

A monumental task



Chuck Gullion of Bell Monuments of Beloit lays bricks at the Veteran's Memorial in the Roadside Park Wednesday afternoon. In addition to the bricks already put down, the company was installing 52 engraved bricks in tribute to military personnel. Three flag poles were also installed Wednesday. Anyone who is interested in ordering an engraved brick to honor past or present military personnel can contact Gary or Carol Erlenbusch at 877-5611. Order forms can also be obtained at First State Bank.

-Telegram photo by Carleen Bell

Build here, sell everywhere

U.S. Commerce Secretary John Bryson recently laid out his vision for how the Department of Commerce can best partner with the business community to support the president's jobs agenda at a speech at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. In the remarks, Bryson outlined his top three priorities to help American businesses 'build it here and sell it everywhere,' focusing on supporting advanced manufacturing, increasing our exports, and attracting more investment to America from all over the world. The former Chairman and CEO of Edison International, Bryson also served as a director on the boards of Boeing and the Walt Disney Company, and as a senior advisor to the private equity firm KKR, and he spoke about his experiences in the private sector and how the Department of Commerce is uniquely situated to support job creation.

But Bryson also acknowledged that government cannot do it alone, and made a direct appeal to the business community to hire and invest now, while also pledging to support them.

New or recently announced Commerce Department initiatives to support these priorities include:

Supporting manufacturing:
Co-Chair of the White House Office of Manufacturing Policy: Secretary Bryson was named by the President to co-chair the White House Office of Manufacturing Policy, along with Gene Sperling. The office will determine policy and help coordinate all the different manufacturing efforts across the administration.
AMP National Program Office: Commerce will soon establish a national program office at the Department to coordinate and help implement the President's advanced manufacturing partnership, which brings together industry, universities, and the federal government to drive

investments in emerging industries like information technology, biotech and nanotechnology. The office will be led by Mike Molnar, who is currently the Chief Manufacturing Officer for the Department's National Institute of Standards and Technology. Molnar recently joined after a 25-year career in advanced manufacturing.

Investment: In the last two years, the Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration has been making investments to support the formation of regional clusters and technology hubs, and has already invested over \$75 million in 68 competitive, job-creating projects across the country to support advanced manufacturing. And next year, the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology will invest nearly \$90 million in advanced manufacturing, much of it in new research areas like smart manufacturing technology and new materials discovery.

Protecting Intellectual Property: Signed into law earlier this year, the America Invents Act, represents the most significant reform of the Patent Act since 1952, and will help American inventors, entrepreneurs and companies, many of which are also manufacturers, that have suffered costly delays and unnecessary litigation as part of the patent-approval process, focus on innovation and job creation.

Increasing our exports:
President Obama's National Export Initiative: Launched in 2010, President Obama's initiative has already helped U.S. businesses expand exports 17 percent in 2010 and 16 percent so far this year. That puts the initiative on track to meet the president's goal of doubling U.S. exports by 2014.

Global Buyers Initiative: The Global Buyers Initiative is a new partnership between Commerce

and FedEx to identify and assist foreign manufacturers that are looking for U.S. suppliers. This new initiative will be piloted over the next two months in France, Canada and Korea and, if successful, is expected to expand worldwide in 2012.

Restructuring the Foreign Commercial Service: To intensify focus on markets where U.S. exports have the best potential for continued growth, including China, Brazil, India, Saudi Arabia and Turkey, the Department of Commerce is reallocating and repositioning resources to markets identified as priorities under the National Export Initiative.

Attracting more investment to America from all over the world:

SelectUSA: The recently launched SelectUSA is the first coordinated federal effort of its kind to aggressively pursue and win new business investment in the United States, from both domestic as well as foreign companies. SelectUSA is housed at the Department of Commerce and online at www.SelectUSA.gov.

Training foreign commercial service officers: In order to make promoting investment in the United States a key part of Foreign Commercial Service engagement around the world, the Commerce Department will train staff in 10 foreign markets with offices in fiscal year 2012 on the SelectUSA initiative. In fiscal year 2013, this engagement and training will expand to cover 25 foreign markets. These 25 markets will constitute the largest and fastest-growing sources of foreign direct investment in the United States. This training will position the field staffers to work with foreign companies exploring investment opportunities in the United States, and support U.S. economic development organizations seeking to attract, retain, and expand foreign direct investment.

