



Olivia Miller and Libbi Puga played outside at Holly's Clubhouse Monday afternoon. Holly Puga, owner of Holly's Clubhouse, has the children go outside everyday if the weather is nice enough.

— Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux

## New day care center opens in Norton

By **BRANDY LEROUX**  
bleroux@nwkansas.com

Holly Puga has opened a new day care center in Norton called Holly's Clubhouse. Mrs. Puga has worked as a day care provider for several years, first while attending Norton Community High School, working at Sunshine Learning Center for all four years of high school, then providing day care out of her home for six years.

In August, Mrs. Puga and her husband, Cory, bought a building close to Eisenhower Elementary for her day care center. It was remodeled within a month, and opened shortly after that.

There are three age groups in the day care, the Buttercups, ages 2 months to 2 1/2 years, the Fireflies, 2 1/2 to 6 years, and the Dragonflies, ages 6 and up.

There are two staff members in the Buttercups' room at all times.

"There are age-appropriate toys, they have separate areas both inside and out, they do singing, have three stories a day

read to them, they listen to music while they play and they also do coloring and painting, and they get at least one hour outside each day, if the weather is nice enough," said Mrs. Puga.

The Fireflies go through preschool teachings, to include letters, counting, shapes, colors, numbers, songs, and stories, and have "centers" — play cooking, a play cash register and shopping cart, a washer and dryer, music with a keyboard and guitar, trucks and legos — to play with.

"We pick one letter, one shape and one number a week. Last week was the letter D, the shape diamond, and the number 3. We made up a silly sentence that had as many words start with D as possible, like 'Debbie the dog walked with the duck down to the dock.' We cut out diamond shapes and put tails on them, making kites," said Mrs. Puga.

For the Fireflies, there is a staff to child ratio of 1 to 10.

The Dragonflies are at school during the day. Mrs. Puga walks

the block to Eisenhower to pick up children in her day care from school. When they get back to the Clubhouse, the children get snacks and weather permitting, go outside to play, or do arts and crafts.

Mrs. Puga has four staff members working for her right now. She requires at least a high school diploma, a 10-hour class on child care, 12 1/2 hours observation at Sunshine Learning Center or Head Start.

"I would like to give a special thanks to my husband Cory for always believing in me, my mom and dad for all their support and wisdom, Jason and Samantha Bowen for the countless hours of help in making my Clubhouse a dream come true," said Mrs. Puga.

Holly's Clubhouse is a state-licensed day care facility. Her hours are 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., though she will open at 6:00 a.m. if there is enough need.

There will be an open house towards the end of October.

## Northern Valley school reminders

Wednesday, Oct. 1 — Lifetouch school pictures, starts in Long Island at 8:00 a.m.; Title I learning meeting at Salina, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.; "Trust Me" Assembly for jr. and sr. high in the big gym at Almena, 1:00 p.m.; "Charting Your Course" Assembly for grade schoolers in the big gym, 2:45 p.m.; College Planning Conference at Norton High School, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 2 — JH Volleyball at Osborne, 4:00 p.m.; JH Football at Osborne, 6:00 p.m.; HS dance team practice; Structuring meeting at Hays; College Planning Conference at Colby, 9:00 a.m.

Friday, Oct. 3 — Structuring meeting at Hays; JH marching band rehearsal with HS band in Almena from 11:30 a.m. to 12:05 p.m.; NO PRESCHOOL, ECD meeting at Glade; HS Football vs. Cheylin at Almena, 7:00 p.m.,

HS Dance team will perform at half-time.

Saturday, Oct. 4 — HS Volleyball Ellis Tournament at Ellis, 8:30 a.m.; FFA District Greenhand Conference/Fall Area Meeting at Norton, 9:00 a.m.

Monday, Oct. 6 — HS Dance team practice; HS JV Football at Cheylin, 5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 7 — Jostens rep to meet with sophomores and seniors, 11:00 a.m.; Colby College rep visit in the conference room, 1:00 p.m.; HS Volleyball vs. Golden Plains/Triplains at Almena, 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 8 — K-4 Senior Citizen Program at the Senior Center in Almena, 1:30 p.m.; K-State College rep visit in the conference room, 1:30 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 9 — JH Volleyball vs. Thunder Ridge in Long Island, 4:00 p.m.; JH Football vs. Thunder Ridge in Long Is-

land, 6:00 p.m.; HS dance team practice; Hearing and Vision screening starting in Long Island, 8:15 a.m.; PowerSchool User's Group Training in Hays, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; JH marching band rehearsal with high school band in Almena from 11:30 a.m. to 12:05 p.m.; HS Cross Country meet at Phillipsburg, 4:30 p.m.; Yearbook meeting and supper at Wilsons' house in Almena, 6:15 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 10 — Homecoming parade downtown, 2:45 p.m.; HS Football vs. Weskan at Almena, 7:00 p.m., homecoming game, HS dance team will perform at half-time.

