

# 'Yes, you have one, too'



Jan Volgamore, left, works in the physical therapy wing of Norton County Hospital. She showed a plastic replica of a spine to Northern Valley first graders and explained how it is similar to building blocks. She also let the children test some of her hand weights.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

## Sunflower joins nationwide group

Sunflower Electric Power Corporation's Board of Directors, at its March meeting, approved the investment required to become one of the founding members of the National Renewables Cooperative Organization.

The organization is a nationwide group of electric cooperatives jointly working to develop renewable energy projects.

Currently, more than half the states in the nation have adopted renewable portfolio standards (RPS). In fact, the Kansas Legislature is currently considering the adoption of those standards which would require utilities to have 10 percent of their peak load coming from renewable facilities by 2012, then increasing to 20 percent by 2020. The federal government is also considering a national renewable standard. Generation and transmission cooperatives like Sunflower, unaffiliated distribution cooperatives, and partial requirements cooperatives that have the legal ability to participate in the wholesale market are eligible for membership in national renewables cooperative.

According to Sunflower President and CEO Earl Watkins, "NRCO offers cooperatives a way to pool their resources and efforts into a single national program that shows support for renewables

and will put co-ops in a proactive position if a national standard for renewable energy becomes law."

Watkins added that the national organization also serves as a means for cooperatives that don't have a lot of opportunity for development of wind, solar or other green power to participate in a national renewables program. He said, "NRCO will help us facilitate wind projects and create new Kansas jobs to export Kansas wind energy elsewhere and import revenue."

During the same meeting, the Sunflower Board of Directors also adopted a renewable energy policy. The purpose of the policy is to establish a position of public support for distributed generation, including those often referred to as small wind or community wind projects, and a consumption goal of 25 percent renewable energy by 2025 for Sunflower and the Mid-Kansas Electric Company (MKEC), a regional utility owned by Sunflower's six member distribution cooperatives.

Mr. Watkins, speaking about the board's decision, said, "Once again, our board is setting Sunflower and MKEC on a path to meet our consumers' needs by pursuing the goals contained in this renewable energy policy."

The board's policy decision

directs Sunflower's staff to work to develop smaller wind projects that can provide benefits for communities in the service area. It also calls on both utilities to work with developers to support commercial wind, biomass and solar projects where possible.

Bob Johnson, Sunflower's executive manager of engineering and energy services, noted that the feasibility of all renewable energy purchases will be based primarily on long-term economics.

Johnson said, "Acceptable pricing will be based on the cost of energy displaced by the renewable energy purchase."

Sunflower and Mid-Kansas will also be developing "green energy rider" rate schedules to facilitate the sale of renewable energy certificates, also known as "green tags" to their members' retail customers, if a sufficient market develops for such sales.

Sunflower's member cooperatives include Lane-Scott Electric Cooperative, Dighton; Pioneer Electric Cooperative, Ulysses; **Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Norton**; Victory Electric Cooperative Association, Dodge City; Western Cooperative Electric Association, WaKeeney; and Wheatland Electric Cooperative, Scott City.

when it expired June 30, and she was no longer employed after Monday.

Many faculty members attended the special meeting to show support for Bishop. Deb Bickner, Faculty Alliance spokesperson, provided a statement to the board. It read:

"This is a statement of support for Dr. Kris Bishop. In her role as the vice president of Academic Affairs, we have found her to be honest, hard-working, and fair.

"She has received high marks from faculty in her evaluations. In her position, she has met faculty expectations in her adherence to high academic standards.

"Her top priority has always been the success of Colby Community College and its students. We feel that she is an asset to Colby Community College in her administrative position."

Bickner, who is the president of the Alliance, on a personal note said she appreciated the work Bishop did. "I felt that she was very supportive of me as a faculty member," Bickner said. "She was easy to work with and easy to approach. I enjoyed working with her and will miss her."

Bicker added that she didn't know why the board of trustees decided not to renew her contract.

Following personnel actions by the board, a search for both positions has begun in hopes of filling both jobs before the June 30 contract date.

## Colby College loses two

By Patty Decker

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The vice-president of business affairs, Dan Erbert, resigned and the vice-president of academic affairs, Kris Bishop's contract was terminated during a special meeting Friday by the Colby Community College trustees.

After a closed door session to discuss personnel matters, the board returned to open session and took action on the two administrative employees.

Dan Erbert said he had accepted the job in Colby in December 2004 to be closer to his ailing, elderly father, who lived in Stratton, Colo. Following his father's death many months ago; however, Erbert said, he now had few ties to the region.

"The job in Colby provided an opportunity to spend time with him," he said.

In his resignation letter, Erbert said he thanked the staff, trustees and citizens of Thomas County for allowing him to serve as business officer for the college.

As for Bishop, Trustee Mark Winger read a resolution stating the trustee unanimously approved terminating her employment.

"Colby Community College administrators are employees-at-will and the employment relationship may be terminated at any time, with or without cause," he read.

Bishop was given notice that her contract would not be renewed

# Husky forensics a busy bunch

At Smith Center

Thursday afternoon, the following Northern Valley forensics students traveled to Smith Center for their seventh meet of the year: Samuel Field, Stanton Nelson, Travis Redeker, Jordan Herman, Hannah Hawks, Michael Callaway, Skyler Harris, Bryce Bird, Brittney Braun, Megan Cole, Christina Anderson and Amanda Hawks.

There were only 11 teams present at the meet, but the competition was fierce. At this time of the year, students are putting the finishing touches on their speeches and performances. After two preliminary rounds, several students made it to the finals.

