

Business in the Spotlight

Business in the Spotlight—December 2012
Business Name: Boxler Insurance Agency, Inc.
Owners: Jon Boxler and David Davis
Address: 108 N. First Street
Phone: 785-877-5128
Type of Business: Insurance agency
Date Established: 1931
Business Description: Business, liability, home, auto, crop, and life insurance

Grants offered for bootcamp

Norton County’s Network Kansas E-Community is offering a limited number of grants for the Jon Schallert Destination Business Bootcamp to be held in Longmont, Colo., March 5-7, 2013. Businesses eligible to apply for these grants include retail or service based businesses in Norton County. The grants will cover the bootcamp registration fee of \$1,295. All other travel expenses will be the responsibility of the grantee.

“This is a fantastic opportunity for our business owners, entrepreneurs planning to start a business, or those individuals planning to purchase an existing business to learn from an expert how to improve the performance of their business,” said Scott Sproul, Executive Director of Norton City/County Economic Development and Administrator of the NetWork Kansas E-Community program in Norton County. “The marketing strategies, customer service skills, and other in-depth instruction taught at this bootcamp will help make our local businesses stronger and more profitable, and we are very excited to be able to offer these grants.”

Cindy Boller and Georgia Mann, owners of

joined by his son, Jon, in 1959. P.J. passed away in 1963, and the agency has been operated by Jon from that time to the present day. David Davis and Melanie Mortensen joined the business in 2007. Together the present staff has a total of more than 75 years of experience in the insurance business. Two insurance companies, EMC and Farmer’s Alliance, have been with the business since its inception in 1931.

Through the years, their greatest challenge has been to keep abreast of the many changes in the insurance business. The agency is happy that it has been successful in accomplishing this goal. For the most part, the owners feel the changes have been

for the better.

The owner’s vision for the future of the business is to grow and increase customers and staff, so they can better serve the needs of the community. They are optimistic about the future of the business economy of Norton County. They perceive Norton as growing and becoming a hub of northwest Kansas.

The most rewarding thing about being a business owner in Norton County has been serving the people of the area, and seeing the success of the customers. Their advice to other business owners is, “You are not going to get rich overnight. You must persevere, make sure you treat your customers right, and they will become your advocates.”

Destination Kitchen, attended one of these bootcamps while planning the opening of their shop. Both felt the bootcamp provided a wealth of information they couldn’t have gotten otherwise. Cindy and Georgia summed it up, “You spend a lot of money starting up your business but the best money spent, to insure success for your business, is at Jon Schallert’s Destination Business Bootcamp.”

Grant applications are available at the Norton City/County Economic Development office located at 205 S. State Street in Norton. They may be picked up in person, requested by calling 785-874-4816 or by emailing nortoned2@ruraltel.net. Questions may be directed to the Norton City/County Economic Development office.

The deadline for grant applications is Dec. 28, 2012. After review by the E-Community Leadership Team, applicants will be notified in mid-January of the team’s decision.

More information about the bootcamp is available on the following website, www.destination-bootcamp.com.

The center of it all, except attention

By Ron Wilson
Huck Boyd Institute

“The center of it all.” It’s fun being in the middle of things, but in football, playing the position of center doesn’t necessarily mean you are the center of attention. In fact, when things are going well, the center usually doesn’t get much recognition. Today we’ll learn about a young man who came from rural Kansas and became a center on a nationally-recognized football team.

B.J. Finney is the starting center on the Kansas State University football team. He is one of those typical Bill Snyder success stories: A small-town Kansas kid who flew under the radar, didn’t get many accolades from the recruiting gurus, and is now making his mark on the national scene. (For more examples of this formula, see NFL stars Terence Newman, Jon McGraw, and Super Bowl Champion Jordy Nelson.)

B.J. Finney grew up at Andale in south central Kansas outside of Wichita. He was an outstanding athlete in high school, and not only in football. In fact, it was in wrestling that he won the state championship as a senior. As an offensive lineman in football, he lettered three seasons and was named the Ark Valley Chisholm Trail Offensive Most Valuable Player in 2009.

