

# Senior minister to speak at 'Yellow Ribbon Rally' Sunday

A "Yellow Ribbon Rally" has been scheduled at the Norton Christian Church for Sunday April 3 at 8 and 10:40 a.m. according to Larry Lyles, Sr. Minister. Cecil Todd, founder and President of Revival Fires Ministry from Branson, Mo., will be the featured speaker.

The purpose of this non-denominational "Yellow Ribbon Rally" is to show support for our troops, honor our veterans, and call America to repentance and prayer. We want to invite any area church people to attend our early service to hear Dr. Todd before their regular services. Dr. Todd will share a dynamic message on the theme, "Wake Up America!" All veterans and those currently in our Armed Forces will be honored and presented with a special gift. Todd will also lead in a pledge to our flag.

Since the beginning of the war in Iraq,

"Revival Fires" has assisted in providing over 140,000 Bibles for our troops at the request of the Chief Chaplains at the Pentagon. A special offering will be received at this service to provide bibles to the more than 30,000 troops recently deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq. The bibles cost only \$4 each to print and are air-lifted by military transport to our troops.

Revival Fires has an international ministry with mission outreach to Iraq, Afghanistan, Russia, China and India. Dr. Todd was invited to preach in Russia's Red Square in Moscow during a May Day celebration where over one million heard him share the gospel. Dr. Todd was the featured speaker on a syndicated weekly TV program called "Revival Fires". It was seen on 153 stations nation-wide each week. He appeared on many of the Kansas stations a number of years ago. Dr. Todd has

made 26 million trips to Russia distributing over four million bibles to Russia's Red Army and the students in the Russian schools. He aided in building four chapels of worship on or near military bases and started several congregations in Russia. He has met and prayed with presidents, governors, senators and congressmen. Todd was honored to have a meal with the late President Reagan and Mrs. Reagan in their home and invited for a short visit on Air Force One.

The Yellow Ribbon Rally is a non-denominational gathering open to the public. Larry Lyles, Minister, invites all that can attend to come and enjoy this rally with Cecil Todd. For more information call the Norton Christian Church at 785-877-2871.

## Ward III

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As a specific goal, I would like to help bring transparency to the operation of the city.

I would bring to the city 40 years of experience in the Construction and Maintenance field. This experience covers design, specifications, construction and maintenance of highways, streets, drainage structures, buildings and waste and sewer treatment. I have supervisory and administrative experience as a Resident Engineer, Area Engineer, District Construction and Materials Engineer and District Maintenance Engineer. In college I was interested in Sanitary engineering and have several classes in waste water and water treatment

systems.

With the current problems facing Federal, State and local governments, I feel that is everyone's responsibility to make sound judgments in the expenditures and administration of the city government. I feel that it is imperative that the citizens of Norton understand the needs and expenditures of the city and the City needs to understand that they are operating on the citizen's dollar.

I would address this issue by trying to help the public understand and take an active part in the city government and utilize my experience to make sound decisions for the betterment of the city.

## FFA

(Continued from Page 1)

culture and faith that our citizens have in our advisor to teach our young people so much in four years at Norton Community High School.

"I personally thank Mr. Perez, Mr. Wallingford and Mr. Mann as well as the Board of Education for seeing how important these agriculture classes are for NCHS and what an impact Mr. Beydler has on these young people's lives.

"I have watched as these young people have grown in all aspects of life. I can stand back and say that each one of these FFA members has worked hard for this chapter and for Mr. Beydler. It is like a huge 100 member family. I have heard many times from Mr. Perez and other faculty members how great a job Mr. Beydler does and how strong these members are and how they do so well at all levels from Greenhands to Senior Division members. This is a great group of young people!

"Thank you, Mr. Beydler, for taking me from being a shy, quiet freshman, yes me, into the person I am today, able to stand here and give this parent's response. I also thank him for all he does for this chapter, school and community. He and his wife, Neva, have touched these girls' and boys' lives in ways that no one else could. Thank you for everything you did for me and for all that you do for these young people. I would not have wanted my sons to have any other FFA advisor but you.

"Now, the good news! You are stuck with me for at least four more years since, you see, I will have a freshman in FFA next year. Best of luck and I look forward to these upcoming years as much as you do!"

### Awards presentations

The senior officers presented appreciation awards to the many parents, alumni and other volunteers who have helped throughout the year.

Bryan Keiswetter, president of the Norton FFA Chapter in 1980, presented a \$50 U.S. Savings Bond to Kolton Harting as his prize for selling the most FFA fruit.

Representing the Norton County Farm Bureau, Mrs. Kara Miller presented awards to the following senior FFA members: Scott Archhart, Troy Bainter, Ryan Blecha, David Cressler, Tyler Esslinger, Kyra Fulton, Jesse Gallentine, Chance McMullen, Meaghan Peterson, Cody Smith, Jeremy Sproul and Kegan Vanover.

Glen Campbell awarded the \$250 William F. Campbell Memorial Scholarship to David Cressler.

On behalf of the Norton FFA Alumni, Brandon Schulze presented \$250 Alumni Scholarships to Kyra Fulton and Kegan Vanover.

Lucas Maddy presented the \$300 Lucas Maddy Scholarship to Troy Bainter.

Mr. Beydler presented \$500 scholarships from an anonymous donor to David Cressler and Troy Bainter.

FFA scholarships were awarded by Mr. Beydler to Troy Bainter, \$300; David Cressler, \$500; Kyra Fulton, \$300; Kegan Vanover, \$500 and Ashley Millan, \$300.

