

# New solutions, old problem

By Dana Paxton

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Ruth Bird addressed the Norton County Commission at last week's meeting.

Mrs. Bird lives on County Road L at the north edge of Norton and it runs east to the livestock barn. Ever since moving there she has noticed an increase in traffic on the road and it is causing her concern. She had approached former commissioners in the past about doing something about the road and wanted to address the new commissioners stating that they might not have known about the issue unless she brought it to their attention.

Mrs. Bird said, "I have concerns about the traffic of the semis on the road and all the dust they stir up making visibility and breathing difficult as well as the fact that the drivers do not follow the posted speed limit

which is 30 miles per hour."

She spoke with Sandy Smith, Department of Roads, about her concerns so a counter was put on the road to see how busy it really was. The numbers were staggering, on average, 77 a day with up to over 300 in a day's period on some days. Mrs. Bird reported that Ms. Smith said that it was the heaviest traveled road in the county.

Commissioner Charles Posson pointed out that this road is not only used by farmers but semis wanting to take a short cut, Ag Valley trucks and people with trailers headed to the sale barn.

Mrs. Bird said that it affects their daily living, "It is hard to breathe, so no outdoor grilling, or entertaining company on the patio and I have to pick just the right time to mow the yard." The property across the road from the Bird home is for sale and she

didn't think that a young family would want to live there due to the dust and the frequent semis driving past at such a high rate of speed; it wouldn't be safe to have young children living on the road.

"I am not asking for the road to be paved but maybe oiled or graveled, possibly millings could be used." Bird said. Robert Wyatt spoke up to report that the county had no millings left at this time so that wasn't an option. Commissioner Posson suggested the possible use of Calcium Chloride like what is used on the race track. He then told Mrs. Bird that the county will do what they can and they plan on looking into it.

Mrs. Bird thanked the commissioners for their time and consideration and finished by saying, "I just figured, new commissioners, new year and maybe new solutions."

# Lettin' it fly...



Randy Blank of McCook, Neb. was one of many who attended the Norton Disc Golf tournament over the weekend. He is seen here firing a disc off into the air with a lot of power behind it.

- Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

# CASA fundraiser has been set for Saturday

Court Appointed Special Advocates of the 17th Judicial District, Inc. is very excited to announce the "Chocolate for CASA" Fundraiser and Auction is set for Saturday February, 9th at the Huck Boyd Center in Phillipsburg. The Social Hour will begin at 4:00pm with the Auction to follow at 5:00pm.

CASA is a non-profit organization consisting of volunteers from the community who are court appointed to advocate for abused and neglected children in the court system. CASA relies heavily on donations from local community members and businesses to

recruit and provide initial and on-going training for the volunteers. Volunteers complete an extensive 30 hour training course before being certified as a CASA followed by a mandatory 12 hours of annual in-service training.

Money raised through the Chocolate Auction will be used primarily for the recruitment and quality training for the volunteers, and to give the volunteers the tools necessary to successfully advocate for the children appointed to them by a Judge.

Platinum Sponsors for this year's event are New

Age Industries in Norton, Domoneys's Furniture and L&M Liquor in Downs, Tamko, Prairie Horizon, Cottonwood Inn, and KKAN/KQMA all of Phillipsburg, Sherri Cole from Hillsboro and Outback Framing in Stockton. Director Tony A. Miller said, "We are very thankful to each and every one."

This year's Chocolate Auction signature items include a Private Suite for 12 at a Tri-City Storm Hockey game, 2 nights at the Webster State Park Pintail Place Cabin, custom made furniture, a stay at a Breckenridge Condo, and dozens of other wonderful

items donated by local businesses and individuals. Also included in Chocolate for CASA is the Chocolate Contest and the popular "Mystery Basket". Chocolate Contest entries need to be brought to the Huck Boyd Center by noon on the day of the Auction.

Tickets can be purchased in advance or at the door. To purchase your ticket(s) in advance please contact Melissa Shoen in Norton or call the CASA office at 346-4120.

CASA of the 17th Judicial District, Inc. serves Smith, Phillips, Osborne, Decatur, Graham and Norton Counties.

