

## Writer says: 'I was there 24/7'

To the Editor,  
I gave birth to my children so that my husband and I could raise our children. We made the choice together that we would be our children's only primary care givers. We knew we were in the minority. We knew we would have to live poorly on a single income. Yet we felt it was our joyfully responsibility to BE THERE for our children 24/7.

I was there when each of our precious toddlers:  
said their first word,  
walked their first step reaching out to us as they finished — falling into our embrace,  
forevery 'boo-boo' that needed a mother's tender kiss and a band-aid,  
to teach them the dangers of reaching out to touch a hot stove with a slap on the hand,

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to marvel with them as they discovered the ant hill, the butterfly and robin in the tree,  
to see the joy and glee when they began to understand written language,  
their abc's,  
to show them how to share their toys with their siblings,  
for every illness I protectively held them, rocked them and gave them their medicines,  
to pray over them and with them,  
to sing to them songs of our faith,  
to show them the love, the wonder and the glory of God,  
to be there for them always.

Now, a decade later, they treat me like a queen. They look to me to continue to guide them, teach them, nurture them and prepare them for the unique calling each has upon their lives. As they spread their wings to fly on the winds of their future, I know and they know, that they have had a good, stable, fulfilling childhood, birthed in the heart and life of their mother.

I cannot thank God enough for this deeply satisfying and fulfilling life as a full time mother to my children and as the life-long helpmate, friend and love of my husband.

To the all too few mothers who have chosen to stay home with their young children 24/7.

Robin Somers  
Norton

## Wheat producer solicits your help

To the Editor,  
Discussion has recently popped up about changing the structure of the Farm Bill, even eliminating the direct payment. Wheat growers have ONLY received the direct payment over the term of the last Farm Bill, so I would like to lay out why wheat growers are actually supporting an increased direct payment.

First, the decoupled direct contract payment is the least market-distorting program in the farm policy arsenal. Because the direct payment avoids market distortion as much as possible, it is also the most World Trade Organization-friendly program in farm policy. As a commodity that exports almost half its domestically produced product, being trade-friendly is extremely important.

Most importantly to wheat growers over the past five years, the direct payment program is the only program that assures a safety net in times of droughts or other complete crop losses. Other than crop insurance, this is all that can carry a grower into the next year if Mother Nature deals an uncontrollable fatal blow.

While wheat growers continue to support the three-legged safety net, the direct payment has been the most beneficial program for us, and we see the merits it has. Now

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is the time to raise the rate of the Farm Bill's most predictable program, to be equitable among all crops.

Please join me by contacting your Members of Congress and telling them why this program is so important to you.

Sincerely,

Herb Mattson  
Wheat Producer  
Director, Kansas Association  
of Wheat Growers  
Colby

• Senator Brownback  
Overland Park Phone: (913) 492-6378 Fax: (913) 492-7253  
Pittsburg Phone: (620) 231-6040 Fax: (620) 231-6347 Topeka Phone: (785) 233-2503 Fax: (785) 233-2616 Wichita Phone: (316) 264-8066 Fax: (316) 264-9078  
Washington, DC Phone: (202) 224-6521 Fax: (202) 228-1265  
http://brownback.senate.gov/  
• Senator Roberts  
Overland Park Phone: (913) 451-9343 Fax: (913) 451-9446  
Topeka Phone: (785) 295-2745 Fax: (785) 235-3665  
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Dodge City Phone: (620) 227-2244 Fax: (620) 227-2264  
Washington, DC Phone: (202) 224-4774 Fax: (202) 224-3514  
http://roberts.senate.gov/  
• Congressman Jerry Moran  
Hays Phone: (785) 628-6401 Fax: (785) 628-3791  
Hutchinson Phone: (620) 665-6138 Fax: (620) 665-6360  
Salina Phone: (785) 309-0572 Fax: (785) 827-6957  
Washington, DC Phone: (202) 225-2715 Fax: (202) 225-5124  
http://www.house.gov/moran/  
• Congressman Todd Tiahrt  
Wichita Phone: (316) 262-8992 Fax: (316) 262-5309  
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http://www.house.gov/tiahrt/  
• Congressman Dennis Moore  
Overland Park Phone: (913) 383-2013 FAX: (913) 383-2088  
Kansas City Phone: (913) 621-0832 FAX: (913) 621-1533  
Lawrence Phone: (785) 842-9313 FAX: (785) 843-3289  
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http://moore.house.gov/  
• Congresswoman Nancy Boyda  
Topeka Phone: (785) 234-8111 Fax: (785) 234-9111  
Pittsburg Phone: (620) 231-3011 Fax: (620) 231-4011  
Washington, DC Phone: (202) 225-6601 Fax: (202) 225-7986  
http://boyda.house.gov/

## Thumbs Up to . . .

✓ **Bill Nelson**, on an outstanding year as Kansas State Eagles President. Enjoy the Saturday evening festivities. (called in)

✓ **Pastor Jeff and Linda Van Der Weele**, on your 25 years of marriage. (called in)

✓ **Dan and Brenda Dole**, on your new adventure, Adventures in Eating. (e-mail)

✓ **Police Chief Lynn Menagh**, on your many years of dedicated service to law enforcement. (e-mail)

✓ **The Arts Council Committee**, for the dinner/dance program. Delicious meal, good music. (called in)

✓ **Robert and Diane Mizell**, on the honor accorded by the Reno County Chamber of Commerce.

