

Housing meeting scheduled

The City of Almena will hold a community meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 8 at 7 p.m., in the Community Center to discuss housing needs in Almena. The public is invited to attend.

Below are examples of questions that may be asked to stimulate feedback:

What is the overall housing situation in Almena as well as Norton County?

What are the issues related to the housing supply?

Does Almena have adequate

housing to support the expansion of businesses?

If housing is needed, what do you feel would be the best for Almena and why?

(for example, single family, duplex, multi-family, etc.)

What are some comments, compliments or concerns you can provide to help the housing efforts in Almena and the surrounding area?

"We need input from residents of Almena and the surrounding area to identify defi-

ciencies in the current housing supply and to determine a plan to resolve those issues. We want to develop the best plan possible for the long term so I encourage everyone to attend this meeting to give your input," said Scott Sproul, Executive Director for Norton City/County Economic Development.

The meeting will be facilitated by Dan Steffen and James Foster, Department of Commerce Field Representatives from Hays and Colby.

Schools in 66 counties share grants

Thousands of children attending schools in 66 Kansas counties will have access to at-school programs during 2014 aimed at improving their health and fostering positive habits. The programs will be funded through 160 Healthy Habits for Life grants totaling \$149,650 that were recently distributed to school nurses, teachers and administrators by the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas Foundation.

The grant dollars will be used in 2014 to purchase nutrition curriculum, exercise equipment or healthy snacks, or to organize walking programs, health fairs and other activities; programs designed to help children reduce their cardiovascular risk, increase their physical activity or learn healthy eating habits. Completing its eighth giving cycle, the BCBSKS Foundation has now distributed 760 Healthy Habits for Life grants in excess of \$670,000.

"Each year during the Healthy Habits for Life application process, I am reminded of the extremely strong commitment our school professionals, such as Jeremy Hawks, wellness direc-

tor at Eisenhower Elementary School, have to stemming the tide of childhood obesity in Kansas through school-based programs," said Marlou Wegener, chief operating officer of the BCBSKS Foundation. "Throughout our state, school nurses, physical education, health and consumer science teachers, principals and parent organizations are creating simple, yet impactful, programs that will assist their students in forming those healthy habits that will serve them well for the rest of their lives."

"The Foundation is proud to support the commitment of our school personnel by providing them much-needed financial assistance to reach children where they spend the majority of their day, at school," said Wegener.

The amount of each grant was based on the applicant's request for the program he or she proposed, up to a maximum of \$1,000. The school district or private school must be located in the service area of the BCBSKS Foundation (all counties except Johnson and Wyandotte).

The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas Founda-

tion promotes the good health of Kansans who live in the Foundation's 103-county service area. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas, the largest health insurer in the state, incorporated the Foundation in 2005 as a way to further deepen its commitment to helping all Kansans lead healthier lives, an effort which both entities believe is an essential factor in keeping health care affordable. Through its giving, the Foundation focuses on key health issues that can impact the lives of many Kansans. It funds programs and activities that are, at their core, health-related and in particular, promote health improvement, health care access, health education, healthy behaviors and prevention initiatives. The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas Foundation and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas are independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. Both entities serve all Kansas counties except Johnson and Wyandotte. For more information on the Foundation, visit www.bcbsks.com/foundation.

Child safety seats and bulky coats don't work

It is the time of year where we do a lot of traveling with our families in the winter weather. We all want to arrive at our destination as safely as possible. Here is some information to help protect our littlest members of our families.

Most child car seats do not work properly or protect the child while the child is wearing heavy winter clothing. The harness cannot get tight enough and the child can slip through the harness during a violent crash. As a general rule of thumb bulky coats should not be worn by children in a car seat. Here is a way to check to see if your car seat works with the coat your child wears:

- Put the coat on your child, sit them in the child seat and fasten the harness. Tighten the harness until you can no longer pinch any of the harness webbing with your thumb and forefinger.
 - Without loosening the harness, remove your child from the child seat.
 - Take the coat off, and put your child back in the child seat and buckle the harness straps, which are still adjusted as they were when he was wearing the coat.
 - If you can now pinch the webbing between your thumb and forefinger, then the coat is too bulky to be worn under the harness.
- In order to keep the child

warm while in the car seat, here are a few tips:

After placing the child in the car seat and properly securing the harness, place the coat backwards on the child, the closure towards the seat and the back of the coat facing away from the child. Placing the arms through the arm hole and having the coat on the outside of the harness working kind of like a blanket.

