

Pie guy



Norton Ambassador Lyman Rowh helped arrange hundreds of pieces of pumpkin pie during the annual Moonlight Madness celebration in downtown Norton. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Many jobless with closing of Sappa Valley Youth Ranch

By KIMBERLY DAVIS

OBERLIN — Sappa Valley Youth Ranch east of Oberlin shut down last Friday, under pressure from the state Department of Health and Environment and local law-enforcement officers, with the last boys leaving that day.

Dick Kelsey, owner and president of King's Camp Inc., sent a letter to the Oberlin School District, the City of Oberlin and *The Oberlin Herald* on Thursday saying the facility would close.

Mr. Kelsey, who also runs a boys' facility in Goddard, reopened the ranch last April after Clarence M. Kelley Youth Services shut it down in March. Kelley had reopened the ranch after it was shut down by the Cookson Hills agency.

Mr. Kelsey's letter listed two main reasons for the closing: problems with its state license, and changes in the way the state classifies youth offenders.

"We have been unable to develop an acceptable working relationship with the program consultant of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment in that area of the state. This makes operating very difficult."

Denise Gooden, with the health department in Hays, said she

couldn't talk about the license. Her boss, Lynda Sturgin with the agency's office in Topeka, did not return phone calls from *The Herald*.

The health department inspects the ranch regularly and issues licenses for youth facilities.

Mr. Kelsey said the ranch had only a temporary license, which expired at the end of the month. Last Tuesday, he said, he learned that the state wasn't going to renew that license. That is how the department always works, he said; they give a temporary license first and then renew it.

Normally, if the license isn't going to be renewed, said Mr. Kelsey, the business is given a little more time.

Mr. Kelsey said last Monday he received some write-ups about the ranch from the health department, some of them citing problems back in May. Some of the write-ups, he said, were about things that weren't even valid.

Normally if there was a citation, he said, then the ranch would have five days to write an action plan to correct the problem and five days to implement it. With a temporary license, said Mr. Kelsey, they were in a different situation, but he has never heard of something like this.

Some of the write-ups were for things that took place back in May, he said, and the agency is supposed to send them in a few days, not months later. In the business of helping kids, he said, sometimes they break things. The ranch was cited for those incidents, although Mr. Kelsey didn't give particulars.

Mr. Kelsey said no one from the agency was here to witness things that the ranch received citations about. Some weren't true, he said, and some came from a videotape that Decatur County law enforcement sent the health department about an incident that happened at the ranch.

He claimed officers made a tape of a recent incident when one of the boys broke something on property. Instead of stopping the incident, he said, officers filmed the boy and sent the tape to the state. The sheriff's office did send in the tape, said Sheriff Ken Badsky, because of all of the damage that occurred.

The second reason Mr. Kelsey gave for the closing of the ranch was that the state Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services had changed the way it classifies youths, merging the "Level V" class housed at the ranch with Level VI, youths who have committed more serious acts.

The ranch was designed to handle nonviolent kids who need help and education, he said, but now the agency doesn't want that kind of service. The state is trying to set up psychiatric residential treatment facilities which will make all level V's into level VI's, he said. The requirements for that type of facility can't be met in this area of the state, he claimed.

Mr. Kelsey said all jobs at the ranch would end when the boys are gone. The ranch employed around 36 to 37 people, he said, plus five teaching jobs with the Oberlin School District. Mr. Kelsey, a state representative, said he has talked with his partner about possibly putting in an alcohol and drug treatment center at the ranch, but nothing has been decided yet.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

NORTON Senior High:
 Saturday — Varsity Volleyball at Scott City, 9 a.m.
 Sunday — Java Jive Rehearsals, 12:30 p.m.-2:30 p.m.; Java Jive Performance, 3:00 p.m.; Java Jive Performance, 7:00 p.m.
 Monday — Jay Singers, a.p.; Vo-Ag Meeting, 5 p.m.; JV Football vs. Stockton (H), 6:30 p.m.; Cheer Practice, 8 p.m.; Dance Practice, 8 p.m.
 Tuesday — Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.; Drama, a.p.; Varsity and Junior Varsity Volleyball at Rexford/Logan, 4 p.m.
 Wednesday — FCCLA Fall Leadership at WaKeeney, 9 a.m.
 Thursday — Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.; Cross Country at Downs, 4 p.m.; Cheer Practice, 8 p.m.; Dance Practice, 8 p.m.
 Friday — Faculty Meeting, 8 a.m.; Football vs. Beloit (H), District Game, 7 p.m.; FCCLA Raffle; FFA Lock-in, 10 p.m.
 Next Saturday — Mid-Continent League Volleyball at Stockton, 8 a.m.
 Next Monday — Jay Singers,

7:30 a.m.; FFA/FCCLA/KAY Hayrack Ride, 7 p.m.
 Tuesday — Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.; FFA Dairy Judging at Fort Hays State University, 8 a.m.; Senior Announcement Presentations, 2:15 p.m.; SADD, a.p.; FCCLA Board, 7 p.m.
Junior High:
 Saturday — Mid Continent Elementary League Volleyball at Phillipsburg, 9 a.m.
 Tuesday — KAS, a.p.; KAY Dance, JH Gym, 7-8:30 p.m.
 Wednesday — Faculty Meeting, 7:45 a.m.
 Thursday — Football vs. Plainville (T), 6:30 p.m.
Eisenhower:
 Monday — Lightning Jack Presentation K-A, 9 a.m.
 Tuesday — Early Childhood-Third, Fire Prevention Presentation, 2:20 p.m.
 Wednesday — Fourth-Sixth Fire Prevention Presentation, 2:20 p.m.; Faculty meeting, 3:40 p.m.
 Thursday — Third and Fourth Grade Level Meeting, 3:40 p.m.
 Next Monday — Lyceum: Chinese Acrobats; Early Childhood-

