

Health department changes directors

By Sharon Corcoran

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The Sherman County Health Department faces a changing of the guard, but its former administrator remains, helping with the transition as she fills another role.

Dorendo Harrel, who has been with the department 21 years, stepped down as administrator to do more of the clinical duties. Kathy Ryan, who has worked for county health departments in Hoxie, Cimarron and Colby after starting her nursing career at the Boothroy Memorial Hospital in Goodland, is the new administrator.

Sheryl Ketter, secretary/receptionist for the past 18 years, retired Friday, and the department gained another new face as Connie Grieve stepped into that role.

Ryan graduated in 1971 from a diploma program through the St. Francis Hospital School of Nursing in Wichita. In those days, she said, those who wanted to be nurses went through that type of program with the focus on hands-on experience, while college degree in nursing was for someone who wanted to teach or be a supervisor.

"I wanted to be the one who would be taking care of patients," she added.

Ryan said she never pursued a bachelor's degree because it would require four more years of school, repeating what she already learned in school and on the job, and she has never been in a job where she would see a return on her investment of time and money.

Her first job was at the hospital in Goodland, though she lived in Colby at the time. The nuns at St. Thomas Hospital there felt they were already well staffed, she said. Ryan said she worked in Goodland until her first son was born and then she and her husband Bill moved to Hutchinson, where she was a stay-at-home mom. Later they moved back to the family farm in Menlo.

She then was a nurse at the Colby hospital until she went to work at the Sheridan County Health Department in Hoxie when her youngest son was a year old. The family moved to southwest Kansas in 1984 and then about seven months later to Cimarron, where she worked for the health department. The family returned to Colby in 1998, when she took a job at the health department there.

She is from Menlo, she said, and



Kathy Ryan (above left), new administrator at the Sherman County Health Department, and Dorredo Harrel, outgoing administrator who will continue as a nurse, looked over some of the state regulations for health departments. Connie Grieve (right photo) started as office manager July 14, replacing Sheryl Ketter, who retired Aug. 1 after 18 years with the department.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Star-News



her husband from Colby; he is a farmer.

Ryan, who started work July 21, said public health has changed a lot since she started, especially with the number of immunizations that have been added. One thing she says

hasn't changed is that public health nurses always have to be flexible and prepared for anything.

"Some days you come in and the phone rings and your whole day changes," she said.

Harrel said she is looking forward

to being more involved in the clinical aspects of the job and less involved in emergency preparedness. It's too time-consuming, she said; over the last two years, it has just become too much, especially with all the meetings you have to

go to. "I don't know how one-person health departments do it all," she added.

Harrel has been with the department 21 years, Ketter worked there 18 years before retiring, and Rhea

Daise, the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) coordinator, has been with the department 15 years. Joan Knodel, a registered nurse, started a few months ago, replacing a nurse who had been with the department more than eight years.

"I think that says something for the leadership here," Ryan said, adding she hopes she can continue that trend.

"We like what we do," Harrel said, "and the county has been good to us."

Office manager starts job

The Sherman County Health Department has a new face up front, handling reception, billing and office manager duties, but she comes with experience in health care and billing.

Connie Grieve, who started the job July 14, worked at the Goodland Family Health Center for two years and in billing at Goodland Regional Medical Center before that.

Grieve said billing interests her. The basic concepts stay the same, she said, but a lot changes, so it always stays interesting.

The health department is different from the hospital and clinic, she said, in that it doesn't bill insurance as much. Some of the services are different, too, she said, such as handling Women, Infants, Children (WIC), a federal program, which the hospital and clinic didn't.

And already she has faced a challenge on the job.

"I'm learning to hold the babies down for their shots," Grieve said, "but I'm almost as much in tears as the mothers and babies."

Besides WIC, she said, the department provides immunizations, health screenings, family planning, a farm worker program, water well and septic system testing, licensing and registration of child-care homes and centers, child health screening, breast pump rental, a program for children with special health needs, mammograms for income-eligible women age 50-64, foot care and bioterrorism planning.

Economic development council decides not to hire director

By Tom Betz

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The Sherman County Economic Development Council decided not to hire an executive director, and instead they will promote the person who has been holding down the office for more than a year to be the office manager.

At a special meeting held Wednesday morning council members agreed to promote Helen Dobbs to the position of office manager and give her an annual salary of \$34,320.

Council vice chairman Steve West said

the decision was something the council had been talking about, and decided not to hire a director until more permanent funding is available.

The council members went into closed door session for 15 minutes after explaining the details of hiring Dobbs.

When the council returned to open session Walt Linthacum of L. & W. Andrist Insurance, made the motion to hire Dobbs and to include paying for use of her personal vehicle for out of county business and to allow her to hire a person to help man the office after advertising with the

cost not to exceed \$10,700.

Council members Jerry Fairbanks of First National Bank, Chance Schilling of People's State Bank, Danny Archer of Finley Motor Co., Nancy Cole of Klip 'N Kurl Salon and West all voted in favor.

Dobbs had asked about canceling a cell phone contract, but the council members decided not to cancel the contract at this time.

The next council meeting will be at 4:30 p.m. on Tues-

day, Aug. 19 at the Western State Bank.

A Community Economic Development Strategic Planning Session will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 21 at the Northwest Kansas Technical College Student Union.

West said the council is inviting people to attend the session. The facilitator for

the program will be Daniel Steffen, of Business Development regional office of the Kansas Department of Commerce from Hays.

Dobbs said she would like to have people who are planning to attend to call her at 890-3743 to be able to have an estimate of how many will attend.

matters of record

District Traffic

The following fines have been paid in the Sherman County District Court. All ages are at the time of the ticket.

June 11: Douglas M. Schrier, 44, Menlo Park, Calif., \$156 for speeding, 90/70.

June 12: Joshua S. Nebur, 31, Fort Collins, Colo., \$156 for speeding, 85/65.

Ryan D. Quick, 34, Littleton, Colo., \$126 for improper parking.

June 14: Ryan A. Luebben, 24, Jackson, Wis., \$132 for improper parking.

June 16: Janet C. McCaa, 65, Cape Elizabeth, Maine, \$138 for speeding, 87/70.

June 18: Wayne H. Marshall, 60, Hays, \$102 for improper parking.

June 25: Douglas R. McCrimmon, 50, Honolulu, Hawaii, \$126 for speeding, 85/70.

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The Dark Knight

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corrections

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.

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REGISTRATION
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Tues. Aug. 19, 4:30-7:00PM
at the Goodland Activities Center Dance Room
Buy tights, ask questions, shoes, class placement, etc...
Classes being offered:
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We All Scream For Ice Cream!

The Big Brothers Big Sisters organization of Sherman, Cheyenne, and Wallace Counties invite you to a FREE ice cream social to be held in Goodland's Gullick Park on Monday, Aug. 11. Come and join the fun from 6:30-8:00 p.m., and show your support for the Big Brothers Big Sisters. Information on the program will be available. We are looking for BIGS and LITTLES to join the group. Free-will donations will be accepted.

Time to Play!

Texas Hold'em Tournament to benefit Relay for Life
Sunday, August 10 at 3:00 p.m. MT
Knights of Columbus Hall-7th and Caldwell
Entry Fee \$30-includes cash prizes for winners
Bonus chips if entry paid by August 8
Refreshments and food will be served on donation basis.

Contact Jerry Amthor at (785) 821-3645