

Business in the spotlight

Each month this column features one Norton County business selected at random in honor of all our local businesses large and small, well-established and newly-established for their valuable contribution to our economy. Economic Development Board member Carolyn Applegate submitted this month's article.

Business in the Spotlight – March 2011

New Age Industrial Corporation

Forty five years ago eight local businessmen got together to plan an expansion into manufacturing in Norton County. New Age Industrial Corporation came out of those meetings. The name originates from the founders' desire to bring new life to our economically struggling farm community. The basic idea was to start a "new age" of industry in rural Kansas.

Opening in 1966 in a 10,000 square-foot facility, the company has expanded with several building additions and now has a total of 180,000 square feet. Known in the food service industry as "the aluminum specialists", they make thousands of products from extruded aluminum including a variety of shelving, carts, tables, food service racks, cabinets, and dollies. In 2002 New Age added a powder coating service for their customers, enabling them to cover the base aluminum with over 1000 color choices. Their national client list continues to grow with food handling clients and retailers like Costco Warehouses, Target,

JC Penney, and McDonalds. Attending trade shows all over the country keeps them in touch with current clients and makes it possible to showcase products to potential buyers. Keeping up with technology has also given them the edge in the market. According to Larry Nelson, one of the owners, new products are being added continuously because half of their business comes from custom orders.

New Age is one of Norton County's largest employers. There is low turnover at the company, in part, because the 113 employees are able to profit share and take ownership in their work output. The motto of the company has always been "Quality Service--Value". Hiring a younger workforce is something they are looking at as employees hired in the 1970's and '80's are beginning to think about retirement. The staff enjoys a company environment of stability, good benefits and a pay rate which allows them a good life.

One drawback to being in western Kansas is that the location causes higher freight rates for incoming materials and outgoing products. The aluminum market fluctuates with the national economy, and to some degree with the global economy.

In April 1996, a fire started from a welding spark and burned for 9 1/2 hours, calling in the service of ten fire departments, National Guard, KDOT, Norton County personnel and local farmers who hauled water to the scene. The

north end of the facility including the offices, extrusion press and hydraulic oil area was saved. The fire was on Monday and on Tuesday the owners met with key employees to form a recovery plan. All employees were asked to come back to work at 8 a.m. Wednesday to help clean up and rebuild the facility. Within two weeks the company was able to re-start production. No one was laid off during that time and everyone pulled together to bring new life to New Age. Working together works!

When Larry Nelson was asked recently what advice he would give someone starting a new business, he answered, "Get a good banking relationship from the beginning." Larry shared the best advice he ever received. "Take care of your customer or someone else will. Take pride in quality work." He was asked why he ever wanted to be a business owner in a small town. Nelson then told a story about how in 1970 an investment professor told him that he should be financially a part of any business he chose. "If you plan to work in a field for any length of time, invest in the business and own your future". This is certainly good advice from one of the owners of a very successful manufacturing complex.

New Age Industrial Corporation is a privately held business with few owners: Tom Sharp, Jim Sharp, Collette & Mick Miller, Brock Miller, Larry Nelson and Dan Porter. [HYPERLINK "http://www.newageindustrial.com/"](http://www.newageindustrial.com/)

ACCIDENT LOG

March 14:

At 11:34 p.m., a 2002 Jeep driven by Andrew Schrum, Norton, was traveling south on gravel road W-2 when he lost control of the vehicle after turning off Road L. The vehicle skidded several times on the gravel before the vehicle left the roadway, entering the west ditch and rolling. The jeep came to a rest in the ditch facing east. No injuries were reported to the driver or his passengers. A citation was given to the driver for driving in violation of restrictions. The accident was investigated by Deputy Larry Land.

March 22:

At 7:15 a.m., a 2006 Chrysler, driven by Jolene Andrews, Edmond, was north bound on Highway 283 when a raccoon ran from the ditch. The driver was unable to avoid contact. There was damage to the front of her vehicle. The accident was investigated by Under

Sheriff Rich Wenzl.

