

Norton County 4-H Club Day just around the corner

By **BRANDY LEROUX**
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The Norton County 4-H Clubs will compete in the County Club Day March 14 at 9:30 a.m., at the Norton Junior High school gym, cafeteria and classrooms.

The public is invited and there is no admission charge.

"I hope it encourages more kids to take part in the presentation events," said Keith VanSkiike, Norton County Extension agent.

The club members will be competing in several categories, such as:

- "Tell Me's", which are project talks. Presenters must be between seven and nine years old, and first or second time presenters.
- The presentations should be no more than seven minutes long.

- "Show Me's", which are demonstrations. For this category, presenters must be between seven and nine years old, and first or second time presenters.
- The presentations should be no more than 10 minutes long.
- Project Talks, intended for younger members up to 13 to help them gain confidence in expressing themselves in front of an audience.
- They tell of actual experiences they've had while working on past projects. Visuals can be used but are not required.
- Judges do not ask questions of the younger members giving a Project Talk. The maximum time is 10 minutes.
- Demonstrations are a "show how" process where the member

shows how to do or make something while giving an explanation. The member uses actual items, supplies, equipment, people or animals while showing and explaining the process.

There is usually a finished product to show, but it's not a requirement.

- Illustrated talks are a "tell how" process, using visual aids such as posters, charts, models or graphs to emphasize a point or to add interest while telling how to do something.
- The visual aids are a required part of the project.
- Public Speaking is intended to help older, more experienced members gain further confidence and skill in speaking before an audience. The member may speak

on any topic of their interest, and no visual aids are allowed.

- One or two note cards are permissible if used in an outline form.
- Outlines are presented to each judge, and the time limit is 15 minutes.
- Model Meeting is where an entire 4-H club gives a demonstration of one of their meetings and the processes they go through.
- Chorus
- Band/Orchestra
- Vocal solo, with a one to two minute presentation on the piece or composer.
- Instrumental solo with a one to two minute presentation on the piece, instrument or composer.
- Instrumental ensemble
- Dance, including square dancing, folk, step, circle, polka, tap, ballet, interpretative, break, individual or couple.
- Dramatics, such as skit, creative drama or reading.
- Other talents, gymnastics, stunts, pom-pom routine and ventriloquism.

County Club Day started in 1925 as a model meeting contest and developed through "Spring Festival" into 4-H Club Day. Through the years, more categories were added until it became the multi-faceted it is today.

There will be judges from the area, including some who specialize in areas such as music, like school band and music directors.

The top two ribbon winners in each age group for each category will get the chance to compete

in the regional County 4-H Day, which will be hosted in Norton this year, on March 27, at the junior high school. 4-H clubs from Graham, Trego, Ellis, Rooks, Phillips and Smith counties will be attending the competition.

Janette Callaway, leader of the Cedar Ridge 4-H Club, said the Cedar Ridge members have several entries in the County 4-H Day, including a Tell Me, a Project Talk, Public Speaking, Vocal solos, Instrumental solos, a dance routine, a reading, and upholding a club tradition, a skit.

"This year's skit title is 'Extreme Makeover, 4-H Club Edition,'" said Mrs. Callaway.

"The host of the skit is Ty VanSkiike, a merge between Ty Pennington and Keith VanSkiike."

Severe weather

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were only four fatalities and nine injuries from tornadoes.

The previous record was set in 2007 when there were 141 tornadoes in Kansas.

The strongest recorded tornadoes were rated 4 on the Enhanced Fujita scale, in Gove County on May 23 and Riley County on June 11. Gove, Sheridan and Trego counties tied for the county with the most tornadoes in a county at 12. The most tornadoes in one day was on May 23 with 70. The first tornado of 2008 was in Sumner County on March 2; the last was in Stanton County on Nov. 10. The tornado outbreak on May 22 and 23 in western Kansas produced 87 tornadoes.

Interestingly, 67 percent of the tornadoes in 2008 were rated 0 on the Enhanced Fujita scale; and 20 percent were rated 1. Both ratings are considered "weak" tornadoes.

Rural residents need check addresses

Norton County informs all rural residents using a rural route or highway contract address that their new 911 physical address needs to be changed on all records and documents relating to real estate and personal property notifications, voter registration, driver's licenses, deed and mortgage recordings and oil and gas leases.

"Norton County will not change the address you currently have on file without your notification and approval," said Alan Hale, Norton County Appraiser.

Residents that have had their physical address changed due to the 911 addressing system, should let either the county appraiser's office, the county clerk's office, the treasurer's office or the register

of deeds' office know of the new 911 address that has been assigned to them.

Those offices are on the second floor of the courthouse.

"The new address will be circulated among the departments to ensure uniform use and application," said the county's appraiser.

Time to schedule walking as part of your daily routine.

Horse Council plans fund raising event

By **BRANDY LEROUX**
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The Norton County Horse Council is holding a "BBQ and Boogie" night at the Eagle's Lodge in Norton on Saturday, from 7 p.m. to midnight.

The council will hold a silent auction with items donated from local businessmen and artists at 7:30 p.m.

There is no admission fee for the BBQ and Boogie, and free-

will donations will be accepted. Marvin Machett will be the deejay for the evening.

The event is a fund raiser for the equine facility at Elmwood Park.

"We hope to be able to finish the concession stands, add 10 more stalls to the horse barn and add bleachers," said Dave Donovan, president of the horse council, who added, "we'll also use the money for general maintenance on the arena and to pay for insur-

ance for all the events that are held there."

The equine facility is used by the Norton County 4-H clubs, the Future Farmers of America club, saddle and roping clubs, sanctioned barrel races, and used for the ranch rodeo during the Norton County Fair.

It was even the site of the District 4-H Horse Show last year, and will be again in 2010.

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Wind energy development

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Mr. Land said the turbine is meant to be a supplement. He said if the power grid goes down, the turbine will stop producing energy.

He said it offsets electricity costs when the wind is blowing.

Councilman Jeff Otter asked if there is a way to store energy for when power goes out. Mr. Land said there is not yet, but there is a battery in the works, and everyone's trying to get one made. He said one is being worked on that is about the size of a 52 foot semi trailer, but that the technology is just not there yet because of the price.

Mayor David Corns asked what the expected life span of a turbine is.

Mr. Land said they'll typically last for 25 years before needing an overhaul, and then will last another 15 to 20 years after that.

Councilwoman Mann asked if

there had been any problems with manufacturing.

Mr. Land said there have not been. He said the turbines are currently made in China, India and Denmark, but that they are trying to bring the manufacturing process to the United States.

Norton City Attorney Karen Griffiths said she knew of other states that have revolving loan

funds for renewable energy sources, and asked if Kansas has one.

Mr. Land said he didn't think Kansas does, but that there are federal bonds available to help pay for the project.

Mr. Land said after driving around and studying the area, he thinks the best place for a turbine would be south of Norton, on the top of a hill.

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Prison visit

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muscle," said Ms. Carter. "People working in the trenches, in the front lines, always know where the waste is. We need to hear from them."

According to Ms. Carter, there are more unclassified, or supervisor-type positions than there are classified, or front line, positions in Kansas.

Ms. Carter said no one knows when the money coming to Kansas from President Obama's stimulus plan will get here, although it has already been allocated. She said some is going to Medicaid, education, highways and bridges, and some left to split between urban and rural areas.

One of the ways the labor union has helped employees is by strengthening whistle-blower laws in Kansas, adding financial incentives and further protection to employees who come forward.

"In times like these, people have to be strong and come forward," said Ms. Carter. "We have to use our voice and stand up and be heard."

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