



## Beer section

Liquor store sells imports individually

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## Gazette Mom

Sally Sanchez has two grown children

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## Harvest

Rain makes grain for local farmers

Page 12

# EMPORIA GAZETTE WEEKEND

OCTOBER 10 AND 11, 2009

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## 'A Safe House'

Corner House helps clients get their lives back together



LARRY CALDWELL/GAZETTE

Above, a Corner house notebook lays on the end of the table as clients talk in a commons area. Right, masks are displayed that were made by clients during classes.



LARRY CALDWELL/GAZETTE

By RUSS MORGAN  
morgan@emporiagazette.com

On the outside, it looks like an oversized house on a block of ordinary houses.

Inside, it is filled with the activities of the people who live there, people making an earnest effort to get their lives on track.

Corner House is in the business of wellness, offering a broad range of services from substance abuse treatment to programs to help clients find and keep jobs.

"We give them the tools to sustain recovery; we provide lots of support through therapy and we encourage them to become employed as soon as they can," said Corner House director Sarah Riley-Hansen. "We want them to be productive citizens."

The recovery house offers a broad range of treatment for its clients, from inpatients focused on leaving destructive habits behind to outpatients trying to fit back into society. Its client base soon will expand thanks to a \$308,000 award from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, making Corner House the only recovery organization in the state to get money from the \$17 million grant program. According to the VA, the program is intended to help reduce the number of veterans who are homeless on any given night by 15 percent, or about 131,000 veterans across the country.

The money is intended to help organizations become preferred providers for certain veteran services. For Corner House, it will mean the ability to expand its services to female veterans, particularly those with dependent children.

The process to get the award took a year and a half, Hansen said, and involved a training course just for how to submit the application.

"Through that process, we had to identify the needs in Kansas," she said. "In interviewing with stakeholders and veterans service officials and community members, what we found was there is a great need throughout the state for services for veteran women and non-veteran women."

Corner House soon hopes to be able to help mothers with transitional housing, substance abuse treatment, employment support, childcare support and trauma therapy.

"We really carved out our niche through the application to say that in Kansas, we need to serve women with dependent children who need all those supports," Hansen said.

For its clients, Corner House currently offers a variety of treatment options focused on helping people move forward with their lives. Depending on the level of care necessary, the house offers group therapy, individual counseling and support in sustaining

Please see House, Page 18

## GRANTS GO TO LOCAL GROUPS

The Emporia Gazette

Two area organizations received separate grants to support efforts in and around the community.

The Mental Health Center of East Central Kansas has received a grant from the Tower Mental Health Foundation.

Attorney General Steve Six announced that \$48,028 was divided between three mental health centers across the state. Emporia's mental health center received \$15,828 to purchase laptop computers.

"This will allow the center's clinicians located in the public schools to remotely access electronic records and more efficiently serve their clients," a press release stated.

The Tower Foundation was created from a settlement between the Attorney General's Office and the Menninger Foundation. It is a non-profit corporation formed in 2007 and provides mental health services to Kansans and also provides support to mental health research organiza-

tions.

The Federal Highway Administration Awards awarded the Flint Hills Scenic Byway \$76,000 for Pioneer Bluffs Prairie information and an education center with visitor parking. Three projects were awarded in Kansas. The other two was for Digital Media for Web site development and marketing for Kansas scenic byways and Wetlands & Wildlife National Scenic Byway — Revealing the Road to the Byway Traveler Interpretive project.

A total of \$40.7 million was awarded in 43 states for 160 projects.

"I join Secretary LaHood in his commitment to protecting and promoting roads that are American icons," Administrator Victor Mendez said, of the Federal Highway Administration said. "We're proud to help tell each road's unique story."

The grants are part of the Federal Highway Administration's National Scenic Byways Program, which recognizes and provides funds for roads designated either locally or nationally.

## SOUTH AFRICAN COMPANY RELOCATING TO KANSAS

The Associated Press

MANHATTAN, KAN. — A South African animal health company is relocating its headquarters and research operation to Manhattan.

The Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce on Friday announced that Megastarter Inc. will initially bring 13 jobs to the area. Chamber CEO

Lyle Butler said that number should grow as the company gets federal approval for its products in North America and expands production.

Megastarter, started three years ago, makes a supplement that reduces digestive problems and weight loss in cattle as they transition from feeding on grass to grain in feedlots.

**THIS WEEK ON**  
**www.emporiagazette.com**

**THIS WEEK'S POLL**  
Do you approve of the city commission raising water rates 19 percent and trash rates 16 percent?

**LAST WEEK'S POLL**  
Do you approve of the Emporia school board spending \$1.6 million for a new artificial turf football field and track at the high school?

