

Business in the spotlight

March 2014 Business in the Spotlight

Each month a Norton County business is featured for their valuable contribution to our economy.

This month's article was submitted by economic development board member Curtis Eveleigh.

Lawrence Design & Construction

Ed Lawrence, Owner
Norton, Kansas

785-877-3145

E-mail: lawrence@ruraltel.net

Type of Business: Design and Construction

Date Established: 1991

Ed Lawrence says, "Apparently I was supposed to be a carpenter when I grew up because I have always loved to design and build, even at an early age."

Ed Lawrence was born and raised in South Central Kansas, graduating from Medicine Lodge High School in 1959. During his high school days he worked for local contractors, getting an on-the-job contracting education. He attended Emporia State University, graduating in 1963 with a teaching degree (majors in Biology and Industrial Education.) That spring he returned to Medicine

Lodge and worked for one of the contractors he had worked for during high school.

A year later, he signed a contract to teach industrial education at the high school in Agra, and taught there four years. In 1968 he signed a contract with Norton Community High School to set up a drafting department where he taught beginning drafting, engineering drafting, architectural drafting, and advanced drafting as well as beginning carpentry, basic wiring, house wiring, welding and wood finishing.

As a teacher, Ed says his goal was "to produce productive citizens with good work ethics, and I believe I was successful for a number of my students became architects, engineers, designers, carpenters, electricians, and technicians for various trades. I am proud of my teaching career successes and admire all those teachers today who hold to the teaching values that worked for me." In the summers during his teaching career, when not going to school for further education classes, he began contracting construction work locally and his bookings carried over from year to year and consistently grew.

Finally, in 1991, he resigned

his teaching position at Norton Community High School and began his second career as a full-time building contractor. Today he specializes in custom kitchen and bath installations and is a dealer for Crestwood Custom Cabinets in Salina. His clients and successful projects stretch throughout the region and include cabinetry, countertops, appliance installation, decks, windows, egress windows, and doors as well as many other unique installations. Ed has many, many examples of his completed projects, and says it is true that in the real estate market up-to-date kitchens, baths and decks help sell homes.

Ed concluded by sharing his thoughts about Norton and his career, "My contracting business here in Norton has been a great pleasure for me and I enjoy seeing my clients being able to see their dreams come true. Norton is a progressive city and many opportunities abound here for anyone desiring to come be a part of this city on the move. I hope to continue to be of service to the people of Norton and surrounding communities in this capacity for many years. Thank you, Norton."

Food drive aims to raise 100,000 meals

Governor Brownback signed a proclamation declaring March 23 - 29 as Kansas Agriculture Week and March 25, Kansas Agriculture Day. A cornerstone of the agriculture celebration is the Neighbor to Neighbor Food Drive.

The Neighbor to Neighbor statewide food drive will help support our neighbors in need and reduce hunger in Kansas communities. Harvesters-The Community Food Bank in Topeka, Kan. hosted state leaders, including Governor Sam Brownback and Secretary of Agriculture Jackie McClaskey, representatives of the food banks of Kansas, Dillon's Food Stores employees and members of the Kansas agriculture community.

"It is important that we serve. That we help our neighbor in need," Brownback said during the event held at Harvester's.

The food drive is a collabora-

tive effort by the Kansas Department of Agriculture, Dillon's Food Stores, Harvester's - The Community Food Network, Kansas Food Bank, Second Harvest Community Food Bank and the Kansas agriculture community. The goal is to raise 100,000 meals for Kansas families during the food drive which began March 3 and concludes on March 25, Kansas Agriculture Day. Kansans can contribute to the campaign at Dillon's Food Stores statewide or at other locations in communities across the state.

Governor Brownback teamed up with staff from the three food banks, Secretary of Agriculture Jackie McClaskey and representatives from Dillon's Food Stores. Members of the Kansas agriculture industry, including Kansas FFA officers and commodity organization representatives also participated. The teams boxed food items

for Kansans in need. Governor Brownback's team put together 105 of the boxes in 15 minutes; however, the second team lead by Marsha Boswell of Kansas Wheat filled 112 boxes. The boxes will be distributed to low-income elderly recipients and included items like shelf-stable milk, whole wheat pasta, canned beef, cereal and an assortment of canned fruits and beans.

