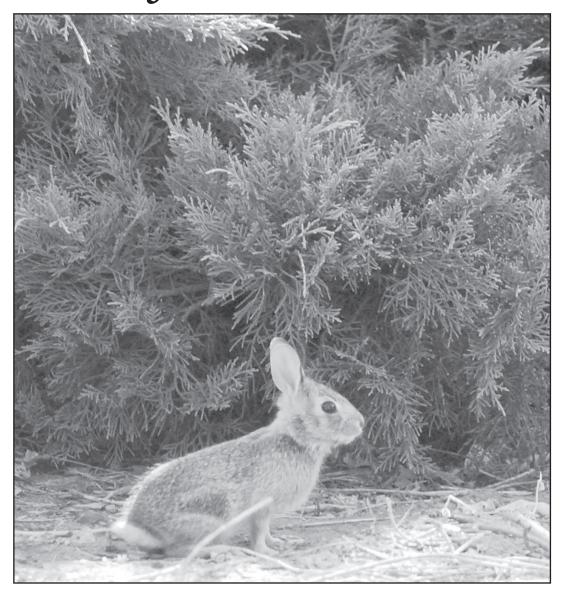
Wildlife in town



A young cotton tail checks out the area in front of a bush on 14th and Caldwell on Wednesday night. Hot and dry conditions force wildlife into town for water.

Photo by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News

Sign up being done for Conservation Reserve

sack announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture began sign-up for the Highly Erodible Land Initiative under the Conserva-The purpose of this initiative, announced by Secretary Vilsack in February, is to protect up to 750,000 acres of the nation's most highly erodible croplands. Produces may enroll at their local Farm Service Agency county office. Enrollment will continue until the 750,000 acre limit has been met.

"CRP is an important program with more than 25 years of success in protecting the nation's natural resources through voluntary participation,: said Vilsack. "We are excited to include this new initiative that targets the most fragile cropland, in addition to other targeted initiatives that are currently avail-

able under the CRP." CRP is a voluntary program designed to help famers, ranchers and other agricultural producers protect their environmentally sensitive land. Currently, 29.6 million ares are enrolled in CRP. Through this Highly Erodible Land Initiative, eligible landowners receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving covers on eligible cropland for a period of 10 years. Croplands with an Erodibility Index of 20 or greater are eligible for

announced an increase of one mil- 300 million tons per year. CRP also

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vil- lion acres of land in a new CRP provides \$1.8 billion annually to Initiative to Restore Grasslands. Wetlands and Wildlife. On June 12, a portion of the one million acres available for the initiative were altion Reserve Program on Monday. located. Initiatives receiving acres are: Wetland Restoration, 200,000 acres; Habitat Buffers for Upland Birds (quail), 150,000 acres; Duck Nesting Habitat, 150,000 acres; and Pollinator Habitat, 100,000 acres. Signup for the Pollinator Habitat initiative began on June 12 as part of the continuous sign-up criteria.

CRPhas a quarter-century legacy of successfully protecting the nation's natural resources through voluntary participation, while providing significant economic and environmental benefits to rural communities across the U.S. Under CRP, farmers and ranchers plant grasses and trees in crop fields and along streams or rivers. The plantings prevent soil and nutrients from washing into waterways, reduce soil erosion that may otherwise contribute to poor air and water quality, and provide valuable habitat for wildlife. Plant cover established on the acerage accepted into the CRP will reduce nutrient and sediment runoff in our nation's rivers and streams. In 2011, as a result of CRP, nitrogen and phosphorous losses from farm fields were reduced by 623 million pounds and 124 million pounds, respectively. The CRP has restored more than two million acres of wetlands and associated buffers and In March, Secretary Vilsack reduces soil erosion by more than

landowners-dollars that make their way into local economies, supporting small businesses and creating jobs. In addition, CRP is the largest private lands carbon sequestration program in the country. By placing vulnerable cropland into conservation CRP sequesters carbon in plants and soil, and reduces both fuel and fertilizer usage. In 2010, CRP resulted in carbon sequestration equal to taking almost 10 million cars off the road.

