

Family history fair event to take place in Norton

If you're interested in your ancestors this is your opportunity to get help with genealogy research for free.

The Phillips County Genealogical Society and the Phillipsburg Ward of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have joined together to host a Family History Fair from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 9 at the LDS Chapel, 620 So. 7th Street in Phillipsburg

You don't need to be a member of either group to attend this free event.

The public is invited, beginners are welcome, as well as experienced genealogy researchers. Bring any information you already have, or what you know, and there will be a person to help take you to the next step or to find more information.

The event is for those living in Rooks, Osborne, Graham, Norton, Decatur, Phillips, and

Smith counties in Kansas and Harlan and Phelps counties in Nebraska.

The Fair organizers have invited county organizations and libraries to bring lists and other information about their major genealogical resources and collections to distribute to attendees.

If an organization or club hasn't been contacted, and you would like to participate, bring lists and information to share anyway.

Local groups have lots of genealogical and historical information that could help researchers. For example, one county genealogical society has a listing of 52 cemeteries with their locations. One library has all their newspapers' obituaries for 133 years - all available for the public to use.

Among the resources available is the Phillipsburg Church

Family History Library, which has access to millions of genealogical and family history documents from their giant library in Salt Lake City.

They will offer free use of their six computers, including Ancestry.com and other premium sites at no charge. Millions of microfilms are available from the Salt Lake City library. All persons interested in learning more about the origins of their family are invited to come and receive help from our trained consultants.

The goal of the event, organizers say, is to get people together to share information and to encourage people to learn more about their heritage.

For information, call Larry Adams (785) 543-7912, MarDee Adams. (785) 543-7914 or Laurel McDonald (308) 470-0321.

Out of bounds...



The Norton Community High School bus broke down just east of town on Friday afternoon as the Bluejays football team was on its way to Beloit for the game that evening. Several students said they saw flames come out of the exhaust pipes. There were no injuries and the students were loaded up into SUV's and back on the road with very little delay.

-Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

Kansans say state is still a great place but with less confidence

Kansas remains a great place to live, and Kansans are optimistic about the future, but they also revealed a significant amount of uncertainty in the fifth annual Kansas Speaks survey of public opinion in the state.

Overall, according to Fort Hays State University's Docking Institute of Public Affairs, Kansans who responded to the 2013 Kansas Speaks survey are feeling caught between different forces and unsure about what the future will hold.

First of all, Kansans believe the state is a great place to live. But that does not mean they look at events in the state with rose-colored glasses. Although 87.4 percent of respondents rate Kansas as a good, very good or excellent place to live, only 53.4 percent rate the Kansas economy that highly. Most people rate the economy as fair or good, but clearly the enthusiasm among Kansans for the state does not extend to the state of the economy.

In fact, 61 percent of respondents are concerned the Kansas economy will threaten their family's welfare in the near future. There is an apparent concern for the economy, but one of the biggest uncertainties is what the people want to do about it. Sweeping into office in 2010,

Gov. Sam Brownback promised to improve the Kansas economy through a low-tax, pro-business policy agenda showcased by a gradual reduction of corporate and individual income taxes.

After two years of Brownback's governorship, respondents are divided on the effects of the plan. Survey participants are evenly divided on Brownback's economic plan, with 38 percent satisfied with his handling of the economy and 40 percent dissatisfied with his performance.

Respondents to Kansas Speaks are also evenly divided on Democratic plans for the state's economy, but more neutral. Results suggest that people might not be enthusiastic about Brownback's economic agenda but aren't even sure what the Democratic plan is. The actual percentage of supporters, 30 percent, and opponents, 36 percent, for Democrats is close to the numbers for Brownback, so no clear mandate on a direction for the economy emerges.

Most notable are the results on state spending. Many respondents (44.5 percent) think government spending should be decreased, but other data suggest that Kansans don't know where the cuts should come from. More Kansans think funding for education, both K-12

(66.5 percent) and higher education (45.1 percent), and social services (50.1 percent) should be increased.

In those same categories, 6 percent thought K-12 funding should be decreased, 12.7 percent thought funding for higher education should be reduced, and 6.2 percent thought funding for social services should be reduced; 27.5 percent, 42.2 percent and 43.7 percent, respectively, thought funding should remain the same.

In no specific areas did a mandate emerge for reduction in government spending. So while people who participated in Kansas Speaks generally think that government spending should decrease, they have no preference for specific and substantive cuts in the state budget.

In fact, they would like to see spending increases on the two policy areas that make up three-quarters of the state budget: education and social services.

Support for spending increases is so strong that three in five participants support school districts being allowed to sue the state Legislature to increase their funding. Respondents are also decisive on how they would pay for extra spending, strongly favoring tax increases for large corporations and wealthier Kansans, with majorities supporting

higher taxes for both groups.

Kansans are unsure of the future, skeptical of all political leaders' ideas for improving the state's economic health, and want the government to decrease spending, while at the same time they want increased funds going to schools and social services. The one thing that is clear from the responses to this year's Kansas Speaks is that uncertainty reigns.

Fort Hays State University's Docking Institute of Public Affairs has conducted the survey since 2009. For this year, 1,459 Kansas residents were contacted from May 23 to Sept. 18, and 944 completed the survey. Dr. Jian Sun (pronounced jan soon), senior research scientist at the Docking Institute, said the 64.7-percent response rate computes to a 3.2-percent margin of error.

