

# Alcohol affects brains of teens who drink

ALCOHOL, from Page 1

dangerous behavior — such as fighting, unprotected sex, or criminal activity.

In a segment at the Medical Center at the University of California, San Diego, Ortiz introduces Dr. Susan Tapert who is studying the effects of alcohol on the brain using magnetic resonance imaging, or MRI, technology.

A machine with a large magnet that takes pictures of the brain. By recruiting young people who drink, as well as those who do not, Dr. Tapert said, she has been able compare the brain scans. The results, she said, were dramatic.

In the video, Ortiz answered questions while undergoing an MRI exam, and Dr. Tapert compares the results with a 17-year-old who said she regularly drinks six to nine beers on Friday and Saturday nights. The scans show the alcohol user has fewer changes in blood-oxygen levels, translating to less brain activity.

In wrapping up the study, Dr. Swartzwelder said the research linking alcohol to brain impairment is big news, and the differences between teens and adults is startling.

“You want your brain to work as well as possible,” he says. “You’re really going to need it in your early 20s.”

After the video, the kids and adults were asked to go back to the true-false questions and see how many they got right. Moderator Pianalto read each question, then asked for the answer from the audience.

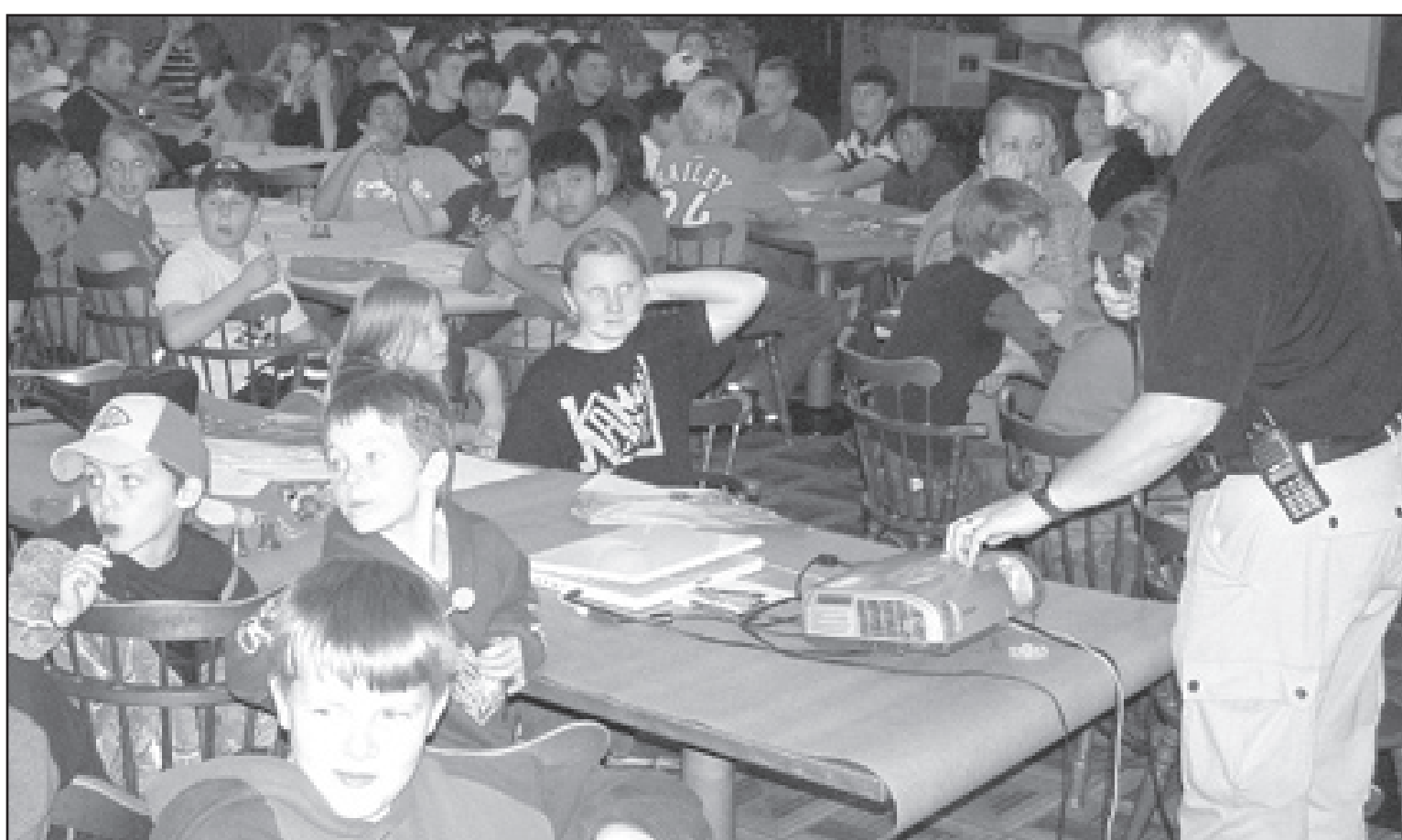
In some cases the audience was right, but on others the audience was split and Pianalto gave them the correct answer.

