

New cabins at the lake



Prairie Dog State Park received some new cabins two weeks ago. The park already had several cabins available to campers.

—Telegram photo by Erica Bradley

Eisenhower recognizes “Teacher of the Year”

By CANDACE GAY
Special to The Telegram

To the many hats she already wears, Pam Menagh can add another: teacher of the year.

Menagh, wellness coordinator and curriculum coordinator for USD 211, was voted Eisenhower Elementary’s top teacher by her co-workers.

Menagh’s duties, which range from coordinating grants to working on school accreditation and school improvement, to staff development, are as varied as they are numerous, but she considers herself a teacher first. Although, teacher of the year is not something which had ever crossed her mind.

“It was a big surprise because I really see myself just as a teacher,” Menagh said. “I feel so privileged to be recognized by my peers because I work with such a great staff. To be considered teacher of the year was overwhelming to me.”

Belinda Thalheim, fourth grade teacher and a longtime Menagh colleague, was not as surprised by the designation. Thalheim credits Menagh for her dependability, organization and caring attitude toward students and staff.

“She is the first person to come in time of need whether it be a student or teacher,” said Thalheim. “She knows what needs to be done and she does it.”

Menagh joined USD 211 in 1987 after spending 14 years as a home economics teacher, including 12 years in Crete, Neb., and two in Friend, Neb. When she came to Norton, she helped develop a drug and alcohol education

curriculum for the new wellness program and began teaching the lessons in classrooms.

According to Menagh, the program fills an important need.

“After all these years, sometimes I recognize concerns in kids’ eyes,” Menagh said. “I know they know a lot more about drugs than I would hope they did.”

While Menagh fears elementary students already know more about drugs than they should, she tries to combat the problem with the power of positive information about how they can make good choices.

“I hope they learn to make good choices, and I hope I give them information to help them with some of those decisions,” Menagh said. “I don’t try to teach them what they should do, but I do try to teach them to look at the alternatives and make a smart choice.”

A sign of success came last November when one of Menagh’s former students, now in college, approached her and asked if she still brought her puppet, Frog, to class. Especially important to Menagh, not only did the student remember a fun puppet from elementary school, he remembered many of the lessons Frog taught him.

“When they recognize and remember the things you talked about, it’s very rewarding,” Menagh said.

Menagh’s value to Eisenhower Elementary was apparent to sixth grade teacher Bonita Slipke on her first day. Slipke’s first day teaching in Norton was also the first day in a strange school for

her two oldest children. Just before school began, Slipke’s son, a first grader, made the announcement he was not going to class. Slipke navigated her scared son to his classroom, but he refused to go in. There in the hall, two of Eisenhower Elementary’s newest members stood crying and risking a tardy beginning to the year. A future teacher of the year was their savior.

“Just as she always has over the years, Pam came to my rescue,” Slipke said. “She took Landon, said she would take care of him, and sent me on my way. Landon was not happy, but Pam took him into the room, shut the door behind her and stayed with him for quite awhile until he was settled and felt comfortable in his new surroundings.”

If teacher of the year honors have given Eisenhower Elementary staff an opportunity to reflect on Menagh’s teaching career, the timing is excellent. Menagh has announced her retirement, effective at the end of the school year. Traveling to see family and volunteer work in the community will soon replace coordinating grants, working with committees and teaching drug and alcohol education. Of the many aspects of her job, Menagh knows what she will miss the most.

“I’m going to miss the people I work with, both adults and kids,” Menagh said. “It think it’s more the people than the actual job.”

Other nominees for teacher of the year included Terry Hillman, Diane Lambrecht, Jennie Patterson, Teresa Schulze, Bonita Slipke and Nan Smith.

Arts Council plans concert

The Norton County Arts Council, Inc. is proud to bring top vocal ensemble, Premiere Editions to Norton on March 13 at 7 p.m. at the Norton East Campus Auditorium. Premiere Edition is part of The Culture House of Olathe and is directed by Broadway and West-end veterans Beth Krueger-Luthi and Todd Burd. Burd is a former Norton resident, graduate of Norton Community High School and the son of Richard and Ruth Burd of Norton.

Select students from the Kansas City area have been accepted to this highly skilled group of vocal-

ists. Their repertoire ranges from classic to contemporary, hymns to Broadway with harmonic precision and dynamism. Premiere Edition’s performance venues have included galas, stage productions, private events, nursing homes, and more.

Their musical spectrum includes songs like “Come What May,” “Accident Waiting to Happen” and “In Whatever Time We Have.” Premiere Edition has been fortunate to work with choreographers like France’s Christiane Lisabe and guest choreographer Yolanda Gibbs. Song and Dance

have been revived by Premiere Edition and include numbers like “Allegria,” “You Can’t Stop The Beat” and “Chattanooga Choo Choo.”

Special guest performer Aunica McMullen will be performing with the vocal ensemble. Aunica is the daughter of Todd and Carisa McMullen and granddaughter of Rosalie McMullen and Roger and Deanna Braun.

The Arts Council welcomes students to enjoy the program and meet with the group after the show.

