Local girl attends FFA conference

Leadership, professionalism, and focus were key undertakings within the encompassing theme of Leadership and Beyond at this year's conference.

Just as each is required to accomplish a mission, district officers are expected to serve with these key challenges in mind as they shoot for the moon in seeking to impact the lives of all they meet.

Throughout the year, they will be serving FFA members across the state and encouraging them to build leadership skills allowing them to be focused, determined citizens ready to complete many missions in life!

The conference began with a Blast Off experience, helping district officers recognize why they serve.

Learning their own leader-

ship styles allotted the officers a chance to better understand their team dynamics.

The session following further divulged into how professionalism and first impressions play a role in influencing others.

The evening included a banquet with special guests, sponsored by the KSU College of Agriculture. Inspiring words from national officer candidate, Bethany Bohnenblust of Labette County, and Dean and Director of the College of Agriculture and K-State Research and Extension, Fred Cholick, further encouraged the officers in their endeavors.

The district officers later found themselves Focusing Their Telescope for how they were going to positively influence members by honing their skills in classroom management, direction giving, and workshop presenting.

Effective leaders, they were told, know that small things matter.

After all their hard work, the final mission of the conference was the Countdown to Lift Off. Time management and priori-

tizing were discussed along with planning tools, communication and promoting state events.

As the conference drew to a close, district officers enjoyed an ice cream social sponsored by the Kansas FFAAlumni, before heading home to fulfill expectations above and beyond.

The Kansas FFA District Officers Conference is facilitated and organized by the officers of the Kansas FFA Association, the College of Agriculture at Kansas State University, and the Kansas State Board of Education.

The Kansas FFA Association has 7,302 members in 165 chapters. The National FFA Organization is the largest high school vocational organization in the nation and prepares its 507,763 members for leadership and careers in science, business, and technology in agriculture.

The mission of the FFA is to make a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.

Error causes problems with bidding

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

By ERICA BRADLEY ebradley@nwkansas.com

Tuesday, September 22, 2009

Bids for the Emergency Medical Services new ambulance were scheduled to open on Sept. 8, but due to an error by The Telegram the bids had to be postponed.

The Norton County Commissioners discussed the issue during their Sept. 8 meeting. Bid documents were sent out on time, but The Telegram did not print the publication. The commissioners decided publication should be done on Sept. 11 and bid opening would start on Sept. 21 at 9 a.m.

In an interview after the meeting, Robert Wyatt, county clerk, told The Telegram that the bidding process had to be re-started. The grant is a Community Development Block grant and has specific criteria.

'We're on schedule now," Mr. Wyatt said.

In other commission business: • John Mapes, Mapes and MillerAccounting, was present for the budget hearing. No one from the public attended. Commissioner Applegate moved to adopt the 2009/10 budget. Vote taken, motion passed.

• Cody and Natalie Linner were present to discuss a vehicle accident on county Road E2. Mr. Linner said he hit large ruts in the road, and his vehicle is likely totaled. The commission will contact the insurance agency to file a claim.

• Norton County Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom Brannan delivered his weekly report. The commission discussed the need to inspect roads after storms to identify which ones are travel concerns.

• Troy Thomson, Norton County sheriff, Alan Hale, county appraiser, Natalie Linner and Mindy Harting, appraisal staff, were present to discuss the E911 and GIS data systems. The commission discussed sharing information between offices, including addresses and phone numbers. There is an attorney general opinion stating 911 information cannot be exchanged between county offices. The commission agreed to prepare a list of questions and have a conference call with the Kansas Association of Counties legal staff.

 Gina Frack, Norton County Health Department nurse, presented a grant contract for the commission to sign. The grant is for the 2010 WIC program.





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