In 201, USDA enrolled a record number of acres of private working lands in conservation programs. working with more than 500,000 farmers and ranchers to implement conservation practices that clean the air we breathe, filter the water we drink, and prevent soil erosion. Moreover, the Obama Administration, with Agriculture Secretary Vilsack's leadership, has worked tirelessly to strengthen rural America, implement the Farm Bill, maintain a strong farm safety net and create opportunities for America's farmers and ranchers. U.S. agriculture is currently experiencing one of its most productive periods in American history thanks to the productivity, resiliency and resourcefulness of our producers.

Produces are encouraged to contact their local FSA office or visit FSA's website at www.fsa.usda. gov/crp for additional information regarding CRP.

Kansas' Cobalt Boats sells to high end consumers

By Ron Wilson

Director Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development at Kansas State University The beautiful boat gleams in

the sunlight as the owners enjoy the thrill of skimming across the water. Not only are they enjoying a beautiful boat, they are wearing fashionable clothing and preparing to enjoy a high quality vintage wine. Remarkably, the boat, the sportswear, and the wine all bear the same

at Grand Lake in Oklahoma with to build. his father. After college, Pack and a friend started building boats.

In 1969, Pack went to a big marine industry trade show in Chicago. He didn't sell a single boat or sign up a single dealer, but he came back with an idea. There were big companies selling mass-produced boats, but Pack saw an opportunity to target the high end of the marketplace. Essentially, he asked: What if we pany in 1989 and moved up to bewere to produce a super high quality, high-value boat?

Paxson St. Clair is CEO and his idea to work. Then the company co-owner of Cobalt Boats, one of had to find prospective boat own- includes various types of luxury the nation's leading boat makers. ers who were willing to pay extra. His brother-in-law Sean Callan It was a hard sell at first, but then a to 32-foot cruisers. Boats are sold said. "It boils down to craftsmanis company president. Paxson's dealer in San Francisco gave them through a network of dealers around ship and attention to detail." As father, Pack St. Clair, grew up at a try. The reaction from boat owners the nation and around the globe. the company's website says, "We bears the name Cobalt." Independence and enjoyed boating was so positive that business began Dealers can be found in 32 different never aimed to be the biggest boat

In 1970. Cobalt Boats moved to the closed Standard Oil Refinery in Neodesha. At that point, the company had 20-plus employees. Today, Cobalt Boats employs more than 500 people and sells boats from coast to coast and around the world. Neodesha is a rural community of 2,652 people. Now that's rural.

Paxson St. Clair joined the comcome CEO in 2007. His father Pack is in the plant each week but not as Pack came back to Kansas to put involved in day-to-day operations.

Today the company's product line boats, from 20-foot bowriders up

nations, from Australia to the United Kingdom.

'I travel to lots of boat shows," Paxson said. "People ask me where the boats are made. When I tell them Kansas, they think I'm joking." And what does Paxson think about that? "We could not build these boats anywhere else. The people, the work ethic, and the pride they have in being the best is something that we don't think can be duplicated anywhere else in the world."

He points to the company's longterm work force with pride.

the hearts and minds of those 500 shirts, caps, t-shirts and sweatshirts quality - from wineglasses to wapeople who work out there," he

company, just the best."

In 2001, J. D. Power and Associates began an annual evaluation of quality and customer satisfaction in the marine industry. The annual evaluation continued until the economic downturn in 2009. Not only did Cobalt Boats win first place in quality and customer satisfaction in every single year, J. D. Power informed them that they had never had anybody win over second place by such a large margin.

The Cobalt commitment to quality has carried over to the creation "What makes Cobalt quality is of a line of sportswear, such as polo difference with a commitment to bearing the Cobalt name. There is even a high quality Napa Valley wine, a Cabernet Sauvignon, which

"My dad has only one hobby

besides boats, and that's making wine," Paxson said. "He worked with a friend in Napa Valley. They produced a serious wine that was ranked a 93 by Wine Spectator magazine."

For more information, go to www.cobaltboats.com.