Yes - 18%  
No - 80%  
Undecided - 2%

Yes ..... 209 votes  
No ..... 952 votes  
Undecided ..... 21 votes  
1182 total votes

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**On Kansas' Safe Haven law:**

This appears to be a law that is sincerely aimed at protecting the innocent child even if that means giving up the right to punish the errant parent. It is good to see a law that gets those priorities straight.

I would rather see the babies go to deserving homes especially if the parent isn't able to provide. But I'm thinking down the road. I've heard junior high and high school kids say already that there is no reason to "use protection" because she can just give the baby away. Maybe they were kidding around, maybe not?

For the record, I think this is a good law. I think it's the best option for some babies and it provides another option to expecting mothers. I don't think it'll get abused because I doubt many women will want to go through the whole pregnancy process to just give the baby away. After the first couple "mistakes" I think they'll learn their lesson so they don't have to go through it again.

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LARRY CALDWELL/GAZETTE

Counselor Judith Schemm talks with client Patrick Kyles in one of the office areas at Corner House.



LARRY CALDWELL/GAZETTE

Clients Patrick Kyles, Heather Paxton and Samantha Dykes talk about their experiences at Corner House in Emporia.

# HOUSE

From PAGE 1

the path to recovery.

"This place is helping me get my life on track," said Patrick Kyles, a client of Corner House. "I feel like it's helping me get a new start."

Counselor Judith Schemm said the intent of the treatment program is to help clients identify their goals, dreams and desires and help them find ways to achieve them.

"We want them to be able to see clearly to those goals," Schemm said, "to be sober enough to say, 'I can do that.'"

Clients sometimes come into the program carrying an attitude of resistance, though.

"Then they recognize they have a problem and they need help," Schemm said. "It's wonderful to watch people grasp that, to change that way of thinking."

The building, at 418 Market St., has 40 beds for clients, arranged into dormitory-like rooms. Corner House even includes a weight room for its clients' use.

"It is a treatment center, but we want it to be comfortable," Schemm said. "The weight room is there because we encourage physical as well as mental well-being."

Success in the program can mean a number of things, depending on the client. A commitment to recovery is a commitment to a change in behavior, thinking and lifestyle, Hansen said.

havior, thinking and lifestyle, Hansen said.

"How I look at success is really all-encompassing," she said. "Success can mean that they are achieving the things in life that they want, that their family is taken care of and supported, that they feel that they're productive. People want to be productive in their lives. They want to be employed, they want to take care of their families, they want to be a good citizen and that, to me, is individual success."

Clients have all the support of Corner House staff, and they also can turn to each other for help, often developing a connection based on shared experiences.

"You can be very open here and no one's judging you," Kyles said. "Everyone's got the same problems you have."

Another client, Samantha Dykes, agreed. "It doesn't matter if it's alcohol or whatever, we all share the same things," she said. "We might have different addictions, but we're all the same."

As clients work through the program, they look forward to re-entering the outside world, but it can be a difficult process. Whether inpatient or outpatient, long-term or short-term, all are working toward the common goal of living ordinary, day-to-day lives.

"The challenge begins when you step out these doors," said client Heather Paxton. "At the end of the day, it's good to have a safe house to go to."



LARRY CALDWELL/GAZETTE

The architecture of Corner House is designed to fit into its residential neighborhood.

# FALCETTO

From PAGE 6

"Whenever it simulates you getting hit by small arms fire or RPG's (rocket propelled grenades) it definitely makes the person forget and gives them that suspension of disbelief that they are actually flying the aircraft," he added.

The simulators in Iraq are not linked together like the ones at Fort Hood, Texas, a feature which allows a greater number of pilots to fly together at one time, Covington said.

"That's where we try to practice our scheme of maneuver, operating as a larger force instead of a single aircraft," Covington said. "Although the flight model isn't

as realistic, the realism is much more tied in because you're talking to your wingmen, the people in your company and getting radio calls from people."

Covington said he has immersed himself into the simulation so heavily that he has forgotten he isn't in the air.

"I've found myself on the simulator flying a mission and then looked up and seen someone standing next to me and it really startled me," Covington said.

The simulator is used also to check maintenance skills, Covington said, to help get pilots familiar with some of the different features of the Apache.

"We give instrument check rides or have someone move from the front seat to back seat once they've been flying for a while," Covington said.

## KU scholarship

University of Kansas student Corinne Hirata Edds of Emporia has received a Summerfield and Watkins-Berger scholarship for fall 2009. The scholarship provides \$4,500 each year for four years, stated the news release from KU. Edds, a freshman, is studying pre-medicine. She is a graduate of Emporia High School and the daughter of Tracy Hirata and David Edds.

## WSU grads

Wichita State University summer 2009 graduates included two students from Emporia, Cynthia S. Moore, master's degree in nursing;



## COMMUNITY NEWS

and Julia A. Williams, bachelor's degree in nursing.

