

Oooh, cool!



Wesley Brooks shook a firefighter's hand and felt the fabric of the fire suit Friday afternoon during the Head Start and Little Angel's Daycare Fire Safety Day. Friday was the last day of "Fire Safety Week."

— Courtesy photo

4-H'ers do well at fair

4-H members representing Norton County did very well in a variety of events at the 2008 Kansas State Fair. Quite a variety of experiences and projects made up the list of exhibitors.

Lambs: Michael Callaway placed 4th in Breeding; and 9th, 10th and 10th in Market.

Horse: Kyrá Fulton placed 11th in the 4 and older Gelding Class and 11th in the Western Pleasure 14 to 18 years Class.

Clothing: Wyatt Wentz received a purple and Rebecca Wentz received a red.

Arts and Crafts: Michael Callaway, Skylar Johnson, Diedre Kramer, and Carissa Wentz participated in this exhibition event. This event was to display individual talent.

Fiber Arts: Diedre Kramer and Rebecca Wentz both received blues.

Photography: Photography purple winners Austin Hager, Marisa Maddy, and Diedre Kramer. Marisa Maddy's photo was selected to go to the Govern-

ment's Office and Diedre Kramer's photo was selected to go to Washington D.C. in Pat Roberts Office.

Those receiving Blue Ribbons in photography were Jade Braun, Chandler Sumner, Skylar Johnson, Christopher Maddy, Michael Callaway, Wyatt Wentz, Carissa Wentz, Jacob VanSlike, Megan Wentz, Rebecca Wentz, Kelsie Griffith, and Kortney Cunningham. Carissa Wentz's photo was selected for the 4-H Foundation and Jacob VanSlike's photo was selected for a traveling 4-H display. They will be used for 4-H promotion next year.

Rockets: Diedre Kramer received a blue.

Electric: Wyatt Wentz received a blue.

Foods: Rebecca Wentz, Skylar Johnson and Bryce Lofgreen received a purple ribbon; Wyatt Wentz and Megan Wentz received blue ribbons. Bryce Lofgreen received a red ribbon.

Horticulture: Jacob VanSlike received a blue and a red.

Parade, roast date set

Special to The Telegram
The Halloween Parade and Wiener Roast will be held Thursday, Oct. 30 in downtown Norton. The Norton Volunteer Fire Department and the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce will again co-sponsor the event.

Participants in the parade are asked to assemble in the parking lot behind Hall's Clothing at 6 p.m. Sheriff Thomson and his wife, Chriselle will be dividing the children into groups from pre-school to sixth grade. Representatives of Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas and others will be holding signs for each age group to direct you where to line up.

The parade will begin at 6:30

p.m. and will move east along Main Street to State Street, then south to Washington Street and east to the City Hall. At the conclusion of the parade, the Norton Volunteer Fire Department will hold a free wiener roast, which is financed through donations from businesses and individuals in the Norton area.

Norton County Hospital personnel will be handing out trick-or-treat bags that contain apples and candy. This year the candy will be donated by the hospital.

All children are invited to participate. For more information, call the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce office at 877-2501.

Deadline approaching to sell water rights

By **ANDY HEINTZ**
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Some northwest Kansas farmers may be able to sell water rights to the state under a program designed to stretch out the area's water supply and ensure that Kansas send enough water downstream to Nebraska.

Landowners who are willing to retire their water rights may be able to sell them to the state Conservation Commission at a fixed rate price of \$2,000 per acre foot under the Water Rights Retirement Program, known as WTAP or "Water-TAP."

"People will not want to give up their water rights without an incentive," Steve Frost, state water conservation manager, said.

The commission began accepting applications Oct. 1. The state is offering to buy rights in the Prairie Dog Creek basin, which stretches

from Sherman County through Thomas and Decatur into Norton County.

The state also is targeting rights six "high-priority" units in the Northwest Kansas Groundwater Management District.

"It's a pilot program designed to establish a water-based incentive program that will help balance supply with demand," Frost said.

The state hopes to help restore aquifers and stream flows in areas that have seen reduced stream flow and water supply in recent years. A third area the commission is concentrating on is the Rattle Snake Creek Basin, which runs from near Bucklin to Sterling.

The Prairie Dog Basin was chosen because its stream flow affects Kansas efforts to comply with the Republican River Compact with Nebraska.

The commission has designated six areas of the High Plains Aquifer in Thomas, Cheyenne, Sherman, and Sheridan counties for the program, two in Thomas County.

Payment landowners receive is based on the historic amount of water a farm has consumed, the irrigation area's proximity to a stream and the price the landowner wants, Frost said.

