

WIDE WEST

The Roundup

GREAT BEND

Ex-postal worker gets probation for theft

A former Great Bend postal worker was sentenced Monday to two years probation for stealing mail. Rhonda S. Basgall, 53, Great Bend, was also fined \$5,000, according to a release from U.S. Attorney Lanny Welch. Basgall pleaded guilty in federal court to one count of theft by a postal worker. In her plea, she admitted that on Dec. 22, 2008, a woman in Great Bend mailed a Christmas card with three Wal-Mart gift cards to her sister in California. The cards had a value of \$60. Basgall stole the cards and, later that day, used the cards to make purchases at Wal-Mart.

COMING EVENT

Former Alaska governor to speak at banquet

SALINA – Former Alaska governor and 2008 Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin will be the featured speaker at the Salina Chamber's Annual Banquet in February. The banquet will be at the Bicentennial Center arena. Tickets for the event are \$50 per person for chamber members and \$75 per person for nonmembers. Reservations can be made by chamber members now through Dec. 1 by stopping by the chamber office, 120 W. Ash, calling (785) 827-9301 or e-mailing scole@salinakansas.org. Tables of eight will be reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. If available, tickets will go on sale Dec. 2 to the general public. The evening will consist of a plated dinner, remarks by outgoing Chairman Daran Neuschafer and incoming Chairman Larry Fief, a review of the chamber's accomplishments in 2009, and the address by Palin. For more information, go to the chamber's Web site, www.salinakansas.org.

GARDEN CITY

Health department offering H1N1 vaccines

The Finney County Health Department will offer H1N1 flu vaccinations on Wednesday and Thursday to children and pregnant women. The vaccination clinic will be at Garden City's Clarion Inn from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days. The vaccine is available for children 6 months and older.

A GOOD CAUSE

Blood drives scheduled

The Red Cross has scheduled the following blood drives for Thursday. Hutchinson Community College: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Student Union, 1300 N. Plum; Bucklin: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., United Methodist Church, 204 S. Main. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Donors must be in general good health, weigh at least 110 pounds and be at least 17 years old (16 in Kansas with completed Parental Consent Form). New height and weight restrictions apply to donors younger than 19. Visit bloodisneeded.org to learn more.

LOTTERIES

Monday's numbers
Daily Pick 3: 5-2-7
Kansas Cash: 6-9-16-30-31 Super Cashball: 5 Estimated jackpot: \$1,060,000
2by2: Red: 7-22 White: 17-20
– From staff reports

Pharmacy owners found guilty in scheme

■ Sentencing not yet set for Lyons couple accused of running online 'pill mill.'

By JOHN GREEN
The Hutchinson News
jgreen@hutchnews.com

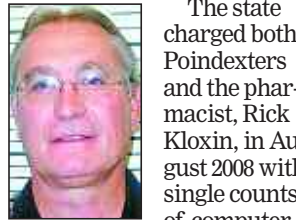
LYONS – The owners of a pharmacy in Lyons entered pleas Monday in connection with the operation of an alleged Internet "pill mill" scheme. A judge found Jolane Poindexter guilty on three felony counts after she pleaded no contest to the charges under a plea agreement, and her husband, Mark Poindexter, on six misdemeanors, according to the Kansas



M. POINDEXTER J. POINDEXTER

Attorney General's Office. Sentencing was not immediately set. Special agents of the attorney general's office shut down Hogan's Pharmacy in March 2008 following reports of illegal and unethical behavior related to online drug sales. Prosecutors accused the pharmacy operators of distributing prescription-only drugs to people throughout

the U.S. based on questionnaires that customers completed via the Internet. The law requires valid prescriptions from a doctor and one-on-one counseling to people who purchase the drugs.



KLOXIN

The state charged both Poindexters and the pharmacist, Rick Kloxin, in August 2008 with single counts of computer crime, conspiracy to commit computer crime and commercial bribery, as well as seven counts each of violations of the Pharmacy Act of Kansas and violations of the Kansas

Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

Jolane Poindexter pleaded no contest Monday in Rice County District Court and was then found guilty by the court of one count each of committing a computer crime and commercial bribery, both severity level 8 non-person felonies, and one count of conspiracy to commit computer crime, a severity level 10 felony. All carry presumptive probation.