Sixth at East Campus, 1:30 p.m.; Site Council, 7 p.m.
 Tuesday — Lightning Jack Presentation: KDGA, 10 a.m.; Third and Fourth Grade Vocal Concert at East Campus, 7 p.m.
All Schools:
 Monday — Board of Education Meeting at Unified Office, 7 p.m.
 Tuesday — Curriculum Council at Unified Office, 7:30 a.m.
 Friday — NCKSEC Superintendent Meeting; End of First Nine Weeks; All Schools Dismiss Early — 1 p.m.
 Monday-Friday, October 16-20: School Bus Driver Appreciation Week
 Next Tuesday — Hastings College-GCCBB Scrimmage; Stull Gym, 6 p.m.
 Wednesday — No School, Parent-Teacher Conference
Eisenhower Menus:
 Monday — Breakfast: Waffles, bacon strips, orange juice, milk; Lunch: Peanut butter and honey sandwich, cottage cheese, peas, celery stick, mandarin oranges, milk
 Tuesday — Breakfast: Break-

fast cake, grape juice, milk; Lunch: Pizza roll-ups, tossed salad, peaches, cookie, milk
 Wednesday — Breakfast: Breakfast burrito, fruit cocktail, milk; Lunch: Potato boats, baked beans, fruit cocktail, whole wheat roll, milk
 Thursday — Breakfast: Canadian bacon/cheese biscuit, apple juice, milk; Lunch: Macaroni and cheese, Little Smokies, mixed veggies, rosy applesauce, French bread, milk
 Friday — Breakfast: Pumpkin bread, rosy applesauce, milk; Lunch: Sloppy Joe, homemade bun, corn, tater tots, bananas, milk
NORTHERN VALLEY
 Monday — Coordinated School Health Workshop at Wichita; Jr. High Spirit Week at Long Island, October 9-13; FFA Fall Area Meeting at Oakley, 5 p.m.; School Board meeting in the conference room at Almena
 Tuesday — Coordinated School Health Workshop at Wichita; PLAN Test for sophomores, 8:30-11:30 a.m.; Bus Drivers Meeting

at Long Island, 8:45 a.m.; High School Volleyball vs Stockton/Western Plains/Eastern Heights at Stockton
 Wednesday — NCKTC Rep visit in the High School Library, 10:15 a.m.
 Thursday — Junior High Volleyball and Football at Logan; Volleyball at 5 p.m.; Football at 6:45 p.m.; Jr. High and High School Cross Country Wheatland Invitational at Wheatland, 3 p.m.
 Friday — End of First 9 Weeks, 40 Days; High School Football vs Golden Plains at Rexford, 7 p.m.
 Saturday — K.W.U. Music Learning Day at Salina, 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; High School Volleyball Cheyenne Conference at Palco.

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To aid American farmers

Moran crafts bipartisan support group

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congressman Jerry Moran has asked for the support of the Administration and House leadership in coming to the aid of America's farmers and ranchers.

In a bipartisan event in the nation's capitol, Congressman Moran and members of Congress from both parties, along with several agricultural organizations, joined together to pledge their support and continue their efforts.

"Farmers, ranchers and rural communities are suffering, not only in Kansas, but throughout America's Heartland," he said. "I am pleased with the broad group of members who joined together today and are pushing to get disaster assistance passed. Convincing those in House leadership and down at the White House that disaster assistance is a necessity has been a difficult task, but we are still working hard and doing everything we can.

When farmers and ranchers suffer, so does every small town in America."

Many producers in Kansas are experiencing the effects of a multi-year drought - some areas in its fifth and sixth years. Last year, all but four counties in Kansas were declared disaster areas. While 2005 was a very difficult year, the situation in 2006 is shaping up to be much worse. The 2006 Kansas

wheat crop was one of the worst in a decade and many of the fall crop production estimates are predicted to be drastically less than last year's production levels.

In addition, ranchers continue to experience forage shortfalls that are forcing herd liquidations.

Joining him were Senator John Thune (SD) and Representatives Tom Osborne (NE), Henry Bonilla (TX), Jo Ann Emerson (MO), Randy Neugebauer (TX), Michael Conaway (TX), Frank

Lucas (OK), Mark Kennedy (MN), Jim Ryun (KS), Marilyn Musgrave (CO), John Salazar (CO), Earl Pomeroy (ND) and Stephanie Herseth (SD).

Agricultural organizations included representatives from the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers, National Association of Wheat Growers, National Association of Wheat Growers, Kansas Farmers Union, National Farmers Union, National Farm Bureau Association, National Grain Sorghum Producers, National Soybean Asso-

ciation, National Corn Growers Association, National Cattlemen's Beef Association and R-CALF.

Congressman Moran is a senior member of the House Committee on Agriculture.

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Hot Rods and Customs Welcome
Stock Garden Tractor Pull — 12:30 p.m. Saturday
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(Drawing for 1946 Farmall 'H' Tractor and Quilt after parade on Sunday)
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A Reminder to Our Customers

Oxford Locker will temporarily shut down Beef and Hog Processing, October 27 for Deer Season

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