

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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Tuesday
January 17, 2012

4-H members show off favorite foods

4-H members were busy cooking up dishes and designing place settings and leaders and parents were giving plenty of help for the Annual 4-H Favorite Food Show on Saturday. Judges consulted with 25 4-H'ers about meal preparation techniques and nutritional value of favorite foods, how the favorite food fits into a menu and the food guide pyramid and the presentation of the food in a table setting. The judges were Lynette Brown from Oxford, Neb., Amy Lorenzen from Oakley and Nadine Holmes from Smith Center.

The 4-H'ers selected table linens, place settings and centerpieces for their displays to represent a table setting for a meal or snack where their "favorite food" entree or dish would be served. Judges met with each 4-H'er to evaluate the table setting, the food product and nutritional information, and food safety issues about the entree or dish they prepared.

Four outstanding ratings were given, one in each of the Foods and Nutrition levels.



Amy Lorenzen (left) from the Oakley Extension office was a judge at this year's 4-H Food Show. She is visiting with Madison DuBois, a Prairie Dog 4-H'er from Norton, about her Snake Stick sandwich, which she made for the show. Madison received a purple ribbon for her efforts.

-Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

- Level I**
Addison Brooks, Prairie Dog 4-H Club, Reese's Peanut Butter 'n' Chocolate Pie
- Level II**
Katelyn Skrdlant, Busy Beavers, Nana's Chilly Day Chili
- Level III**
Carson Wallace, Cedar Ridge 4-H Club, Hayes Heirloom Spaghetti
- Level IV:** Rebecca Wentz, Prairie Dog 4-H Club, Strawberry Cheesecake

- The following 4-H'ers also participated in this year's Favorite Food Show:
- LEVEL I**
Purple Ribbons:
Natalie Kinderknecht, Cedar Ridge, Homemade Cherry Cheesecake
Tegan Milnes, Busy Beavers 4-H Club, Tegan's Festive Fruit Salad

- Madison DuBois, Prairie Dog 4-H Club, Snake Stick
Abigail DuBois, Prairie Dog 4-H Club, Mocha Brownie Cookies
Addison Brooks, Prairie Dog 4-H Club, Reese's Peanut Butter 'n' Chocolate Pie
Blue Ribbon:
Katana Schillig, Cedar Ridge 4-H Club, Cookies 'n' Crème Brownies
- LEVEL II**
Purple Ribbons
Amy Wentz, Prairie Dog 4-H Club, Sunday Gumbo
Stacie Elliot, Busy Beavers 4-H Club, Black Bean and Avocado Chili

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Briefly Booster Club set to meet Wednesday

Another winter sports meeting of the Norton Blue Jay Booster Club will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday in the high school cafeteria.

Norton wrestling coach Bill Johnson, girls basketball coach Kevin Jilka and boys basketball coach Doug Reusink will be the speakers.

You do not have to be a member of the booster club to attend the meetings.

County district set to meet Saturday

The Norton County Conservation District will hold its annual meeting this Saturday at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion.

Council election deadline is Jan. 24

Anyone interested in running for the Norton City Council must file nomination papers by no later than noon on Tuesday, Jan. 24. The seats to be elected are Wards I, II and III. To pick up the appropriate paperwork to file, visit the Norton city offices during regular business hours.

Museum to host ventriloquist show

The Hansen Museum will sponsor a ventriloquist program on Tuesday, March 6 at the Logan elementary school. The show is free and open to the public. For more information, call 785-689-4846.

Polar Plunges set for Special Olympics

A series of Polar Plunges will be held throughout Kansas from Jan. 28 to Feb. 18 to raise money for Special Olympics Kansas. The plunges are open to anyone who raises at least \$75 for the cause. The event sites are Kansas City, Topeka, Manhattan, Hays, Salina, Emporia, Pittsburg and Wichita. Anyone who is interested in participating can visit www.kssso.org.

Markets

Tuesday, January 17, 2012

Wheat	\$6.19
Milo	\$5.53
Soybeans	\$10.78
Corn	\$5.87

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Tonight - Mostly clear with lows around 10. Wednesday - Mostly sunny and not as cool. Highs in the lower 50s. Wednesday Night - Partly cloudy with lows around 16. Thursday - Partly sunny and much colder with highs around 30. Thursday Night - Partly cloudy with lows around 19.

Kingham Report

Friday, January 13	Low 20, High 43
Saturday, January 14	Low 22, High 46
Sunday, January 15	Low 24, High 63
Monday, January 16	Low 18, High 35

2 inches of snow
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

O God, thank you for loving us no matter what -- whether we respond in anger or in love. Help us so to love others. Amen.

State cuts impact mental health services

By Carleen Bell
cbell@nwkansas.com

Thanks to recent cuts in state funding, local and regional authorities are grappling with how to continue to provide necessary services for clients with mental health needs, especially through local law enforcement.

In a letter dated Dec. 30, officials with High Plains Community Mental Health Center informed Norton County Sheriff Troy Thomson and the Norton County Commissioners that the state of Kansas will no longer be providing funding to screen individuals at risk for state hospital admission or in need of urgent mental health evaluations.

Sheriff Thomson reported that the funding cuts could cause some major problems for local law enforcement officials, especially when deciding how to handle individuals who may be a danger to themselves or others.

