

Meet and eat



Eisenhower Elementary School was packed Thursday evening with students and parents coming to meet teachers, and also for the goodies the cooks bake every year. — Telegram Photo by Brandy Leroux

Awards lunch honors staff, board members

Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas will host its annual awards luncheon Thursday at noon, at the American Legion, 13th and Canterbury in Hays. The guest speaker will be Sen. Julia Lynn. Awards will be given out to staff and board members for years of service. Recognition will also be made for the achievements made by men and women in the organization. Special awards will also be presented to several area businesses and organizations for their support and the employment opportunities they provide for persons with disabilities. Individuals served by Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas, staff and supporters from throughout the 18-county area will be in attendance.



JENNINGS 17th ANNUAL FIREMEN'S FUN DAY
Saturday, August 23, 2008
 (ALWAYS THE 4TH SATURDAY OF AUGUST)
 Parade Theme: "Then and Now"

- 8:00-10:00 - Health Fair, Sr. Center, sponsored by Decatur Health Systems, Decatur Co. EMS; Hemagram-\$25 (must be fasting), includes thyroid tests, cholesterol breakdown, 27 screening tests; Prostate Cancer Screening-\$20; Free blood pressure/blood sugar checks/diabetic education
 - 8:00-10:00 - Kolache Coffee, Sr. Center, Sponsored by the United Methodist Church; Kolaches sold all day-75¢ each or \$9.00/dozen
 - 8:00 - Community Garage Sale and Food Sale, American Legion Hall, 1/2 block East of City Hall
 - 10:00 - Pony Rides, Main Street, Peggy Westmoreland, Oakley
 - 10:00-5:00 - Wobble-Trap Shoot, Heilmann's, 5 1/2 miles North of Jennings on country road, follow signs, bring your own shotgun and plenty of shells
 - 10:00 - Train Rides for Kids - Main Street, Courtesy of Greg Otter, Lenora
 - 10:00 - Cake Walk, City Hall, sponsored by Mary Wahlmeier
 - 11:00-12:00 - Dunk Tank, City Hall Yard, Giant Slide, sanctioned by the Jennings Lions Club
 - 11:00-4:00 - Czech Museum Open, Free Admission, donations appreciated
 - 11:00-5:00 - Bingo, Sr. Center, Tickets 3/\$1 or 50¢ each.
 - Firemen's Raffle - TV, Surround Sound System, Portable DVD Player. Winner announced at auction, need not be present to win
 - Jennings Museum - Kenmore Gas Grill Raffle; HBPC - Kodak Easy Shot Digital Camera Raffle, proceeds will help preserve the old Masonic Hall
 - 11:30 - Lunch Counter Opens, Fire Station
 - 12:00-12:30 - Line up for Parade, South end of Pennsylvania Ave, Please be prompt, all entries appreciated. No pre-registration. No entry fee. 12:30 - All females competing for the title of Jennings Firemen's FunDay Queen need to register at parade site. No age limit.
 - 1:30 - Parade, Main Street. Parade will conclude with float carrying all queen candidates
 - 2:30 - Children's Games Resume, Dunk Tank, Coin Search, Giant Slide, Pony Rides, Funnel Cakes, Sno-Cones
 - 3:00 - Children's Tractor Pull, City Hall Yard, Ages 4-12, Registration at 2:30 p.m. Sponsored by Decatur Co. Farm Bureau
 - 2:30-4:40 - Vote for your Favorite Queen Candidate
 - 4:00 - Free Bike Give Away-with Helmet. 1 Boy's and 1 Girl's, Courtesy of Jennings Fire Dept./EMS. Must be 12 years old or under. Must be present to win.
 - 4:00 - Firemen's Team Barrel Competition
 - 6:00 - Hog Roast, Fire Station, BBQ pulled pork, beans, chips
 - 7:00 - Coronation of the Queen
 - 7:00 - Auction, donated items from area businesses. Raffle winners announced. Street Dance with Mobile Music Express DJs, Oberlin, to follow the auction.
- FOR INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT: KERRY GREEN, 678-2647, STANN HARTZOG, 678-3020, DAVE NEW, 678-3052, MARGE HARTZOG, 678-3010 OR ANY MEMBER OF THE JENNINGS FIRE DEPARTMENT

AgrAbility Program had the solution

NESS CITY — Kent Davison still doesn't think of himself as disabled.

Like many farmers, he has always thrown himself into his work. But those day-to-day tasks have taken a toll on his body.

He probably put off getting knee surgery for too long. So, he developed fairly severe rotator cuff problems in both shoulders, while compensating for his legs.

After his knee surgery, a tornado ripped the huge, heavy doors from his Ness County barn. Davison couldn't find or design replacements his upper body would allow him to open and close.

Then a Kansas-wide Easter freeze destroyed his wheat crop. He'd needed to plant again.