Call Dana for your next ad. 877-336111 or email her at dpaxton@nwkansas.com

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# Sprayer calibration workshop to help farmers

Today's farmers increasingly view sprayers as vital to the efficiency of their operations. The list of products to be applied has gotten longer and each product, fertilizer, herbicide, fungicide, or insecticide has its own application window. By owning the sprayer, growers can target the application for the right agronomic moment. Thomas County and Rawlins County Extension are providing

a Sprayer Calibration Workshop on Tuesday February 12th from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m at the Thomas County 4-H Building. Robert Klein, University of Nebraska Cropping Systems Specialist will conduct this workshop to assist producers in doing a professional job of pesticide application. Choosing the right nozzle is critical for correct particle size to comply with the label and EPA, to be

effective, and to manage drift. The sprayer must be calibrated correctly to insure efficiency. This meeting is being sponsored by Farm Implement and Supply Company, American Implement, Colby Ag Center, Lang Diesel Incorporated and BASF The Chemical Company. There is a \$10 registration fee payable at the door. Please pre-register by February 8th by contacting the Thomas County Extension

office, th@listserve.ksu.edu (785)460-4582 or the Rawlins County Extension office, ra@listserve.ksu.edu (785)626-3192.

# Lions Club will meet in Dodge City

Many of the 1450 members of the 67 Lions Clubs of Western Kansas will gather as THE PRIDE at Magouirk Conference Center in Dodge City, on Saturday, Feb. 16, 2013 for their annual District Convention. Special guests of the Lions will be International Director Dave & Marie Hajny of Ennis, Montana, representing the International Association of Lions Clubs.

The Western Kansas Lions' annual Convention is to renew long-time friendships, and refresh important skills that will help prepare them for serving

the needs of their hometown communities. The Lions Club's on-going programs of Sight Conservation, Diabetes Awareness, Youth projects, and other individualized activities selected by the clubs will be reviewed and refreshed.

The New Lions Mobile Screening Unit (MSU) will be on site for tours all day Saturday. From 10-3pm., the MSU will offer FREE screenings to the Dodge City community for Sight Disorders, Hearing Testing, Blood Pressure checks, and Blood Sugar readings for Diabetes Testing.

The International Association of Lions Clubs is the largest community service organization in the world, with 1.37 million Lions in 208 Countries of the world.

Western Kansas Lions District 17-L, which comprises the entire western half of Kansas, consists of 1,450 members in 67 clubs, all dedicated to serving their home communities.

The full agenda of Lions Club Convention Activities is available for viewing at:

>[http://www.lions17-L/OurConvention\\_2013.html](http://www.lions17-L/OurConvention_2013.html)

# Challenges

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There is a move underway to require increases in tax dollars due to increased valuations to be voted on before that money can be utilized," said Mann.

Mann said Brownback has not been friendly to public schools and that his tax cuts from last year have created a \$276 million dollar deficit for the state of Kansas.

"To fill that hole the Governor is 'campaigning' to leave the sales tax in place, which he vowed to eliminate when he was running for Governor, advocating the elimination of two income tax deductions: property

tax and home mortgage interest, and will again 'borrow' from KDOT funds," said Mann. "In other words, to pay for his tax cuts he is advocating tax increases, which hit the poor and middle-class the hardest."

Also for the board's consideration is the Gannon Case in which the court's decision requires the State Legislature to increase school funding from \$3,838 to \$4,492 per student. The State, however, is currently appealing the decision to the State Supreme Court. The case is expected to go before the State Supreme Court in November or December of 2013. If the Court upholds the decision for

increased school funding the Governor and the Legislature could choose to ignore, which would make it a federal issue and would take several more years to go through the federal court system.

If there are any personnel cuts the School Board will have to make those determinations by Friday, May 17 which is the deadline to notify licensed staff if they will have a contract for the following school year.

"We all need to become much more aware of what is going on in Topeka and how it affects what we do with kids and how it affects our livelihood," said Mann.

# Taxes

(Continued From Page 1)

Norton County, this is a given. Commissioner Posson ended

the meeting when he said, "I for one, appreciate your investment in Norton County Mr. Nelson." Mr. Nelson and his company

thanked the commissioners for their time and left the meeting.

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