Conservation benefits deadline nears

U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service recently announced that the ranking period cut-off date for the Conservation Stewardship Program is Jan. 13, 2012. Producers interested in the program should submit applications to their local office by the deadline so that their applications can be considered during the first ranking period of 2012.

The program is offered in all 50 states and the Pacific and Caribbean areas through continuous sign-ups. The program provides many conservation benefits including improvement of water and soil quality, wildlife habitat enhancements, and adoption of conservation activities that address the effects of climate change. Eligible lands include cropland, pastureland,

rangeland, nonindustrial private forest land, and agricultural land under the jurisdiction of an Indian tribe.

A program self-screening checklist is available to help potential applicants determine if the program is suitable for their operation. The checklist highlights basic information about eligibility requirements, contract obligations, and potential payments. It is available from local offices and on www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/financial/csp.

As part of the application process, applicants will work with field personnel to complete the resource inventory using a Conservation Measurement Tool. The tool determines the conservation performance for existing and new conservation activities.

The applicant's conservation performance will be used to determine eligibility, ranking, and payments.

Visit www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/homeandconnect with an office at nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/contact/states.

Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers, if you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic or are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation. If you think you might be eligible to file a claim, access the Hispanic and Women Farmer and Rancher Website: www.farmerclaim.gov or the call center 1-888-508-4422.

Senators work to stop overregulation of farms

U.S. Senators Jerry Moran (R-Kan.) and Ben Nelson (D-Neb.) led 28 of their colleagues in asking U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis to withdraw the recently proposed rule that limits the ability of farmers and ranchers to hire youth to work in agriculture - threatening the education and training of future farmers. At issue are the U.S. Department of Labor's proposed changes to the Fair Labor Standard Act which fail to take into account the history and practices of American agriculture.

Until recently, farms jointly owned and operated by multiple family members had discretion over the responsibilities they gave their children on the farm. But the proposed rule change would do away with that freedom and extend the parental exemption to farms owned solely by a parent. It is common in rural America for siblings to jointly own and operate farms and for extended family and neighbors to participate in agriculture production. With this rule change, the government is proposing to tell farmers and ranchers: "We know what's best for your children, and what they should and should not be doing."

The Department also proposes new, unnecessary restrictions on the type of activities younger farm workers would be allowed to perform and would limit the ability of the Cooperative Extension Service and vocational education programs, like those operated by 4-H, FFA and local school districts, to offer training to rural youth.

Before making such drastic changes to farm labor rules, the Department should identify reliable evidence and data that shows a need for these changes. But the Department of Labor admits it lacks the data to justify many of its suggested changes. Furthermore, according to the National Farm Medicine Center, youth-related injuries from farm accidents have declined by nearly 60 percent from 1998 to 2009.

Senators Moran and Nelson, along with 32 of their colleagues, previously wrote to Secretary Solis to request a 60-day extension of the comment period on the proposed changes to the Fair Labor Standard Act because the previous 60-day comment period fell during the fall harvest season. In response, the Department extended the comment period by 30 days.

NORTON SENIOR CENTER

- Monday, Jan. 2-CLOSED
- Tuesday, Jan. 3-Polish sausage w/kraut, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, combread, plums.
- Wednesday, Jan. 4-Pasta, beef and tomato casserole, tossed salad w/tomatoes, green beans, garlic bread, peaches.
- Thursday, Jan. 5-Harvest turkey soup, Dole tropical fruit, crackers, cookie.
- Friday, Jan. 6-Pork roast w/ gravy, scalloped potatoes, seasoned carrots, bread, cook's choice fruit.
- Monday, Jan. 9-Ground beef stroganoff, broccoli, mixed fruit, noodles, bread, cook's choice complement.
- Tuesday, Jan. 10-Baked chicken, mashed potatoes/gravy, peas, dinner roll, rosy pears.
- Wednesday, Jan. 11-Chef salad, strawberries and bananas, bread sticks, Krisp rice bar.
- Thursday, Jan. 12-Sloppy Joe's, hash brown casserole, corn, bun, apricots.
- Friday, Jan. 13-Smokies, macaroni and cheese, winter mix vegetables, bread, Ambrosia fruit salad.
- Monday, Jan. 16-Smothered steak, mashed potatoes/gravy, beets, bread, peaches.
- Tuesday, Jan. 17-Ground beef