At 11:35 a.m. a 2007 Chevrolet driven by James Smith, Hill City, was traveling west bound on Road D. A 2006 Ford driven by Margaret Magers, Norcat, was traveling east on Road D. The vehicles met on the crest of a hill and side swiped each other. The Chevrolet crossed the roadway and rolled over, coming to rest on its wheels facing northeast on the roadway.

The Ford spun around and came to a rest in the south ditch facing north west. The Norton County Emergency Medical Service transported the injured parties to Norton County Hospital. The accident was investigated by Deputy Robert Annon.

March 24:

At 6:16 a.m., a 2000 Nissan driven by Susan Newlan, Prairie View, was west bound on Highway 36, when a deer ran out of the south ditch onto the highway.

The driver was unable to avoid striking the deer, causing damage to her vehicle. No injuries were reported. The accident was investigated by Deputy Larry Land.

March 25:

At 3:30 p.m., a 1995 Chevrolet Blazer driven by Lawrence Murray, Beaver City, Neb., was south bound on Road W-9 when he lost control and went into the west ditch and rolled. No injury was reported. The accident was investigated by Under Sheriff Rich Wenzl.

March 26:

At 7 a.m., a 2010 Dodge driven by Jason Zystra, Colorado Springs, Colo., was west bound on Highway 383 when a deer ran out in front of his vehicle. The driver was unable to avoid striking the animal. No injuries were reported. The accident was investigated by Deputy Rich Wenzl.

Caregiver training available

The Northwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging and the Kansas Department on Aging will sponsor training for the Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas program. The three day training will be held in Hays on May 11, June 22 and July 13. Alternate training dates and locations are available. All expenses for the training, food, mileage and lodging (if needed) will be paid. Pre-registration by April 29

is required.

Senior Health Insurance Counseling for Kansas is a free program that uses trained community volunteers to answer people's questions about Medicare and other insurance issues. Counselors provide free, unbiased and confidential assistance to beneficiaries, their caregivers and others who have questions about Medicare.

Senior Health Insurance Coun-

seling for Kansas volunteers receive training on Medicare, Medicare Prescription Drug insurance, Medicare Supplement Insurance, Long-term Care Insurance and other health insurance subjects that concern Kansans.

For more information, contact Glenna Clingingsmith at the Northwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging at 1-800-432-7422 or (785) 628-8204.

Congressman talked about fiscal problems

Congressman Huelskamp, a member of the Committee on the Budget, offered the following statement as the Committee unveiled its proposed Fiscal Year 2012 budget:

"At a town hall in Hutchinson, Kansas last month, I asked constituents how many of them felt that life in America would be better for the next generation, and not a single person raised their hand," Congressman Huelskamp said. "The American Dream is in jeopardy, and that fact is not lost on the American people, nor the new freshman class in Washington.

"The House Republican budget is a critical step in restoring the American Dream. This Path to Prosperity protects the opportunity to pursue and achieve the American Dream, as generations have since the founding of our country.

"After four years of record deficits and massive expansion of

government, we are finally getting to work on the challenges facing our country. With this plan, we are making the tough decisions those in Washington in the past have been unwilling to make, let alone consider.

"I was sent to Washington to challenge the way things are normally done. Some say that the Republican budget is a political risk. I say it's a step in the right direction.

"In contrast to the President's budget, this budget makes real spending cuts and offers firm solutions to ending the culture of overspending in Washington. America is obviously headed in the wrong direction, and failing to change course immediately would be a tragic surrender of our responsibility.

"While the President's budget proposes the status quo of more spending, more regulations which stifle job creation, more taxes, and

more debt, this Republican budget is a clear alternative that strives to end deficit spending, reduce the country's debt, and spur economic prosperity.

"It is disappointing that the President and Democrats are un-

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Norton Community High School

Monday, April 11
Dance Team: Try Out Meeting A.P. – Parents Meeting at 6 p.m.

