“just walking up here, I can feel the joy of family and that’s what this is all about.”
Ryan Vincent
Acting director of the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation

First Time Homebuyer Program paves way for family move

BY LINDA MOWERY-DENNING
Ellsworth County Independent-Reporter

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ANDOPOLIS — When time officials went in search of a young family as representative of the state's first-time homebuyers, their journey ended at Kanopolis.

Against the leadership of their parents, their parents, their four children Friday accepted congratulations and gifts from the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation and other well-wishers. The Munozes purchased their family home about a year ago after qualifying for the agency's First Time Homebuyer Program.

"The state truly is here to help families as well as first-time homebuyers," said acting director Ryan Sharp.

Sharp said shining a spotlight on the Munoz family and other first-time homebuyers fits in with the governor's efforts at rural revitalization. Community benefits of homeownership, she said, include the stabilization of neighborhoods, economic growth and increased production and sales of goods and services.

Also in attendance were Kristin Haas of First Bank Kansas, who handled the home loan; Kanopolis mayor Anthony Hopkins; Stacie Schmidt of Ellsworth County's Smokey Hill Development Corporations; and Tammy McGrew of the Ellsworth Area Chamber of Commerce.

"Hopefully, Kanopolis will continue to grow for many years to come," he said.

Aron Munoz works for Klaus Machinery of Hays. Elizabeth Munoz works at the Ellsworth Steak House.

Aron and Elizabeth Munoz and their children, Jesus, 20 months; Lucy, 8, Amella, 12; and Armin, 4, are shown in front of their new home at Kanopolis.

Family

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The Ellsworth house will be built near the Good Samaritan Village, in the Canren Addition. Developers and the general contractor were to be in Ellsworth County this week to hammer out a timeline for construction.

Pete Ramsel, a representative of the developer, Pointe Royale, said the project will offer opportunities to local contractors and vendors during construction and management and maintenance employees once the homes are built.

Ramslad, who lives in Manhattan, was here in December to talk about the program with officials across Ellsworth County. At that time, the plan was to build 11 houses in Ellsworth, one at Williams, four each in Kanopolis and Hays, and one at Lorraine.

"These small developments come with very tight construction budgets... Kanopolis and Ellsworth work well logistically," Tobra Goff, a representative of Pointe Royale, said in a news release.

"This being our first pair in Ellsworth County, we need to get our feet wet — we will come back next year and apply for a Phase II in Ellsworth County," Stacie Schmidt of the Smokey Hill Development Corporation said the new homes will solve an immediate need for affordable rentals in the area. The demand was identified by a third-party market study prior to the submission of the tax credit application, she said.

Grain prices drop for the week

Prices paid for grain at the Ellsworth Co-op at the end of the business day Monday, June 10, were:

Wheat, bu. — $4.18, down 14 cents from June 3.

Milo, bu. — $3.41, down 8 cents.

Soybeans, bu. — $7.24, down 20 cents.

Corn, bu. — $3.86, down 8 cents.

The co-op has locations in Ellsworth, Black Wolf, Feltman, Hutchinsen, Hollywood and Kanopolis.

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CBD METING
J.H. Robbins Memorial Library
Ellsworth, KS
June 14th - 6:30 p.m.

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