

Farmers' market act signed

Farmers' markets across Kansas will have access to more marketing and promotion opportunities and receive other benefits provided through the Farmers' Markets Promotion Act, SB 120, which was signed into law by Governor Sam Brownback.

SB 120 designates the Secretary of Agriculture as the registration authority for farmers' markets, establishes a central registration of the markets and limits the legal liability of registered farmers' markets. There will be no fee associated with the registration. However, registered farmers' markets will have access to marketing, outreach and advocacy efforts through the From the Land of Kansas state agricultural trademark program, the ability to receive benefits from federal grant dollars

that are awarded to the Kansas Department of Agriculture on behalf of Kansas farmers' markets and legal liability protection.

"Farmers' markets play an important role in agricultural advocacy and rural economic growth. Establishing a central registration of farmers' markets in Kansas will enable KDA to apply for federal grants and other resources on behalf of Kansas farmers' markets for promotional and marketing activities," Secretary of Agriculture Dale Rodman said. "From 1987 to 2012, the number of farmers' markets in Kansas increased from 26 to 118. As we see this segment of agriculture continue to grow in the future, the Farmers' Market Promotion Act will enable KDA to partner with the

markets and help them be more successful."

When discussions began about establishing a central registration for farmers' markets with KDA, the department reached out to the markets for their input. Approximately 25 percent of the Kansas farmers' market coordinators were contacted and 93 percent of them responded with positive feedback.

"Farmers' markets play an important role in agriculture by giving consumers access to fresh food products while also connecting them with the farmers and ranchers who raised the food," Secretary Rodman said. "KDA looks forward to providing support and assistance to help this growing sector in agriculture."

SCHOOL CALENDAR

NCHS
 Monday, April 29
 A & P Field Trip to UN-Kearney
 Golf at Hays-TMP Invitational, 9 a.m.
 Tuesday, April 30
 Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.
 JV Golf: Norton Invitational, 3 p.m.
 Track at Oberlin, 3 p.m.
 Wednesday, May 1
 21013-14 sports physicals: JH Gym, 9:50 (approx.)
 FFA to EES; 6th Grade presentation
 S.A.C., A.P.
 Thursday, May 2
 Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.
 MTSS BLT at USD 211 meeting room, 8:30 a.m.
 JV Golf at Trego, 9 a.m.
 FCCLA, A.P.
 Golf at Colby, 3 p.m.
 Friday, May 3
 Registration deadline for June 8 ACT
 Golf at Hill City, 3 p.m.
 Track at Russell, 3 p.m.
 Saturday, May 4
 State Forensics at Wichita
 State Journalism at Lawrence
 Sunday, May 5
 Governor's Scholar Recognition at Topeka, 1 p.m.
 Sunday-Tuesday, May 5-May 7
 FFA State Contests at KSU-Manhattan

NJHS
 Tuesday, April 30
 KAY Board, 7:45 a.m.
 Track at Plainville, 12:30 p.m.
 Wednesday, May 1

MTSS BLT: USD Office Meeting Room, 8:30 a.m.
 2013-14 sports physicals: JH Gym, 10:35 a.m. (approx.)
 Cheer tryouts: JH Gym, 4:30 p.m.
 Thursday, May 2
 Artist of the Year: JH Gym, 8:30 a.m.

EES
 Monday, April 29
 CBMs: Grades 2-6
 Tuesday, April 30
 CBMs: Grade 1
 Kindergarten vocal concert: cafeteria, 2:30 p.m.
 Wednesday, May 1
 MTSS BLT: USD Office Meeting Room, 8:30 a.m.
 2013-14 sports physicals: JH Gym, 9 a.m.
 Presentation to 6th Grade by NCHS FFA, 1 p.m.
 Staff meeting, 3:40 p.m.
 Thursday, May 2
 IEP Day
 Grade 1 Field Trip to Phillipsburg, 8:30 a.m.
 EC-2 Grade level meeting, 3:40 p.m.
 Friday, May 3
 5/6 Band concert rehearsal at EC Gym, 8:30 a.m.
 Grade 3 Field Trip to Hays, 8 a.m.

Northern Valley
 Monday, April 29
 JH Awards Banquet in Long Island, 6 p.m.
 Tuesday, April 30
 Administrative meeting in the conference room, 9:20 a.m.
 Senior class mock trial, 8:30-11:30 a.m.
 HS/JV Golf in Norton, 3 p.m.

