

Emergency loans available

Farmers in Decatur, Graham, Norton, Phillips, Rooks, Sheridan and Trego Counties, who suffered crop or livestock losses due to drought occurring Jan. 1, 2013 and continuing may now apply for Farm Service Agency emergency loans, Farm Service Agency Farm Loan Manager, Randy R. Thiel, said recently. Applications for assistance will be accepted by Farm Service Agency until Dec. 9, 2014.

Loans covering physical and/or production losses are scheduled for repayment as rapidly as feasible, consistent with the applicant's reasonable ability to pay, said Thiel. The current interest rate for April is 3.0 percent but is subject to monthly changes until the loan is approved.

Farm Service Agency Farm Loan Programs staff is committed to new and existing customers, Farm Service Agency customer goals and our rural

communities. Farm Service Agency service extends beyond the typical loan, offering Farm Service Agency customers ongoing consultation, advice and creative ways to make your farm business thrive. At the Farm Service Agency, we want to be your lender of first opportunity to overcome these adverse weather conditions and rebuild your operation to get back on track. Farm Service Agency loan staff can refer customers to other public and commercial financing sources that can serve as a blend with Farm Service Agency farm loan programs.

Farm Service Agency loans covering physical losses may be used to replace installations, equipment, livestock, or buildings (including homes), lost through this disaster.

Farm Service Agency loans covering production losses may be used to buy feed, seed, fertilizer, livestock, or to make pay-

ments on real estate and chattel debts. Funds can also be used for other essential operating and living expenses, Thiel said.

To be eligible for an emergency disaster loan, an applicant must be operating a family size farm or ranch, must be unable to get credit elsewhere, and must have suffered a qualifying physical and/or production loss from the disaster.

Farmers who suffered at least a 30 percent reduction to at least one cropping enterprise, may have a qualifying production loss. Emergency disaster production loss loans cover 100 percent of qualifying losses.

Farmers and ranchers that think they may be eligible should contact either the Norton County Farm Service Agency Office in Norton, Kansas or the Graham County Farm Service Agency Office in Hill City, Kansas for additional information and how to apply.

Norton County tops state



There was a recognition luncheon at the Norton County Treasurer's office on Monday. The staff was honored for selling more Kansas Park Passports than any other county in the state in 2013. (Front row) Kathy Carlin, Cindy Linner, Deena Wentz and Dana Hillebrand. (Back row) Troy Brown, Regional Supervisor Parks Division, Luke Van Sike and Toby Kuhn. The top three selling counties were Norton, Scott and Rooks counties.

-Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

NEW ALMELO NEWS

By BETTY OTTER

On March 7, the New Almelo Knights of Columbus had a fish and chip fry, along with several other trimmings. The parish and the area community supported the event so that the Knights were able to send \$960.04 to the Supreme Council to be used for the purchase of Ultra Sound machines at pregnancy centers across the United States.

Many of the area students enjoyed a Spring Break from school the week of March 17. Brooklyn Winkel, a student at Kansas University, spent the week with her parents, Darin and Joanie Winkel. Family coming to the home of Alfred and Betty Otter during the week were, Jolene Moss, Aaron and grandson, Ben, Smith Center, Kan.; Marshall Otter, Ulysses, Kan.; Tina Ritter, Carson, Allynson, Olathe, Kan.; Cury Otter, Salina, Kan.; and Allyson friend, Lynn Grace, Gardner, Kan.

On March 28, Jared and Stacy Scheetz, Hailee, Braydon, and Sydnie left to go to Jefferson, Colo., to visit Jared's parents, Ardith and Ray Scheetz. There was still a good amount of snow on the ground. They had a good

visit and were able to do some sight seeing spending the 29th at Beckenridge.

Carl and Linda Wahlmeier attended the confirmation of their grandson, Keegan Wahlmeier, March 23, at St. Patrick Catholic Church, Shawnee. Keegan is the son of Cary Wahlmeier. Other family also attending were, Craig and Lisa Wahlmeier and Gentry, Alma, Ark.; Shelly Wahlmeier, Jazmin and Joaquin; Taylor and Luke Wahlmeier.

Torphy Siding replaced the small windows in the classrooms of the former school.

