

CASA director asks county board for annual allotment

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Judges asked for volunteers to help several children, some of whom were neglected or abused, through the court system in Norton County last year.

Kristal Stanton, executive director for CASA, the group which helps children who end up in the court system, reported to the Norton County commissioners on Monday and asked them for the group's yearly allotment.

Each year for the past three, she said, the group has asked for \$2,500 and each year the county gives them \$2,000.

Ms. Stanton gave the commissioners a report for 2007 on the six counties the group serves in the 17th Judicial District. Altogether in Graham, Osborne, Smith, Norton, Phillips and Decatur counties judges requested help with 32 children. CASA was able to help most of those. However, there are shortages of volunteers in some counties — Decatur has none — which doesn't allow all children to be served.

The group operated on a \$48,000 budget for 2007.

The group gets its 46 percent of its money, about \$22,000, from fund raising.

The biggest, and probably the most fun money raiser is the

Chocolate for CASA party each February. Elaine Mann of Norton organizes this each year, Ms. Stanton said.

Other fund raisers include a No Show Flower Show, which is basically a direct mailing where people receive a packet of flower seeds with a request to stay home, plant the seeds and send in a donation, and the sale of Yankee Candles.

Last year the group got 19 percent of its money from grants and 6 percent from donors.

The six counties provide 28 percent of the budget, she said, with Graham giving \$500, Decatur, \$1,000; Norton, \$2,000; Osborne, \$2,500; Phillips, \$3,000; and Smith, \$3,500.

Ms. Stanton said that its been a busy year for the group.

"We have become very active at the legislative level," she said, adding that the state organization of CASA groups is trying to get a sales tax exemption for purchases of things like paper and equipment.

Also the 17th Judicial District group, which she runs, has taken over the Hays program in Ellis County, Ms. Stanton said.

We have helped them rebuild their program, she said, noting that the group has kept the programs separate, including separate ex-

penses and income. However, she noted helping Ellis County has helped the 17th Judicial District program because some expenses are shared and thus less. Ellis County has contracted with the 17th Judicial District group for service through the end of this year, she said.

Ms. Stanton said that the program runs mostly on volunteers. The group had more than 1,200 volunteer hours from board, staff and advocates which saved \$32,000 last year.

She said that the volunteers are trained and paired with a child through the entire court case. Each volunteer can only take two children at a time, she said, because time and continuity are the important things they can provide the children.

Volunteers also do an independent investigation at the same time, she said, because others working the case just don't have the time to find out a lot of things and they change as the case goes forward.

Norton County has two new board members, Dale Carlson and Renee Griffith, who runs White Field Coffee, she said. The county has an open board position, she said. Mrs. Mann, helps in an advisory capacity and runs the Chocolate fund raiser.



These antique tractors are just two of the dozens and dozens of tractors that will be on display during the Sunflower Pioneer Power Association's Antique Machinery, Threshing, Power and Car Show scheduled for this weekend in Alma.

— Photo courtesy of SPPA

Almena ready for big weekend event

Twenty-seven years ago, 17 people came together for the purpose of forming an antique machinery association. Spearheading the movement was Jerry Bantam and the idea has grown into the Sunflower Pioneer Power Association.

In 1997, the association bought ground in Almena and moved their buildings and equipment from Elmwood Park. Since then more changes have come about: a school house, a train depot and shed have been added to the display. A kitchen with shade was built on the grounds from wood salvaged from a barn owned by John Kingham.

Every year the association hosts an antique machinery, threshing power and car show. Saturday and Sunday, June 14 and 15, dozens of exhibitors and collectors will be on hand to show how things worked in "yesterday." There will be an operating saw mill, a threshing machine, corn shelling machine, hand-tie baling, steam engines, and a car and motorcycle

show. A highlight of the show is always the parade. It will be held both days at 1 p.m.

Quilts will be on display in the depot and the SPPA Kitchen will be open at 6:30 a.m. both mornings for breakfast and open throughout the show days. Entertainment on the grounds will be provided by popular local musicians Larry and Lee Ann. A Pedal Power Pull will be held Saturday for the kids and non-denominational church services will begin at 8:30 a.m. Sunday.

New to the grounds is a blacksmith shop donated by the Lowry family. Camille Cox has donated a small house and it will soon be moved to the grounds and restored. Many Almena residents are taking advantage of the crowds of people in town and are hosting a city-wide garage sale that day. Maps of all the sale locations will be available at the Almena Market on Saturday.

The Almena Chamber of Commerce has a full slate of events planned for Saturday to coincide

with the Sunflower Pioneer Power Association's show. This event has come to be known as "The Party on the Prairie Dog". Downtown Almena, just a few short blocks from the grounds of the antique show, will have a Fun Run beginning at 7:30 a.m. Saturday followed by kids games behind the school at 9 a.m. The Lariat will be serving a hot dog or hamburger plate for lunch starting at 11 a.m. An auction benefitting the Community Improvement Plan will begin at 6:30 p.m. Dozens of area businesses have donated items to be auctioned off. Bidders will find handmade quilts, tools, furniture, barbecue grills, gift certificates, a shot gun and a \$1,000 diamond ring.