"When we get called to help someone who may be a danger to themselves or others, we can take the individual into protective custody," Thomson said. "They are not under arrest, we are just holding them so they can't hurt themselves or someone else."

When a person is taken into protective custody, either through law enforcement or the local hospital, Thomson said, local officials contact High Plains.

High Plains then sends a mental health professional to evaluate the person in custody to determine if they are dangerous or need to be admitted to the Larned state hospital.

Since the evaluation process can already take several hours, the funding cuts are likely to put even more burden on local law enforcement, especially in getting a person evaluated for possible mental health treatment.

"We would have to take every client somewhere else for evaluation," Thomson said. "Transport may require several officers, plus transportation costs and time. If we can't get evaluations done locally, it could cost a lot."

According to the letter from High Plains Executive Director Walter Hill, the organization has determined that it will continue to provide the screenings even without state funding, but no decisions have been made on how to fund the service.

"We are in a position that we will no longer be able to travel widely to conduct these screens," the letter states. "We simply do not have the subsidy funding to underwrite the costs of having multiple licensed mental health professionals available to travel 24 hours a day into all the areas of our 19,000 square mile catchment area."

As a possible solution to the dilemma,

the agency is proposing to place video conference units in counties so that individuals can still be screened without having to be transported for the screening.

Norton County Hospital Administrator Rich Miller, who also serves on the High Plains Board of Directors, reported that the hospital already has a closed-circuit television unit in place, but it cannot always be used for mental health evaluations. Speaking for High Plains, though, Miller explained that the organization is trying to do everything possible to make sure everyone has access to mental health services.

"Mental health has taken several cutbacks in funding in the last few years," Miller said. "High Plains is doing ev-

erything possible to make sure this situation works out for the best."

Currently, High Plains is planning to fund the installation of the units in all 19 counties served in northwest Kansas, but Thomson reported that his department is considering the possibility of purchasing and installing a unit with local funding to speed the process. The project would be funded from a department budget surplus from last year.

"I'd like to see if we can purchase the equipment through our department because we may be able to save time and money if we do it ourselves," Thomson said. "We can't do without High Plains, so we just want to try to get a jump on the funding and not have to wait to get the equipment if we don't have to."

Air Force band to perform in Colby

By Christina Beringer
Colby Free Press

The Air Force Heartland of America Band's ensemble, Brass in Blue, will land in Colby later this month to perform "Once Heard, Never Forgotten...."

The free concert, sponsored by the Colby Free Press and Western Plains Arts Association, will be Thursday, Jan. 26, at the Colby High School auditorium. Guests can begin arriving as early as 6:30 p.m. and need to be seated at least 10 minutes before the 7:30 p.m. start.

Free tickets, required for admission, may be obtained by contacting Pat Ziegelmeier of the arts group at Colby Community College. Mail a self-addressed, stamped envelope to her at the college, 1255 S. Range Ave., with a note saying how many tickets you are requesting.

The 12-member symphonic brass ensemble will accompany a vocalist, a special treat. Guests can expect a combination of brass and percussion as the orchestra presents a repertoire featuring patriotic favorites, jazz standards, new compositions and other arrangements.

The Brass in Blue features precision performances in every concert, the Air Force says. Debuting in 2007, the group has graced stages from the Grand Teton Music Festival in Jackson, Wyo., to the Organ Vesper Series in Omaha.

It is one unit of 45 that makes up the Heartland of America Band, which

represents more than 325,000 Air Force service personnel. The full band performed in Colby several years ago.

"The squadron of musical professionals come from advanced degrees ... who have continually proven a broad mastery of musical styles from classic to contemporary, jazz to country, and pop to rock," said SSgt Carl Eitzen, tour director and trumpet player.

Eitzen said components of the Heartland band do more than 450 concerts a year throughout eight states that cover about 680,000 square miles. They perform for more than a million people through live, radio and television appearances.

Guest artists who have accompanied the band include John Denver, Frank Mantooth, Kevin Mahogany, Frederick Fennell, Chip Davis, Crystal Gayle, Wycliffe Gordon and Joseph Alessi, he said.

"It was the greatest pleasure and honor to work with the USAF Brass in Blue," said Alessi, the principal trombonist of the New York Philharmonic after an October 2008 performance. "They are a first-class brass ensemble with superb musicians and most of all, wonderful individuals."

"It was one of the highlights of my life to spend time with them and make music together. This is a group you must see and hear."

For photo, see page 5

School considers calendar for professional development

In light of mandates and required training in the near future, leaders of the Norton Community School District are working to make decisions for the next school year about staff training and how the training will affect the district's attendance calendar.

Norton Superintendent Greg Mann reported to the school board last Monday that as the district is required to transition into new curriculum standards over the next few years, the district needs to plan for time for professional development and staff training to implement the new standards.

Posing some possible scenarios to the board, the superintendent raised the question of whether it would be better to have an early dismissal or late start for students a few times a month or to have one full day every month for professional development. If the latter

is an option, Mann said, only half of the day can be counted as school time and the attendance time will have to be made up in other ways, such as adding more attendance days to the end of the school year.

This year, the district planned for four late-start days for professional development, but with upcoming curriculum transitions, the staff training and professional development will need to be much more in-depth and four late-start days will not be enough next year.

Though no decisions were made on the matter last Monday, the board appointed board member Robert Wyatt to serve on a committee to determine a calendar for next year and determine student attendance and professional development days for the next school year.