Those performing in the final round and their placings were: Stanton & Jordan - Improvised Duet Acting, 2nd place; Michael & Christina - Improvised Duet Acting, 4th place; Stanton - Oration, 3rd place; Amanda - Serious Solo, 2nd place; Bryce - Extemporaneous, 6th place; Samuel - Poetry, 3rd place; and Hannah - Poetry, 1st place.

Norton finished first Hill City second, Hays High third, Oberlin fourth and Northern Valley came in with a strong fifth place.

"That may sound like a long way from first, but when you take into account that Northern Valley did not have a full team as did the others, and there were only 29 points separating first and fifth places, I am extremely proud of the team and their efforts," said coach Ken Tharman.

At Hays

Saturday morning we loaded up eight forensic students and headed

south to Hays. The team was made up of Amanda Hopkins, Travis Redeker, Bryce Bird, Samuel Field, Christina Anderson, Bryant Tharman, Matt Dole, and Kayla Field. Barb Redeker volunteered her time as judge, driver and sponsor.

"This was not a huge meet as I thought it might have been, school wise, but there were many entries, student wise.

"Since we are entering the final month of competitions, kids are very intent on getting qualified for state.

"Needless to say, they are all at the top of their game with memorization and acting," Mr. Tharman said.

Those that made it to the final round and their placings were: Matt & Christina - Improvised Duet Acting, 5th place; Bryce - Extemporaneous, 6th place; Kayla - Serious Solo, 3rd; Matt - Poetry, 2nd; Bryant - Prose, 3rd; and Travis - Humorous Solo, 3rd.

"I know there was a lot of excitement in the air that day. Some was the kids and a lot was mine.

"There seems to be an added element of pride in your team when they all do well. Our next meet will be on Tuesday, April 1.

At Phillipsburg

Tuesday, April 1, nine students took the road in two suburbans heading for Phillipsburg. They were Amanda Hopkins (Serious Solo), Hannah Hawks (Poetry & Improvised Duet Acting), Travis Redeker (Humorous Solo), Brittney Braun (Informative), Bryant Tharman (Prose), Skyler Harris (Prose), Stanton Nelson (Improvised Duet Acting & Oration),

Kayla Field (Improvised Duet Acting & Serious Solo), and Bryce Bird (Oration & Extemporaneous Speaking).

Those making it to the finals and their placings were: Stanton - Oration, 6th; Kayla - Serious Solo, 3rd; and Hannah - Poetry, 2nd.

At Ransom

April 2, these Huskies for the League Forensics meet in Ransom: Skyler Harris (Oration & Poetry), Jordan Herman (Humorous Solo & Duet), Travis Redeker (Humorous Solo & Duet), Amanda Hopkins (Serious Solo & Duet), Hannah Hawks (Extemporaneous & Duet), Michael Callaway (Duet & Improvised Duet Acting), Matt Dole (Poetry), Bryant Tharman (Prose), Christina Anderson (Improvised Duet Acting & Duet), and Megan Cole (Duet).

"After a short night and a long ride, we arrived at Western Plains High School for the League tournament.

"There were four schools from within the league present. To make it a qualifying meet for state, four other schools were invited to bring students that had not previously qualified yet this year," coach Tharman said.

After two preliminary rounds, the following students made it to the finals: Hannah & Amanda - DUET, 2nd; Matt - Poetry, 4th; Skyler - Prose, 5th and Oration, 3rd; Bryant - Prose, 3rd; Jordan - Humorous Solo, 3rd; Travis - Humorous Solo, 4th; Amanda - Serious Solo, 2nd; and Hannah - Extemporaneous, 4th.

"Thanks to the efforts of the entire team, Northern Valley finished in 2nd place," Mr. Tharman said.

## College recognizes Logan student

Amber Houser, a sophomore from Logan, has been selected as the March Student of the Month at Colby Community College.

She is a 2006 graduate of the college's Horse Production program and will graduate in May from the Veterinary Technology program. She has accepted a job following graduation at the Norton Animal Health Center.

Amber has served as treasurer

of the Student Veterinary Technician Program and designed shirts for the past two years for the Vet Tech and equestrian teams. In addition, she has served as a resident assistant for three years in Living Center East.

She was nominated by Vet Tech program director Dr. Jennifer Martin.

"Amber has consistently demonstrated a positive attitude and

is very willing to take on extra responsibilities," said Dr. Martin.

"She is also very good at making sure all tasks have been completed and following through on all activities. She pays great attention to details. Amber has demonstrated great leadership potential in various school and club activities and will make an excellent veterinary technician and be a great leader," Dr. Martin said.

## Beef Roundup scheduled April 17

Kansas State University's Agricultural Research Center at Hays told *The Norton Telegram* is has scheduled its Beef Roundup for Thursday, April 17.

The annual event will begin with registration at 11:30 a.m. and lunch at noon in the center's Hays Arena. There is no charge to attend and lunch is complimentary.

The roundup, which is open to beef producers and anyone else in the area, will provide an overview

of research projects ongoing at the center.

The 11 presentations are:

- Preconditioning and weaning management;
- Comparison of stocking strategies for western Kansas rangelands;
- Sensors to monitor illness in cattle;
- Effect of marbling and backfat

on cow productivity;

- Walking tour of the feedlot;
- Effects of dietary vitamin A level and weaning age on beef carcass quality;
- Comparison of placing stockers on grass or directly on feed;
- Effects of implanting and feeding zilpaterol on performance, carcass characteristics and subprimal meat yields on fed cull cows.

### TFI is Hosting a FREE Foster Parent Training for area Foster Parents



Vicki Beiser will be speaking on Childhood Illnesses. DEU's will be given. Please join us on April 21 from 7-9 p.m. in the basement meeting room at Prairie Land Electric on W. Hwy. 36 in Norton, Kansas

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