

Twirling around



Two groups of students performed a twirling routine Wednesday evening at the Norton County Fair. Under the direction of Lisa Herman, the groups have been putting together performance routines for several weeks in preparation for the performance. Pictured performing are (front, left to right) Emily Bohl, Taryn Kuhn, Shayann Railsback, (back, left to right) Lizzie Smith, Parker Baughman, Ainsley Kier and (hidden) Mattison Rhea.

—Telegram photo by Carleen Bell

To be the best, not the biggest

By Ron Wilson

Huck Boyd Institute

The beautiful boat gleams in the sunlight as the owners enjoy the thrill of skimming across the water. Not only are they enjoying a beautiful boat, they are wearing fashionable clothing and preparing to enjoy a high quality vintage wine. Remarkably, the boat, the sportswear, and the wine all bear the same name: Cobalt.

Paxson St. Clair is CEO and co-owner of Cobalt Boats, one of the nation's leading boat makers. His brother-in-law Sean Callan is company president. Paxson's father, Pack St. Clair, grew up at Independence and enjoyed boating at Grand Lake in Oklahoma with his father. After college, Pack and a friend started building boats.

In 1969, Pack went to a big marine industry trade show in Chicago. He didn't sell a single boat or sign up a single dealer, but he came back with an idea. There were big companies selling mass-produced boats, but Pack saw an opportunity to target the high end of the marketplace. Essentially, he asked: What if we were to produce a super high quality, high-value boat?

Pack came back to Kansas to put his idea to work. Then the company had to find prospective boat owners who were willing to pay extra. It was a hard sell at first, but then a dealer in San Francisco gave them a try. The reaction from boat owners was so positive that business began to build.

In 1970, Cobalt Boats moved

to the closed Standard Oil Refinery in Neodesha. At that point, the company had 20-plus employees. Today, Cobalt Boats employs more than 500 people and sells boats from coast to coast and around the world. Neodesha is a rural community of 2,652 people. Now that's rural.

Paxson St. Clair joined the company in 1989 and moved up to become CEO in 2007. His father Pack is in the plant each week but not as involved in day-to-day operations.

Today the company's product line includes various types of luxury boats, from 20-foot bow-riders up to 32-foot cruisers. Boats are sold through a network of dealers around the nation and around the globe. Dealers can be found in 32 different nations, from Australia to the United Kingdom.

"I travel to lots of boat shows," Paxson said. "People ask me where the boats are made. When I tell them Kansas, they think I'm joking." And what does Paxson think about that? "We could not build these boats anywhere else. The people, the work ethic, and the pride they have in being the best is something that we don't think can be duplicated anywhere else in the world."

He points to the company's long-term work force with pride.

"What makes Cobalt quality is the hearts and minds of those 500 people who work out there," he said. "It boils down to craftsmanship and attention to detail." As the company's web-

site says, "We never aimed to be the biggest boat company, just the best."

In 2001, J. D. Power and Associates began an annual evaluation of quality and customer satisfaction in the marine industry. The annual evaluation continued until the economic downturn in 2009. Not only did Cobalt Boats win first place in quality and customer satisfaction in every single year, J. D. Power informed them that they had never had anybody win over second place by such a large margin.

The Cobalt commitment to quality has carried over to the creation of a line of sportswear, such as polo shirts, caps, t-shirts and sweatshirts bearing the Cobalt name. There is even a high quality Napa Valley wine, a Cabernet Sauvignon, which bears the name Cobalt.

"My dad has only one hobby besides boats, and that's making wine," Paxson said. "He worked with a friend in Napa Valley. They produced a serious wine that was ranked a 93 by Wine Spectator magazine."

For more information, go to www.cobaltboats.com.

The Cobalt boat skins across the water, as the owners proudly wear their Cobalt shirts and prepare to enjoy some California Cobalt wine. We salute Paxson and Pack St. Clair, Sean Callan, and all those involved with Cobalt Boats for making a difference with a commitment to quality - from wineglasses to watercraft.

Huelskamp accepting fall interns

The Office of Congressman Tim Huelskamp is now accepting applications for the Fall 2012 internship program in the Washington, D.C. and Salina, Dodge City, and Hutchinson offices.

"I encourage college students or recent graduates who want to learn firsthand how Congress operates and how federal legislation affects Kansas to apply," Congressman Huelskamp said. "This is a unique experience in which to obtain greater understanding of the legislative process and constituent services."

Interns may be asked to complete a variety of tasks, including day-to-day office work such as

answering phones, writing letters, and assisting with media clips. In addition, interns may be assigned to assist with constituent casework or attend Congressman Huelskamp's public events throughout the First District.

Students will be given flexible hours to accommodate their course schedules, but hours in the Kansas offices generally run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. This is an unpaid internship.

Additional information about the internship program and the application form can be found at huelskamp.house.gov/internships.

Stage set for Hays horticulture event

Kansas State University's Agriculture Research Center in Hays will host its 2012 Evening Horticulture Event on Thursday, Aug. 5. The center is at 1232 240th Ave. in Hays.

Registration will begin at 5:30

p.m. at the refreshment tent by the flower trials. The program will run from 6 to 9 p.m. Presentation topics will include Prairie Star annual flower trials, Turfgrass issues and Insect issues - lawn and garden.

A garden photography exhibit is included, and K-State Research and Extension specialists will be on hand to discuss horticulture topics on an informal basis.

COLLEGE NEWS

Several area students are among 4,200 students who have earned honor roll distinction at the University of Kansas for the spring 2012 semester.

Brendan Allen, of Glade. Allen is a graduate of Phillipsburg High School and is a senior in English. He was named to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences 2012 Spring Honor Roll.

