

# 4-H'er acknowledged for their achievements

Several important awards were given out at the annual 4-H Achievement Night banquet, which was held in Norton.

## IDARE YOU

**Katrina Wentz** is a ten year member of the Prairie Dog 4-H Club. She is currently President of the County 4-H Council. She has also attended several camps, including Discovery Days, KYLF and has been a counselor at Rock Springs Ranch. She has participated at the Kansas State fair in lifeskills and photography judging and entered a variety of exhibits over the years.

**Annette Becker** has actively participated in 4-H through her fair entries including art, photography and self determined projects. Annette has attended KYLF camp, Discovery Days and photography camp. She had held an office in the 4-H Council and has held various offices in the Busy Jayhawkers 4-H club. She is currently serving as President of the Busy Jayhawkers. Her participation in 4-H for 9 years has given her much satisfaction and experience for the future.

## FRIEND OF 4-H AWARD

Sponsored and selected by Norton Area Chamber of Commerce, this award is given to an individual or couple who have provided long term leadership in the 4-H program. Long term leadership and involvement might include, but not be limited to, being a club leader, various project leader guidance, support of various programs in 4-H related activities. This award began in 1985 with George Jones, then President of the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce.

**Bob and Deb Smith** were the recipients of the 2006 Norton County Friend of 4-H Award.

Both Bob and Deb had been involved in the past with the Good Hope Boosters club as leaders and also on the county level in a variety of capacities. Bob's family was very involved in 4-H club work and the Extension related program. Bob served as a community club leader for 8 years as well as project leader in a variety of projects. Deb served as a project leader for 9 years with a variety of projects as well as serving as the County Business Appreciation chair person.

Bob and Deb both served on the 4-H Program Development Committee of the Extension Council. Deb was in charge of the Kansas Extension Education fund and our 4-H building fund raiser for some improvements in 1993 and 1995. Both were active on the 4-H Denver Trip fund raiser committee. Bob also attended the National Leadership Conference in North Dakota. He has been an active member of the Norton County Fair board and willing supporter of youth related activities. In 1992, he received the Extension Council Award for his work on the Council.

Bob and Deb have always extended their humor, deep desire and willing attitude on all the committees they have served on while being 4-H leaders and Extension Council members.

Bob and his wife Deb and their children Tawny, Lacey and Jeannie were very active in the Good Hope Boosters 4-H Club. A memorial contribution by the family and the Good Hope Boosters club from their daughter Jeannie's memorial provided major funding to renovate the 4-H Food Stand in 1999.

## KEY AWARDS

The 4-H Key Award is sponsored by the Kansas 4-H Foundation and the Farm Credit Association. It is the highest individual pin award that a 4-H'er can receive to recognize the service and leadership to a 4-H'ers career.

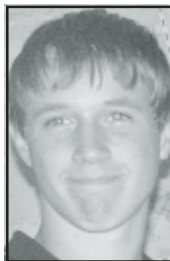
**Katrina Wentz** is a 10-year member of the Prairie Dog 4-H Club. Her community service involvement has included making

and delivering May Day baskets to the elderly, collecting recipes for the Centennial Cookbook, donating her hair to the "Locks of Love" program, and volunteering her time helping at the Pheasants Forever banquet and the Oberlin Alumni banquet. Katrina is president of the 4-H Council and serves as a junior project leader in several areas in her club. She has served on the Fashion Revue, Foods Auction and Pork Burger committees. She has given many demonstrations at Club Days and has attended many judging events over the past 10 years and has also attended the Kansas City Global Conference and KYLF. Katrina is the daughter of Mary and Dwight Wentz.



Katrina Wentz

**Luke VanSike** is a 10-year member of the Busy Jayhawkers 4-H Club. Luke volunteers at the Norton Theatre, is an AYSO soccer referee and spent a week in Juarez, Mexico and Willow Rock, Ariz., building houses with his church for the past two summers. He has donated food to God's Pantry, made and delivered valentines to shut-ins, and donated items for the elementary school



Luke VanSike

reading program. He also helps with the children's programs at his church. He is a Council representative, serves as the Parliamentarian of his club, and is a project leader in the Wildlife-Sports fishing area and is a trained State Sports fishing leader. He also serves as a member on the State Aerospace Action team, the Northwest Area Day Camp Planning committee and the State Fair Electric committee. Luke has taken part in a variety of judging contests and has been on several geology quiz bowls at the State Geology tour. He has attended KYLF, Discovery Days, and the National 4-H Congress in Atlanta, Ga.. Luke is the son of Karen and Keith VanSike.

