

Free tax preparation offered

The Fort Hays State University accounting students will offer free income tax preparation through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program in February and March.

Low to moderate-income (\$51,000 and below) citizens are eligible to receive assistance from qualified Fort Hays State University students. Over the past several years, the VITA program has aided hundreds of local taxpayers.

VITA volunteers are qualified to prepare: Form 1040EZ, 1040A and 1040; Schedule A (Itemized Deductions), Schedule B (Interest and Dividends), and Schedule EIC (Earned Income Credit).

Volunteers are not qualified to do any of the following: Schedule C (Business Income), Schedule D (Capital Gains), Schedule E (Rent Income and

Royalties), Schedule F (Farm Income), and foreign student returns.

Tax returns will be prepared on campus in McCartney Hall, room 116, by appointment only. Call 785-628-5805 to schedule the visit.

Taxpayers must bring these items to the VITA site:

- Photo identification.
- Social Security cards and birth dates for the taxpayer, spouse and dependents.

- Wage and earnings statement; Form W-2, W-2G, 1098 and 1099-R from all employers.

- Interest and dividend statements from banks (Forms 1099).

- A copy of last year's Federal and State returns, if available.

- Bank routing numbers and account numbers for direct deposit.

- Tuition statement from

school (1098-T).

- Students must know if they are being claimed as dependents on their parents' returns.

- To file taxes electronically on a Married Filing Joint tax return, both spouses must be present to sign the required forms.

Site operating hours:
Tuesdays from 5:30-7:30 p.m.: Feb. 18, 25 and March 4, 11

Wednesdays from 5:30-7:30 p.m.: Feb. 19, 26 and March 5, 12

Saturdays from noon to 4 p.m.: Feb. 22 and March 1

For additional information, contact the Fort Hays State University Economics, Finance and Accounting Department at 785-628-5805 or Dr. Charles Gnizak, professor of economics, finance and accounting, at 785-628-4328.

S-p-e-l-l-i-n-g B-e-e!



Norton Junior High School held its spelling bee on Thursday. (Pictured) Hadley Hauser correctly spelled a word for the judges in an early round. Hauser went on to take first place in the competition. Taryn Kuhn finished in second, James Sturgill finished in third place and Stacie Elliott finished fourth and was named the alternate. The top three finishers advance to the Norton County Spelling Bee to be held Wednesday, Feb. 5, at 3:30 p.m. in Long Island.

—Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

Colleges partner to further education

In an effort to help students in Northwest Kansas continue their education and advance their careers, Rasmussen College is partnering with Northwest Kansas Technical College located in Goodland, and granting Northwest Tech students full transfer of credits into its AcceleratED Bachelor's Degree Completion program. Northwest Tech students who have earned their associate's degree will also receive an affordable \$167 per credit rate when they enroll in the completely online bachelor's degree program within one year of graduation. That's a 35 percent discount.

"In today's competitive job market, a bachelor's degree is critical to advancing your career, but not everyone can leave their family or their job to attend a state college or university," said Kevon Abshier, campus

director at the Rasmussen College, Topeka campus. "Rasmussen College and Northwest Tech saw a need for an affordable online bachelor's degree program in Northwest Kansas. Not only is our AcceleratED Bachelor's Degree Completion program completely online, Rasmussen College makes it easy to transfer credits allowing students to graduate in as little as 18 months so they can change or advance their careers sooner."

In addition to allowing maximum transfer of credits and a seamless transition for Northwest Tech students, Rasmussen College will provide student advising services both online and at its Topeka and Overland Park campuses. Employees of Northwest Kansas Technical College who are interested in continuing their education will also receive a 10 percent tuition discount

when they enroll in the Rasmussen College degree program of their choice.

"Northwest Kansas Technical College is excited to offer graduates employed in high tech, high demand careers the opportunity to continue their education, which is necessary to advance into management positions," said Dr. Ed Mills, Northwest Tech President. "The partnership with Rasmussen College provides students with many competitive advantages including generous credit transfer, significantly discounted tuition rates, flexible online learning, and accelerated coursework."

For more information about Rasmussen College and its AcceleratED Bachelor's Degree Completion program, please visit www.rasmussen.edu/degrees/accelerated/.

Kansas School Lunch Week Jan. 27-31

Kansas School Lunch week will be celebrated in K-12 school cafeterias across the state the week of Jan. 27-31. Each day of the week celebrates an agricultural commodity as a feature item on the menu. The initiative is a partnership between the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) and the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE).

For Kansas School Lunch Week, the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Education worked to promote a specific lunch menu highlighting a Kansas agricultural commodity as part of the meal each day. The following commodities will be celebrated during Kansas School Lunch Week: Monday, Kansas Beef Day; Tuesday, Kansas Corn Day; Wednesday, Kansas Wheat Day; Thursday, Kansas Pork Day and Friday, Kansas Dairy Day.

Daily fun facts about each commodity have been shared with schools to use during morning announcements.

In addition to featuring a specific commodity each day, the Agriculture and Education departments have encouraged schools to utilize and purchase food products produced or processed in the state that are marketed through the state food and agriculture trademark program, From the Land of Kansas.