Christopher Ceman, of Phillipsburg. Ceman is a graduate of Phillipsburg High School and is a junior in economics. He was named to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences 2012 Spring Honor Roll.

Dakota Dreher, of Norton. Dreher is a graduate of Norton Community High School and is a sophomore in pre-medicine. He was named to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences 2012 Spring Honor Roll.

Darci Goddard, of Logan. Goddard is a gradu-

ate of Logan High School and is a senior in film and media studies and marketing. She was named to the School of the Arts and School of Business 2012 Spring Honor Roll.

Matthew Miller, of Norton. Miller is a graduate of Norton Community High School and is a junior in biochemistry and French and pre-medicine. He was named to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences 2012 Spring Honor Roll.

Alexandra Orr, of Phillipsburg. Orr is a graduate of Phillipsburg High School and is a senior in management and leadership. She was named to the School of Business 2012 Spring Honor Roll.

Ashley Smith-Maybon, of Norton. Smith-Maybon is a graduate of Norton Community High School and is a senior in elementary education. She was named to the School of Education 2012 Spring Honor Roll.

POLICE LOG

July 16
Welfare check
Questions concerning minor child
Traffic control, water leak
Vehicle stop
July 17
Report of suspicious noise
Search residence for suspicious noise
Request to remove individual from residence
Questions concerning SRS report
Individual from Valley Hope wanting them to give his drugs back
Motorist assist
Keys locked in vehicle
July 18
Hotel checks
Funeral escort
(7) seven vehicle stops
Keys locked in vehicle
Report of plants taken from planters downtown

Located plants
Welfare check
Motorist assist
Report of untagged UTV driving on West St.
July 19
(2) two vehicle stops
Report of possible intoxicated driver
Situation with plants from day before taken care of
Individual getting harassing phone calls
Report of individual from Ellis Co. driving with no DL
July 20
Motorist assist
(3) three vehicle stops
Individual retrieved vehicle from impound
Report of missing child
Child found
Report of reckless driver
Individual reporting the air was removed from their tires
Welfare check

EMS assist
Individual with questions concerning accident
July 21
Motorist assist
Report of suspicious vehicle
Individual harassing people selling corn
Motorist assist
Activated alarm, Nex-Tech
Request for extra patrol
Motorist assist
July 22
Motorist assist
Report of stolen vehicle that happened 3 months ago in another state
Motorist assist
Fire call, Valley Hope
Report of intoxicated individual
Report of domestic situation, one arrest
Welfare check
Assist with D.U.I.

PUBLIC RECORD

Municipal Court

These transactions were taken from the records of filings in the offices of the Norton Municipal Court. These cases were given to the paper with the date of the hearings.

July 19

July 8-Kevin Baughman, Norton; Charge: Speeding 43 in 35; Plea: No contest; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$30, costs \$76, total \$106.

July 19-Jean Schuster, Superior, Neb.; Charge: Speeding 45 in 35; Plea: No contest; Found:

Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$30, costs \$76, total \$106.

June 20-Lisa Wagoner, Lenora; Charge: Speeding 40 in 30; Plea: No contest; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$30, costs \$76, total \$106.

June 13-Jordan Kinsey, Alma; Charge: Speeding 44 in 35; Plea: No contest; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$30, costs \$76, total \$106.

July 3-Kristen Higgins, Springfield, Mo.; Charge: Speeding 40 in 30; Plea: No contest; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$30, costs \$76, total \$106.

HANSEN MUSEUM

The Dane G. Hansen Memorial Museum presents "Between Fear and Faith: John Steuart Curry." The Kiechel Fine Arts out of Lincoln, Neb. organized the exhibit. This exhibit opened July 6 and will run through Aug. 26. It consists of approximately 40 works with an emphasis on the forces of nature.

Born in Dunavant, John Steuart Curry trained at the Chicago Art Institute and the Academie Julian in Paris. Like many American artists who found their voice during the troubled years between

World War I and World War II, Curry turned to the familiar: life in rural America. His experience growing up on a farm provided a rich source of subjects, especially animals. He was particularly interested in dramatic scenes of confrontation between predator and prey, or animals of the same species vying for dominance.

Our July Artist of the Month is Nancy Williams from Stockton. Nancy has Mosaics on display and for sale.




We are now on Facebook!
Search "Norton Telegram" and like our page for photos, news and more.


RE-ELECT
Cynthia Joan Linner
County Treasurer
"Experience That Works For You"

- * Born and Raised in Norton County
- * BS in Business Degree, Major in Accounting, 1985
- * Elected to office in November, 1996
- * Streamlined Tax Receiving with Bar Code System, 2001
- * Completed KCTA Educational Courses as Certified Finance Executive, 2003
- * Implemented Instructional Permits, Driver Education Restricted Licenses and Out-of-State Licenses, by appointment, Fall 2008

PAID POLITICAL AD BY CYNTHIA JOAN LINNER, CANDIDATE FOR COUNTY TREASURER



WEISER REALTY
214 East Washington - Norton, Kansas
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IS PLEASED TO PRESENT



707 WEST WILTON - NORTON, KANSAS

This family home has nice curb appeal and features a kitchen with appliances included; living room; dining room with sliding double patio doors leading out onto the patio and into the back yard; 3 spacious bedrooms; 1 and 1/2 bathrooms; an attached garage and is conveniently located near the schools, swimming pool, tennis courts, park and ball field.

This home has been updated with a metal roof and many new windows. The sprinkler system complements and aids the well maintained yard.

"Make The Weiser Choice" and call WEISER REALTY today at 785-877-2185 to view this fine home!

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