Police Log

March 1
8:41 a.m. Key locked in vehicle, NCHS
10:11 a.m. Report of individual being out of town
12:58 p.m. Report of unregistered vehicle driving through Ag-Valley
1:00 p.m. Barking dog complaint
2:30 p.m. Picked up trash off highway
4:14 p.m. Vehicle stop, one individual in custody
5:36 p.m. Report of dresser on curb containing alcohol, 1000 block N. Norton
6:19 p.m. Activated alarm, Kellies
8:50 p.m. Keys locked in vehicle, NCHS
10:45 p.m. Barking dog complaint
March 2
12:57 p.m. Keys locked in vehicle, Pamida
4:15 p.m. Vehicle accident
4:31 p.m. Report of individual

parked in handicap parking spot without placard
7:30 p.m. Dog complaint, dog not tied up
March 3
10:50 a.m. Dog complaint, 300 block W. Washington
10:52 a.m. Report of internet scam
11:00 a.m. Funeral escort
12:09 p.m. Report of neighbor dispute, 500 W. Wilton
12:30 p.m. Served court papers
12:40 p.m. Escort over sized load, State St.
5:37 p.m. Report of hit and run
March 4
12:43 a.m. Report of someone sleeping in abandoned house
2:24 p.m. Funeral escort
6:41 p.m. Report of two vehicle accident, Dairy Queen
9:27 p.m. Request for extra patrol
9:55 p.m. Report of ground fire behind IGA
10:38 p.m. Activated alarm,

J&R Liquor
11:27 p.m. Barking dog complaint, S. Wabash
March 5
7:26 a.m. Activated alarm, First State Bank
7:43 a.m. Report of found dog (lab)
8:13 a.m. Request for civil standby
10:29 a.m. Report of lost dog (German Shepherd)
1:08 p.m. Request officer to stop by Norton Junior High School
1:24 p.m. Keys locked in vehicle, Loves
2:53 p.m. Report from individual that dog followed them home, 500 block N. Wilton
3:41 p.m. Report of power outage, O’Brien’s
4:53 p.m. Report of vandalism, 400 block N. Second
6:05 p.m. Report of vehicle speeding, 200 block E. Woodsfield

Business in the spotlight

Business Name: A Place for Everything (Classy Closets)
Owner: Ron and Nancy Kent
Address: 705 Woods Drive
Phone: (785) 877-2470
Type of Business: Organization service

Date Established: 2001
Ron and Nancy Kent have lived in Norton all their lives and have owned businesses here for over 30 years. For them, making a living in a small town meant having more than one business.

The idea for starting A Place for Everything came about when Nancy was helping a neighbor with a flooded basement. The neighbor needed to decide what she wanted done with the basement and how to organize it before the contractor came to do the work.

The neighbor’s 11 year old son asked Nancy if she was getting paid and that’s when she discovered that she had found something she loved to do and that maybe she could make a living out of it.

Nancy started slow, donated her time to the Norton Telethon to get the word out, did some other free work to figure out what peoples’ needs were, and how to give value and at what price.

It wasn’t long before she realized that people didn’t just have too much “stuff,” they also had really bad storage areas. She then began to search for a company that would make building closets fast and changeable so as clients’ storage needs changed so could their storage areas.

This is where she was met by her greatest challenge: being a woman in a man’s profession. It wasn’t until she attached Ron’s

name to the business that people would take her seriously. In trying to obtain a franchise she met with the obstacles of being in a less populated area and paying the shipping costs to get materials. Finally Classy Closets was willing to give her a chance and she has been able to cut shipping costs by picking up materials herself a trailer load at a time.

Some prospective clients seemed doubtful when she showed up at their door unaccompanied by her husband, mistakenly believing that women and power tools are not a good combination.

So far she has been able to dispel this misconception. Sometimes Ron does help her on an out-of-town job so they can complete the installation in one day and cut down on travel time and expense. Her greatest success has been to have clients tell her that a simple thing like being organized both in time and belongings can be life changing.

When asked what she would do differently, Nancy said, “I wouldn’t do anything differently. I love my job. I get to do a different job every day. I am a space planner, organizer, cleaning woman, designer, carpenter, mover, motivational speaker and stay at home Mom, which is the best part. I choose where and who I work for. It’s never boring, always challenging, and I get paid!”

Nancy’s vision for the future of her business is to hopefully do more jobs in Norton as opposed to traveling out of town.

So far, about 50 percent of her clients have been in Norton. She says the most rewarding thing

about being a business owner in Norton is you know the personalities and needs of the people you are working for and if you do a good job the positive word of mouth is the best advertising there is.

Nancy has a positive attitude about the future business economy for Norton County. Her advice to other business owners is to “treat people like gold and appreciate the customers you have instead of worrying about the ones you don’t have.” She believes that a small town’s biggest asset is its friendliness and ‘bend over backwards’ service. Business owners should find out what the customers’ needs are and if they are able to provide it we can keep people shopping at home.



You’re Invited
to Come Help Us Celebrate the 90th Birthday of
Margie Applegate
Sunday, March 14
from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
at the Norton Senior Center
208 W. Main, Norton, KS
No Gifts, Please



Date WITH A Purpose

LIVE

SATURDAY, MARCH 13
From 6:00-9:00 p.m.

LIGHT SNACKS WILL BE SERVED

The Rock Christian Youth Center in Downtown Norton, Kansas
<http://therocknortonkansas.shutterfly.com>
\$10 Per Couple
Men’s Breakfast - Sat., March 13, 7:30 a.m.
at The Rock with Dr. Gary Rosberg

WITH DR. GARY & BARB ROSBERG

www.TheGreatMarriageExperience.com

Championing marriage for the cause of Christ by coaching husbands and wives to achieve a great marriage for a lifetime . . . and for the sake of the next generation.

The Rosbergs have conducted conferences on marriage and family relationships nationally and internationally for over 20 years. Their flagship conferences part of The Great Marriage Experience, are impacting couples, churches, and communities worldwide. In addition, the Rosbergs have been featured speakers for LifeWay, Focus on the Family, FamilyLife and many events for several years. Gary has also spoken to hundreds of thousands of men at Promise Keepers.