✓ **The editor**, for defending our freedom of the press in his "Imus" editorial. (e-mail, R.S.)

(To submit a name or names, please e-mail tomd@nwkanas.com, call 877-3361 or 877-6908, mail to 215 S. Kansas Avenue, Norton, drop by the office, or fax 877-3732. Please keep in mind this column is intended to point out the positive side of life in the Norton area. Thanks!-td)

## Take me home country roads...



A major attraction in Norcat, recently, was the return of The Jackson Brothers to play their style of country music for patrons of The Cardinal Bar and Grill. Dallas Jackson, far left, played the steel guitar, Harlan Palmer, center, the lead singer, is not a brother, but a good friend, and Delbert Jackson played keyboard. — Telegram photo by Carlyn Plotts

## Kids spend a day in their parents' shoes

(Continued from Page 1)  
encouraging employees to bring their children, both boys and girls, to work with them for the day to experience what their parents do. The recommended ages are 8 through 12.

Adrienne was provided an activity book, a work day diary and

a book about farm facts that she will be able to take back to school and share with her classmates.

During her day at work with her mother, Adrienne accompanied her mom to the post office and to the bank.

She helped file papers with her mother's supervision and helped

sort posters that had been sent in for a poster contest to the Norton County Conservation District. She also mastered the paper shredder.

Adrienne said, "My favorite thing was getting to help all the people my Mom works with."

## Wildlife, parks hold youth day on May 5

(Continued from Page 1)  
fishing clinic, sponsored by the Longspur Chapter of Pheasants Forever, and an archery clinic, sponsored by the Norton Archery Club.

"We will also have the Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks Laser Hunting and Shooting

Simulator," he said. "It will duplicate many hunting situations and target shooting scenarios, and should be fun for the kids."

All youngsters taking part in the Outdoor Kansas for Kids Day will receive a free shirt, gift and will be registered for additional prizes. They can also enter an OK Kids

picture contest for a chance to win a monetary prize, said Mr. Mathes. Events will get underway at 8:30 a.m. and kids should meet at the park office.

Anyone interested in sponsoring an event or helping that day can contact the park office at (785) 877-2953.

## Northern Valley forensics entertains with dinner

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plus adding some entertaining skits.

The menu will be spaghetti, breadsticks, salad, and desserts.

Cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students 12 and younger.

If you choose to skip dinner and just come for "The Show", a free-will offering will be

taken.

This performance is a dress rehearsal for state forensics competition May 5.

## Congressman studies hunger in Africa

KHARTOUM, SUDAN - In his role as co-chair of the House Hunger Caucus, Congressman Jerry Moran accompanied House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer of Maryland to the African country of Sudan to discuss the ongoing crisis in the Darfur region with government officials and humanitarian leaders. Nearly half a million people have been killed throughout the course of this conflict. Another two million people have been displaced from their homes within Darfur and hundreds of thousands have been forced to flee into the neighboring country of Chad. Refugees are suffering from severe malnourishment and disease.

"Villages are being attacked and crops destroyed," Congressman Moran said. "Thousands of people are without food and water and are dependent on relief organizations until the violence comes to an end. No political struggle should cause

the people of a nation to struggle for survival. In a world where we have an abundance of food, we cannot let anything — including a country's government — get between a hungry child and food."

The crisis began in February 2003 when two groups emerged to challenge the Sudanese government's treatment of certain tribes in Darfur. The conflict escalated when the government of Sudan and its allied militia — the Janjaweed — began a campaign of terror against civilians to stop the movement.

In Sudan, the congressman met with government officials, including Mohamed Yousuf Kebir, the Governor of North Darfur, and Major General Luke Aprezi, African Union Mission in Sudan Force Commander, to discuss ways to end the conflict in Darfur

and the urgency of allowing United Nations peacekeepers into Sudan. He also toured the Alsalam Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camp where 47,000 refugees live in crowded, deplorable conditions. Congressman Moran and the delegation were briefed on the efforts of organizations taking part in the humanitarian mission in Darfur, including the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Feed the Children and Catholic Charities. These groups have come under attack and been forced to limit their operations.

The congressman was recently named a co-chairman of the House Hunger Caucus. Members of the caucus work to raise awareness about issues surrounding hunger and the important role of American grown agricultural products.

Reach The  
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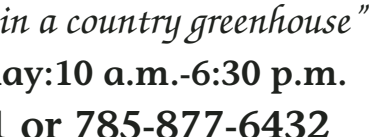
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