



Elaine Mann and John Simmelink (above) displayed an auction item during the CASA Chocolate Auction Saturday to get the crowd ready to bid. Stanton Nelson (below) entertained the auction goers while they browsed the silent auction tables and ate hors d'oeuvres. — Telegram photos by Veronica Monier

## Court advocates have biggest turnout yet

(Continued from Page 1) bid on the items on display for the silent auction.

"This is the fourth year we've done this and it was probably one of our best years," Ms. Stanton said. "Previously, we've hit about the \$15,000 mark and topping that is great. We usually try to have three fund raisers a year and this is the biggest."

The other two fund raisers they have are the no-show tea or flower show in April to go with child abuse prevention month and a Yankee Candles sale in the summer.

She said the money raised at the chocolate auction and other fund raisers will be used to train volunteers, take on new cases, and maintain old cases and the program as a whole.

In addition to the auction, the second Chocolate Cook-off was held. Winning were: Chocolate Cookies — Yvonne Holmes, Hanston; Chocolate Candy — Edith McClain, Gaylord; Chocolate Pie — Jacqueline Thornton, Osborne; Loaded Chocolate — Joan Heide, Downs; Chocolate Cake — tie, Georgia Mann, Norton, and Barbara Stites, Hill City; Best Presentation — tie, Janelle Domoney, Downs, and Jeanette Specht, Downs; .

Another purpose for the auction was to honor both the volunteers and the judges. The judges hon-

ored were District Judge Bill Elliott, Hill City, and magistrate judges Deb Anderson, Norton County; Barbara Stites, Graham County; Jacqueline Thornton, Osborne County; Bonnie Leidig, Phillips County; Mike Kirchoff, Smith County; and John Bremer, Decatur County.

Ms. Stanton said that over 300 donors also made the event possible, giving everything from jewelry, gift baskets and prints to cakes, candies and get-away packages.

"The big thing I try to stress is if it wasn't for all the donors, this wouldn't be possible," she said. "And everything goes back to the kids. I'm glad that all six counties can come together and work for these kids. My personal saying is 'today is when they need us as tomorrow may be too late'."

Randee Watkins catered the hors d'oeuvres and Stanton Nelson provided music. Jay Casey and John Simmelink took care of the live auction.

Other people helping out were Jeff Albert, Christine Campbell, Michelle DeVoe, Krystal Holmes, Sharla Hudson, Katie Lix, Nell McCreery, Julie Miller, Paul Reinert and Penny Simmelink.

Board and committee members are Dale Carlson, board member; Sarah Coiner, board member; Tracie Ford, secretary; Renee Griffith, vice president; Stephen



Heide, president; Siegle Irby, board member; Crystal McDondald, board member; Elaine Mann, advisory board and event co-chair; Donna Muck, advisory board and even co-chair; Terra Ricker, committee member; Phyllis Robinson, committee member; and Katie Schreuder, treasurer.

For more information on the advocate program or to become a volunteer, call Ms. Stanton at (785) 345-4120.

facility. Norton needs low-income housing."

To learn more about the upcoming auction, go to the website:

[www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/mfh/pd/multifam.cfm](http://www.hud.gov/offices/hsg/mfh/pd/multifam.cfm). Phone requests may be made by calling 570-387-8942.

## 'Commons' goes on the auction block

(Continued from Page 1) time.

He said, "I really hope it (The Commons) remains a subsidized

## Norton has several subsidized housing facilities

Other subsidized housing facilities in Norton include:

**The Norton Manor**, 213 Horace Greeley, 877-2714. The Manor has 42 units. There is one, 2-bedroom unit available and several one-bedroom units. Rent is based on income eligibility. You can learn all the information and pick up applications at the office located on the ground floor.

**Sunflower Apartments**, 1002 N. Second, 785-614-3731. Sunflower Apartments are subsidized by the USDA Rural Development Program. Rental assistance is available to qualified applicants and based on income. The complex consists of eight, one-bedroom apartments. There are five vacancies and the facility is looking for a part-time manager.

**Northridge Acres**, Reagan and Quail Drive, 785-421-2151. Northridge Acres is operated by

Northwest Kansas Housing, Inc. There are several two and three-

bedroom duplexes for income eligible families.

### I'm Not Deaf!

I Just Can't Understand Some Words

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## Emergency medical service receives grants

(Continued from Page 1) for new students and paramedic training, which total \$12,430.

Mrs. Wyatt said a couple of their ambulances have problems with seals around the doors and one unit has a small oil leak. Also, one of the units is several years old and should be replaced sometime.

• **Curt Archibald, solid waste department**, who spoke about the E-waste grant received by Osborne County. Mr. Archibald and the commission discussed tipping fees at the landfill. The fees have not been increased recently and are not scheduled to be increased.

• **Wanda Vincent, register of deeds**, who presented her annual report for 2007. She said instruments recorded 367 deeds, 165 mortgages and 776 other for a total of 1,308 recordings. She said they had \$1,617.44 in copy fees and they filed 23 UCCs for a total of \$345. They had \$29,153.29 in mortgage registration fees and had \$28,051.60 in joint appointment fees for a total of \$48,712.04 in mortgage and registration fees. She said \$6,794 was put into their technology fund, leaving \$41,918.04 to go in the county's general fund.