But when it came to moving up to the next level, he suffered the fate of too many small town

Kansas players, in my opinion: Benign ignorance by the national media. Nobody paid much attention to the big kid from Andale. He received two stars out of five from Rivals.com and had mild interest from several smaller schools and community colleges.

According to a report from the Big 12 Conference, B.J. had only one scholarship offer and that was from out of state.

“I had an offer from Ohio University and that was kind of a crazy situation,” B.J. said. “I told them that I wanted to check out their campus before I made a commitment. But I got a call that Wednesday saying that they had run out of scholarships before I left on Friday.”

So B.J. was left high and dry. But then he had a visit from K-State defensive end coach Joe Bob Clements, himself a former walk-on from rural Kansas. In the end, B.J. chose to walk on at Kansas State, meaning that he received no scholarship and had to pay his own way.

But B.J. seized that opportunity with a passion, just like he grabs the football while preparing to snap it. He redshirted his first year and earned the team’s Red Raider Award for being the top contributor on the scout team in 2010. Then he earned a scholarship offer and a starting position, starting at center for the last 12 games of the 2011 season.

When the season was over, he

was named a First Team Freshman All-Big 12 performer and First Team Freshman All-American by Rivals.com.

Still, it is the nature of offensive linemen that they tend to labor in obscurity, while quarterbacks, running backs and receivers get the glory. But K-State quarterback Collin Klein has great appreciation for his center. In fact, the two were roommates until Klein got married last summer. B.J. even served as a groomsman in Klein’s wedding.

On the field, it is Finney who anchors the center of the K-State offensive line. The big lineman is 6’ 4” and 303 pounds. He was voted a team co-captain by his teammates for 2012, making him the youngest offensive player to hold the title in the Bill Snyder era at K-State. He is now an All-Big 12 first team center and on the watch list for the Rimington Trophy, awarded to the nation’s most outstanding center.

Not bad for a former walk-on from the rural community of Andale, population 982 people. Now, that’s rural.

“The center of it all.” Yes, the center on a football team may be in the middle of things, but he’s not usually the center of attention. That’s just fine with B.J. Finney, who is making a difference with his rural values of hard work, commitment to team values, and unselfishness. I think his attitude is very well-centered.

Cookie and candy walk



The United Methodist Women sponsored their annual Cookie and Candy Walk at the Norton Community Center on Wednesday. Debbie Terrell, Lynette Hammond and Doris Hammond fill their boxes with all kinds of goodies while at the Cookie and Candy Walk. Every kind of cookie and candy could be found. People could also purchase cinnamon rolls and coffee while there.

—Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

It’s not too late to get vaccinated

With flu activity increasing and family and friends gathering for the holidays, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) urges all Kansans to receive an annual flu vaccination to protect themselves and their loved ones.

December 2-8 is “National Influenza Vaccination Week.” This observance serves as a reminder that all of us have a responsibility to prevent the spread of influenza. Influenza activity usually peaks in February in the U.S. and can last as late as May. Through our sentinel surveillance network, Kansas has identified two different types of influenza viruses currently circulating, and influenza activity is increasing within the state.

On average, five to 20 percent of the U.S. population contracts the flu yearly, and more than 200,000 people are hospitalized with flu complications. During the 2011-2012 influenza season, influenza and pneumonia, a common complication of influenza, contributed to or directly caused more than 1,300 deaths among Kansas residents, and was the eighth leading underlying cause of death in 2011.

“Flu season is here and before it becomes widespread, take the opportunity to get your vaccine now,” said Robert Moser, M.D., KDHE Secretary

and State Health Officer. “Getting a flu vaccination is also a great way to protect those who are at high risk.”

In addition to getting vaccinated, avoid spreading the flu virus by covering coughs and sneezes, washing your hands and staying home when you are sick.

Symptoms of the flu include: fever, headache, extreme tiredness, dry cough and muscle aches. Complications can include pneumonia, ear and sinus infections and dehydration; the flu might also worsen other chronic conditions.

Nearly all persons six months and older are recommended to receive a flu vaccine. Anyone caring for, or in regular contact with, an infant less than six months of age should also be immunized. Babies this age are too young to be vaccinated and are more vulnerable to the complications from influenza disease, as are pregnant women, people with asthma, heart disease, and diabetes along with adults over the age of 65.

For information on receiving the flu vaccine, please contact your health care provider or the local health department. Visit www.kdheks.gov/flu for influenza facts.

Book festival grant applications online

Kansas First Lady Mary Brownback announced that applications for Kansas Book Festival Grants can now be found online. Public libraries and school libraries located in Kansas are eligible to apply for the grants. Information and applications are available at kansas-bookfestival.com/get-involved/grants/

“These grants will help libraries with resources to stay ahead of the technology curve and to keep the materials on their shelves as relevant as possible to the young patrons of the library. I want all Kansas children to have a rich and fulfilling experience with libraries and books, and my hope is that these grants will help achieve that,” said First Lady Brownback

The two grants will pay for either technology improvements or to fund book purchases. Libraries may apply for both grants, but no library will be awarded both grants in the same

calendar year and libraries are not eligible to receive grants in back-to-back years.

Applications must be postmarked by Dec. 31, 2012 and grants will be awarded in March 2013.

In conjunction with Governor Sam Brownback’s initiative to improve the percentage of fourth-grade students reading at or above grade level, the First

Lady created an annual book festival for the state of Kansas. The Kansas Book Festival is a 501(c)3 organization through the Topeka Community Foundation, which makes all contributions tax deductible. For more information about library grants, event information, or to contribute to the Kansas Book Festival, please visit kansas-bookfestival.com/.

HANSEN MUSEUM

The Dane G. Hansen Memorial Museum presents Bobbi Kerth and Staci Hartman in a dual private showing in the gallery Dec. 7, 2012 through Feb. 3, 2013. This exhibit features two local artists of great skill and talent.

Bobbi Kerth lives in Wakeeney. She paints in her home studio in the mediums of oil and watercolor. Her love of nature is a great inspiration for her award winning paintings. Bobbi also enjoys creating whimsical and happy Santa’s, many of which have been “Art Search” Winners for the American Diabetes Association Gift of Hope catalog. She has received numerous awards for her paintings in area art shows and fairs. She has exhibited in One-Woman shows including Goodland Carnegie Art Center and the Wakeeney

and Hays Art Walks. Her paintings can be found throughout the United States in private and corporate collections, including Hays Medical Center, Hadley Foundation.

Staci Hartman has spent the majority of her life in north central Kansas in Logan. Her work shows typical scenes of rural life. She also loves to travel and extend her subject venue. Her creative work is done in oil and pastel. Staci has been privileged to study with well known national artists including Kaye Franklin, Howard Friedland and David Vollbracht. She continues to work with these artists annually. She became a member of Oil Painters of America in 2011. She has won honors at the Rohr Art Show in Russell. Staci also belongs to the Palco Art Club.

Norton County Arts Council

CHRISTMAS

LIGHTING CONTEST

Your Favorite Display and Address:

List of Entry Addresses can be picked up at the Chamber of Commerce or the Norton Telegram

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1/2 Price Gift Certificates

Dec. 7-
Dec. 12

Showing at the

NORTON THEATRE

Hotel Transylvania

(PG) 1 Hour and 1 Minute Showing in 3D

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY: 8:00 P.M.
SUNDAY: 5:00 P.M.
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2 Hours, 32 Minutes,
(PG-13)

Only Premiere passes accepted for Hotel Transylvania and Skyfall

Hotel Transylvania is Premiere Admission Price of \$7.00 and \$6.00 - \$3.00 on Sunday
Skyfall is Premiere Admission Price of \$7.00 and \$6.00 - \$3.00 on Sunday

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 14:
The Hobbit-in 3D (PG-13)
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25:
Parental Guidance (PG)**

COMING SOON

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