HS Track Meet in Logan, 3 p.m.
 Wednesday, May 1
 Physicals at Norton, 9 a.m.
 Preschool field trip to Dole Farm, 9:30 a.m.
 Senior class meeting, 11:50-12:13 p.m.
 Preschool field trip to Dole Farm, 1:30 p.m.
 5th and 8th grade plays in Long Island, 2:30 and 7 p.m.
 Thursday, May 2
 HS Golf at Southern Valley Invite in Oxford, 9 a.m.
 6-7-8 JH Track meet in Logan, 10 a.m.
 Yearbook pictures in Norton, 11:40 a.m.
 Seniors field trip to Valley Hope and Corrections in Norton, 8:45 a.m.
 HS Awards Banquet in Almena, 6:30 p.m.
 Friday, May 3
 Last day for seniors
 3rd and 4th grade field trip to Hutchinson Underground Salt Museum
 HS Track meet at Rock Hills Invite in Mankato, 3 p.m.
 State forensics in Salina
 State FFA CDE's in Manhattan
 7th and 8th grade field trip to Hastings/Kearney, 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
 Saturday, May 4
 State FFA CDE's in Manhattan
 HS State Forensics in Salina, 7 a.m.
 Sunday, May 5
 HS Graduation in Almena-Big gym, 2 p.m.

Life's lifeline



Gerald Speer takes time out of his busy day to give the gift of life by donating blood on Wednesday. The goal for the day was 78 pints of blood. Sixty four units were donated.

— Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

A positive difference for rural America

**By Ron Wilson
 Huck Boyd Institute**

January 30, 2013. Washington, D.C. In the United States Senate chamber, one senator is describing the challenges facing a rural community and the way the citizens of that community rose to the challenge. This senator is talking about Stafford, Kansas, where citizens came together to create a home-owned department store of their own and also save the local hospital through a grass-roots initiative.

Phyllis Hager is one of the local citizens who led the effort to create this new store, called Stafford Mercantile. She explained that the Duckwalls store in Stafford closed in 2011, meaning that local residents had to shop elsewhere.

So, local business leaders got together to see what could be done. The Stafford Development Group now owns the old store building. Phyllis Hager and others went together to organize the new store which operates there. The store is known as the Stafford Mercantile. It is a community-owned store supported by local investors. On Nov. 2, 2012, the Stafford Mercantile had its grand opening.

"We have excellent investors," Phyllis said. The initiative utilizes a tool called Investment Kansas Exemption or IKE - which has a Kansas ring to it. IKE is offered through the Kansas Securities Commission.

The Stafford Mercantile is described as a plentiful variety store, including an old-fashioned 1928 soda fountain. The soda fountain itself is a remarkable story.

"There are maybe 30 soda fountains remaining in Kansas," Phyllis said. "This soda fountain used to be in the drugstore across the street from my office."

Like a number of rural Kansas residents these days, this soda fountain made a long journey and eventually returned home. When the drugstore closed, the soda fountain was sold and shipped to Sterling. For 15 years, it sat in storage.

"We were able to purchase that soda fountain and bring it back," Phyllis said. It now sits prominently in the Stafford Mercantile, where many citizens have come in and reminisced about good times around the old soda fountain. One local resident brought her mother to that store for ice cream from the same fountain used for her mother's wedding reception in 1934.

Meanwhile, another community institution was struggling as well. After more than 50 years of service, the Stafford County Hospital was wrestling with the many issues facing the rural health care system today. In fact, the hospital was more than a half-million dollars in debt. It appeared the only option was to close its doors.

But rather than throwing in the towel and giving up, the hospital got new leadership, sought help from the folks in the county, and worked hard to make ends meet. These efforts enabled the hospital doors to remain open and continue to provide vital health care for the residents of Stafford County.

These remarkable grass-roots

self-help efforts did not go unnoticed. Sen. Jerry Moran learned of the initiatives in Stafford and recognized the community with a "Building a Better Community Award." In January he spoke on the Senate floor about the accomplishments in Stafford, and on Feb. 9, 2013 he was in the Stafford Mercantile to present the award in person.

"We were very honored to have Sen. Moran here," Phyllis said. "It is unbelievable that a small community could do this, but we did." After all, Stafford is a rural community of 1,145 people. Now, that's rural.

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

It's time to leave Washington, D.C., where Sen. Jerry Moran has been speaking about the community of Stafford. We too, salute Phyllis Hager and all the citizens of Stafford for their grassroots community initiative. As Sen. Moran said: "The community of Stafford is a success story. It is a role model. It demonstrates how teamwork and creative thinking - how caring about the future of your community - can make a positive difference for that community and for all of rural America."

And there's more. The Senator also commended a local entrepreneurship program in Stafford - but these entrepreneurs are not only operating businesses, they might also be getting ready for their senior prom. We'll learn about that in next week's Kansas Profile.