Saturday, Oct. 11 — HS Volleyball Hill City tournament at Hill City, 8:30 a.m.; FFA Fall leadership training at Salina, 10:00 a.m.; Homecoming Dance in the lunchroom at Almena, 8:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.

## Wheat blends offer stability to farmers

Blends of two to three wheat varieties have become increasingly popular over the past 10 years in Kansas, according to recent wheat variety acreage reports from Kansas Agricultural Statistics.

That's not surprising to Kansas State University agronomist Jim Shroyer. Blends have some advantages in many situations, he said.

"Blends can offer producers some yield stability in most cases," said Shroyer, who is a crop production specialist with K-State Research and Extension. "While any one variety may do much better or worse than other varieties in the same vicinity, having a blend of two or three varieties can usually even out those ups and downs. This reduces the chances of having a landlord upset because the variety planted on his or her land yielded considerably less than

other fields in the area."

Blends have some disadvantages, as well, he said.

"Blends are unlikely to result in the highest yields possible in any given year," Shroyer said. "And blends do not provide the same level of management flexibility as a pure variety."

The K-State 2007-08 Wheat Variety Performance Test included several blends. In most cases, the yield of the blend was close to the average yield of the components in the blend. The interesting factor to look at is the range of yields among the components, he said.

### EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER

The Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center is advertising for a Early Childhood Special Education Teacher for the 2008-2009 school year.

**Qualifications:** Must possess or be eligible to receive Kansas Teacher Certification. Training, education, experience, references, and interview results are some of the qualifications, which are considered for each candidate. For position details contact: Kathy Kersenbrock Ostmeyer, Special Education Director at 785-672-3125 extension 111. To receive an application contact Rose Langley at 785-672-3125 extension 200.

**Application Deadline: Until Filled**

\*NKESC is an Equal Opportunity Employer



What do a pirate, Ms. Lovett from "Sweeny Todd, The Musical," and a vampire have in common? They can't agree on what to get from the vending machine. One probably wants fruit, one wants blood, and perhaps the other would like a meat pie....

— Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux

## Spirit week off to a good start in Norton

By **BRANDY LEROUX**  
bleroux@nwkansas.com

Not only has football season returned, but it's also the time of year for high school homecomings.

Norton Community High School will be having their annual "Spirit Week" leading up to homecoming.

Monday was "Costume Day," Tuesday was "Sports Team Day," Wednesday will be "Tacky Day," Thursday will be "Twin Day," and Friday is "Blue Jay Pride Day."

Students and faculty will dress up this week, every day getting more excited about homecoming. The Student Advisory Council has already chosen secret judges, usually faculty, to pick winners from each day's theme. There are also contests with first, second and third place prizes for the

downtown posters and the floats in the parade.

The secret judges pick one girl and one boy — except on twin day, when it's two boys and two girls — and announce the winners from all categories during the pep rally at the courthouse.

The Homecoming King and Queen are elected on Wednesday, and the results are a closely-guarded secret.

"Only two people know the results, and it is kept top-secret until the coronation," said high school principal Rudy Perez.

Friday's homecoming festivities will kick off with a parade at 2:45. The junior and senior high students will be let out early from school to attend the parade, and parents of students at Eisenhower

Elementary can request to pick their kids up to take them to the parade.

The parade will end at the county courthouse, where the pep rally will be held. Fidelis Millan is the speaker at the pep rally this year. His son, Senior Nish Millan, is a starting lineman for Norton and freshman son Trey is also on the team.

The coronation of King and Queen will take place at Travis Field, right before the football game against St. Francis.

The homecoming dance will end the week's festivities, starting at 10:00 in the 4-H building.