"Helping students draw the connection between prominent Kansas commodities to the food on their plate during school lunch is an important component of agriculture education," said Nellie Hill, KDA education and event coordinator. "We are excited to be partnering with KSDE in more initiatives to encourage schools to promote Kansas agriculture commodities and food products in the lunch

room."

"Whether it's the meat on the plate, the jam on their wheat bread, or the carton of milk it's a strong likelihood that it has been touched by Kansas agriculture," said Hill. "KDA and KSDE will continue to encourage school nutritionists to select and promote healthy, Kansas produced food every day for students' plates."

For more information about Kansas School Lunch Week, visit KSDE's Farm to School website.



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.

Dec. 19

Nov. 29-Ramon Leyva, Hastings, Neb.; Charge: Stop light violation; Plea: Guilty; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$100, costs \$76, total \$176.

Dec. 1-Brittany Hildebrandt, Blue Springs, Neb.; Speeding 44 in 35; Plea: No contest; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$30, costs \$76, total \$106.

Nov. 29-Eurika Abarca, Nor-

ton; Charge: Speeding 40 in 30; Plea: No contest; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$100, costs \$76, total \$176.

Dec. 26

Sept. 25-Daniel Hibna, Sioux Center, Iowa; Charge: 1. Speeding 54 in 45, 2. Expired driver's license; Plea: Guilty; Found: Guilty; Sentence: 1. Fine \$30, 2. Fine \$300, costs \$76, total \$406.

Dec. 12-Steven Callaway, Alma; Charge: Inattentive driving; Plea: No contest; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$100, costs \$76, total \$176.

Nov. 29-Toby Nickell, Norton; Charge: No driver's license; Plea: Guilty; Found: Guilty;

Sentence: 1. \$100, costs \$76, total \$176. Must show court proof of obtaining driver's license by May 2014.

Jan. 9

Nov. 30-Andrew McMullen, Norton; Charge: Disobeyed stop sign; Plea: Guilty; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Community service - pull all weeds and grass by roots, east side of State Street from railroad on the south to the north edge of Christian Church, March 15-Oct. 31, 2014.

Jan. 4-Shailesh Patel, Hays; Charge: Speeding 30 in 20; Plea: No contest; Found: Guilty; Sentence: Fine \$30, costs \$76, total \$106.

COLLEGE NOTES

Cloud County Community College has announced the names of students on the Fall 2013 Academic Honor Roll. To be named to the honor roll,

students must be enrolled in a minimum of 12 hours of college coursework and achieve a minimum 3.6 grade point average. The following students have

been named to the Fall 2013 Honor Roll.

Emmaline Wyrill of Kirwin; Erin Terrell of Norton;

Fall 2013 Honor Scholars have been announced for Fort Hays State University's College of Business and Entrepreneurship.

Only full-time, undergraduate

business majors who have a 4.0 grade-point average for the semester are on the list of COBE Honor Scholars.

Lenora : Chris Basgall is a sophomore majoring in infor-

mation networking and telecommunications (Web development).

Phillipsburg : Kelly C. Grisamore is a sophomore majoring in management.

Jordan Wahlmeier is recognized as being on the Dean's Honor Roll at Kansas Wesleyan University, Salina, for Fall 2013

Semester. This honor is given for maintaining a semester grade point average of 3.25 - 3.74 on a 4.0

scale. Jordan is also a member of the Kansas Wesleyan University men's basketball team.

In order to be on the Dean's Honor Roll list at Pratt Community College a student must be

full time, taking at least 12 credit hours and must have between a 3.5-3.99 grade point average.

Jordan Hartwell, Norton KS
Tyler Goscha, Logan KS

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

Norton Rotary Scholarship Fund
A Global Network of Community Volunteers

Soup Supper

Fri, Jan 31 & Tue, Feb 4
4:30pm-7:00pm
Norton Community High School Cafeteria

All You Can Eat! Adult-\$5 Child Under 12-\$3
Chicken Noodle, Chili, Vegetable Beef, Home-made Cake, Drinks

Award-winning surgical care takes a team effort.

Regional healthcare excellence is more than our mission. It's our passion.

Our surgery team features two of the region's best general surgeons right here in McCook, and visiting specialists that perform sophisticated surgical procedures. Our dedicated surgical nurses and technicians provide incredible support.

In fact, the Joint Commission recognized our surgery team as being a Top Performer in preventing infections and promoting better recovery times.

Our surgery department also rivals large urban hospital settings, with advanced equipment designed for accuracy, privacy, and comfort.



Walter Eskildsen, M.D.
General Surgeon



Brenda Kopriva, M.D.
General Surgeon

Specialists Performing Surgery in McCook:

<p>Ear Nose Throat: V. Richard Bowen, M.D. Mark Keller, M.D. Roger Simpson, M.D.</p> <p>Obstetrics & Gynecology: Todd A. Pankratz, M.D.</p> <p>Orthopedics: Scott Franssen, D.O. Michael McCarty, M.D.</p>	<p>Ophthalmology: Linda Blakely, M.D. Thomas Clinch, M.D.</p> <p>Podiatry: Robert Hinze, D.P.M.</p> <p>Spinal Orthopedics: David Benavides, M.D.</p> <p>Urology: David Halsted, M.D.</p>
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