

'Give a gnome a home'

By Ron Wilson
Huck Boyd Institute

"Give a gnome a home." That catchy slogan works especially well when the gnome in question is a cute little hand-knitted figure from a fiber spinner and goat milk soap producer in rural Kansas.

Lisa Johnson is the owner of Leap of Faith Soap Shoppe and Fiber Farm. She produces soaps, lotions, herbs and fiber products, including these charming little gnomes.

Lisa grew up traveling because her dad worked in the aviation industry. She married a Coloradan and became a teacher. She and her husband pursued careers in education. They worked at various schools across Kansas, most recently settling near Elsmore.

When their first son was born, he couldn't consume store-bought dairy formula so they turned to goats' milk as an alternative food for him. It worked well and the Johnsons started raising excellent herds of dairy goats of their own. The four Johnson children raised goats as projects in 4-H and FFA. Today's herd consists of Nigerian Dwarf milk goats, Angoras for fiber and Nigoras for both milk and fiber.

Lisa got involved, serving two terms as a director with the American Dairy Goat Association. Her kids became active showmen. Youngest daughter Lindsay won the showmanship competition at the national show. At one point, the Johnsons were milking 40 goats per

day. Since the scientific name for goats is caprine, her place was nicknamed Caprine Corner.

One outlet for the goats' dairy products was to make goat milk soap. Lisa experimented with different blends of essential oils to get her soap just right. She started marketing her goat milk soap at craft fairs and festivals. Her products were sold under the brand name Leap of Faith.

Lisa also had an interest in spinning and weaving fiber. "I would see someone spinning at a craft fair and just stand and watch (in fascination)," Lisa said. She finally got a spinning wheel of her own and went to a yarn school at Harveyville, Kan.

In 2007, Lisa started spinning professionally. Now she is the one whom other people watch when she spins at craft fairs.

"It's the way people used to do things," Lisa said. "So much stuff is made in China and Japan. I love making homemade gifts." She adds, "Spinning is relaxing. I can sit and spin for hours."

Then tragedy struck. Lisa's husband passed away in an auto accident. She now is a substitute teacher while also working at a farm store and managing her business.

Today, Leap of Faith Soap Shoppe and Fiber Farm sells products around the country. Her soaps come with wonderful scents and creative goat-related names. For example, there is doe-lishish blackberry, cornmeal baa-d-scrub, and udderly goatmeal, plus many more.

Lisa also sells rovings, which are cleaned fibers ready for spinning, plus yarn as well as finished products which she creates by knitting, crocheting, felting or weaving. The soap and fiber are combined in one product she calls "soap in a sweater." This consists of felted fiber around a bar of her milk soap. As it gets wet, the wool will contract as the soap shrinks with use. "It's kind of like a scrubby," Lisa said. "People like it because it's not slick and doesn't slip out of your hand."

Another popular product is Lisa's gnomes. These are cute little knitted figures with long pointed hats filled with nylon fiber so they are totally washable. Kids of all ages seem to love them.

Leap of Faith Soap Shoppe and Fiber Farm sells products from Florida to Hawaii. Lisa even has one client in Beverly Hills. That's impressive for a business based near the rural community of Elsmore, population 72 people. Now, that's rural.

For more information, go to Facebook and search for Leap of Faith Soap Shoppe and Fiber Farm/Caprine Corner.

"Give a gnome a home." That slogan helps market these cute little knitted gnomes, produced by Lisa Johnson at Leap of Faith Soap Shoppe and Fiber Farm. We commend Lisa for making a difference with her creativity in using products from her own farming operation. That means these gnomes are home-grown.

A fashionable critique



The 4-H Clothing Construction and Buymanship judging was held at the 4-H Building on Tuesday. (Foreground) Kim Lowry tells judge Marjorie Henrich, Smith Center, how she constructed her dress, (background) as Pauline Poage, Kim's sewing project leader, and Lois Wentz look on.

—Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

Future farmers attend conference

Singing in front of a crowd can be nerve racking. Leading a group of peers can be as well. For five individuals of the Norton FFA Chapter, leading may be the easier of the two. Members of the Norton FFA Chapter joined over 280 Kansas FFA members at the 2013 State Conference for Chapter Leaders (SCCL), held July 1 to July 3 at Rock Springs Ranch south of Junction City. They were on a quest to further develop their ability to lead their local FFA chapter. Upon the members' arrival, the songs were picked out and the dance moves rehearsed as the six state FFA officers related the musical "Pitch Perfect" to serving and developing as a leader.

Members who attended the conference were: Kolton Harting, President; Johnnye Ruder, Vice President; Marisa Madry, Secretary; Darcy Bainter, Treasurer; and Travis Cressler, Chapter Leader. The advisor for the Norton FFA Chapter in attendance was Mr. Garrett Beydler.

SCCL gives chapter FFA leaders the chance to explore new tempos for their up-coming year of service. Key points the members learned and experienced during the conference included: vision, expectations, purpose, and growth, being a role model, challenging the status quo, and creating a shared vision for their

local chapter. Through workshops facilitated by both the state FFA officers and a select group of agricultural education instructors, the students experienced the importance of these points first hand.

One of FFA's primary focuses has always been instilling premier leadership in its leaders, and this has shown. Due to personal growth and team building conferences, such as SCCL, FFA members across the state have been noticed. One group that has noticed this unique aspect was Cargill, an international provider of food, agricultural and risk management products and services, and Animal Health International, a global distributor of animal health products. On July 3, Cargill representatives Spencer Headstrom, and Scott Kocher visited the conference and provided perspective about the parallels that Cargill and FFA have in regards to leadership in agriculture. Cargill's

and Animal Health International's strong backgrounds in leadership made them the perfect partners for the event.

Kansas FFA President, Lindy Bilberry said, "I saw 49 amazing teams of chapter officers come together and grow as individual leaders and as a team this week. The knowledge and skills that they gained at this conference will assist them in helping their chapters grow and succeed over the next year."

The State Conference for Chapter Leaders is presented by the Kansas FFA State Officer Team, the Kansas FFA Association, and sponsored in part by Cargill and Animal Health International.

The Kansas FFA Association is part the National FFA Organization and has 8,300 student members preparing for careers in the science, business and technology of agriculture in 162 local chapters across the state.

Emergency medical course offered

Cloud County Community College is offering an EMT course at Cloud's Geary campus in Junction City beginning Aug. 19, 2013. This course is the Emergency Medical Technician initial course of instruction required for persons involved in providing emergency care. It will include care of the patient prior to transport, control of the accident scene, preparation for transport, transport and care of the patient while en route to a hospital emergency department, communications, reporting, record keeping, and vehicle care. It will provide the participant

with the preparation necessary for testing for certification and practice as an emergency medical technician in the State of Kansas.

This EMT course meets the requirements of the Board of Emergency Medical Services as set forth in the Kansas Administrative Regulations. It will follow the guidelines "Emergency Medical Technician-B" set forth by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, a branch of the US Department of Transportation. This course will address and follow the "Authorized activities of the EMT," as

mandated by the Kansas State Statutes.

This class begins on Aug. 19, and ends on Dec. 11. Michael Guy, MICT, I/C is the instructor for this course. The course will be taught at Cloud's Geary County Campus, 631 Caroline Avenue, Bldg. A, Junction City, KS. Class size is limited to 18 students.

For more information and a complete schedule or to pre-register for this course, please call 1.800.729.5101, ext. 719/721 or 785.243.1425, ext. 719 or 721 at Cloud County Community College/Geary Campus.

BIRTH

Dylan and Brandie Irby, of Hoxie, are pleased to announce the birth of their son, Daxtyn Eugene Irby. Daxtyn was born at Gove County Medical Center in Quinter on Thursday, June 27, 2013 at 2:47 a.m. He weighed five pounds, seven and a half ounces and was 17 inches long.

