

Official notification



The wording says it all as workmen put the finishing touches on the new independent living facilities sign just north of the Andbe Home in Norton. From left are Raymond, Justin and Dwight Heikes and on the right is Jerry Hawks.

- Photo for the Telegram by Dana Paxton

School holds first science fair

Eisenhower Elementary School held its first annual science fair Monday with Belinda Thalheim's fourth grade class, Kristen Fahrenbruch's fourth grade class and Teresa Schulze's sixth grade class participating.

Mrs. Schulze said it was the first official fair, although the fourth grade classes held their own classroom events in previous years. Mrs. Schulze estimated that there were nearly 79 students participating with 20 projects entered.

The students worked in groups and were able to choose from a list of projects their teachers provided.

Planning for the fair began two weeks ago, Mrs. Schulze said. She intended to help prepare the stu-

dents for their upcoming science assessments. Both the fourth and sixth graders have those assessments coming up.

The fair was judged by Norton School District Superintendent Greg Mann, Jim Green, high school science teacher, and George Rossi, junior high school science teacher.

Mr. Green said he looked for how well the students displayed their work, what topic they chose, what kind of understanding they had and how well they could discuss the subject matter.

"Everything I have seen has been interesting so far," he said.

Fourth graders Treianne Park, Baylee Miller, Kendra Cadwalader and Caleb Gregory worked

on a project to determine which paper towel held the most weight. They used pennies to determine weight.

They found out that Bounty was the strongest; it held 140 pennies compared to basic Bounty which held 100, Sparkle held 84 and Viva held 64.

Student Treianne said they worked on the project for a few days, and Baylee said "it was a lot of effort."

Mrs. Schulze said an awards ceremony will be held on Thursday. There will be a first, second and third place award given in each class that participated.

"We hope this is successful and we can do it again next year," she said.

Home repair grants in the making

Darla Buckman, USDA Rural Development acting state director, said this week that the agency is accepting applications for grants to help low- and very-low-income rural residents repair their homes. USDA's Rural Development Housing Preservation Grant Program provides financial assistance to sponsoring organizations to assist in the repair and/or rehabilitation of single-family and rental residences located in rural communities.

In the announcement, Buckman said, "The availability of affordable housing in our rural areas continues to be a major factor which contributes to economic development. Many times, with certain repairs, existing rural homes can continue to be a valuable asset to Kansas families and their communities. USDA Rural Development's Housing Preservation Grant Program can ultimately provide financial assistance to eligible owners to make necessary repairs to these homes."

Grants can be used to weatherize and repair existing structures, install or improve plumbing or provide access to people with disabilities.

Eligible sponsors who would administer the grant funds can include state agencies, units of local government, Native American tribes, and nonprofit organizations. The Agency's Housing Preservation Grant Program can also provide assistance to rental property owners to repair and/or rehabilitate their units providing the owners agree to make such units available to very-low and low-income families. USDA Rural Development's Housing Preservation Grant Program provides assistance to residential projects located in communities with a maximum population of 20,000.

USDA Rural Development may award up to \$10 million in competitive grants through this notice. The grants to be awarded are part of USDA Rural Development's

annual budget and are not funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

Applications are due by the close of business July 10, 2009. Applications may be accessed electronically at www.grants.gov.

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Norton Municipal Swimming Pool

OPENS MONDAY, MAY 25

POOL HOURS: MONDAY-THURSDAY: 1-5 P.M. & 6:30-8:30 P.M.
FRIDAY-SUNDAY: 1:00 P.M.-8:00 P.M.

Daily Admission Price: \$1.50 Per Person • 20 Punch Card: \$25.00
Season Tickets: Individual-\$30.00 • Family: \$75.00 (Immediate Family Only)
Private Pool Party: 40 People or Less-\$75.00; • Over 40 People-\$100.00

The pool will be closed if any of the following occur: 5 swimmers or less; lightning, rain or severe storms in the immediate area; or if the outside temperature is 65 degrees or colder. Children under 5 must be accompanied by an adult and are admitted to the pool free. There is no lifeguard on duty at the baby pool.

Jill Lively, Pool Manager — Ashley Smith Maybon, Assistant Manager

School's out, but the 'work' never ends

By ERICA BRADLEY
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Students at Norton Community Schools are already enjoying their summer break, but many of the staff at the schools continue to work through the summer to ensure everything is ready for the next school year, said Norton Community High School Principal Rudy Perez.

Mr. Perez said the summer is a busy time because year-end reports have to be written. Staff also works on taking inventory of text books, desks and ordering supplies for classrooms.

Jeff Wallingford, principal of Norton Junior High School, agreed with Mr. Perez. "We do all of the stuff we're not able to when the students are here," he said.