To grasp the right-hand stair rail on one of his Steiger tractors, however, the Ness City farmer had to use the limited mobility in his left arm, as a way to lift his right arm above waist level. After that, his hand strength came into play, and the rotator cuff... well, that was just pain.

Plus, his repaired knees made getting a foot up to his tractor's first step a bit of a challenge.

And, balancing as he climbed was now a safety issue. So, he welded on a left-hand grip, too.

Still, he finally had become frustrated enough to start paying attention to the urgings of his wife, Alvera. A former county Extension agent, Alvera wanted her husband to contact the Kansas AgrAbility Program, based with Kansas State University Research and Extension in Manhattan.

Today, the program is still helping Davison with access to the technology aids he needs to offset his physical limits on the job. In turn, however, Davison has already helped three K-State seniors gain practical, real-world field experience in biomedical engineering.

AgrAbility Enters the Classroom

Board:

Thank you for Abner Williams

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were approved. The board wished to thank Abner Williams for his donation to put additional lettering on the recently purchased activity bus to now read "Almena and Long Island."

Jennings: Auction real crowd pleaser

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The auction has become a crowd favorite and will begin at 7 p.m. The day concludes with a street dance at 7 p.m. with music by DJ's and Bryron Sowers spent the morning reviewing the votes.

Buying a lift that helps farmers get to their tractor cab costs about \$5,000, said Kerri Ebert, AgrAbility coordinator. She generally has to beat the bushes to find funding for that kind of purchase.

Just after Davison contacted her, however, Ebert got a call from co-worker Stacy Hutchinson.

Hutchinson teaches the capstone Senior Design II course in K-State's Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering. She wanted to know if Ebert had a project one of her teams could tackle.

That's how Davison became acquainted with K-Stater students Emily Beck and Anthony Mignano, both from Manhattan, and Lindsay Ott from Mulvane.

The three-member team traveled to the Davison farm to gather data and take measurements. Then, with their new "client," they discussed and evaluated potential solutions for helping him mount a tractor more quickly, more safely and with less pain.

Back in their department's shop on K-State's campus, the team designed an extra, lower step for the tractor that halved the distance Davison had to raise his foot. They wanted it to attach directly to the existing stairs and retract automatically after each use — up to and in line with the original bottom step.

They decided Davison also needed two identical handrails that he could reach more easily.

When the team presented their final project report to their department in May, it revealed just how complicated a simple design can become. One major example was the spring inside the tubes that supported their step, plus made it

Challenger wins sheriff race at Colby

By Patty Decker
 pdecker@nwkansas.com

It took Thomas County commissioners 4 1/2 hours to canvass the votes and decide on provisional ballots, but their official count confirmed Rod Taylor, a former sheriff's deputy, as the Republican candidate for sheriff in November.

The ballot slot could almost guarantee election in the fall, since there is no Democrat on the ballot, but Mike Baughn, finishing his first term as sheriff after many years as a deputy and undersheriff, has mentioned a possible write-in campaign. He also is mayor of Brewster.

Baughn did gain a few votes in the tally. The final total, including provisional ballots, saw Taylor with 718 votes to Baughn's 704 — narrowing the spread from 20 to 14 from the unofficial Tuesday results.

Thomas County Commissioners Paul Steele, Ken Christiansen and Bryron Sowers spent the morning reviewing the votes.

retractable.

The spring had to be weak enough that Davison could bring down the step easily. Yet, it had to be strong enough to retract by itself when he'd climbed past that step. And, it had to be adjustable in case time and use made the spring stretch a little.

But even industrial-size springs aren't available on the basis of their "spring constant," which is how engineers judge them. So, the team had to do manual tests and math to figure out what to buy. They took known-weight objects to the hardware store and measured how different springs reacted. They calculated the pounds of force each of them needed to push a handle down with little to no effort.

Then they tested square, steel tube combinations that allowed one tube to slide (retract) over the other so easily that the process didn't add more needed pounds of force. And, they built a wood model to test whether their design actually worked, could stand up under hard use, and introduced no unwanted "bounce" or wiggle.

The team's completed project

operated perfectly in the shop. They were so excited that they decided to deliver and install it before the semester was over.

The three arrived in Ness County on one of spring's last cold, damp days.

"Mr. D. tried it right then, and he could use it. In that way, it worked," Mignano said.

Because the team had incorporated some scrap parts from the department's shop, the total cost of their project was \$72.38.

All three are now headed for careers in medicine or biomedical solutions. Davison is looking forward to the solution for his barn doors the AgrAbility program has found and is funding.

More about the AgrAbility, its services, resources and practical information is available from Kerri Ebert at 785-532-2976 or kebert@ksu.edu. Information is also available on the Web site: www.oznet.ksu.edu/agrability/welcome.asp. Southeast Kansas Independent Living programs in Parsons, is a partner in the AgrAbility program, which is funded by a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant.)

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