He gave talked about what could happen if a teen is caught drinking even before having a drivers license, and what the legal consequences could be later as a driver.

After snacks, the young people got to try a set of “fatal vision” goggles, allowing them to test their skills while “under the influence.” Pianalto and Officer William Fulcher of the Goodland Police taped lines on the floor and the students were told to walk the line with the goggles on. No one could.

At the end of the program, door prizes were given to many of the kids.

Wendy Wellmann, a community prevention consultant at the Regional Prevention Center, one of the organizers, said she was pleased with the turnout, and that it was a great help to have the Grant Junior High teachers and the Students Against Destructive Decisions involved.



Moderator Burton Pianalto (right), investigator for the sheriff's department and the county attorney, started a video at an alcohol

forum at the Goodland Elks on Thursday for a packed house of teens and adults. Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

## Questions about young people and alcohol

These are the true-false questions presented to the teens and adults at a forum Wednesday on the effects of drinking, with the correct answers provided by Investigator Burton Pianalto.

1. It commonly takes at least 15 years of drinking alcohol for any serious physical problems to develop. False.

2. As long as a young person doesn't drink enough to get sick or pass out, alcohol will not have a negative effect

on brain development. False.

3. It commonly takes years of drinking alcohol to see its damages on the liver and heart. True.

4. It commonly takes years for the brain to show physical changes caused by drinking alcohol. False.

5. Alcohol effects adolescent brains and adult brains differently. True.

6. People who use alcohol in their early 20s have less ability to learn new

information than those who use alcohol in their late 20s. True.

7. Because teen brains are developing, they are at greater risk for impairment due to alcohol than adult brains. True.

8. Teenagers may be at a higher risk than adults for dangerous behavior related to alcohol, such as fighting, unprotected sex or criminal activity. True.

9. Teens who do not drink alcohol have more brain activity than teens who drink more than half a dozen beers on weekend nights. True.

10. The brain of a teenager who drinks alcohol is effected more emotionally by alcohol advertising than the brain of a nondrinking teenager. True.

## Company may buy Goodland power plant

PLANT, from Page 1

“This acquisition (the Goodland plant) would provide us with a dependable source of revenue and is consistent with the company's strategy to acquire and control niche opportunities ... for both natural gas and clean coal-fueled assets, as well as alternative and renewable (green) energy projects,” said Ketheesch Aran, Energy Holdings chief financial officer. “This is an important step for our company as we strive to be a leader in the independent power generation business.

“This plant demonstrates that energy can be created economically

and be good for the environment.”

The plant being built at Caruso, five miles west of Goodland, is designed to be fueled by coal and biomass, but can generate electricity and industrial steam from diversified fuel sources such as old railroad ties, tires and other waste products.

“Since the plant utilizes waste for fuel, emissions credits will be created, an important element of Energy Holdings desire to produce ecofriendly energy and an asset with significant future value,” Aran said.

Sederstrom said the letter of intent is not an agreement to sell the plant.

“The letter of intent will allow both parties to discuss a possible transaction, and to perform the necessary due diligence required,” he said.

Energy Holdings will have an exclusive right to negotiate with the Goodland firm for an undisclosed period. Any agreement for purchase and sale of the plant is contingent on the results of due diligence, acquisition financing and other closing considerations, said Aran. He said the firm of Chadbourne and Parke LLP of New York has been retained as Energy Holdings' legal counsel.

A statement from Energy Holdings published on the Internet de-

scribed the Goodland plant: “The plant is located in Sherman County, Kan., and is approximately 80 percent complete and designed to burn coal and waste derived fuel that normally is disposed of in municipal landfills. The Goodland plant will provide power and steam to a newly constructed ethanol facility and other industrial facilities in the area and is expected to be fully operational by June 30.”

“Goodland Energy Resources will continue to proceed with the construction of the plant during this period and looks forward to a successful completion of the project,” Sederstrom said.

## Three file for county elected positions

ELECTION, from Page 1

Cheyenne, Sheridan, Thomas, Rawlins and Logan counties. With Judge Jack Burr retiring after 30 years, a Goodland lawyer is running for the post.

Scott Showalter has filed with the state, Rumpel said, to run for district judge. The position is up for election every four years, she said.

State Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer and Rep. Jim Morrison said they both

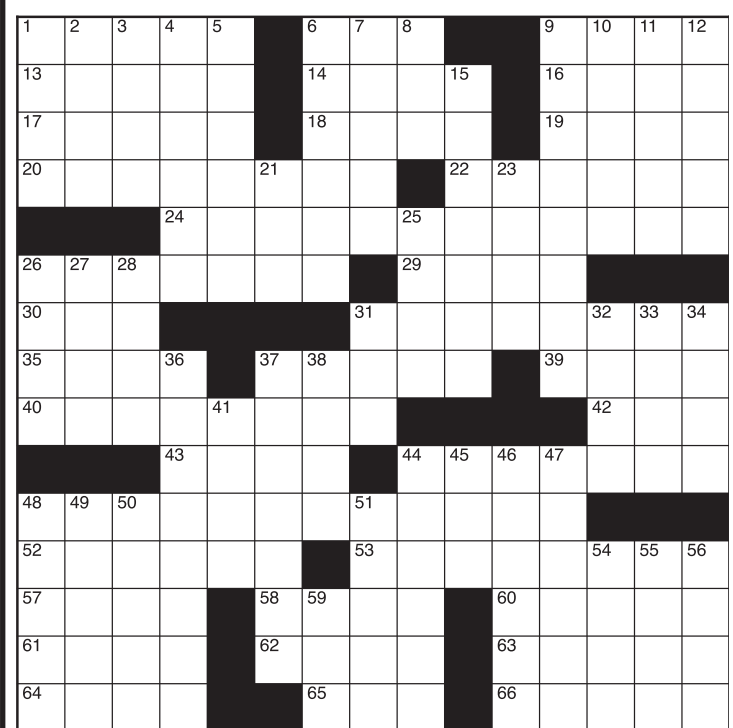
will seek re-election this year, with no opposition in sight so far.

Ostmeyer, a Grinnell Republican, said he has filed for re-election and hopes to serve one more four-year term in the Senate.

Rep. Jim Morrison (R-Colby) said he filed several months ago, and hopes he will be able to serve at least one or maybe two more two-year terms.

The deadline for filing is 5 p.m. on Monday, June 9.

## Crossword Puzzle



### CLUES ACROSS

1. Shoulder gesture
6. Upper limb
9. Quantitative fact
13. West Chadic
14. Lacrimal secretion
16. Strip forming part of a fence
17. Declare invalid
18. Double-reed instrument
19. Iris genus
20. Headache
22. Package
24. Anticipations
26. Fertilized eggs
29. Public violence
30. Caviar
31. Snakes
35. Expression of sorrow or pity
37. Short cloaks
39. Qatar capital
40. Hygienic
42. Celestial latitude
43. SNL comedian Carvey
44. Easily duped victims
48. Dinner call
52. Greek god of light
53. A short and amusing opera
57. Wife of a raja
58. Less than average tide
60. Any plant of the family Araceae
61. Design
62. Being the only one
63. \_\_\_\_\_ Jeane Baker
64. A small island
65. Soviet Union or U \_\_\_\_\_
66. Cause to change

1. Feign
2. Akha
3. Step of a ladder
4. High interest money lender
5. Collection of star systems
6. Repeats
7. Medieval fiddle
8. Tse-tung
9. Displaying liveliness
10. Mexican silver city
11. Noncitizen
12. Bluish greens
15. Mends
21. \_\_\_\_\_d: music file device
23. At the peak
25. Tall perennial woody plant
26. Geological times
27. Headfish
28. Hit on the head with a baseball
31. Observe secretly
32. Badfinger album “\_\_\_\_\_ce”
33. You
34. Pouches
36. Spare time activity
37. Big guns
38. W. Rumanian city
41. Afrikaans
44. Capsicum
45. Fed
46. Albanian capital
47. Steroid alcohol
48. Wrists
49. Iridescent opaque gems
50. Pheasant
51. Intended achievements
54. Civil wrong
55. Fourth dimension
56. 6th Jewish month
59. Goddess of the dawn

### CLUES DOWN

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Drillbit Taylor (PG-13)

### Brewster All-Star Booster Club

#### Calendar for April 22 to April 28

- Tuesday:** 3 p.m., hight school track at St. Francis. 3 p.m., junior varsity gold at Scott City.
- Wednesday:** 10 a.m., Western Kansas Liberty League meeting at Oakley.
- Thursday:** 7 p.m., Spring music program.
- Friday:** 2 p.m., junior varsity gold at Oakley. 10:30 a.m., junior high track at Quinter. 3 p.m., high school track at Quinter.
- Saturday:** 9 p.m., varsity golf at Atwood.

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