Mark Poindexter was found guilty of six unclassified misdemeanors, including four counts of violating the Pharmacy Act of Kansas and two of violating the Kansas Food Act. He faces 30 to 60 days on each count.

The court found Kloxin guilty of 14 misdemeanor counts of violating Kansas pharmacy laws after he pleaded no contest in May 2009. The attorney general's office prosecuted the case.

Between the owners and pharmacist, each of the 17 counts originally charged was pleaded to by one of the participants, according to the attorney general's office.

"Kansas pharmacists play an important role in protecting the health and well-being of Kansans," Attorney General Stephen Six stated in a press release. "It is absolutely critical that we hold pharmacies accountable for violations like those found in Hogan's Pharmacy."

Yearly coat distribution meets seasonal need

By JOHN GREEN
The Hutchinson News
jgreen@hutchnews.com

Unseasonably cool temperatures over the past month have prompted a number of people needing winter coats to visit the Salvation Army or Ineeda Cleaners in advance of an annual coat giveaway. Perhaps anticipating the need, however, residents have stepped up donations this year, too, organizers said, ensuring plenty of warmth on hand for the weekend distribution. Started by the late John Neal, former owner of Ineeda Cleaners, and former KWBW Radio manager Dan Deming, the event will mark its 23rd year on Saturday.

"It's just something John always did and we want to keep that tradition alive, for Hutch and his spirit," said current Ineeda owner Chris Nelson. The annual distribution of free coats for children will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Hutchinson Salvation Army Thrift Store, 200 S. Main St. Children needing a coat must be present to try it on, said Mary Robbins, office manager at The Salvation Army.

Once Saturday's distribution is complete, vouchers for adults needing coats, or for children who couldn't be present, will be offered at the Salvation Army office, 700 N. Walnut St., Robbins said.

"From what they're telling me, there are lots of good coats available," Robbins said. "It should be a good distribution."

While not matching the 2,100-plus coats donated during the annual program's height, this year's donations are up significantly from a year ago, Nelson said.

"We started getting nervous about this time last year, but people have been very generous this year," Nelson said. "We've cleaned and sent over 960 coats and 30 blankets so far. We got that for the entire year last year."

There are another 400 to 500 coats collected and waiting in five bins at the dry cleaner yet to be cleaned, Nelson said, which should be accomplished in time for the giveaway. The



Ineeda Cleaners manager Terri Brungardt loads coats donated for the Coats for Kids program into a dry cleaning machine Monday.

Photos by Lindsey Bauman/The Hutchinson News

COAT DISTRIBUTION

What: Coats for Kids will distribute free coats for children in need.
When: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday
Where: Hutchinson Salvation Army Thrift Store, 200 S. Main St.
Also: Children needing a coat must be present to receive one.

business is not taking any additional donations for this year. "It's been amazing," Nelson said. There are plenty of coats in every size, including adult, Nelson said. Hats and gloves, which the Salvation Army has also been collecting, will be given away during the annual Christmas distribution, Robbins said. "So far we're getting a lot of them, too," she said. "We're doing real well."



Ineeda Cleaners employee Darnell Gaston hangs a coat donated for the Coats for Kids distribution, which will be Saturday at the Hutchinson Salvation Army Thrift Store, 200 S. Main St.

Loyalty center of woman's life

Things were at a lull Friday afternoon next to the big loom in the upstairs of Hutchinson's Et Cetra Shop.

That's because Phyllis Rinehart's weaving partner was off on a honeymoon. That left Rinehart with time on her hands.

But, despite recovering from broken shoulders, the dedicated volunteer didn't sit idly. Instead she was organizing strips of corduroy, chenille and denim that would be put on shuttles and then woven into rugs.

When her co-weaver, Jackie Yoder, returns, the two will get right back to creating throw rugs, with the proceeds going to local charities.

Because of the down time, and with a little coaxing, the 84-year-old Rinehart took time to reminisce about a life mainly spent in rural Kansas.

