

# Norcatur man to be ordained

Jim Plotts, Norcatur, will be ordained an evangelist during 10:40 a.m. services Sunday, Jan. 25 at the Norton Christian Church. Elders of the church along with minister, Jeff Nielsen and youth minister, Mike Sander will conduct the ceremony.

Mr. Plotts graduated in 1966 from Sunset International Bible Institute in Lubbock, Texas. He spent the next five years in Norton as the minister of the



Jim Plotts

Church of Christ. In 1972, Mr. Plotts left full-time ministry and moved to Colorado where he worked as a carpenter.

He returned to northwest Kansas in 1986 and formed Plotts Construction.

Mr. Plotts became an active member of the Norton Christian Church and in 1999 began a ministry at Norton Correctional Facility. He conducts a Friday night Bible study and a Sunday afternoon chapel service. Mr. Plotts is also a volunteer for Casas por Cristo, a ministry in El Paso, Texas, that provides housing for families in Juarez, Mexico. He serves that ministry as a building advisor to volunteer teams.

He has also filled the pulpit from time to time at the Arapahoe, Neb., Church of Christ; the Lenora Church of God; the Presbyterian Church in Danbury, Neb.; the Oberlin Church of Christ; the United Church of Oberlin; and the Methodist churches at Lyle, Norcatur and Clayton.

Mr. Plotts and his wife Carolyn, have five children, Halley Roberson, Washington; James D. Plotts, Tacoma, Wash.; Jennifer Auxier, Oberlin; Becky Sparks, San Antonio, Texas; Kara Bravo, Dallas, Texas; and six grandchildren.

# Food Check-Out Day will be Feb. 5

**NORTON** - Food in America is affordable. In fact, in only about 40 days, the average American will have earned enough disposable income to pay for his or her food supply for the entire year, according to the Kansas Farm Bureau.

As a result, the Norton County Farm Bureau is celebrating Feb 5 as Farm Bureau's Food Check-Out Day. According to the latest statistics compiled by the Agriculture Department's (USDA's) Economic Research Service, American families and individuals currently spend, on average, just 10 percent of their disposable personal income for food.

Norton County Farm Bureau, along with these area grocery stores - Country Corner in Lenora, Almema Market in Almema, Norton Shop and Save and Jamboree Foods in Norton are giving away a \$50 food gift certificate to a lucky shopper in each store on Feb. 5.

Applying the current statistic to the calendar year, it means the average household will have earned enough disposable income — that portion of income available for spending or saving — to pay for its annual food supply in just 37 days.

"Not only is America's food supply the world's safest, but it's also the most affordable," said Dan Skrdlant, President of Norton County Farm Bureau. "It speaks

well of our nation's increasing standard of living, which would certainly be reduced without the safe, abundant and affordable domestic food supply produced by America's farmers and ranchers."

In comparison to Food Check-Out Day, Tax Freedom Day, the day the average American had earned enough money to pay federal, state and local taxes, was April 19 last year, according to the Tax Foundation.

"I find it amazing that people can pay for their yearly food supply nearly three months earlier than it would take them to satisfy their tax burden," Skrdlant said. "Rather than being an economic burden, food remains quite a bargain for shoppers. That's the way it should be."

Skrdlant hopes Americans will come to understand that the high-quality, affordable food they enjoy is "a product of our successful food production and distribution system, as well as America's farmers retaining access to effective and affordable crop protection tools."

"This day should hold meaning for most Americans," he said. "As food producers, we are concerned that some Americans cannot afford to buy the food they need, but we are proud of the role Kansas farmers play in making our food supply more affordable for all."

The percent of disposable income spent for food has declined over the last 25 years. In 1970, Food Check-Out Day would have been 14 days later — Feb. 21. According to the department, food is more affordable today due to a widening gap between growth in per-capita incomes and the amount of money spent for food.

This overall decrease is made more notable by the fact that trends indicate Americans are buying more expensive convenience food items for preparation at home, as well as more food away from home.

The Agriculture Department's latest statistic, compiled for 2002, includes food and non-alcoholic beverages consumed at home and away from home. This includes food purchases from grocery stores and other retail outlets, including food purchases with food stamps and vouchers for the Women, Infants and Children's (WIC) program. The statistic also includes away-from-home meals and snacks purchased by families and individuals, as well as food furnished to employees.

"Food Check-Out Day tracks the amount of income needed by Americans to purchase food on an annual basis," Skrdlant said. "It should be useful over time to measure fluctuations in the affordability of food."