## Resident assistant

Aaron Ross Gillespie of Lebo, a junior studying computer engineering at the University of Kansas, has been selected as a resident assistant for the McCollum Residence Hall at KU. He is a graduate of Lebo High School and the son of Donnie and Vickie Gillespie.

## Man avoids felony charge for \$2 in chicken

**HUTCHINSON** — A Reno County prosecutor has decided that charging a Hutchinson man with a felony for stealing \$2 worth of chicken might be a little steep.

Napoleon Irving admitted taking the chicken Wednesday night. And he acknowledged that he had been barred from the same Dillons store three years earlier for shoplifting.

But he didn't think he deserved to be jailed on a \$10,000 bond, and the judge agreed and reduced the bond to \$2,000.

Judge Randy McEwen on Thursday told the prosecutor who argued for an aggravated burglary charge that the Legislature didn't intend to spend \$150,000 locking up someone for stealing \$2 worth of food.

Don't suffer from seasonal allergies this fall.

## Breathe Easy

Are you sneezing, wheezing, suffering from itchy eyes and nose, and coughing without end? You may be one of the millions of Americans suffering from seasonal allergies. The allergy specialists at Cotton-O'Neil Clinic can help you or your children return to a healthy, active life in any season.

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 <b>Levon Heidebrecht</b> , ASE master certified Mazda tech with 52 years experience	 <b>George Shove</b> , ASE master certified technician with 32 years experience	 <b>Shannon Dilts</b> , ASE master certified technician with 22 years experience	
 <b>Joe Templeton</b> , Towing Division Manager	 <b>Kyle Burt</b> , Wrecker Specialist	 <b>Kenny Mumma</b> , Radiator Specialist with 29 years experience	

MORE PHOTOS ON PAGE 23

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# CORNER HOUSE KITCHEN



LARRY CALDWELL/GAZETTE

Kitchen manager Dorothee McWilliams at work preparing a meal at Corner House.



LARRY CALDWELL/GAZETTE

The commercial-style kitchen at Corner House is set up to serve residents cafeteria style.

# MINNESOTA GOES AFTER PROPANE SUPPLIER FERRELLGAS

The Associated Press

ST. PAUL, MINN. — Minnesota Attorney General Lori Swanson sued propane distributor Ferrellgas L.P. on behalf of its residential customers on Friday, saying they ended up paying disproportionately high prices for home heating and cooking fuel.

A spokesman for the Overland Park, Kan.-based company accused Swanson of trying to regulate propane prices. Spokesman Jim Saladin said Ferrellgas wouldn't be the largest propane retailer in the state if its prices weren't competitive. The company has 50,000 Minnesota customers.

It was Swanson's fourth move to defend consumers in the past two weeks. Last week she targeted flimsy health insurance and unfulfilled job placement services for the unemployed. The week before it was debt assistance companies that provided little relief. The first-term Democrat is up for re-election next year. So far, no challengers have stepped forward.

Swanson announced the latest lawsuit at a Capitol news conference flanked by elderly people who heat their homes with propane. She said Ferrellgas violated state consumer fraud and trade laws by promising customers market prices but charging far more. Some users were also surprised with fees when they cut back on propane or tried to get their tanks removed.

"They're not charging a competitive market price," Swanson said. "In many cases they're charging far in excess of any semblance of a competitive market price."

Saladin said the company

discloses all its fees to customers.

Ferrellgas anticipated Swanson's lawsuit, filing a pre-emptive complaint against the attorney general in Ramsey County on Wednesday.

"We worked hard to build a good reputation in Minnesota, and we felt that it was important at a very basic level to protect that reputation," Saladin said.

Former Ferrellgas customers told of getting bills for propane at per-gallon prices far above the market rates published by the state Department of Commerce.

Ray Gierszewski, a retired plumbing and heating company owner who lives on Social Security in Hawley, Minn., said the company billed him \$5.27 per gallon for one delivery when the state listed the market price at \$1.77 per gallon.

Gierszewski said he also

had problems getting Ferrellgas to remove its tank from his property when he asked, and got hit with a \$199 fee for "low usage."

Ambrose Nowacki, a retiree in Detroit Lakes, Minn., said he took matters into his own hands after Ferrellgas charged him far above the state-listed market rate more than once.

"My tank rent was up in September of '07 so I called my friend and I said, 'Come over, we're going to load this up and we're going to dump it in their yard.' He said, 'It's illegal.' I said, 'Then we'll go to jail both.'"

Nowacki said they delivered the tank: "Done deal," he said.

Gierszewski said he quit using propane altogether after his run-ins with Ferrellgas.

"I went to electric — it's cheaper," he said.

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