She traveled back to a vivid period of her life when she was 18 and working as a secretary at Hutchinson's Adela Hale Business School. World War II was raging, and the Navy base at Yoder was filled with landlocked sailors.

Rinehart and a girlfriend were doing their civic duty attending USO events. Her girlfriend had a penchant for jitterbugging and wanted Phyllis to come along.

That's how she met the Texan, Howard Rinehart. While her girlfriend's jitterbugging partner fell through, Howard and Phyllis made a

Kansas Journal



Kathy Hanks

lifetime commitment. From the beginning, married life was exciting.

Howard was transferred to Rhode Island and she was able to go along. At least until their first of four children were born. Then he was transferred to Hawaii and she went home to await the birth of their son, Gary.

While their dream was to have a farm, after the war they bought the Huntsville Mercantile Store. The typical general country store, located in Reno County on Fourth Avenue, was home and business in one.

Rinehart recalled how the store and filling station became a gathering place for the local domino players. They would sit for hours on keys and play the game.

"They didn't know when to go home," she said, laughing. But the Rineharts could see the handwriting on the wall. Rural people were driving to Hutchinson and Sterling to purchase their groceries, bypassing the small country store.

Work with Mobile Oil took the Rineharts to Satanta. It was there the family blossomed. Along with Gary,

they had sons Randy and Tim, and a daughter, Ann. Rinehart has happy memories from that period of life – it was a friendly community with really good schools.

Eventually their dream became a reality. They bought a farm north of Plevna.

"It was tough going," she said, recalling how her husband went ahead of the family and planted a garden.

"I about died when I saw it," she said, it was so huge. But they lived off that garden the first year. They also began raising sheep and built their flock up to 200.

"One bright day my dad came and said they were moving to town and wanted to know if we would buy their farm," she said.

They did, and their dream grew even bigger. It was a good life raising children, sheep, crops and flowers. The years sped by.

In 1989, Howard Rinehart died. Son Randy took over the farm and Phyllis continued to live out in the country for nine more years.

"It got lonesome," she admitted, and a grandson took over the place so she could move to a duplex at Mennonite Manor.

Friday, Rinehart could have stayed home what with her partner off on her honeymoon. But that's not this lady's style. She agreed to be a volunteer at the Et Cetera Shop years ago, and like all the commitments in her life, she sticks with it.

Siemens project, levee issue top city agenda

By EDIE ROSS
The Hutchinson News
eross@hutchnews.com

Future work on the Siemens project and the city's levee certification process will be discussed at this morning's Hutchinson City Council meeting.

The meeting will begin at 9 a.m. at Hutchinson City Hall, 125 E. Ave. B.

Among other things, the council will consider an agreement with Wilson and Co. for the second phase of the city's levee accreditation process.

Before January 2012, the 26 miles of levee that runs through Reno County and Hutchinson, South Hutchinson and Willowbrook must be certified. Without that certification, the levees will, for mapping purposes, be obsolete – leaving much more of the county in the flood zone and requiring more residents to purchase flood insurance.

In late June, Wilson and Co. completed phase one of the process, which included data collection and review. This phase cost \$177,000.

Since the end of June, the city has been coordinating with FEMA on some pieces of the work that both groups need to complete for their respective projects – local entities for levee certification and FEMA for mapping.

Those details of who is doing that work have been figured out and today the council will consider an agreement with Wilson and Co. for phase two work, which is not to exceed the cost of \$733,463. This phase will include a geotechnical boring of the levees to determine soil types, stability and seepage analysis. Another \$39,000 will be paid to the Army Corps of Engineers to complete hydrology work, bringing the total phase two cost to \$722,463.

The city of Hutchinson will fund 51 percent of the total cost of the levee certification process from its storm-water utility fee revenue. Hutchinson is paying for the majority of the project because it owns the levee system.

South Hutchinson agreed to pay 13 percent of the total certification cost; Willowbrook will fund 6 percent; and Reno County will fund 30 percent.

The council also will consider an agreement with the Kansas Department of Transportation to construct the railroad staging track for the Siemens facility being built in Salt City Business Park.

By executing the agreement, the city gives KDOT authority to obtain a maximum of \$844,800 in federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds for the project.