**Dana Hillebrand** has volunteered at the Norton Theatre, painted at the horse arena, planted trees, helped with the Adopt-A-Highway program and served pork burgers during the county fair. She is a 10-year member of the Prairie Dog 4-H Club and has served as treasurer and secretary of her club. She has served on the Pet Show committee and the Pork Burger committee. Dana also served as a swine project leader in her club and helped other 4-H'ers with their cooking projects. She helped in the planning of the programs for their club this past year. Dana has attended the Kansas City



Dana Hillebrand

4-H Conference and Discovery Days, and has done several public speaking and judging events. She has written articles for the 4-H Tabloid and has done radio spots promoting 4-H. Dana is the daughter of Sue and Gary Hillebrand.

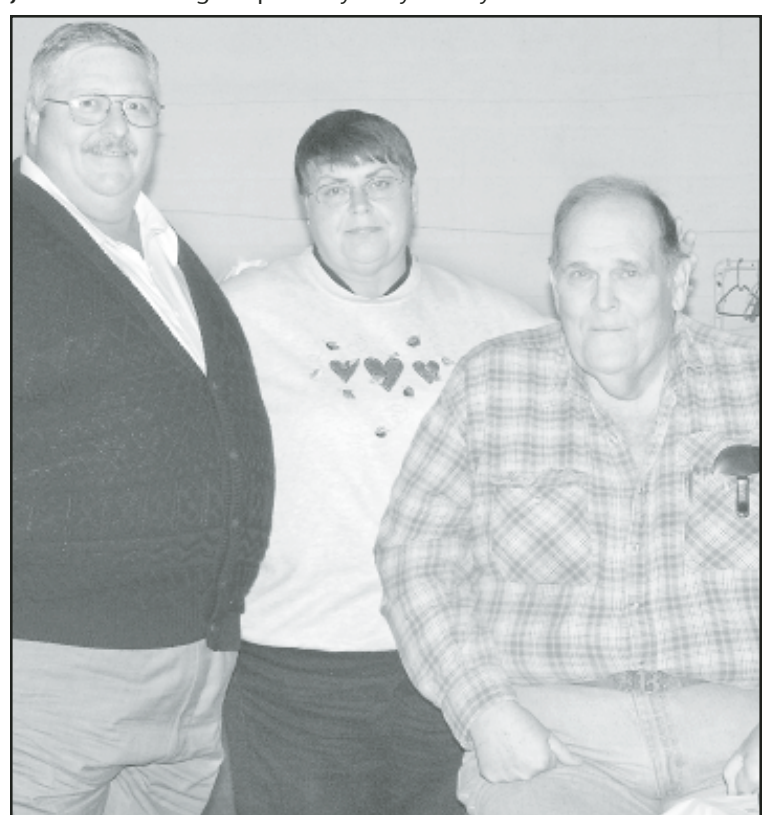
**Tanner Griffith** has been part of the Prairie Dog 4-H Club for 10 years. He has been involved in donating food for God's Pantry, helping with a coat drive for underprivileged people, entertaining residents at the Andbe Home, and mentoring programs for youth and the Relay for Life. Tanner serves as the President and Council representative for his club and served on the Achievement Night committee. He has volunteered at the Norton Theatre and wrote letters to soldiers in Iraq. Tanner has helped with his club's party committee, program-planning committee and is a photography leader. He helped plan two photography field trips and planned countywide meetings for junior and high school youth. Tanner is also a member of the State Photography action team and helps with the photography judging at the state fair. He has attended KYLF and the Kansas Junior Livestock Show and has written articles for the 4-H Tabloid, and given a radio interview on photo exhibits at the state fair. Tanner is the son of Carol Griffith and Chuck Griffith.



Tanner Griffith



Key Award winner Dana Hillebrand received her award from Joy Johnson. — Telegram photo by Patsy Maddy



Master of Ceremonies Marvin Matchett posed with Friend of 4-H recipients Deb and Bob Smith. — Telegram photo by Patsy Maddy



## The Spotlight's On You

If you could have anything you wanted for Christmas this year, regardless of the cost, what would you ask for? This question was presented to the Norton Junior High students and their answers ranged anywhere from cell phones and laptop computers to world peace. While I was coming up with an idea for this week's column I was reminded about an experience I had back in Milwaukee a couple months ago.

