

# Efficiency, renewable energy grants available

Applications for grants and loan guarantees in the Rural Energy for America Program for the fiscal year 2011 program are being accepted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development.

Applying early may increase the opportunity for your project to be funded. The initial application deadline is March 31, later application deadlines may be announced as they are made available.

The Rural Energy program is designed for rural small business (based on the Small Business Ad-

ministration listing) and agriculture producers (who get more than 50 percent of their gross income from agricultural production) who complete energy efficiency improvements in their existing business or install renewable energy systems for their current or new business.

Rural is defined as populations less than 50,000. Grants are available for up to 25 percent of the total project costs. The minimum requirement for a grant for energy efficiency improvements is \$1,500 and for \$2,500 for renewable energy

systems.

An energy audit of a small business needs to be done to show savings, said Brandon Prough of the Hays USDA Rural Development office. He said if business people are interested he has a list of people who do the energy audits. For the agriculture producers Prough said most of that is being done with irrigation, and he said a man from the K-State Extension office in Garden City has done the energy audits for irrigation projects.

Prough said he has a checklist for

small business and agriculture producers they can fill out and he will help put an application together.

Loan guarantees can be obtained for up to 75 percent of the total project costs; loan guarantees can mitigate a lender's risk up to 85 percent of the loan.

Applications can be received continually and will be selected through a competition based on a set of scoring criteria.

Energy efficiency improvements are projects that result in a reduction of BTU usage. Project such

as lighting upgrades, insulation, HVAC, coolers, irrigation and grain dryers.

Renewable energy projects are projects to either create or replace energy from a renewable source. Renewable projects can include wind, solar, geothermal, biomass and biogas.

The program does not allow improvements to houses or housing units (including rental property) even if they are used as part of a business or agriculture production. Approximately 40 projects were

funded in Kansas last year utilizing this program.

To obtain more information about this program, contact Brandon Prough at the Hays USDA RD office, (785) 628-3081, brandon.prough@ks.usda.gov

For additional information regarding this and other USDA Rural Development programs, call the Agency's state office at (785) 271-2740, or log onto the Agency's website at [www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks)

## Army's jazz band to play in Colby

The Jazz Ambassadors-America's Big Band is the official touring big band of the United States Army. This 19-member ensemble, formed in 1969, has received great acclaim both at home and abroad performing America's original art form: jazz.

This concert, sponsored by Western Plains Arts Association, will be taking place at 6:30 p.m. (Mountain Time) on Monday, March 14, at the Colby High School Auditorium. To obtain free tickets, please send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Pat Ziegelmeier, Colby Community College, 1255 S. Range, Colby, Kan. 67701. Please allow turnaround time to get the tickets.

Concerts by the Jazz Ambassadors are designed to entertain all types of audiences. Custom compositions and arrangements highlight the group's creative talent and gifted soloists. Their diverse repertoire includes big band swing,

bebop, Latin, contemporary jazz, standards, popular tunes, Dixieland, vocals, and patriotic selections.

The band has appeared in all fifty states, Canada, Mexico, Japan, India, and throughout Europe. Notable performances include concerts at international jazz festivals in Montreux, Switzerland; Newport, Rhode Island; Toronto, Canada; Brussels, Belgium; and the North Sea Jazz Festival in the Netherlands. In 1995, the Ambassadors performed in England, Wales, Belgium Luxembourg, and the Czech Republic in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. The band has also been featured in unique joint concerts with major orchestras, including the Detroit and Baltimore symphonies.



The U.S. Army Jazz Ambassadors

## Money grab



Garin Ihrig was the winner in the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America money grab held on Monday, Feb. 14. Against his competitor R.L. Brighton Ihrig picked up \$36 to his \$35. The club scattered \$100 in \$1 bills on the gym floor for two names drawn out during half time of the boys game. The winner was the one who picked up the most money.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

## Conservation tree sales brisk; all still available

By Larry Biles

State forester, Manhattan

The Kansas Forest Service's 55th Conservation Tree Sales Program has reached mid-term, and in spite of the weather, sales have been relatively brisk.

At the half-way point of the season, we are not sold out of any species, but we are running low on black walnut seed, elderberry, pawpaw and persimmon.

The Conservation Tree's program encourages landowners to plant trees and shrubs for conservation purposes. Approved uses of the agency's plants include wildlife

habitat, windbreaks, woodlots, riparian plantings, Christmas tree plantations, timber production and other related conservation practices. Organizations considering planting seedlings for educational benefits are eligible to order.

The Kansas Forest Service is offering 26 species of trees and shrubs selected for hardiness in the central high plains. Most are bare-root stock, one to two years old and eight to 18 inches tall, depending on species. Several evergreen species are sold in containers. Along with conventional single species bundles sold in units of 25 seedlings, song-

bird, pheasant and quail bundles are offered with species included to help support these wild bird populations in Kansas.

Orders can be made by phoning (785) 532-3300, toll free at (888) 740-8733, or on-line at [https://www.kansasforests.org/public\\_saps/Welcome.aspx](https://www.kansasforests.org/public_saps/Welcome.aspx).

Order forms are available at any county or district Kansas State University Research and Extension office, the USDA Service Center Offices, or on our website at <http://www.kansasforests.org/conservation/downloads.shtml>.

PEOPLE WHO READ NEWSPAPERS ARE

**BETTER WRITERS AND SPEAKERS**

It all starts with Newspapers

STATE-OF-THE-ART  
Sherman  
Tonight 7 PM  
**Justin Bieber 3D (G)**  
Starts Friday at 7 p.m.:  
**The King's Speech (R)**

**Classifieds work!**  
899-2338

### 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.

### Weatherization Workshop for Professionals

2-Day Weatherization Workshop designed for contractors, construction workers, secondary and post-secondary technology instructors and energy-minded homeowners.

You will learn information for passing the National Construction Research and Education's "Your Role in the Green Environment" certification exam.

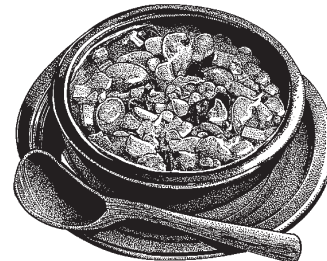
Held at Colby Community College  
March 7 and 8  
Cost: \$69 which includes materials and certification exam.  
Optional college credit: additional \$79

To register contact Amy Smith  
at 1-800-729-6222, ext 205.



### BOY SCOUT TROOP 142

## Chili Feed



March 26, 2011

Goodland Methodist Fellowship Hall  
12th & Sherman Street  
11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Serving: Chili, Vegetable Soup, Cobbler & Cake

Tickets available at the door.

★ Vote March 1st ★

I would appreciate your vote!

Jeff Deeds for City Commissioner

Primary Election March 1st

Paid for by Jeff Deeds for City Commissioner, Jeff Deeds Chairperson