**PALMER BROTHERS GRANITE CO.**  
215 West Avenue • Downtown Holdrege • Just North of the Depot  
www.palmerbrothersgranite.com

**Monument Specials**  
**SAVE Up To 30%**  
**NOW Thru Oct. 17th**

- Visit Our showroom
- In Home Appointments Available

Serving Your Area Since 1919  
**308-995-4477 • 800-652-1991**

Rural Telephone/Nex-Tech, a leading-edge, fast-paced, technology service provider is seeking an employee for the following position

**Customer Service Assistant - Lenora -**

This individual will use suggestive selling techniques to promote local and long distance telephone service, Internet, and other products and services. Duties will include preparing customer contracts, obtaining credit reports, processing payments, addressing customer questions, processing adjustments to customer accounts, and resolving customer billing issues. The employee will work with staff to ensure customer satisfaction. This individual must maintain proficient knowledge of company products and services and have excellent oral and written communication skills in order to assist customers.

**Equal Opportunity Employer:** We offer a competitive salary and comprehensive benefits including health and life insurance, 401(k) and retirement. If you are interested in this position, please submit a current resume, cover letter and three business references. Position will close upon placement of a qualified candidate.

**Human Resources**  
P.O. Box 158  
Lenora, KS 67645  
v. 785.567.4281  
f. 785.567.4401  
jobapplications@ruraltel.com

**Educational Requirements:** High school diploma, or the equivalent, plus one year of customer service, telephone sales, or equivalent work experience preferred. bilingual (English/Spanish) beneficial.

**RURAL TELEPHONE** **NEXTECH**

**LODGE NOTICES**

**American Legion**  
Harmonson Redd  
Post No. 63  
Second and Fourth Monday  
Gil Otter, Commander

**Eagles Lodge**  
FOE 3288  
Second and Fourth  
Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.  
Marvin Matchett, President  
John Walsh, Secretary

**Sons of the**  
American Legion  
Fourth Monday  
7:30 p.m.  
James Railsback, Commander  
Doyle Brooks, Adjutant

**Veterans of**  
Foreign Wars  
Reg. 7:00 p.m.  
First Mon. of each Month  
Curt Archibald, Commander  
Joe Ballinger, Quartermaster

**I.O.O.F.**  
No. 157  
Meet at Eagles Club  
First and Third Thursday  
Each Month at 7:30 p.m.  
Horace Collins, Noble Grand  
Randy Knoll, Secretary

## High School Sports This Week

Norton Blue Jays    Northern Valley Huskies    Logan Trojans

**FOOTBALL:**

Norton Blue Jays vs. St. Francis in Homecoming Game. . . . . 7 p.m. Friday in Norton  
Norton Junior Varsity vs. St. Francis. . . . . 6 p.m. Monday in St. Francis  
Northern Valley Huskies vs. Cheylin. . . . . 7 p.m. Friday in Almena  
Northern Valley Junior Varsity vs. Cheylin . . . . . 5 p.m. Monday in Cheylin  
Logan Trojans vs. Natoma . . . . . 7 p.m. Friday in Natoma

**VOLLEYBALL:**

Norton Lady Jays vs. Colby/Atwood V-JV . . . . . 4:30 p.m. Today in Colby  
Norton Lady Jays in Oberlin Tournament (V, JV) . . . . . 9 a.m. Saturday  
Norton Lady Jays vs. Smith Center/Trego (V, JV) . . . . . 5 p.m. Tuesday at Smith Center  
Norton Lady Jays C-team vs. St. Francis . . . . . 5 p.m. Monday in St. Francis  
Northern Valley Lady Huskies vs. Golden Plains/Triplains . . . . 4 p.m. Tuesday in Almena  
Logan Lady Trojans vs. Palco/Western Plains. . . . . 4 p.m. Today in Palco  
Logan Lady Trojans vs. Palco/Thunder Ridge. . . . . 4 p.m. Tuesday in Logan

**CROSS COUNTRY:**

Norton Cross Country in Oberlin Invitational . . . . . 5 p.m. Today  
Northern Valley Cross Country in Oberlin Invitational. . . . . 5 p.m. Today

**TENNIS:**

Norton Lady Jays in Colby Varsity Tournament. . . . . 3 p.m. Today  
Norton Lady Jays in Colby JV Tournament . . . . . 9 a.m. Saturday  
Norton Lady Jays in MCL Tournament . . . . . 9 a.m. Saturday in Phillipsburg