Varsity Golf at Ellis – 3 p.m.
9/10 Track at Goodland – 4:45 p.m.

Tuesday, April 12
Tuesday through Friday –

Dance Tryout Practice: Stull Gym
Jay Singers – 7:30 a.m.

Varsity Golf at Goodland – 2 p.m.
Varsity Track at Smith Center – 3 p.m.

Wednesday, April 13
FFA District Livestock and

Agronomy at Oakley – 8:30 a.m.
S.A.D.D. – A.P.

Thursday, April 14
State Music: Large Groups at Colby – TBA

Jay Singers – 7:30 a.m.
FCCLA – A.P.

Friday, April 15
High Plains Art Festival at Oberlin Friday and Saturday

Faculty Meeting – 7:45 a.m.
JV Golf at Hill City – 3 p.m.

Assembly: Shrine Bowl Football – 3 p.m.

Sunday, April 17
FCCLA Adopt-A-Highway – 2 p.m.

Norton Junior High
Monday, April 11
Stucco – A.P.

Tuesday, April 12
KAYS – A.P.

Wednesday, April 13
Faculty meeting – 7:45 a.m.
Cheerleader meeting for 2011 – JH gym – A.P.

Thursday, April 14
Track at Phillipsburg – 11 a.m.

Eisenhower Elementary
Tuesday, April 12
Grade 4 CBM's – 8:30 a.m.

Wednesday, April 13
Grade 5 CBM's – 8:30 a.m.
TEAM Meeting – 3:40 p.m.

Thursday, April 14
Grade 6 CBM's – 8:30 a.m.
3-4 Grade Level meeting – 3:40 p.m.

Friday, April 15
5/6 Vocal Concert practice at East Campus – 9:30 a.m.

All Schools
Monday, April 11
USD 211 BOE Meeting: Unified Office – 7:30 a.m.

Tuesday, April 12
Kansas State Board of Education Meeting: Topeka – 10 a.m.

Friday, April 15
NCKSEC Supt. meeting at Phillipsburg – 10 a.m.

High School and Junior High Menu

All Meals are served with milk, alternate breakfast is cold cereal and toast with jelly; alternate lunch is chef salad.

Monday
Breakfast: French toast sticks, syrup, fruit or juice. Lunch: Pigs in a blanket, peas, carnival salad, rosy applesauce.

Tuesday
Breakfast: Breakfast burrito, hash brown patty, fruit or juice. Lunch: Chicken and noodles, whipped potatoes, carrots, rolls, pineapple chunks

Wednesday
Breakfast: Breakfast casserole with ham, fruit or juice. Lunch: Hamburger with cheese, lettuce and tomato, corn, chocolate pudding.

Thursday
Breakfast: Pizza squares, fruit or juice. Lunch: Meatlover's pocket, pasta salad, green beans, pineapple chunks

Friday
Breakfast: Chocolate banana muffin square, fruit or juice. Lunch: Cheese pizza, combo salad, mandarin oranges, s'mores snack treat.

Eisenhower Elementary
All meals are served with milk

Monday
Breakfast: Scrambled eggs, ham, pears, grape juice. Lunch: Chicken Fry, potatoes, gravy, green beans, roll, fruit cocktail

Tuesday
Breakfast: Breakfast pizza, rosy applesauce, orange juice. Lunch: Western bean bake, cheese stick, corn, jello with pears, cornbread.

Wednesday
Breakfast: Warm cereal w/ toppers, grape juice. Lunch: Pigs in a blanket, french fries, dill spear, baby carrots, rosy applesauce.

Thursday
Breakfast: Chilled yogurt, bagel with cream cheese, apple juice. Lunch: Hamburger gravy, whipped potatoes, peas, peaches, cinnamon rolls.

Friday
Breakfast: Fruit crispitos, grape juice. Lunch: Fish portions, potato salad, celery stick, apricots, roll.

