

Guymon DAILY HERALD

Creating healthy places to live



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By Miranda Fleming

The Texas County Coalition and TSET are teaming up with the Oklahoma Turning Point Council and their vision to “create healthy places to live, work, learn and play.”

TSET Coordinator for Texas County, Kayla McCarter, told the Guymon Daily Herald, “Oklahoma ranks 46 out of the 50 healthiest states, so we’re trying to bring a healthier Oklahoma through certified healthy communities.”

McCarter went on to explain, five incentive programs for becoming “certified healthy,” including programs for schools, restaurants, campuses, businesses and communities. For any of the five programs, applicants must meet certain health worthy criteria, such as developing tobacco free policies, with the possibility of one of three levels of certification—Basic, Merit or Excellent.

In addition to being recognized as “certified healthy community,” participants can apply for incentive grants, which supply funding for enhancing wellness policies, such as tobacco and alcohol use prevention, improving nutrition and physical activity, addressing built environments and transportations, health services and community education. Grants amounts are based on size of the community, as well as level of certification achieved.

For more information, on any of the certified healthy programs or to get started, visit the Turning Point website at www.okturningpoint.org or contact Kayla McCarter at the Texas County Health Department at 338-8544 or email her at KaylaM@health.ok.gov.