

Popular attraction returns again

The Norton Methodist Men are preparing for their 21st annual Farm Toy and Collectable Show, one of the oldest and well attended shows of its kind in the area. New dealers and dealers who have made the trip to Norton in the past from Colorado, Nebraska and other parts of Kansas will again be at the Norton National Guard Armory on Saturday, March 21 to display their old and new farm toys, NASCAR, trucks, HotWheels and more.

Co-sponsored by the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce, the show runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with an admission of \$2 for adults, and children 12 and under free accompanied by an adult.

An hourly drawing is scheduled for toys donated by the participating dealers. A food bar featuring sandwiches and homemade pie is provided.

Proceeds go to fund various Christian mission projects.

K.C. German Band to entertain

A German Band, Festhaus-Musikanten of Kansas City, will present lively music for listening during dinner at 6:30 p.m. and later for dancing on Saturday, March 14 at the Gateway Civic Center in Oberlin.

The meal will include typical German cuisine. Reservations are necessary, by Monday, March 9, for the annual dinner theater, sponsored by the Oberlin Arts and Humanities Commission.

Festhaus-Musikanten will bring a unique musical experience. They are a 10-piece German music ensemble based in Kansas City. One of the chief goals of the group is to preserve the heritage of the old German style of brass band music. In keeping with this goal, the band has an active repertoire of music dating from the 19th through the 20th centuries.

The band plays mainly in the styles of Egerland, Bohemia, Bavaria and Tirol, with an authentic sound of the best-known German and Austrian "Blasmusik" (wind music) bands. Festhaus-Musikanten was organized to perform for "Oktoberfest 91, 92 and 93" at Worlds of Fun in Kansas City, Mo., and has appeared at numerous events throughout the Midwest. The instrumentation includes clarinets, trumpets, flugelhorn, tenor horns, accordion, tuba and drums. All the music is designed for dancing, singing along, or simply listening.

Reservations for members and non-members alike need to be called in by Monday. Tickets are by season ticket or \$25 per person. A family season ticket includes two dinners and a single family ticket includes one dinner. Cost for children ages 11 and under will be half price.

For information, call Ella Betts, (785) 475-3557 or Mary Henzel (785) 470-0218.

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Extension District

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name the extension office, from Norton County K-State Research and Extension, to the new name of the district. Mrs. Maddy said right now, no one has decided on a name for their district, and Norton County Extension board members and the extension office will take suggestions from the public for the name of the district.

Mr. VanSlike said it is possible that down the road, the district may see another extension agent added to the district.

Currently, the Norton County Extension board is elected by extension members. The 2009 board members are Stuart Brooks, vice chairman, Becky Smith, treasurer, Deena Wentz, Lacey Frack, Chad Brooks, Shannon Esslinger, Janette Calloway and Cindy Liner. The board members will serve until 2010, when the Norton and Decatur County Commissioners will each appoint four members to the board. From then on, the general public will vote on the board members at the same time as school board and city council.

Mr. VanSlike said a big positive of forming a district will be that the extension offices will be able to expand more into agriculture and family and consumer sciences areas.

Both Byron Hale, the Decatur County Extension agent, and Mr. VanSlike will also be able to take more than the minimum state requirements for continuing education, and possibly be able to specialize in areas.

The last step to be taken to be able to form the extension district is to obtain Kansas Attorney General Stephen Six's approval, since it is an agreement between two governing bodies — Norton and

Decatur counties. Mr. VanSlike said he expects the district to go into effect, if the attorney general approves, on July 1, 2009. The budget for 2009 will remain the same, and a new budget for the extension district will take effect on 2010. Norton and Decatur counties are not the first to form a district. There are already 23 counties in Kansas that have combined to form eight districts. They are:

- In 1994, Mitchell and Lincoln counties formed the Post Rock District, and in 2005, Jewell and Osborne counties joined.
- In 1997, Lane, Ness and Rush counties formed the Central Kansas District.
- In 2004, Saline and Ottawa counties formed the Central Kansas District.
- In 2005, Clay, Cloud, Republic and Washington counties formed the River Valley District; Phillips and Rooks counties formed Phillips and Rooks District; and Sherman and Wallace counties formed the Sunflower District, which Cheyenne County joined in 2006.
- In 2006, Jackson, Jefferson and Nemaha counties formed the Meadowlark District.
- In 2008, Chautauqua and Elk counties formed the Rolling Prairie District.

Engineer retires

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McDiffett, Glendale, Ariz., Lori Long, Abilene, Shawn McDiffett, Central City, Neb., and Sarah McDiffett, Wilcox, Neb., along with their nine grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

An open house retirement reception is scheduled for Mr. McDiffett and longtime colleague Marlene Bebb at the Norton Eagles Club on Friday from 2-8 p.m., a come and go as you please event.

**Legislative Town Hall Meeting with
Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer and Rep. John Faber
SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2009**

8:00-9:00 a.m. St. Francis at Main Street Coffee
9:45-10:45 a.m. Atwood at Williams Brothers Grocery
11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Oberlin at Decatur Co. Courthouse, 3rd Floor
1:45-2:45 p.m. Norton at Town and Country Kitchen

Pd by Ostmeyer for Senate, Lori Edwards, Treasurer
Rep. John Faber, Ed Carson, Treasurer

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