Northern Valley Schools
Monday, April 11
K-3 Teach Children to Save Program

Kindergarten and first grade from 1:30 to 2 p.m. and 2nd and 3rd from 2:24 p.m. to 3 p.m.

6th and 8th grade reading assessments
High School Forensics Dinner and Show Night in the High School Auditorium: Dinner at 6 p.m. Show starts at 7 p.m.

8 p.m. School Board meeting in the conference room at Almena

Tuesday, April 12
6th and 8th grade reading assessments
10 a.m. High School track meet Triplains Invitational at Colby

Wednesday, April 13
7:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. High School science to FHSU Lab
6th and 8th grade reading assessments

8:30 a.m. FFA District Livestock/Agronomy/Horticulture at Hays
7 p.m. Senior Girls Athena Club Supper at Connie Cox's house.

Thursday, April 14
TBD – High School Large Group Contest at Colby

Friday, April 15
8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. pre-school screening at Congregational Church in Almena
9:30 a.m. – Grades 6,7, and 8 Husky Invitational Track meet at Logan

3 p.m. – High School Husky Invitational Track meet at Logan

School Menu
All meals served with milk. Breakfast offers cold cereal.

Monday
Breakfast: Egg biscuit, sausage links, hash browns, grape juice. Lunch: Sub sandwich, ranch wedges, baked beans, sliced peaches.

Tuesday
Breakfast: Streusel top muffin, ham, scrambled egg, apricots. Lunch Mexi-tot supreme, french bread, salad with dressing, buttered corn, butterscotch pudding.

Wednesday
Breakfast: Breakfast burrito, hash browns, peaches. Lunch: Shaved turkey, bun, potato salad, peas, brownie.

Thursday
Breakfast: Waffles, syrup, ham slice, scrambled eggs, fruit punch. Lunch: Roast beef, potatoes, gravy, roll, green beans, peach crisp.

Friday
Breakfast: Sausage patty, eggs, hash browns, toast. Lunch: Grilled cheese sandwich, tri-tator, carrots, rosemary applesauce.

Relay for life is selling luminaria

If you've driven downtown recently, you may have noticed something new in the empty lot just north of Bullock's. Relay for Life co-chairs Jay and Gayle Walsh built and erected a sign to track donations to Relay.

There is a large purple ribbon with information for people wanting to donate to or help with this year's Relay. Luminaria are for sale, and the committee hopes more luminaries will be sold this year with the visual measurement showing the progress.

People may go to the local Nex-

Tech office or to Hair Envy to make a donation or offer help.

In addition, committee members and team members have luminary bags and will be glad to sell them.

A few "pre-decorated" bags are for sale, or people purchasing them may decorate them. These bags are to honor cancer survivors and to remember those who lost their struggle with cancer.

The Relay for Life is being held May 13-14 this year at the Courthouse Square. Anyone in the county is invited to come.

There will be activities as Relay for Life opens at 7 p.m. on Friday, May 13.

Between 9 and 10 p.m. the candles in the luminary bags will be lit, and the names of those being honored/remembered will be read. This is a very touching ceremony and the highlight of Relay for many people.

Even if you don't walk at the Relay, you can participate and help the fight against cancer by purchasing luminaria and seeing your contribution noted on the sign.

COMING SOON



Comic Mark Eddie

Comedian/Singer/Songwriter

Huck Boyd Community Center
860 Park Street, Phillipsburg, Kansas
Sunday, April 17, 2011
7:00 P.M.

Adults: \$10.00; Children (12 and Under): \$5.00

Eddie fuses music and stand-up comedy. He is heard nationally on Sirius-XM Radio and regionally on The Bob & Tom Show. He's also featured on Comedy Central, Showtime and VH-1. Eddie has performed for major corporate events such as: Verizon, Service Master, Bayer, Valvoline, Southwest Airlines, Farm Fresh, and Best Buy. Check out his website at www.markeddie.com

Call 785-543-5535 for More Information

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