You can also use blankets or other clothing placed tight around the child as long as they are not between the child and the harness straps.

Information provided by Consumer Reports.

HANSEN MUSEUM

The Dane G. Hansen Memorial Museum presents the "Associated American Artists-Art by Subscription."

In March of 1933, many of the banks in America were closed. The country was gripped by an economic depression and the emotional climate of the American people was also at an all time low. Art dealer Reeves Lewenthal chose this time in history to form the Associated American Artists organization. Lewenthal's plan was to develop a new program that could distribute affordable, original art to every American. Artists, weary of working within the confined audience of wealthy collectors, gladly committed themselves to the idea of a wider distribution. These artists based their art on social imag-

ery, on everyday America. They left behind abstract theories in favor of the familiar scenery of our country. The program was an overwhelming success. Yes, it was true; people did need bread to nourish their bodies, but it was proven that they hungered for beauty and spiritual nourishments as well. Art fed their souls.

The Exhibit will be at the museum Dec. 6, 2013 to Feb. 2, 2014.

Our December Artist of the month is Janet Gottstine from Logan. She will have diaper and towel cakes, tutu bags, and wreaths.

Our January Artist of the month will be Linda Whiteman from Hill City. She will have watercolor, oil, and pastel paintings for sale. Come on in and

check out her beautiful work. Her items will be on display from Jan. 1, 2014 through Jan. 31, 2014.

Kerry Ferguson from Kensington, will be instructing dance classes again this year on Sunday afternoons, starting Jan. 6, 2013. They will be held at the Logan City Building with beginning dance from 2 - 3:30 p.m, and advanced dance from 3:30 - 5 p.m. The cost is \$50 for single and \$90 for couples. Participants must be 13 years or older.

Wishing everyone a very Happy New Year!

For more information on any of our classes or exhibits check our website at hansenmuseum.org or call the museum at 785-689-4846.

The Dane G. Hansen Memorial Museum presents the "37th Annual High School Art Exhibit." Art students from area schools look forward to showing off their unique artistic talents in the Hansen Museum gallery and we look forward to displaying their fabulous works. This year's exhibition will be Feb. 7 to March 9, 2014, and consists of a variety of art forms. Displayed by category, they are: painting acrylics/oils, watercolor/tempera, pencil, ink/scratch board, printmaking, colored pencil, ceramics, jewelry,

graphic design, pastel/crayon, sculpture/3D design, charcoal/ conte crayon, and mixed media.

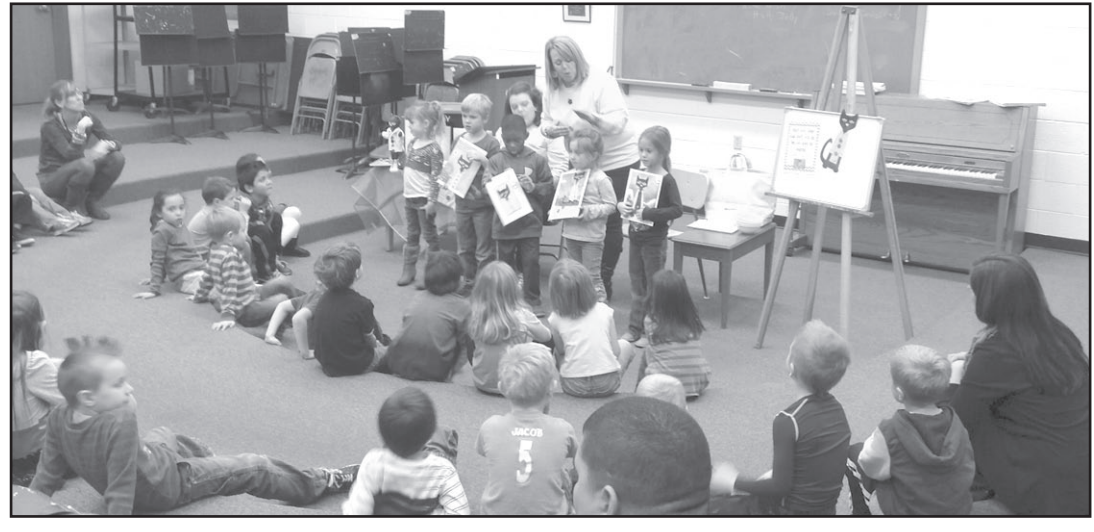
Students strive to create a piece of art that represents him or her as an artist, whether by personality, creativity, excellence of quality, or even their mood. Some pieces may be a whimsical creation from the artist's own imagination, while others are reproductions of a given lesson. Whatever the case may be, these students put on a show for all to see.