Mr. Beydler also presented the Anderson Memorial Scholarship to David Cressler.



Keynote speaker at the Norton FFA Banquet was Bethany Bohnenblust, a Kansas State University junior in Agriculture who has been FFA State President and National FFA Secretary. She gave a very informative speech on the importance of having a vision in life and seeing it through by starting well and finishing well.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Proficiency Awards were presented by Mr. Beydler to the following FFA members: Caleb Vanover, equine placement; Cody Smith, placement in diversified agriculture; Clayton Esslinger, beef production; Cole Renner, lawn care; John Renner, vegetable production; Kegan Vanover, veterinary science; Andy Nickell, grain production; R.J. Ellis, agriculture sales and service.

Mr. Beydler also presented these awards: Troy Bainter, Senior Academic Award; Zach Esslinger, High Point Greenhand; Dylan Sprigg, High Point Chapter Member; Kolton Harting, Star Chapter Greenhand; R.J. Ellis, Star Chapter Farmer and David Cressler, Chapter Star in Placement.

Northwest District accomplishments this school year by Norton FFA members were: Dylan Sprigg, 2011 District Star Greenhand; Caleb Vanover, District Placement in Equine Production Proficiency Award; Kegan Vanover, District

Placement in Veterinary Science Proficiency Award; R.J. Ellis, District Secretary candidate.

Norton was the winner of the District Contest Sweepstakes and the District Greenhand Sweepstakes.

Mr. Beydler announced that Robert Blecha and David Cressler have received the State Farmer Award and Troy Bainter, Cody Ellis, Dylan Sprigg and Wyatt Wentz have qualified for the National Land Judging Contest in Oklahoma City.

Bridges Insurance of Norton was thanked for sponsoring the banquet awards.

Andy Newsum, student teacher from Kansas State University, was introduced and received positive comments from each one of the officers. He also spoke briefly to the large crowd. "I've had a very interesting and fun time in Norton," he commented. "I really like it here. The students and school staff made it easy for me."

"It was neat to see how dedicated the chapter members are."

He received a plaque as winner of the Distinguished Service Award and gift from the chapter officers.

### Honorary members

The officers inducted Charlotte Stephenson and Shawn Miller into the chapter as honorary members for their support of the Norton FFA Chapter.

### High points

The following Norton FFA members who have earned at least 400 points this year were recognized: Bailey Ambrosier, Abby Bainter, Robert Blecha, David Cressler, Cassius Dole, R.J. Ellis, Shauna Gibson, Kolton Harting, Marisa Maddy, Dalton Miller, Garret Otter, Isaac Schaeffers, Kegan Vanover, Megan Arehart, Darcy Bainter, Ryan Blecha, Travis Cressler, Cody Ellis, Zach Esslinger, Austin Hager, Alexis Lively, Chance McMullen, Cristine Nelson, Johnnye Ruder, Dylan Sprigg and Wyatt Wentz.

### Keynote speaker

Bethany Bohnenblust, a Kansas State University junior in Agriculture, FFA State President in 2008-09 and National FFA Secretary in 2009-10 from Altamont, was the keynote speaker for the evening.

"I've traveled in over 40 states as a national FFA officer and, at the end of the day, what did it teach me?" she began. "No matter where you're from, we all have in common that we have a story to tell. We're all gifted and all have big dreams.

"Within our dreams, it's easy to begin well but finishing well is hard."

She told the audience about a track relay team she was a member of as a sophomore and in high school. At the start of the season, they were supposed to be the best foursome in the state. They began well enough but by the time for the regional meet, they were not doing so well and placed fourth, barely qualifying for the state meet, which didn't turn out to their liking either.

She said they decided that they started well but made too many mistakes to finish well.

"All good athletes have a vision. They begin well and finish well."

she said.

Bethany gave the example of two outstanding Kansas State University athletes. One was Jordy Nelson from Riley who had to walk on as a Wildcat football player, starred for K-State and this season was the leading pass receiver for the Green Bay Packers in their Super Bowl victory.

The second athlete was Jacob Pullen, all-conference K-State point guard in basketball, who finished his senior season in the NCAA Tournament with a 38-point performance.

"Visualize your 80th or 100th birthday party," she said. "What will you have accomplished? Who do you want to be there?"

"Decisions we make now will affect our future. They will set like concrete. Once concrete hardens, it can't easily be changed.

"We should want to be around people who challenge us to make our vision come true. You want to see your future, show me your friends. Hopefully, they will challenge you.

"The FFA members in Norton

are capable of using their vision to accomplish amazing things. They are among the best in the nation. You parents should be proud of the young people you are raising. They are learning to have vision for their lives and learning how to best use their time to reach their goals.

"Norton FFA members you are surrounded by people who will support you and your vision!"

Following Bethany's inspirational speech, the audience enjoyed a slide show of photos taken during the year's activities. It was produced by Ryan Blecha.

### New officers

New Norton FFA Chapter officers were sworn in by this year's officers.

They are: Robert Blecha, president; R.J. Ellis, vice-president; Marisa Maddy, secretary; Cody Ellis, treasurer; Kolton Harting, reporter; Dylan Sprigg, sentinel; Wyatt Wentz, historian.

The new officers concluded the banquet with the closing ceremonies and led the assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

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**Clothes that the driver picks up on Tuesday's will be returned on Thursday's; clothes picked up on Thursday's will be returned Tuesday's**

**Effective Tuesday, March 22**