The full survey report is available through the Kansas Speaks link on the Docking Institute homepage at www.fhsu.edu/docking.

Other interesting findings: Wind is the clear favorite for where resources devoted to energy development should go, at least in the number of people who think it is extremely important: 45 percent; 27.7 percent favored oil, 14.4 percent coal, and 9.8 percent nuclear. For wind

and oil, the numbers are closer when all the "good" categories are factored in together. For those two, a total of 92.2 percent think wind is somewhat (18.1 percent) to extremely important, while 90.1 percent think oil development is somewhat (27.6 percent) to extremely important.

A 46.7-percent plurality of Kansans strongly oppose allowing concealed weapons to be carried in schools, hospitals and government buildings. An additional 8.9 percent are somewhat opposed and 12.4 percent are neutral; strong support was expressed by 19.2 percent, and 12.8 percent somewhat support concealed weapons in those venues.

Six in ten (61 percent) respondents felt that Kansas school districts should be allowed to sue the state for failing to meet the constitutional mandate to provide adequate funding for elementary and secondary public education. In general, the younger, upper-educated, Hispanic and Democratic respondents were more likely to support school districts suing the state.

Less than half (44.2 percent) of respondents said that, "if the election was held today," they would vote to retain Sam Brownback for governor. Support for Gov. Brownback was

higher among those respondents who were 18 to 24 years old, those whose highest education level was less than high school, those whose family incomes were below \$35,000, those who did not vote in 2012, and males.

Among respondents who indicated they did not vote in the November 2012, 51.7 percent said they were registered and had a government-issued ID, while 38.6 percent were not registered but had the proof of citizenship needed for registration. The remaining 9.6 percent of respondents who did not vote said they either did not have a proof of citizenship or did not have a photo ID, making them ineligible to participate in the 2012 election.



Pigskin

(Continued from Page 1)

Amanda Ray, Lisa Shearer, Wilma Wiseman, Monica Wilson, Scott Ellis, Kyle Hahn, Ted White, Crystal Freudenburg, Jeris Norman, Shana Dukes, all of Norton.

Incorrect on four games were: Sylvia Svenson, Delphos; Kacie Boydston, Long Island; Tiffany Becker, Logan; Jim Winchell, Daniel White, Goosie Woo, Sandi Winchell, Brenda Husted, all of Alma; Baylee Miller,

Dalton Smith, Keegan Smith, Deanna Gallentine, Travis Ray, Kerri Ray, Dustan Daniels, Nathan Morse, Douglas Daniels, Edgar Jameson, all of Norton.

Lorraine Long, Hays; Kenney Leiker, Ellis; Ann Becker, Lenora and Sharrelle Shinn, Norton, each missed five contests. Gloria Tipton, Alma, was incorrect on six games.

This week's entries
The ninth week's entries must be postmarked by 5 p.m. Friday and received in the mail no later

than Monday or you may bring them to the Telegram office before 5 p.m. on Friday.

See the Pick-Em full page advertisement in today's Telegram for this week's college games. Note that, since high school games this week will be played on Thursday, none are included.

The fan who picks the most winners during the 12-week contest will receive \$50 in scrip money plus an engraved trophy.

Scores of last week's games were:

- Baylor 59, Kansas 14
- Minnesota 34, Nebraska 23
- Oklahoma 38, Texas Tech 30
- Oregon 42, UCLA 14
- Beloit 46, Norton 7
- Hill City 20, Trego 14
- Phillipsburg 61, Minneapolis 3
- Logan 50, Natoma 34
- Thunder Ridge 53, Northern Valley 22
- Kansas State 35, West Virginia 12

Upgrades

(Continued From Page 1)

treat this request outside its regular programs or problems with similar requests may develop down the road.

The commissioners decided that they would honor the request, however.

The economic development group had its regular meeting earlier in the month and learned that Elements of Massage will be moving out of the business incubator into new quarters, changing its name and moving into the old Bella Solé space at 212 S. State Street.

A new service-based business will probably be moving into the business incubator soon, the board learned.

In other business, the board:
• Met new member Aaron Hale, who works for Bridges Insurance.

• Heard that there will be a community meeting to go over the results of a Market Study at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Nov. 18, at The Rock.

• Received a report from Mr. Hale on the 2013 Leadership Challenge, which he is attending. As of the meeting there had been two sessions and two more were planned.

• Learned that \$70,000 worth of tax credits have been purchased within Norton County through the NewWork Kansas Partnership grant program. The community retains 10 percent of this money and it is used to make gap-funding loans to local businesses, Mr. Sproul said. An additional \$125,000 has been approved by NewWork Kansas for the program to replenish the fund so additional loans can be made, he said.

PUBLIC HEARING

Lincoln Township, Garfield Township, Norcatour Cemetery and City of Norcatour will hold a public hearing on **Monday, November 4, 2013**, at 7:00 p.m. at the Norcatour City Office, Norcatour, Kansas. This hearing will be to take public input regarding the proposed **Neighborhood Revitalization Plan** for these taxing entities in Decatur County. A copy of the proposed plan is on file in the office of the Decatur County Clerk or Norcatour City Office and a copy may be obtained from either office.

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