

Ticket office a busy place

People were lined up, waiting for Kim Ellenberger to get to work on July 1.

That's because July 1 was "D-Day" for the Phillipsburg native, who now lives north of Stockton.

Ellenberger is the ticket saleswoman for Kansas' Biggest Rodeo in Phillipsburg, and the first day of July is when tickets went on sale for the annual event.

"The whole month of July is rodeo," she laughs. She'll spend July in the Tri-County Insurance office in Phillipsburg, a sister office to her normal workplace in

Stockton, selling tickets over the phone and in person.

"The first day of ticket sales is crazy," she says. Tri-County Insurance employees Janie Harger and Susie Hutson help answer the phone, which keeps ringing.

Ellenberger started as the rodeo's sole advance ticket-seller when she was 16. Now, six years later, she knows some of her customers by name. "After we talk on the phone, they come up to the ticket office to get their tickets, and it's like, 'Oh, you're Kim.' Yep, I'm the one you talked to," she says.

She's been going to the rodeo ever since she was a little girl, and now that she sells tickets, she's there all three nights of the event.

The rodeo is so popular that class and family reunions are scheduled to fall on that weekend. The Phillipsburg High School class of 1980 has scheduled their reunion on Aug. 6-7, and Ellenberger says her mother-in-law is putting together a class reunion for August 4. "Nothing happens (in Phillipsburg) during rodeo weekend except the rodeo."

This year's event, the 81st an-

nual, will take place Aug. 5-7. The phone number for Ellenberger at Tri-County Insurance is 785.543.2448. Ticket prices are \$13 for adult reserved seats and \$9 for children's reserved seats. General admission ticket prices are \$11 for adults and \$8 for children. Children two years and younger are free. Parking is free for the rodeo.

For more information, visit www.KansasBiggestRodeo.com.

FSA issues a reminder

Erin M Clason, county executive director of the Norton County Farm Service Agency, reminded foreign investors who buy, sell or hold a direct or indirect interest in agricultural lands in the United States that they are required under the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act to report their holdings and transactions to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

The Secretary of Agriculture has delegated the responsibility for collecting this information to the Farm Service Agency.

According to Clason, foreigner investors buying or selling land must report such transaction within 90 days of the date of the sale.

Failure to file an accurate or timely report can result in a penalty with fines up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the agricultural land.

Clason said the act requires reports to be filed by:

- Individuals who are not

U.S. citizens or citizens of the Northern Mariana Islands or the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands;

- Individuals who are not lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence or who are not paroled into the United States under the Immigration and Nationality Act;

- Any organization created under the laws of a foreign government or which has located its principal place of business outside the United States;

- Any U.S. organization in which a significant interest or substantial control is directly or indirectly held by foreign individuals, organizations, or governments; and

- Any foreign governments.

Farm Service Agency form FSA-153 is used to report land holdings and transactions. The completed form must be returned to the FSA county office where the land is located.

Texting ban expected to save lives

A new state law banning all drivers from reading, writing or sending text messages went into effect July 1.

With the law, Kansas joins 27 other states in banning a practice that the U.S. Department of Transportation calls "alarming" and which experts say makes serious crashes four times more likely to occur.

Under the law, state and local law enforcement officers can issue warnings to drivers for the first six months the law is in effect.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2011, drivers caught texting will be subject to fines.

"Distractions such as texting while driving create a serious hazard for all motorists," said Col. Terry Maple, superintendent of the Kansas Highway Patrol.

"We encourage drivers to focus their full attention on driving, and conduct their electronic conversations when they arrive at their destination. By doing this, Kansas roads will be safer for all travelers."

According to the Governor's Highway Safety Association, 28 states and the District of Columbia now ban text messaging for all drivers.

The federal government has banned texting while driving by federal employees on duty and all commercial truck and bus drivers.

An additional nine states prohibit text messaging by novice, or teen, drivers only.

Kansas Secretary of Transportation Deb Miller said texting is a particularly dangerous activity because it takes the driver's eyes off the road, and hands off the wheel.

"Studies show that, on average, drivers who are texting take their eyes off the road for about five seconds per message," Miller said.

"At 55 miles per hour, a vehicle would travel further than the length of a football field, plus its end zones - a total of 134 yards - in those five seconds. That should

be all anyone needs to know to recognize the danger of texting and driving."

The practice has been found to be so dangerous that the federal department of transportation has set up a special Web site, <http://www.distraction.gov>, with information about distracted driving.

The site defines distracted driving as "any non-driving activity a person engages in that has the potential to distract him or her from the primary task of driving and increase the risk of crashing."

While all distractions can endanger drivers' safety, texting is most alarming because it involves all three types of distractions:

- Visual - taking your eyes off the road
- Manual - taking your hands off the wheel
- Cognitive - taking your mind off what you're doing

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, nearly 6,000 people died in 2008 in crashes involving a distracted driver, accounting for 16 percent of all traffic fatalities, and more than half a million were injured.

It's a growing problem, with the proportion of drivers distracted at the time of fatal crashes increasing from 8 percent in 2004 to 11 percent in 2008.