Daxtyn's grandparents are Dan and Jana Irby of Bogue, Sheri Sammons of Alma, and Dave Sammons of rural Logan. Great-grandparents are Roma Lee Irby and the late Don Irby of Bogue, Eula May Clary and the late Eugene Clary of Hill City, Cecil and Patti Roy



of rural Stockton, Larry and Vernelle Sammons of Phillipsburg, and great-great-grandma, Vula Roy-Gager of Stockton.

COLLEGE NOTES

More than 1,400 students completed their degrees at Wichita State University in spring 2013. Logan-Kelli M. Berg, Doctor of Physical Therapy.

Wichita State University has announced the names of more than 2,000 students who were on the WSU dean's honor roll for spring 2013.

To be included on the dean's honor roll, a student must be enrolled full time (at least 12 credit hours) and earn at least a 3.5 grade point average on a 4.0 scale.

Almena-Jessica A. Holmes Norton-Brae M. Bigge and Spencer A. Shirk

USD 211 has the following vacancies for the 2013-14 school year

Applications are available at the USD 211 Offices located at 105 E. Waverly, Norton, by calling 785-877-3386 or at www.usd211.org and select Employment. Applications will be accepted until these positions are filled and a limited number of applicants will be invited to interview. USD 211 is an EOE.

(1) **AT-RISK TUTOR FOR THE NORTON JUNIOR HIGH** - Successful applicants must have at least 60 college hours and qualify for a substitute teacher's certificate. Preference given to those with teacher certification or training in the teaching of reading and/or mathematics. Official college transcripts will be required. Thirty-five hours per week minimum while school is in session.

(2) **SPECIAL EDUCATION PARA-PROFESSIONAL AT EES AND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL** - A minimum of a high school diploma or GED is required with some college preferred. Seven and one half hours per day while school is in session.

(3) **ASSISTANT COOK IN THE NORTON JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL KITCHEN.** A high school diploma or GED preferred. A minimum of 35 hours per week while school is in session.

These positions offer a competitive wage and come with the following benefits: KPERs retirement and life insurance, workmen's compensation insurance, financial assistant with health insurance, paid sick leave, personal leave and some paid holidays.

Available coaching positions which might be combined with the above positions: High School Assistant Football and High School Assistant Cheerleading Sponsor.

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING FOR THE CITY OF NORCATUR

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NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of **Norcatur** will meet on August 5, 2013 at 7:30 pm at City Hall, Norcatur, Kansas for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax. Detailed budget information is available at City Clerk, Norcatur, Kansas and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY
Proposed Budget 2014 Expenditures and Amount of 2013 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2014 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

FUND	Prior Year Actual for 2012		Current Year Estimate for 2013		Proposed Budget for 2014		
	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate *	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate *	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2013 Ad Valorem Tax	Estimate Tax Rate *
General	73,185	35.117	100,000	34.969	120,000	21,593	34.217
Debt Service	338,390	11.625	56,000	11.576	57,088	7,538	11.945
Library	1,695	2.055	1,695	2.047	1,695	1,405	2.226
Employee Benefits	1,840	1.002	3,000	0.998	4,600	576	0.913
Special Highway					2,956		
Water	10,438		25,000		71,014		
Sewer	2,617		10,000		19,545		
Solid Waste	11,460		11,500		11,500		
Totals	439,625	49.799	207,195	49.590	288,398	31,112	49.301
Less: Transfers	0		0		0		
Net Expenditure	439,625		207,195		288,398		
Total Tax Levied	30,524		31,451		XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX		
Assessed Valuation	633,178		634,225		631,058		
Outstanding Indebtedness:							
January 1,	2011		2012		2013		
G.O. Bonds	40,000		30,000		376,000		
Revenue Bonds	0		0		0		
Other	0		0		0		
Lease Purchase Principal	0		0		0		
Total	40,000		30,000		376,000		

Debra Marshall
City Official Title: City Clerk