A birthday meal for Doris Linden was held March 23, at the John and Becky Linden farmhouse. Family attending were Brett Linden, Brian Linden, and Shelby Sterkel. Frank and Sheryl Linden, Emily Bloom, Brandon and Braylin Linden, Kevin and Rosella Ryser, Kylie and Jaden.

On March 30, confirmation was held at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Norton for the Norton and New Almelo Confirmation classes. Rachel Koerperich, daughter of John and Jennifer Koerperich, and Taylor Wahlmeier, daughter of

Curt and Becky Wahlmeier, are members of St. Joseph Church, New Almelo.

On April 6, 34 family members gathered in the Heritage Room at the Via Christi Assisted Living in Hays, Kan. to help Lorraine Long celebrate her 95th birthday. Those present for the luncheon and birthday cake were Roger and Joann Long, New Almelo, Kan., Rita and Bill Barker, Hays, Kan., Fred and Mardie Long, Independence, Kan., Katy Long, Independence, Kan., Gary and Carolyn Long, Hill City, Kan., Leonard Joan Long, Logan, Kan., Zack and Alaina Long, Hays, Kan., Maih and Gerry Baalmann, Grinnell, Kan., Justin and Michele Baalmann and family, Maggie, Logan and Julianna, Hays, Kan., Joanie and Darin Winkel, New Almelo, Kan., Adam Long and daughter, Hutchison, Kan., Roger Schifereshe and friend Stephanie, Hays, Kan., Rhonda Johnson, Lindsborg, Kan., Karen Ratzloft, Moundridge, Kan., Peggy Payne and son Nick, St. Joseph, Mo., Traci and Kyle Jilka and son Beckett, Hill City, Kan.

Most expensive winter since 2008

The winter of 2014 that appears to be over was the most costly since 2008 for the Kansas Department of Transportation.

The Department of Transportation spent an estimated \$22 million on materials, labor and equipment usage to keep state highways clear and open for travel. That amount compares to \$23.7 million in 2008. This year's winter costs break down to \$8.50 per registered vehicle.

This season Department of Transportation crews worked 550,000 hours, used 591 dump trucks and treated/plowed some 2.7 million lane miles.

The Department of Transportation maintenance experts said the broad scope of this year's storms, along with frigid temperatures, combined to make this an expensive winter season.

The least amount the Department of Transportation has spent on winter maintenance in the past seven years was \$6.8

million in 2012.

The 2014 figures are estimates. The numbers typically aren't finalized until the end of the fiscal year on June 30.

Winter 2014 by the numbers	
591	Dump trucks
2.7 million	Miles treated/plowed
550,000	Labor hours
125,000	Tons of salt
90,000	Tons of sand
5.2 million	Gallons of brine
33,500	Gallons of magnesium chloride
Annual winter expenses 2008	\$23.7 million
\$9.10 per registered vehicle 2009	\$11.3 million
2010	\$4.30
2011	\$7.70
2012	\$6.90
2013	\$2.70
2014	\$8.50*

lion \$7.20
2014 \$22 million*
*Estimated costs

UPCOMING EVENTS in Kansas

Brought to you in part by Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks & Tourism

Kansas Storytelling Festival
April 25-26, Downs
Puppets & stories for kids, homespun tales historic portrayals, poetry, music & more!
Featuring Kevin Kling of NPR's "All Things Considered". kansastorytelling.com

Brews, Blues & Bar-B-Q/Lansing Daze
May 2-3, Lansing
Annual Bar-B-Q Cook-off. Live entertainment, activities for children, crafts, car show & great food.
(913) 727-5488, www.lansing.ks.us

101st McPherson County All Schools Day
May 4-10, McPherson
Honoring students with a week full of activities! Carnival, May Fete, parade, crazy kid competitions, concert, movie in the park & more! allschoolsday.com

Merriam Turkey Creek Festival
May 17, Antioch Park, Merriam
Free festival including live music, concessions, kids' zone, arts & crafts fair, petting zoo and more!
exploremerriam.com

Get your State Parks Passport
Save \$10 on an annual State Park Permit when you register your vehicle in Kansas and gain access to recreational opportunities at all Kansas State Parks. Park permits are also available at all park offices. Visit ksoutdoors.com for more info.