- stew, gelatin w/fruit, biscuit, bar cookie.
- Wednesday, Jan. 18-BBQ chicken sandwich, potato salad, baked beans, bun fruit crisp.
- Thursday, Jan. 19-Meat loaf, mashed potatoes/gravy, Mandarin oranges, bread, birthday cake.
- Friday, Jan. 20-Turkey, sweet potatoes, corn, bread, rosy applesauce.
- Monday, Jan. 23-Hamburger pattie, potato rounds, mixed fruit, bun, brownie.
- Tuesday, Jan. 24-Ham, scalloped potatoes, peas and carrots, bread, pineapple.
- Wednesday, Jan. 25-Baked spaghetti, cook's choice vegetable, broccoli salad, garlic bread, fruit cobbler.
- Thursday, Jan. 26-Beef and noodles, stewed tomatoes, mixed vegetables, bread, pears.
- Friday, Jan. 27-Baked fish, green bean casserole, Italian blend vegetables, dinner roll, apricots.
- Monday, Jan. 30-Cook's choice entree, hash brown casserole, corn, bread, Mandarin oranges.
- Tuesday, Jan. 31-Chili, cottage cheese w/peaches, crackers, cinnamon roll.

Free classes for child foster care at Saint Francis

Consider Helping a Child through Foster Care
Saint Francis Community Services (a provider of foster care, adoption, and family preservation services) will offer free, 10-week courses, Partnering for Safety and Permanence - Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting, for those interested in becoming foster parents.
In Kensington, the course begins Jan. 9 and meets every Monday for 10 weeks from 6:15 to 9:15 p.m. at the Saint Francis Community Services Office, 129 S. Main Street, Suite 200, Kensington.
In WaKeeney, the course begins Feb. 13 and meets every Monday for 10 weeks from 6 to 9 p.m. at the WaKeeney Public Library, 610 Russell Ave, WaKeeney. To register, call Marla Baumann, Saint Francis Community Services, at 785-476-8501.

Call Mike with all your social news.
877-3361

Meals on Wheels volunteers needed

The Norton County Hospital is in need of community volunteers to deliver Meals on Wheels from Jan. 2-13. Anyone interested in volunteering may contact Alice Hawks in the Dietary Department of the hospital at 877-3351.

- The schedule for Meals on Wheels for Jan. 2 through March 4, 2012 is as follows:
- Jan. 2-13, Norton County Hospital-Contact: Alice Hawks (877-3351)
- Jan. 14-15 20th Century Federated Club-Contact: Lottie Wiltfong (877-5286)
- Jan. 16-22 Immanuel Lutheran Church-Contact: Fonda Lawrence (877-3145)
- Jan. 23-29 American Legion Auxiliary-Contact: Marcia Wiltfong (877-2459)
- Jan. 30-Feb. 5 St. Francis Alter Society-Contact: Tina Silan (877-5256)
- Feb. 6-12 Redeemer Lutheran Church-Contact: Cynthia Washburn (877-3004)
- Feb. 13-19 Norton Lions Club-Contact: Jon Boxler (877-5128)
- Feb. 20-26 Knights of Columbus-Contact: Tom Melroy (877-2754)
- Feb. 27-March 4 Norton County Hospital-Contact: Alice Hawks (877-3351)

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

CITY OFFERS SAFE RIDE HOME
Individuals in the City of Norton may request a free ride home from local establishments serving alcohol on New Year's Eve. Individuals are encouraged to use this program to allow a safe ride home without incident or harm to themselves or others. For a Safe Ride Home, call 877-7798, 202-1419 or 874-8870.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
The Norton Medical Clinic will be CLOSED Monday, January 2
The Clinic Staff wishes you and your family a safe and healthy New Year!!

First State Bank will close at noon Friday, December 30 for End of Year Processing and will be closed Saturday December 31

Dec. 28-Jan. 4
Showing at the **NORTON THEATRE**
Alvin and the Chipmunks 3: Chipwrecked
(G) 1 Hour, 38 Minutes
Friday, Dec. 30-7:00 and 9:30 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 31-7:00 and 9:30 p.m.
Sunday, Jan. 1-5:00 and 7:30 p.m.
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.
Sherlock Holmes 2
A Game of Shadows
Digital Sound (PG-13)
2 Hrs., 19 Min.
Only Premium passes accepted for Alvin and the Chipmunks 3
Only Premium passes for Sherlock Holmes 2
Sherlock Holmes 2 Premium Price: \$7.00 and \$9.00 (No Sunday Discount)
Alvin and the Chipmunks 3 Premium Price: \$7.00 and \$9.00 (No Sunday Discount)
HAPPY NEW YEAR
WANT OUR WEBSITE?
nortontheatre.com
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