

## Norton Schools need your help

Norton School District Superintendent Greg Mann, today issued the following note:  
 "It's Back to School time and information for the Norton Community Schools 2008-09 school year will soon be mailed to the families of Norton School District students. If you are new to town or

have changed addresses since school was out for the summer, please contact the district office at 877-3386 or come by 105 E. Waverly.  
 "If we do not have your current address, we will be unable to get you a packet of enrollment information."

## The end is near



Toby Bohl, Claflin, dumped a bin full of wheat to finish a truck load. Mr. Bohl was helping his brother, Ivan Bohl, who farms ground about 10 miles west of Norton. The harvest is nearing an end in the Norton area.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

## Taking shape



Gloria Nelson, left, and Diane Becker, worked on assembling new furniture to be placed under the two new pergolas in the downtown city park. Rawhide Ironworks completed the structures last week.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

# Food package rewards volunteers

### Commentary

By LINDA HAGAN

Director of *PrairieLand Food*  
 The Prairie Land Food program rewards people for volunteer work.

We are all feeling the pinch at the gasoline pump, but the food bill is no picnic, either. While we're finding ways to burn less gasoline, it's no fun, especially during the summer hot dog and hamburger season, to try to cut back in that area of the budget. At the same time, it feels good to do something for someone else, with no expectation of getting anything in return.

The Prairie Land Food program provides a great way to combine volunteer work with everyone's need to eat. For a couple of hours a month, you're entitled to a special food package at a bargain price through the Prairie Land food program. This month, the Prairie Land Food "Sneak Peek" includes a pound of Corn King Sliced Turkey Brats, sweet Italian sausage, chicken breast tenders, broiled meatballs and boneless pork tenderloins (4, 4-ounces) plus 1.7 pounds of chicken drums plus 6 to 8 different fruits and veggies. You can order additional meat only or extra fruit and veggies. The July Special includes two shrimp rings/ cocktail sauce; 12 (11 ounce) Freschetta pepperoni pizzas; or the grill package, 4, 5-ounce bacon-wrapped turkey breast fillets, 4, 5 ounce bacon-wrapped sirloin steaks and 1 pound of boneless chicken breasts. All of the extra packages require an hour of vol-

unteering as well.

What type of volunteering is up to you — probably something you already do. Volunteer work is anything that you do out of the kindness of your heart that you do not get paid for. It can be as simple as being on a prayer chain, being a room mother at school, sharing your bountiful garden, taking time to sit and have a cup of coffee with an elderly neighbor or spending time with someone going through a rough time. Anytime that you make someone's day a little brighter, will qualify you. You can convert your family's volunteer time into a tangible reward, groceries provided by Prairie Land Food at a discount.

Interested? For this month you will need to order and pay for your food now. You can pay with cash, check or EBT food stamps, but there are no income guidelines needed or asked for.

For more information please contact Lois Schrum 874-4410; Norton Senior Center 877-5352; Karen VanSlike 877-5511 or 877-2871; Lenora, Maxine Mai 567-4538; or Linda Hagan 800-298-1989 or e-mail her at: linda@

prairielandfood.com. An order form is also available online at [www.prairielandfood.com](http://www.prairielandfood.com).

Try it out. You'll feel good about yourself, and you and your family will enjoy nutritious food at a bargain price. Want to feel even better? Buy a "love gift" and share it with someone who could use a good meal.

Spread the word: if you are looking for bargains, look no further than **NORTON**

### Antiquities Portraits

When: July 25 & 26

All appointments are scheduled in advance. Walk-in appointments are not available.

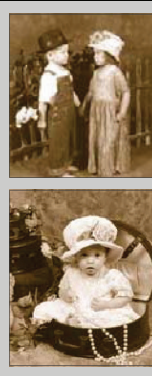
Where: The Rock, 101 E. Main, Norton, KS

For \$10 you receive a 10X13 Sepia-Tone Portrait.