The Cobalt boat skims across the water, as the owners proudly wear their Cobalt shirts and prepare to enjoy some California Cobalt wine. We salute Paxson and Pack St. Clair. Sean Callan, and all those involved with Cobalt Boats for making a tercraft.

Fun mud run scheduled Aug. 26 at Hays by college, hospital

HaysMed's Center for Health features to make it even better." Improvement and Fort Hays State University are sponsoring the Big Creek Mud Run on Sunday, August 26. The mud run is a two mile obstacle course that winds through the Fort Havs State University Campus. Participants should be ready to "get their dirty on"; as they jump, crawl and climb through mud and other

"The Mud Run was so successful last year that we are excited to once again host this event." said Stephanie Schaffer, Fitness Director of the Center for Health Improvement. "People loved the event last year and we are adding some additional

This year's event will include a Kids Mud Bath that begins at noon pants and they must be 18 years and (Mountain Time). Kids will be allowed to "get their dirty on" after t-shirt and a free lunch. Live music the last wave of competitors has and food will be available from 7:30 completed the course. No obstacles, just plenty of mud.

heats of 30 people. The first wave Time) and a new wave starts every website at www.thecenter.haysmed. 30 minutes with the last one begin-com/mudrun. Call Kelly at The ning at 11:30 a.m. (Mountain Time). You can run in your own wave or get at Fort Hays State University at your friends together and all run in (785) 628-5908 with questions. the same wave.

Register now. Deadline for reg-

istering for the event is Wednesday, Aug. 22. The fee is \$25 for particiolder. All participants will receive a a.m. to 1 p.m. (Mountain Time). Participants are encouraged to bring The Mud Run is carried out in along their families and friends.

For more information about the begins at 7:30 a.m. (Mountain event or to register please visit our Center at (785) 623-6324 or Emily

Goodland Star-News **Ad Deadlines**

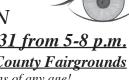
For Tuesday papers Friday Noon For Friday papers Wednesday Noon For Country Advocate Friday Noon You may call the ad in to

(785) 899-2338 or stop by the Star-News at 1205 Main.



FREE SCREENINGS! 1 NIGHT ONLY!

SCREENING FOR HEARING & VISION



Tuesday, July 31 from 5-8 p.m. At the Sherman County Fairgrounds For persons of any age!

LIONS MOBILE SCREENING UNIT Sponsored by GOODLAND LIONS CLUB

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.



CELL: (719) 349-8840

County Investigator

Burton Pianalto

For Your

Sherman County Sheriff

- 14 yrs. Law Enforcement Experience
- Graduate of University of Phoenix, B.S. Criminal Justice, NWKTC, Colby Community College & Kansas Law **Enforcement Academy**
- 20 yr. resident of Sherman County
- Dedicated to community involvement
- Integrity Matters



Primary Election

August 7, 2012

www.elect.bpianalto.com

Paid for by the Committee to Elect Burton Pianalto-Darren Kannady Treasurer

Classifieds work! 899-2338

Reader Recipes

Peanut Butter Chocolate Chip Oatmeal Cookies

Yield: makes about 6 dozen Ingredients

- 3 cups old-fashioned rolled oats
- 1/3 cup whole wheat flour • 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. coarse sale
- 1 cup packed light brown sugar • 1 cup granulated sugar
- Ingredients continued..
- 1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter, softened 1/2 cup natural peanut butter
- 2 large eggs
- 1 tsp. pure vanilla extract
- 2 cups salted whole peanuts • 2 cups semisweet chocolate chips

Directions: Preheat oven to 350°. Stir together oats, flour, baking soda, baking powder and salt in medium bowl;

Put sugars, butter and peanut butter in bowl of electric mixer fitted with paddle attachment. Mix on medium speed until pale and fluffy, about 5 minutes. Mix in eggs and vanilla. Reduce speed to low, add oat mixture, and mix until just combined. Mix in peanuts and chocolate chips.

Using a 1 1/2 inch ice cream scoop, drop balls of dough 2 inches apart on baking sheets lined with parchment paper. Bakes cookies 13-15 minutes, rotating sheets half way through, until cookies are golden brown. Let cool.



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