• PUBLIC NOTICE •

ORDINANCE #1601

Published in The Norton Telegram on Tuesday, July 6, 2010

ORDINANCE #1601 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE INTERLOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORTON AND THE COUNTY OF NORTON, KANSAS FOR THE JOINT OPERATION OF AN OFFENDER WORK DETAIL CREW WITH THE KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF NORTON, KANSAS:

That the City of Norton, Norton County, Kansas, a municipality, hereinafter referred to as "City" will approve the entering of an Interlocal Cooperation Agreement with Norton County for the purposes of permitting the City of Norton and the County of Norton to make efficient use of a Kansas Department of Corrections offender labor crew and enabling them to cooperate with each other in the operation and funding for said offender labor crew.

WHEREAS, the City is local governmental unit and is a public agency within the meaning of K.S.A. 12-2903 and amendments thereto. By virtue of the provisions of K.S.A. 12-2901, et al, said public agency is authorized to exercise any power or powers, privileges or authority exercised or capable of being exercised by a public

agency of this state including public improvements, public utilities, park and recreational programs and facilities and building facilities,

WHEREAS, the City Council for the City of Norton, Kansas, by this ordinance approves the joint and cooperative action with Norton County and by this Ordinance provides authorization for the execution of the interlocal agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF NORTON, KANSAS:

1. That the City approves the entering of the interlocal agreement for the purposes of jointly cooperating in the operation and funding of a Kansas Department of Corrections Offender Labor Crew.

2. That the exact terms and conditions of said agreement are fully set forth in the Interlocal agreement.

3. That the City of Norton will be the municipal or public agency contractor with the Kansas Department of Corrections

This ordinance shall be effective upon publication in the official city newspaper.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Governing Body of the City of Norton, Kansas, this 16th day of June, 2010.

David N. Corns, Mayor

Attest: Darla R. Ellis,

• PUBLIC NOTICE • MAY NORTON COUNTY BILLS

Published in The Norton Telegram on Tuesday, July 6, 2010

Board of County Commissioners met in regular session at the Norton County Courthouse June 30, 2010 to allow the following bills: K.S.A. 19-337. An itemized copy of this report is available for inspection in the County Clerk's Office.

CLAIMS-GROSS PAYROLL	FUND TOTALS ONLY
County General	\$171,532.18
Road & Bridge	\$70,969.41
Special Bridge	\$11,130.93

Ambulance	\$34,226.32	KELLING FUND	\$100.00
Appraiser's Cost	\$15,299.78	Alcohol & Drug Test Fund	\$1,119.59
County Health	\$41,454.73	Co Attorney Training	\$600.23
Economic Development	\$8,187.18	*Co Attorney Diversion	\$376.64
Election	\$3,461.16	*Court Trustee-State	\$15,457.78
Employee Benefits	\$85,727.21	*Case Management	\$16,950.72
4-H Maintenance	\$749.83	*Juvenile Director	\$5.16
Noxious Weed	\$19,779.59	*JISP	\$19,608.16
Solid Waste	\$12,643.53	*Diversion	\$14,292.51
E 911 Fund	\$18,447.60	*Juvenile Intake	\$15,464.45
DISTRICT CORONER	\$200.00	Northwest BT Region	\$2,962.50
Economic Dev Cap Outlay	\$8,753.09	*Thinking For A Change	\$686.22
GOB Recovery Zone Bond	\$4,957.66	HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT	\$9,812.91
911 Tax	\$833.92		

Norton grad interns in St. Francis

By KAREN KRIEN karen.k@nwkansas.com

Kayleigh Brooks has spent the past month at Krien Pharmacy as a pharmacist intern.

She arrived June 1 and left June 26.

She said she enjoyed working with Kody (Krien) and Toni (Keller).

"I learned a lot and found the people were really nice," she said.

Kayleigh said she had originally wanted to be a veterinarian but, that, she said, didn't work out.

Instead, she switched to working at the pharmacy at Pamida in Norton and has spent many hours working there in the last four years.

She graduated from Norton Community High School in 2007 and is attending Kansas University School of Medicine.

She plans to graduate in 2013.

Kayleigh will do well as a pharmacist, Dr. Krien, owner of Krien Pharmacy, said.

She has been one of the more experienced interns working here.



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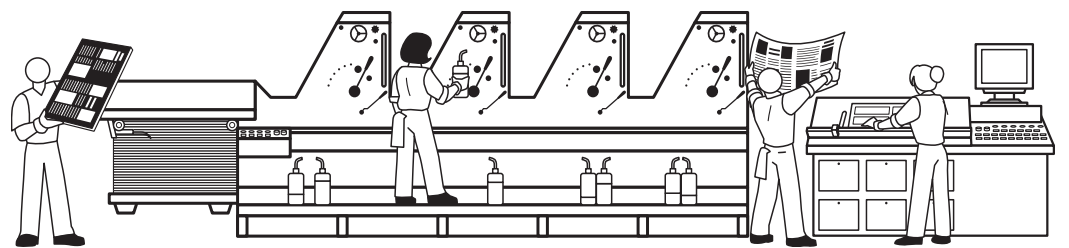
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