For those who want to linger a little longer, a beer garden will open at 8 p.m. on Main street beside the post office.

For more information about the antique machinery show go to the association's website at www.rootsweb.com/~kssppa/ or call Lonnie Shearer 785-669-2221.

Tough challenge for cyclist

Ken Lacy of St. Francis is riding the most unusual bicycle on this year's Biking Across Kansas, and is pictured here Monday morning east of Norton on U.S. Highway 36. He built the bicycle himself out of two used bicycles. He doesn't cycle with his feet, but his arms and hands!

— Telegram photo by Dick Boyd



It's jubilee time for city of Lenora

The town of Lenora has been getting geared up for the annual Lenora Jubilee, June 13 and 14 for the last year. Not only has the town started work on a walking trail at Larrick Park, but a brand new stage is ready for the concerts planned for this year's Jubilee.

At least a dozen volunteers began clearing brush along the walking trail two weeks ago. A historical bridge will be placed on the trail and plans call for millings on the trail. Heading up the walking trail committee are Diana Seaton, Dianne Swertferger and Myrna Mindrup with lots of assistance from Phil Rule. Norton City/County Economic Development Director Diane Becker said, "The trail will really complement the stage project."

It has been busy for the past couple of weeks as volunteers have worked on setting up forms and pouring concrete for the footings and stem walls as well as the stage floor. Quite a few volunteers from the Lenora area spent evenings and weekends in the park getting ready for the upcoming event. NCK Contractors have been doing the construction. The building was purchased from them and they donated the labor to erect it. Edwin Johnson's crew, along with other volunteers, was instrumental in helping to level and smooth the concrete floor. Advance tickets are available at CarQuest and Kellie's in Norton and at the First Security Bank and Country Corner as well as the City Office in Lenora.

The weekend kicks off Friday night at 7 p.m. with country artist Jake Owen, best known for his hit songs, "Yee Haw," "Starting With Me" and his latest single on the radio right now, "Something 'Bout a Woman." Bands opening for Jake will be Whiskey Falls and Heartland. The groups will be the first entertainers to use the newly constructed stage in Lar-

rick Park.

Saturday at 6:30 a.m. registration for the 3 to 5K walk/run will start in Larrick Park. The run, itself, starts in the park at 7 a.m. Dozens of garage sales are planned throughout the city beginning at 7 a.m. followed at 9 a.m. by a Family and Community Education unit display at the Lenora Senior Center. A parade will make its way down Main Street at 11 a.m. followed by a Kids Ranch Rodeo at noon in Larrick Park. Kids entertainment is planned at 12:30 p.m. and the Pedal Pull and trap shoot will start at 1 p.m.

If you're looking for something to do inside where it's cool, try Bingo at 2 p.m. in the Senior Center. At 3 p.m. there more entertainment for the kids and at 4 p.m. Creature Races will be held at Larrick Park at 4 p.m. followed by a carnival in the park from 5 to 9 p.m.

Scott Sproul, Lenora Jubilee

Association president, said, "Because of the festival's continued growth, we are pleased to provide bigger acts every year. Jake Owen was reported to be the most exciting performer at major country music festivals last year, and we couldn't be more excited to get him here in northwest Kansas." The festival is quickly becoming recognized as a significant music festival in western Kansas, and the concert draws thousands to town from all over Kansas and the surrounding states.

At 7 p.m. Saturday, the Jubilee will culminate with the Tate Stevens concert on the new stage. Others on the bill will be Wahly and The Bassbones and local Norton group, The Carbon Cowboys. Be sure to visit www.lenorajubilee.com often to get the latest news on the Lenora Jubilee, and find links to more information about all of the concert acts, including Jake Owen and Whiskey Falls.

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Special to The Telegram

The Kansas 4-H Foundation has released the names of winners of educational awards valued at more than \$40,000.

Recipients include several area 4-H'ers:

- Norton County — Joshua Van Skike, M. Max Dickerson Memorial, and Luke Van Skike, A. Lois Redman Leisure Studies 4-H.
- Phillips-Rooks District #5 — Jessica Zillinger, Nathan Carroll Memorial.

The scholarship program helps to celebrate the achievements of Kansas 4-H members and encourage post-secondary education, leadership, citizenship, and contributions to community, said Gordon Hibbard, president of the Kansas 4-H Foundation.

Students from 26 counties and five Extension districts will share in the awards made possible by scholarship donors who believe in offering young people opportunities, he said.

The awards were presented at the Emerald Circle Banquet June 5 in Manhattan.

Scholarship recipients are selected by an application process.

The program is part of the Kansas 4-H Foundation's annual awards program, which also funds travel awards and special programs.

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