

"Mama Sludge" (Stephanie Shepard, left) got upset at "Pamela Chambers" (Diedre Kramer, right) while "Virgil Sludge" (Josh Gallentine) tried to keep the peace between the two women. The students are practicing for the Norton Community High School Play, "Virgil's Family Reunion," which will be performed on Saturday, Nov. 15 and Sunday, Nov. 16 at the East Campus Auditorium.

— Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux

Students practice, get ready for show

By BRANDY LEROUX
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The Norton Community High School Drama Club is busy putting the finishing touches on this year's play, *Virgil's Family Reunion*.

"This has been a good group of kids," said JoAnn Hale, director of the play. "The kids have worked hard and had a lot of fun. This is entertainment for the whole family. One of my goals is for this to be a memorable experience from high school. I'd like them to look back on this as enjoyable. They're learning the importance of teamwork and commitment," she said.

Here is the story behind the play:

Sometimes, everything that can go wrong will. It's summer and time for backyard fun and

the semi-annual Sludge family get-together. The morning of the relative disaster begins with the snooty neighbor next door, Pamela Chambers, who is determined to improve the neighborhood by getting rid of the Sludge family. Scrambling to get everything ready, Eloise considers Pamela's uppity threats as empty threats until an officer shows up to arrest Harley Wayne, Eloise's husband. The barbecue heats up when Virgil and Margaret have their first lovers' spat and Ellard, Virgil's best friend, proposes to Virgil's sister using visual aids, and the 95-year-old matriarch of the family announces her plans to elope with her new boyfriend, Mr. Perky. The bedlam continues in this hilarious but true account of the worst family

reunion in the history of the Sludges' nutty family tree.

Virgil's Family Reunion will be performed twice at the East Campus Auditorium. The first performance will be Saturday, Nov. 15 at 7:30 p.m. The second performance will be a matinee on Sunday, Nov. 16 at 2:30 p.m. Admission prices are \$5 for adults and \$4 for students.

Cast members include: Stephanie Shepard, Lucy Gosselin, Josh Gallentine, Emily Scott and Jacob VanSki, seniors; Casey Robison, Matthew Pollock, Anna Cummings and Austine Dole, juniors; Jade Braun, Matt Carlton, Maia Carlson, Katie Scott, Kelsie Morel, Tanner Morel, David Mizell and Diedre Kramer, sophomores; and Thea Grizzle and Rhees Carlson, freshmen.

Business notes

Nex-Tech, Inc., a Kansas corporation and wholly owned subsidiary of Rural Telephone Service Company, Inc. — headquartered at Lenora — said Monday it has sold its CountyWorks government software operation to Manatron, Inc., the nation's leading provider of integrated, enterprise-level property solutions for state and local governments.

Manatron is focused on providing software and services to enable state and local governments to completely, fairly and efficiently assess real and personal property, and to bill and collect the related property taxes in their jurisdictions. Manatron currently serves over 1,400 customers across 40 states and internationally.

In July 2008, Manatron acquired InfiniTec of Hays, another local government software company. Shortly thereafter, Manatron approached Nex-Tech about purchasing CountyWorks. By combining Nex-Tech's CountyWorks government software applications and customers with Manatron's re-

cently acquired InfiniTec Division, Manatron creates an even stronger suite of software and support services for Kansas government.

"The acquisition of CountyWorks not only strengthens our client presence in Kansas, but also strengthens our team by adding three individuals — Bill Turman, Amber Hagerman and Neil Ofutt — with vast knowledge and expertise of the Kansas market," said Bill McKinzie, Manatron President and CEO.

"CountyWorks provides very solid products and services, in addition to customer support that is

second to none. We are extremely excited to work with this team," he said.

Any clinical medical question will be up for discussion on Smoky Hills Public Television's series, "Doctors on Call," scheduled for 7 p.m. this evening.

The guest panelists for this "Ask the Doctor" edition will be Michael Jackson, M.D., a family practice physician from Garden City, and Merrill Conant, M.D., a family practice physician from Dodge City, according to Nancy Selbe, coordinating producer.

THANKS

to Norton County Voters

for your vote of

confidence in the

General Election.

Wanda Vincent

Junior Jays enjoy successful year

By BRANDY LEROUX
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Terry Petrie, Commissioner of the Norton Junior Jays, said it has been a very successful football year for the young players. There were a total of 72 kids in Junior Jays, from grades 3 to 6, and every team went to the playoffs.