This annual exhibition speaks highly for our area high school

students and the instructors who sharpen the skills and expand the minds of our youth. Schools invited to participate in this year's exhibit are Norton, Smith Center, Logan, Phillipsburg, Hill City, Ellis, and Plainville.



"Pete the Cat..."



Children's consultant Mary Boller and assistant children's consultant Allie Huber of the Northwest Kansas Library System, presented a special reading of "Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons" to the kindergarten classes at Eisenhower Elementary on Monday, Dec. 16. (Pictured from left to right) Ralinn Ellis, Blaine Williams, Noah Melvin, Emilee Venturella and Savanah Rumback. (Back row) Allie Huber and Mary Boller.

-Courtesy photo

Infantry division gets new Chief of Staff

On November 2, 2013, Lieutenant Colonel Dave Johnson was promoted to Colonel in a ceremony at Fort Leavenworth. Colonel Johnson was pinned by his wife Jennifer, who was accompanied by their daughters; Brittany, Kaitlin, Zoie and Liliana.

Colonel Johnson was selected to be the Chief of Staff of

the 35th Infantry Division, Ft. Leavenworth, last August. He assumes the Chief of Staff duties on Jan. 6, 2014.

The 35th Infantry Division is one of eight Division Headquarters in the Army National Guard and has subordinate units in Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri and Illinois. The division was organized in August 1917, for

service in World War I, and in World War II the Division landed on the beaches of Normandy, France in July 1944 to fight in the European campaign. The Division most recently served overseas in Bosnia in 2003 and in Kosovo in 2007-2008.

Colonel Johnson is the son of Beth and the late Charles Johnson of Norcatour.

COLLEGE NOTES

Scholarships are helping more than 1,300 Emporia State University students attending classes this academic year. Emporia State is pleased to announce that the 2013-14 allocation of scholarship awards, at \$2,728,615, is helping support the educational dreams of students in Kansas, 16 other states and 14 foreign countries.

Students from this area and the scholarships they received are:

Eli Bozarth of Norton, Ernest

James Memorial Scholarship and Etta James Memorial Dahlgren Scholarship

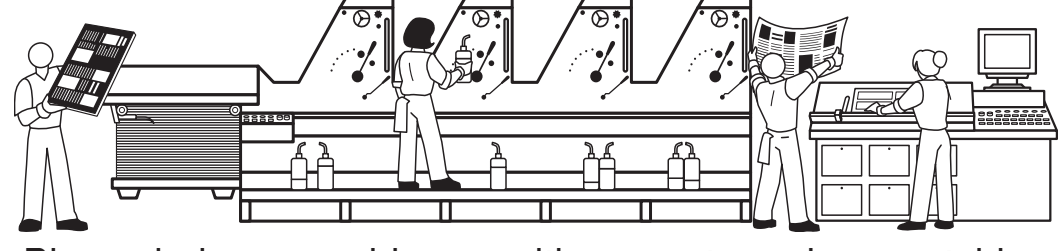
Tawni Griffey of Norton, Ernest James Memorial Scholarship, Jerry and Doris Bedner Accounting Scholarship, School of Business Scholarship, Capitol Federal Scholars, and ESU Hornet, Presidential, Foundation, Transfer Scholarship

For more information about financial aid and scholarships at Emporia State University, visit www.emporia.edu/finaid.

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