A close friend and I drove downtown to Potawatomi Bingo on a Saturday night this past September. We sat down in the Bingo Hall which was filled with thousands of people hoping to win big that night. The last game of the night was a "black-out" game in which you have to cover all the numbers on your bingo card. At Potawatomi Bingo, if you get "black-out" in 46 calls or less, you win the jackpot. No one had ever done this...until that eventful night in September.

On the 37th call of the "black-out" game, an elderly woman stood up screaming, "BINGO...I've got a BINGO!" As we waited for this woman's bingo to be confirmed, disappointment filled the room. Many of the younger players became frustrated as they began to realize that their dream of winning big that night had come to an end.

After a couple of minutes, the bingo announcer confirmed that game 30 was closed with one winner, a woman we will call "Doris". Doris' odds of getting bingo in 46 calls or less were slim to none and yet she was the first and only person to have ever accomplished this. Doris had won the jackpot...a \$500,000 jackpot!

After collecting her winnings, Doris proceeded to donate more than half of the money

to numerous charities around the Milwaukee metro area. She has given money to families who have nothing and live in homeless shelters. She gave money to the Children's Hospital and has helped provide treatment to children who are suffering from cancer. She has also purchased toys and clothing for children who otherwise would have received nothing for Christmas this year.

During this past month as I've been preparing for Christmas I have thought about Doris and the lives she's changed by simply being generous and thinking of others. Often times people forget that Christmas is a time for giving as well as receiving. This Christmas, remember to think of those who may be less fortunate than you. A little kindness can go a long way and can make a world of difference.

This Christmas, you could head over to Pamida, pick an angel off of their Angel Tree and provide a Christmas gift to a child who is asking for something his or her family cannot afford to buy. Just think of the difference you will make in that child's life by providing him or her with a warm winter coat or a new toy that they've asked for. Get in contact with Carolyn Plotts, a director at The Haven, and find out how you can help the families who will be traveling to Norton for Christmas this year.

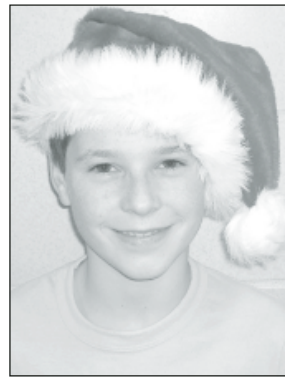
With Christmas just around the corner, people are slowly realizing that the shopping days are becoming fewer and fewer. This year when you are out doing your Christmas shopping, don't forget to give the most important gift of all. Follow in the footsteps of Doris and remember to give the gift of kindness.



Lisa Marie Henderson

— Special thanks to Erin Manning for providing the photos

## If you could have anything you wanted for Christmas this year, what would you ask for?



**Robert Blecha**  
Seventh Grader

"I would ask for a 1969 Dodge Charger, a Remington shotgun and a Playstation 3."



**Mariah Farber**  
Seventh Grader

"I would ask for \$1 million dollars and a Siberian Husky."



**Alexis Henson**  
Seventh Grader

"I would ask for a cell phone and cable in my room."



**Samantha Keenan**  
Seventh Grader

"I would ask for a baby chimp, because they are so adorable."



**Kylie Nuzum**  
Seventh Grader

"I would ask for a million dollars, less homework, bigger lockers, world peace, free bubble gum in school, and me as principal for a day."



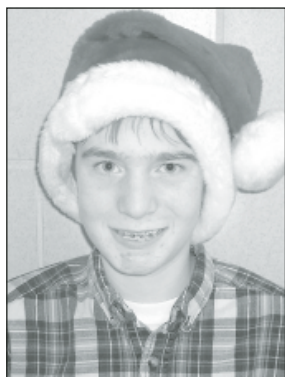
**Kelsey Obermiller**  
Seventh Grader

"I want to help support the troops in Iraq, and help sick children. I want a laptop, digital camera, video camera, and an autographed Jake Plummer jersey."



**Maia Carlson**  
Eighth Grader

"All I really want for Christmas this year is my health—last year, me and my whole family had the flu."



**David Cressler**  
Eighth Grader

"I really want some new cowboy boots and a television in my room. I want a new laptop computer."



**Kyra Fulton**  
Eighth Grader

"If I could have anything for Christmas, I would ask for a white corvette, an iPod Nano and a \$1,000 shopping spree in L.A."



**Rachel Shepard**  
Eighth Grader

"I would ask for contacts, iPod Nano, my hair done, cell phone, and money."



**Dustyna Sprigg**  
Eighth Grader

"This Christmas I would ask to see my cousins."



**Lindsey Tacha**  
Eighth Grader

"I would ask for a laptop and a car!"

Shop locally, Shop Norton