"The state wants to buy water rights at the most affordable price," he added.

Frost said low bids are not the only element that the commission would consider when it decides who gets grants. For example, he said, a person who wants to retire a well that is near a stream would be given preference over a person who wants to sell a well that is located far away from a stream, even if that person will accept

less money. "We want to evaluate all the variables and decide what gives us the best bang for our buck," Frost said.

There is only so much money, he added, and some people who want to retire their rights will not be able to sell.

He said the people who retire their water rights would be able to practice dryland farming. Some might sell only part of their rights, not all, and continue some irrigation.

The project will last five years. The fall sign-up period will go through Nov. 15. If money is still available, the commission will have a spring sign-up period Feb. 15 through March 31.

For information, contact Frost at (785) 296-8964 or the Groundwater Management District in Colby at (785) 462-3915.

Church to host mission

St. Francis of Assisi Church will host a parish mission, "I Believe In God. Now What?!" Oct. 26-28. Fr. Michael Scully, OFM Cap. of St. Fidelis parish in Victoria will lead the mission.

Fr. Scully has spent most of his 40 years of the ministry working with youth as a religion teacher, high school administrator, youth pastor and parish pastor. In talks and retreats for high school and college youth, his presentation, "Rock Music and Leadership" has been presented to over 30,000 young people. He has written several books, has given many parish retreats and recollection days, and has conducted many Adult Faith

Formation classes.

"It is my wish that this Mission will draw each and everyone closer to God. It is an opportunity to grow in your faith and have a good time while learning about your religion. This will give you a spiritual benefit that I encourage you to take advantage of," said pastor Fr. Vincent Thu Laing of St. Francis of Assisi parish.

Sessions will be offered on Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday evenings from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. followed by a "Question and Answer" session in the Parish Hall.

There is no charge for the mission, although an offering will be taken each evening.

Agents receive training

The Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill) was recently enacted. The USDA Farm Service Agency is responsible for implementing many of the commodity, livestock, conservation, disaster and credit programs in the new Farm Bill, said Bill R. Fuller, State Executive Director of the state's Farm Service Agency.

Mr. Fuller said that all Kansas Farm Service Agency farm program employees will attend *Farm Bill Training* today through Friday. State-wide training will ensure that all Kansas FSA employees receive the same training to better serve Kansas farmers and ranchers, he said.

All permanent farm program staff will attend the training, however your local FSA County Office will remain open during those days, but will be staffed with temporary employees, county committee member, or other agency staff. These employees will have limited knowledge of Farm Service Agency farm programs and services, and limited resources. The computers for farm programs will remain off and payments will not be issued during this time. Issues that arise during this time will be promptly addressed by staff when they return to the office on Oct. 27.

Farm Loan Staff will be available at certain county offices to address any farm loan issues.

Any questions pertaining to staff availability today-Friday should be forwarded to the county executive director at the local service center.

"We appreciate the cooperation and understanding of all our customers," said Mr. Fuller. "Soon after this training, Farm Service Agency county offices will conduct farm bill informational meetings to ensure Kansas farmers and ranchers are knowledgeable of new program policies and eligibility criteria."

877-3361


Party leaders re-elected

The reorganizational meeting of the Norton County Republican Central Committee's was held recently. Kansas Republican Party State By-laws allow only elected county committeemen and committeewomen to vote at the reorganizational meeting of the County Central Committee.

Officers serve for a two year term. The officers elected were Steven L. Berry, chair; Re-

becca Wetter, vice chair; Joni K. Berry, secretary; and Joe Ballinger, treasurer.

The county chair and vice chair are automatic First District committee members. Curtis Archibald was elected Alternate First District committee member for the chair and Norma Archibald was elected Alternate First District committee member for the vice chair.



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Vote for someone who has the courage to do what is necessary to fix our current mess.

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I will vote *Pro-life* and *Pro-family*.

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Paid for by Bob Strevey campaign, Greg Lohofener, Treasurer

You are Invited to an Open House at the Norton County Hospital for the Lower Level Renovation Completion

INCLUDING:

- Physical Therapy
- Cardiac Rehabilitation
- Telemedicine
- Conference Area Board Room

Sunday, October 26

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

You May Enter from the SW Parking Lot or through the Outpatient Entrance
Also for Viewing of Our Decontamination Unit



Refreshments will be Served

Project Architect Health Facilities Group
Project Manager/General Contractor. Murray Company

A Special Thanks to the Local and Area Contractors

Garrett Plumbing, Heating & Electric. Norton, KS
Norton Glass Norton, KS
Nelson Brothers Construction Norton, KS
Gardine Construction Holdrege, NE



Norton County Hospital

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