# HONOR ROLL

## Norton Junior High Second Nine Weeks Highest Honors

Seventh Grade — Laura Lee Baird, Ashley Colip, Kara Jo Jones, Charli Lawson, Wiyanna Paxton

Eighth Grade — Lacy Ellis, Nolan Evans, Scotty Marx, Tabitha Vincent

### Honor Roll I

Seventh Grade — Phillip Becker, Brittany Boucher, Hayli Bozarth, Amanda Delimont, Nathan Felton, Hannah Fulton, Bryce Lofgreen, Kyle Mindrup, Taylor Rossi

### Honor Roll II

Seventh Grade — Zach Bainter, Kerby Brandyberry, Cody Bredemeier, Vernon Carlton, Zach Dreher, Josh Gallentine, Emily Grose, Liz Hansen, Logan Kelly, Brock Lauer, Kayla Scheetz

Eighth Grade — Andrew Black, Todd Bolt, Chantille Campbell, Sara Campbell,

Kayla Cook, David Counter, Kyle Edgett, Bryce Engelbert, Layne Graham, Rachael Hickman, Galen Hildebrand, Logan Kats, Megan Kats, Ben Kaus, Karlynn Kent, Zach Mannel, Cydnie Milnes, Levi Ninemire, Jessica Strickland, Luke VanSkiike, Desire'e Vilar

### First Semester Highest Honors

Seventh Grade — Laura Lee Baird, Kara Jo Jones, Charli Lawson

### Honor Roll I

Seventh Grade — Phillip Becker, Brittany Boucher, Hayli Bozarth, Ashley Colip, Amanda Delimont, Hannah Fulton, Josh Gallentine, Logan Kelly, Bryce Lofgreen, Kyle Mindrup, Wiyanna Paxton, Taylor Rossi

### Honor Roll II

Seventh Grade — Zach Bainter, Kerby Brandyberry, Cody Bredemeier, Vernon Carlton, Zach Dreher, Nathan Felton, Kayla Foley, Jessica Gilgenbach, Emily Grose, Liz Hansen, Brock Lauer,

## Jennings Honor Roll First Semester

Seniors — Grant Bailey, Andrew Coiner, Sara Kier, Brett McKenna, Katie Randolph

### Juniors — None

Sophomores — Courtney Gillespie, Nakita Graf, Elise Kinser, Jake Kramer

Freshmen — Kim Coiner, Brett Linden, Marcus McKenna, Seth Ritter

### Eighth Grade — Brittany Ritter

Seventh Grade — Jacinta Carter, Brian Linden, Ryan McEvoy, Stephanie Stone

### Sixth Grade — Marissa Baker

## New officers elected in Almema club

The Almema Study Club met Thursday, Jan. 8, at the Almema Senior Center. Jean Leuszler gave the devotions.

She talked on friendship and happiness, recited the poem "On the Wings of a Prayer" by Helen Steiner Rice, and "Prayer for the New Year" by Kay Hoffman.

Adelia Wilnerd had the program "A Town Called Cucumber." She gave a report on the origin of town names, some humorous, geographical, some named for famous

people or places in other countries, and some just happened.

After the flag salute the secretary and treasurer's report were read and approved. Thank you's were read from organizations and individuals.

Phyllis Volgamore and Alice Kuiper, nominating committee, presented the list of proposed officers for the coming year. It was voted to elect them unanimously. The new officers will be: President Adelia Wilnerd, Vice-President

Alberta Geil and Secretary/Treasurer Helmi Moody.

It was voted to give a \$200 scholarship to a Northern Valley senior.

Roll call "Unforgettable Fashions" was answered by eight members. After the Collect, hostess Alberta Geil served refreshments during the social hour.

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# Norton student in national bee

Marcus Herman, a 6th grade student in Mrs. Slipke's class at Eisenhower Elementary School in Norton, won the school-level competition, Jan. 13, in the National Geographic Geography Bee.

Other competitors were Taylor Medder, second place; R.J. Ellis, third place; Trey Millan; Melinda Becker; Nicole Pavelka; Kyra Fulton; James Matheson; and Matt Miller.

Marcus, the son of Claire and Joe Herman, competed against classroom winners from each of the fourth through sixth grade classrooms. Now he has to complete a written test to earn a slot at the state level Geography Bee.

The National Geographic Society will provide an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington, D.C., for state champions to participate in the national championship on May 25-26. The winner of the competition will win a \$25,000 college scholarship.



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