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.

March 13

Feb. 26-Jenice Roberts, Leoti; Charge: Speeding 55 in 45; Plea: No contest; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$30, costs \$76, total \$106.

March 9-Lauren Biltoft, Broken Bow, Neb.; Charge: 1. Speeding 65 in 45, 2. No child

restraint, 3. No proof of insurance; Plea: No contest to 1 and 2; Other action: 3. Dismissed/proof; Found: Guilty on 1 and 2; Sentence: 1. \$90, 2. \$60, costs \$76, total \$226.

March 20

March 10-Jordan Crow, Norton; Charge: Dog at-large, no registration; Plea: Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$25, costs waived, dog registered next day.

Feb. 24-Tyler Cook, Norton; Charge 1. No proof insurance, 2. Expired registration; Other Action: Both dismissed-Proof

of insurance produced before enforcement time on registration.

Jan. 17- Nicole Helm, McCook, Neb.; Charge 1. No proof of insurance, 2. Expired registration; Plea: Guilty; Other Action: Dismissed/Proof on 1; Found: Guilty on 2; Sentence: 2 Fine \$100, costs \$76, total \$176.

Feb. 24- Shawn Peters, Norton; Charge: Speeding 40 in 30; Plea: No contest; Found: Guilty; Sentence: fine \$30, costs \$76, total \$106.

Cell phones

(Continued From Page 1)

rection to take next.

- Accepted the resignation of Mindy Unterseher as Norton Community High School assistant cheer sponsor, and Jill Lively as head cheer sponsor and assistant junior high volleyball coach, effective at the end of the school year.
- Accepted the resignation and retirement of Trudy Stock-

ham as a Norton Community High English teacher and chair of the district Language Arts Committee, expressing regret and great appreciation for her service.

- Extended the contracts of principals Corey Roy, Dustin McEwen, Perez and technology director Keith Hauser through the 2015-16 school year with salaries and benefits to be set later.

- Approved hiring summer help as recommended. Marilyn Dicks, Kathy Richard and Tony Fiscus were approved for summer maintenance help, Candace Gay for technology and Kevin Jilka and Doug Reusink as driver education instructors.
- Approved the minutes of the Professional Development Council as presented.
- Approved the consent agenda as presented, including min-

Landfill

(Continued From Page 1)

"It would reduce mass by 50 percent," he said, "especially in the construction and debris pit."

A grinder would cost \$450,000, Miller said, but it might be worth it to eliminate the mass. If the county was to purchase a grinder, it would be used over a 20-year period, he said. No decisions will be made until after the demonstration.

The last thing Miller spoke about was demolition of two buildings in Lenora. The city sent him a letter requesting a half-price deal with the landfill on taking the debris. The two buildings are joined and mostly brick, which someone has already offered to take. They would not expect the landfill to take the cement, he said.

The first building is 1,750 square feet and the other is

3,500 square feet with a basement. Based on estimates of debris, Miller said it would cost \$9,450, but with the half off program, the cost to Lenora would be \$4,725.

The commissioners agreed to go ahead and take the debris at half price, adding that this would be Lenora's one time for the year to use the offer.

Like us on **facebook**

GOT DRUGS?
Turn in Your Unused or Expired Medications for Safe Disposal on **Saturday, April 26 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Norton County Sheriff's Department**
For more information call the Sheriff's Department or visit www.dea.gov or call 800-882-9539 for a collection site near you

High Plains Mental Health is Happy to Introduce . . .
Cassie Ost
Cassandra is a native Kansan, born and raised in Mankato. She attended undergraduate classes at Kansas State University and earned her Master's degree in Social Work from Washburn University. Cassie completed an internship at Homecare and Hospice while living in Manhattan, and completed her clinical training by providing crisis services at Pawnee Mental Health Center. Cassie is a Licensed Social Worker. She has been employed at High Plains Mental Health Center since May 2013. Cassie resides in Norton with her fiance, Matt; both (but mostly Cassie) are busy planning a September wedding. They are excited to call Norton, KS their new home.
TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT WITH CASSIE, PLEASE CALL (800) 432-0333