SCHOOL MENU

Norton Jr.-Sr. High Schools Menu
 Monday, April 29
 Breakfast-Long John, fruit or juice or choice of assorted cereal, toast w/margarine and jelly, and milk.
 Lunch-Pig in a Blanket, pork and beans, broccoli and cauliflower salad, rosy applesauce, or chef salad and milk.
 Tuesday, April 30
 Breakfast-Oatmeal chocolate chip bar, fruit or juice or choice of assorted cereal, toast w/margarine and jelly, and milk.
 Lunch-Steak fingers, whipped potatoes w/country gravy, carrots, roll w/margarine, pears, or chef salad and milk.
 Wednesday, May 1
 Breakfast-Hot cereal, fruit or juice or choice of assorted cereal, toast w/margarine and jelly, and milk.
 Lunch-Stuffed crust pepperoni pizza, carrots and dill pickle, peaches, or chef salad and milk.
 Thursday, May 2
 Breakfast-English muffin, w/sausage and cheese, fruit or juice or choice of assorted cereal, toast w/margarine and jelly, and milk.
 Lunch-Chicken fajita, onions and green peppers lettuce, tomato and shredded cheese, oranges, or chef salad and milk.
 Friday, May 3
 Breakfast-Monkey bread, fruit or juice or choice of assorted cereal, toast w/margarine and jelly, and milk.
 Lunch-Beef and noodles, whipped potatoes, roll w/margarine, broccoli, cottage cheese, fruit cup, or chef salad and

milk.
EES Menu
 Monday, April 29
 Breakfast-Monkey bread, grape juice, milk and toast with peanut butter.
 Lunch-Taco crunch, peaches, tossed salad, chocolate cake and milk.
 Tuesday, April 30
 Breakfast-Sausage gravy, biscuit, orange juice, milk and toast with peanut butter.
 Lunch-Ham and cheese, homemade bun, pepper strips, pork and beans, pears and milk.
 Wednesday, May 1
 Breakfast-Banana bread, peaches, orange juice, milk and toast with peanut butter.
 Lunch-Chicken supreme, green beans, baby carrots, fruit cocktail and milk.
 Thursday, May 2
 Breakfast-Sausage patty w/ biscuit, apple juice, milk and toast with peanut butter.
 Lunch-Ham and beans, celery stick, cornbread, rosy applesauce and milk.
 Friday, May 3
 Breakfast-Hot french toast, warm syrup, pears, orange juice, milk and toast with peanut butter.
 Lunch-BBQ beef, homemade bun, 1/2 broccoli salad, sweet potato french fries, apricots and milk.

Northern Valley Menu
 Monday, April 29
 Breakfast-Cook's choice or assorted cold cereal.
 Lunch-Hot beef sandwich, mashed potatoes, buttered green beans and cherry pudding pie.
 Tuesday, April 30

Breakfast-Sausage, cheese bagel, hash browns, juice or assorted cold cereal.
 Lunch-Texas Straw Hats, tossed salad w/dressing, buttered peas and sliced peaches.
 Wednesday, May 1
 Breakfast-Donuts, hash browns, fruit and assorted cold cereal.
 Lunch-Chicken enchilada, tossed salad w/dressing, vegetable, peanut butter finger and fruit.
 Thursday, May 2
 Breakfast-Ham-n-cheese bagel, eggs, juice or assorted cold cereal.
 Lunch-Chicken strips, sauce, potatoes, vegetable and fruit.
 Friday, May 3
 Breakfast-Cook's choice or assorted cold cereal.
 Lunch-Cook's choice.

PUBLIC RECORD

District Court
 These transactions were taken from the records of filings in the offices of the District Court clerk at the Norton County Courthouse.
 Traffic and Wildlife and Parks cases are given to the paper when the fines are paid.
April 18
 March 22-Benjamin Philip Bladen, Phillipsburg; Charge: Speeding 78 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$161.
 April 6-Charles Oliver Brumitt, Norcatur; Charge: Failure to wear seatbelt; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$10.

April 5-Rebecca Joy Carter, Jennings; Charge: Speeding 79 in 65; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$167.
 March 14-Kelvin E. Edgett, Edmond; Charge: License to be carried and exhibited upon demand; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$158.
 March 14-Kelvin E. Edgett, Edmond; Charge: Failure to wear seatbelt; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$0.
 March 12-Sara Joanne Russell, Hill City; Charge: Vehicles; unlawful acts; e.g., registration; Found: Guilty; Fine: \$173.

ASHLEY
 FURNITURE INDUSTRIES, INC.

SALE

Going On Now
 Until April 30 at:
Sander Furniture and Gifts
 West Hwy. 36, Norton
 785-874-4974
 &
 Downtown Hwy. 283
 785-874-5102
'Bringing Nice Things To You!'

For help with your advertising needs please give Dana a call 877-3361 email: dpaxton@nwkansas.com

YOUTH FORUM!!

THURSDAY, MAY 2

For Students who are 5th and 6th Graders
 Meet at 5:15 p.m. at The ROCK for Youth Forum and Pizza
Schedule: 5:15 p.m. Youth Forum and Pizza
7:00 p.m. Free Movie at Theatre (PG Rated Movie)
 ACTIVITIES SHOULD CONCLUDE AT APPROXIMATELY 8:30 P.M.
 PARENTS MAY PICK STUDENTS UP AT THE NORTON THEATRE
 SPONSORED BY
NORTON COUNTY COUNCIL ON ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS