SPIKE	UFC's Ultimate 100	UFC's Ultimate 100	UFC's Ultimate 100	UFC's Ultimate 100	Road House					
TBS	The School of Rock	Engvall	Engvall	RV			Engvall	Engvall		
TCM	Affair-Rememb.				From Here					Hucksters
TLC	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Moving Up		Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss	Cake Boss
TNT	Titanic				Enough					
TOON	Monster House		Star Wars	King-Hill	King-Hill	The PJs	Boondocks	Star Wars	Bleach	
TRAV	Extreme Terror Rides	Extreme Waterparks	Brown	Man/Food	Surf	Surf	Extreme Terror Rides			
TV LAND	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Cosby	Cosby	Cosby	Cosby	Make Day	Get Rich	
USA	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU	Law & Order: SVU	Law Order: CI	Action Sports				
VH1	Brooke	Brooke	Megan, Million.	Megan Wants	TO Show	Real Chance of Love	Lords of			
WGN	Quigley Down Under			WGN News at Nine	Scrubs	Scrubs	The Bullw	Suprman 4		

Sunday Evening							August 16, 2009			
	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
KAKE/ABC	Be a Millionaire		Shark Tank		Defying Gravity		Local			
KBSL/CBS	Big Brother 11		Neighborhood		Cold Case		Local			
KSNK/NBC	Merlin		SNL President		Local					
KSAS/FOX	Simpsons	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Local		Dateline NBC			
Cable Channels										
A & E	Simmons	Simmons	Simmons	Simmons	Gene Simmons		Criss Angel		Simmons	Dog
AMC	GoodFellas				Mad Men		Mad Men		Breaking Bad	
ANIM	Night	Night	Untamed and Uncut		Whale Wars		Night	Night	Untamed and Uncut	
BRAVO	Law Order: CI		Law Order: CI		Law Order: CI		Law Order: CI		Law Order: CI	
CMT	Coyote Ugly				Broken Bridges					
CNN	Campbell Brown		Larry King Live		Newsroom		State of the Union		Larry King Live	
COMEDY	Kevin James: Sweat		Ron White: Beh		Greg Giraldo		Michael	Futurama	Futurama	Futurama
DISC	Raging Planet		Raging Planet		Raging Planet		Raging Planet		Raging Planet	
DISN	Sonny	Jonas	Happy Feet				Wizards	Montana	The Suite	Cory
E!	Keep Up	Keep Up	Keep Up	Keep Up	Kourtney & Khloe		Reality	Kourtney	The Soup	Chelsea
ESPN	MLB Baseball						SportsCenter		SportsCtr	
ESPN2	Little League				NHRA Drag Racing					
FAM	Chronicles of Narnia						Funniest Home Videos		J. Osteen	Feed
FOOD	Challenge		Iron Chef America		Chopped		Flay	Flay	Iron Chef America	
FX	Epic Movie		Wild Hogs				Rescue Me		Most Wanted	
HGTV	Income	Estate	House	House	Design Star		Estate	Renovatr	Income	Estate
HIST	Ice Road Truckers		Ice Road Truckers		Pawn	Pawn	Clash of the Gods		Ice Road Truckers	
LIFE	Northern Light		Drop Dead Diva		Army Wives		Drop Dead Diva		Army Wives	
MTV	Best Dance Crew		Best Dance Crew		P. Diddy's Starmaker		Best Dance Crew		Starmaker	
NICK	Malcolm	Malcolm	Lopez	Lopez	Lopez	Lopez	The Nanny	The Nanny	Malcolm	Malcolm
SCI	Rise: Blood Hunter		Perfect Creature		BloodRayne					
SPIKE	Rocky III			Rocky IV		Rocky V				
TBS	Daddy's Little Girls				Daddy's Little Girls				Getting Played	
TCM	It Happened				King Creole		G.I. Blues			
TLC	High Seas Heroes		Hudson Plane Crash		Flight-Watched		High Seas Heroes		Hudson Plane Crash	
TNT	We Are Marshall				We Are Marshall					
TOON	Nacho Libre		Stoked	Star Wars	King-Hill	Fam. Guy	Fam. Guy	Robot Chicken		
TRAV	Anthony Bourdain		David Blaine		David Blaine		Travel Writer		Anthony Bourdain	
TV LAND	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	Griffith	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	M*A*S*H	Roseanne	Roseanne
USA	National Treasure						2 Fast 2 Furious			
VH1	Megan Wants		Megan Wants		My Antonio		Megan Wants		My Antonio	
WGN	Newhart	Newhart	BearnyM	BarneyM	WGN News/Replay		Cheers	Cheers	Bewitched	Bewitched
Premium Channels										
HBO	The Express		True Blood		Hung	Entourage	Hung	True Blood		Entourage
MAX	Mummy		The Rocker		X-Men					
SHOW	Dexter		Dexter		Weeds	Nurse	Penn	Live Nude	Penn	There Will
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