"The whole program is designed to get the kids to do something other than sit in front of the t.v.," said Mr. Petrie.

There are no "tryouts" to get on the team. One of the standards is every kid who signs up gets to play in every game, which is why the third/fourth grade team was split into two teams. Everyone who signs up gets to play.

Though practices take place after school hours and games are on the weekends, Mr. Petrie said school work is stressed as being very important to the students.

"We have an after-school tutoring program for the players. If they need help with their home-

work, they can stay at school and get help from a tutor. We've had tremendous support from the school district on this."

Lucas Melvin, the Norton Community High School football head coach, is on the Junior Jays board, and is very active in the program.

"Mr. Melvin will show coaches drills and techniques during the coaches' clinics," said Mr. Petrie.

There is a scholarship available for those who want to play, but whose family might not be able to afford it.

"I'll try to never raise the entry fee, and if anything, I'll try to lower it," said Mr. Petrie.

Though it has not happened in Norton, girls can be on the football team.

"Some of the other teams we played had girls on their teams. We have no problem with it," said Mr. Petrie. "I'd gladly welcome anyone, boy or girl, who wants

to play."

This past year, Norton 1 (third/fourth grade) was 5-2, and lost their first game in the playoffs. Norton 2 (third/fourth grade) was 4-3, and also lost their first game in the playoffs. The 5th grade team was 6-2, and made it to the second game of the playoffs. The 6th grade team, who went the entire regular season without being scored on, was 6-1, their lone loss being the first game of the playoffs.

The coaches made a bet with the players, that if they went the entire regular season without being scored on, the coaches would shave their own heads. As coach Toby Kuhn said at the banquet Sunday evening, "Never make that kind of bet three games into the season."

"This is when they are learning the game, the rules, the plays," said Mr. Petrie. "It's not about winning and losing. Right now, it's about learning."

Deadline approaching for crop aid

Bill R. Fuller, State Executive Director for the USDA Kansas Farm Service Agency reminds producers of the application closing date for certain crops under the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program. Crops eligible for benefits are limited to those not insurable in the county and are produced for food or fiber.

Producers must obtain coverage on all 2009 non-insurable crops and purchase crop insurance on all 2009 insurable crops to remain eligible for the 2009 supplemental disaster assistance programs recently announced in the 2008 Farm Bill. Those disaster programs include Supplemental Revenue Assistance, Livestock Indemnity Program, Livestock Forage Program, Emergency Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm Fresh Fish Program, and Tree Assistance Program. Live-

stock Indemnity Program is exempt from Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program or crop insurance coverage.

December 1 is the final date to pay the applicable service fee and obtain 2009 coverage for all grasses including alfalfa, aquaculture, apricots, asparagus, barley, blueberries, caneberrries (blackberries and raspberries), canola, cherries, Christmas trees, clover, grapes, honey, lespedeza, mixed forage, nectarines, nursery crops, oats, peaches, plums, rye, speltz, strawberries, triticale, turf grass sod, vetch and wheat.


The administrative service fee is \$250 per crop per administrative county not to exceed \$750 per producer per administrative county and a \$1875 maximum fee for multi-county producers. Interested producers must pay the fee and file form CCC-471,

Application for Coverage, by the application closing deadline.

Coverage entitles eligible producers to a payment of 55 percent of an average market price for the commodity if a natural disaster caused a 50 percent production loss or greater of an eligible crop.

Producers are encouraged to purchase coverage on all non-insurable crops and purchase crop insurance on all insurable crops to remain eligible for 2009 supplemental disaster programs. For some 2009 disaster programs, grazing land must have coverage or crop insurance to be eligible. Interested producers shall contact their local Farm Service Agency prior to the Dec. 1 application closing date to obtain coverage and discuss eligibility for 2009 supplemental disaster programs.

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10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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79th Annual

Harvest Home Festival

Saturday, Nov. 15, 2008

FREE WILL DONATION

Soup Supper 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Northern Valley High School Cafeteria
Chicken Noodle, Chili, Oyster
and Vegetable Beef

Auction Immediately Following Soup Supper

Sunday Morning Service at 10:30 a.m.
at Congregational Church

Music by Stanton Nelson
Featured Speaker
Kari Salas