Antiquities provides clothing and props for the session. 10X13 offer limited to children up to the age of 16.

Contact Jenny Braun or Angie Woodring at (785) 877-3380 ext. 309 or 421 for additional information.

Sponsored by the Norton Correctional Facility, Employee Activity Committee



# Community owned store comes through during storm

By Ron Wilson  
 rwilson@ksu.edu.

What happened at your local grocery store when the ice storm hit? Many stores struggled to provide needed supplies when an ice storm hit Kansas in December 2007. Today we'll learn about a rural Kansas store that found a way to serve its community members despite the storm — in part because the store is owned by the community itself.

Von Tuttle, Cheri Remington, Marvin Beesley, Kassie Remington, Don Zerr and Megan Tuttle are members of the Board of Directors of the Gove Community Improvement Association.

Gove is a rural place. It has the distinction of being the smallest county seat in the state with a population of 103 people. Now, that's rural.

It's a challenge to sustain services in a town that size. The local grocery store in Gove closed in the early 1980s. In 1986, a group of concerned citizens came together to reopen and operate a store. They formed the Gove Community Improvement Association (GCIA) and founded what is called the GCIA Grocery.

By the early 1990s, the local café had closed as well. In 1995, the GCIA built a new building with volunteer labor, local donations, and a 10-year, no interest loan from the local rural electric cooperative which has been repaid. This building houses the GCIA Grocery as well as a community-owned eating place called the County Seat Café.

For \$25, a person can join the association which entitles them to charge their groceries at the store. I don't mean with a credit card, I mean that the store will keep a

charge account for them which they pay at the end of the month.

The building is clean and well-maintained. But what is really unusual is that it is community-owned and directed by volunteers. There is a hired manager, but a board of volunteers gives direction and also provides legwork to operate it.

In 2006, the Gove Community Improvement Association purchased a local grocery distribution business. The wholesaler delivers groceries to the GCIA which then redistributes to other local stores. This helps all the stores meet the minimum purchase requirement from the supplier, as well as sharing needed produce or meat products. Board members and other volunteers step in to help sort the shipments each week.

The association's board has seen first-hand the importance of having a store nearby for the elderly or young families. Cheri Remington saw this benefit while caring for her husband's grandmother. Or when there's a sick baby in town, someone is willing to open the store to get the medicine they need.

A dramatic example happened in the ice storm of December 2007. The power in Gove was out for five days, but the GCIA Grocery opened to serve the community. The store had no power and no lights, but they found a way to make it work.

Marvin Beesley says, "We had flashlights and people went through the aisles. We didn't have a cash register but we wrote down who owed what, and when it was all over, they came in and paid their bills. It's another convenience of having a local store."

They used a portable generator

to keep the refrigerator and freezer going at the café, but there was too much in the store to save it all. So they took a bunch of food to the gas grill in the café, cooked it up and fed a bunch of people, including the linemen who were working on the down electrical lines. The café itself was unlocked, because the generator cord went through the café door so it had to remain open. People took food to shut-ins and neighbors helped neighbors.

Mr. Beesley says, "It wasn't a good time, but it was a lot of community togetherness."

So what happened at your local grocery store when the ice storm hit? In the case of Gove, the people of the community and the community store came together and helped each other through tough times. We commend all those who are part of the Gove Community Improvement Association for making a difference by sustaining that local service. That spirit of cooperation helps rural communities to cope with whatever might be in store.

(Mr. Wilson is director, Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development at Kansas State University. The mission of the Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development is to enhance rural development by helping rural people help themselves. The Kansas Profile radio series and columns are produced with assistance from the K-State Research and Extension Department of Communications News Unit. Audio and text files of Kansas Profiles are available at [www.kansasprofile.com](http://www.kansasprofile.com). For more information about the Huck Boyd Institute, interested persons can visit [www.oznet.ksu.edu/huckboyd/](http://www.oznet.ksu.edu/huckboyd/).)

Telegram subscriptions: (785) 877-3361, or 877-6908

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