Summer is also a busy time

for the maintenance crews. Grounds have to be kept up and other building maintenance done, he said.

"Summer is always a really, really busy time," Mr. Perez said.

Teachers are on a nine month contract, while staff and administrators have a 12 month contract, Mr. Perez said.

Teachers are not required to work during the summer, but many of them spend a lot of time preparing for the next school year.

"In Norton, teachers like to be in the classroom. In the summer, many of them do in-services and other training to prepare for the next year. We are very lucky to have such a dedicated staff," Mr. Perez said.

Organic ag production funds available

Speaking earlier this month to the USDANational Organic Standards Board, Agriculture Deputy Secretary Kathleen Merrigan said \$50 million for a new initiative to meet the Obama Administration's promise to encourage more organic agriculture production is being made available. Funding for the initiatives is part of the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

"Assisting organic producers is a priority of the 2008 Farm Bill as well as for Secretary Vilsack and the Obama Administration," said Merrigan. "The objective of this initiative is to make organic food producers eligible to compete for EQIP financial assistance."

According to Eric B. Banks, Kansas Natural Resources Con-

servation Service State Conservationist, Kansas received over \$1.5 million for the initiative. Applications received from organic producers or producers in transition to organic farming will be accepted under this initiative through May 29. Producers may still sign up for the Organic Initiative after May 29. However, applications received through May 29 will be ranked at that time and considered for funding.

The 2009 Organic Initiative is a nationwide special initiative to provide financial assistance to National Organic Program (NOP) certified organic producers as well as producers in the process of transitioning to organic production. Organic producers may also apply for assistance under general

EQIP.

"The Kansas NRCS continues to support the EQIP Organic Initiatives," said Banks. "Kansas is working with our conservation partners to provide training to field office employees to improve NRCS technical assistance related to organic production systems."

Under the Organic Initiative required minimum core conservation practices will be determined by specific resource concerns. The practices are: Conservation Crop Rotation; Cover Crop; Nutrient Management; Pest Management; Prescribed Grazing; and Forage Harvest Management. States must consider using any appropriate practice that meets the resource concern on a particular operation.

Ranking criteria has been established based on resource concerns that link to the NOP objectives and the core conservation practices.

Wildfire protection tips given

Wildfires have made living on the edge of urban Kansas seem risky, but homeowners there can take steps to make their homes and families less vulnerable.

Jason Hartman, fire prevention specialist in charge of the Kansas Forest Service Firewise program, offered these steps as solid ways to start:

- Clear any exterior space on or near the home that collects debris such as dead leaves, needles and twigs. This includes roofs, gutters, window sills, porches and decks.
- Store all flammable materials – including firewood – at least 30 feet from your home. Never store these under decks or overhangs.
- Don't leave flammable materials outdoors between use, especially when the fire danger is high. This includes everything from patio furniture cushions to

doormats. Even little things can catch a burning ember in a wildfire.

- Make sure everyone in the family knows the emergency contact information for your fire department. A quick report of a small fire is the best way to make sure it threatens as little property as possible.
- Just as with fire inside the home, have a family plan for what to do and where to go in the event of a wildfire. Ask someone in a different area to serve as a contact to help family members stay in touch in case plans go awry.
- If wildfire could be imminent, get all family members accounted for. Make sure all doors and windows are closed. Attach a hose with a nozzle to an outdoor faucet. Place a roof-high ladder on the down-wind side of the house.

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UPCOMING EVENTS in Kansas

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Kansas Department of Commerce
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Derby Days Festival

May 29-31, Derby
Viva Derby Days! Join us for music, food, shopping, kids' activities, parade and more!
Derby High School, 920 N. Rock Rd
www.derbydaysks.com

Sunflower Music Festival

June 5-13, Topeka
Chamber and orchestra music from symphony musicians from the U.S. and Europe. Concerts every evening. Washburn University
(785) 670-1511, sunflowermusicfestival.org

Grassland Heritage Festival

June 6-13, Elkhart
Trail ride, fishing derby, bus tours of the Santa Fe Trail, food and entertainment.
Cimarron National Grassland
(620) 697-2833, www.ghf.mntcooks.com

Smoky Hill River Festival

June 11-14, Salina
High-energy, low-cost family fun, featuring live performances, fine art and great food. Music by The Fabulous Thunderbirds, Needfire, Kelley Hunt and more! www.riverfestival.com

Fredonia Flag Festival

June 12-13, Fredonia
5K Run, BBQ contest, craft vendors, games, dessert challenge, free movie on the square, night golf tournament. A great way to spend the day with family & friends. (620) 378-3221

T. Rex cetera

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