Mrs. Vincent said her printer is old, the quality of print is no longer good and it needed to be replaced. She said she received

two bids with the low bid coming from Mortensen Computer. The Mortensen bid was accepted and the money for the new printer will come out of the technology fund.

• **Tom Brannan, road and bridge department**, who showed the commission several signs that have been damaged by vandalism. He said they have 42 signs that have been shot, broken or destroyed by vandals. It will be expensive to replace all of the signs, he said, with an estimate of \$55 per post.

Mr. Brannan and the commission discussed a bill from Cummins, out of Colby, who did some maintenance on the generator south of town. After reviewing the bill, the commission asked Mr. Brannan to call Cummins to see why the price they charged seemed so high and to get a cost estimated on maintenance work before the work is done in the future.

• **Troy Thomson, county sheriff**, who spoke about the Mitigation plan and grant. A \$33,750 grant was awarded to the county from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in addition to the \$11,250 given by the state. Sheriff Thomson said they received two bids to prepare the Mitigation plan, which were \$36,947.50 and \$45,000.

The commission asked Sheriff Thomson to check the references of the companies that submitted bids to see which one would be best for the county and then asked County Counselor Doug Sebelius to review the contract for the Mitigation plan.

**In other business, the commission:**

• Approved a contract submitted by Mid-Continental Contractors for repair work to each entrance of the courthouse. Water has been pooling on the courthouse steps, causing damage to the pavers. The estimate for the repair work and drilling drain holes is \$16,080. The contract covers 170 square feet of pavers on the west side and 80 square feet on the east side. Also, stone replacement on the east side will cost an additional \$3,150.

• Discussed the old rescue unit that is co-owned by the City of Norton and the county. The commission agreed that if the Norton Rural Fire District could use the truck, the county would waive its interest.

• Told Mrs. Wyatt to advertise for a full-time paramedic for the emergency medical service.

• Approved the vouchers and payroll for January. Vouchers totaled \$396,829.55 and payroll totaled \$210,897.42.

## Farm Bureau food check-out is this week

(Continued from Page 1) will have earned enough disposable income — that portion of income available for spending or saving — to pay for its annual food supply in about 36 days, according to the Kansas Farm Bureau.

In recognition of this, Kansas Farm Bureau is celebrating Feb. 3-9 as Food Check-Out Week.

Not only is America's food supply the world's safest, but it's also the most affordable, said Brian Thompson, Norton County Farm Bureau Association President. "The safe, abundant and affordable domestic food supply produced by America's farmers and ranchers is responsible, at least in part, for our nation's increasing standard of living."

To mark the occasion, the Norton County Farm Bureau Association is holding several contests to make the Norton Community aware of their safe, affordable food. This week during the KQNK Party Line show, the agriculture trivia winner will receive a meal assembled for two or more that can be picked up at the Norton County Farm Bureau office. Monday's winner received pork chops, baking potatoes, corn on the cob, and Granny Smith apples. A guessing contest consisting of seven food related questions is being held at the Norton County Farm Bureau office. Individuals are asked to stop

by the office and submit their guesses for a chance at winning a bag of groceries worth approximately \$50. Another \$50 bag of groceries will be given to the proud parents of the baby who is born during or closest to Food Check-Out Week. Gift certificates and bread give-aways will highlight Food Check-Out Day on Wednesday, Feb. 6. Country Corner in Lenora and Almena Market in Almena will each be presenting a \$50 gift certificate to a random shopper on Wednesday. Norton Shop and Save and Jamboree Foods will be handing out loaves of bread to customers purchasing groceries some time during the day on Wednesday.

Be sure to read Friday's Norton Telegram and look for the Farm Bureau ad with another Food Check-Out question. The answer will be hidden somewhere in that issue. A winner will be drawn from everyone who called the Farm Bureau Office, by noon Monday, with the location of the correct answer.

Compared to food, Americans work longer each year to pay for their housing, federal taxes and medical care. According to the Tax Foundation, Americans must work 52 days each year to pay for health and medical care, 62 days to pay for housing/household operation and 77 days to pay their federal taxes.

The affordable, high-quality food we enjoy as consumers is a product of our successful food production and distribution system, as well as America's farmers and ranchers continued access to effective and affordable crop protection tools.

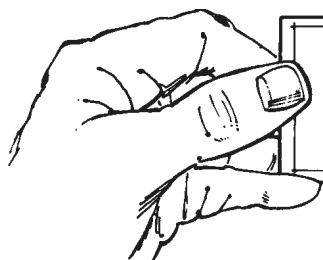
This week should hold meaning for most Americans. Although we are concerned that some Americans cannot afford to buy the food they need, we are proud of the role Kansas farmers play in producing the most affordable food in the world.

The percent of disposable personal income spent for food has declined over the last 35 years. In 1970, it took Americans 15 more days to earn enough income to pay for their food supply for the year. According to USDA, food is more affordable today due to a widening gap between growth in per-capita incomes and the amount of money spent for food.

This overall decrease is made more notable by trends indicating Americans are buying more expensive convenience foods, as well as more food away from home.

Food Check-Out Day tracks the amount of income needed by Americans to purchase food on an annual basis. Despite a few fluctuations over the past few years, food prices have remained relatively stable over time.

## Customer Appreciation



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TO JOIN US FOR . . .

## Pancake and Sausage Day



at the Norton American Legion on  
**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7**  
7:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

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877-3361