Dillon's Food Stores made an initial donation of 6,400 pounds of non-perishable food items at the kick-off event. These food items will be on display in the Kansas State Capitol March 3-25. To learn more about the Neighbor to Neighbor statewide food drive and ways to participate, visit (785) 207-4966 MEDIA@kda.ks.govagriculture.ks.gov/ksagday. Follow along with the conversation during Kansas Ag Week and the Neighbor to Neighbor Food drive via Twitter #n2nks and #ksagday

Professional bull riders return to Phillipsburg

The ground will shake...the dust will blow...when the bulls of the Professional Bull Riders stampede into town!

For the third year, Phillipsburg will host Professional Bull Riders on June 7. The best bull riders in the nation will converge on the rodeo grounds to test their mettle against the 1,300 pound beasts of bull riding!

It's the danger of the sport that appeals to fans, said Rod Innes, Kansas' Biggest Rodeo chairman. "People love the close calls and the toughness of the bull riders. Anytime you match

up a cowboy with a bull who weighs ten times more, there's going to be some wrecks."

The Professional Bull Riders, which will begin at 8 p.m. on June 7, will be held in conjunction with the Riverless Festival. "We're happy to work with the Riverless Festival to make it a fun weekend in Phillipsburg," Innes said. "We love having people in town to enjoy what we offer." The Riverless Festival will include vendors and a variety of community events.

Tickets for the Professional Bull Riders will go on sale May 12, and will be \$18 for adult

general admission, \$20 for adult reserved seating, \$22 for box seats, and \$25 for chute seats. Rodeo patrons who have box and chute seats will have first choice in buying those seats for the Professional Bull Riders. Kids 12 and under will be \$10 for reserved seating; for general admission, kids are free when accompanied by an adult.

For more information, check the rodeo website at kansasbiggestrodeo.com and the Facebook page at facebook.com/phillipsburgpbr.

Legion offers scholarship

American Legion Auxiliary of the Harmonson-Reed Post 63, of The American Legion, Norton, is again offering a scholarship to a graduating senior girl of the Class of 2014. The scholarship may be used at the post secondary level of education of the recipient's choice.

Information and application forms are available from the Norton Community High School counselor.

Applications must be received by April 11, 2014. Send applications to: Scholarship Chairman, American Legion Auxiliary, P.O. Box 1 Norton, KS 67654.

structing her second oil painting workshop for Hansen Museum. Schaffner's western scenes and wildlife paintings have hung in galleries in six western states and Canada and success has come to her through numerous shows and top awards. Schaffner was honored with the Wyoming Ducks Unlimited Artist of the Year 2003 award and won the purchase award in December 2005 at the 2-Shot Goose Hunt Art Show in Torrington, Wyo.

FYI

The 26th annual Tri-State Toy and Collectables show will be Saturday, March 15 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the National Guard Armory on north Highway 283. Admission is \$2, kids age 12 and under are free with an adult.



Page duties for the legislature



Shelby Tanner, daughter of Chris and Tina Tanner of Norton, was honored to serve as a Page for Representative Ward Cassidy of the 120th District on Feb. 7, 2014 at the State Capitol in Topeka.

Pages should have a very rewarding and educational experience as they observe firsthand the processes involved in the enactment of laws which govern our State. They may even attend committee hearings which are held at various times throughout the day.

Pages also continue by relieving the legislators of many routine duties which would otherwise require their time and effort. Some of those duties might include running errands between offices, picking up folders or materials needed by the legislator, bringing the legislator items they cannot go and get while the Legislature is in session, thus allowing the legislator to be present for votes.

To serve as a page you must be sponsored by a legislator. Pages sponsored by Senators serve in the Senate and pages sponsored by a Representative serve in the House of Representatives. Lawmakers would like to sponsor all who ask to be a page but are limited by rules and available space. Under this system Legislators use one of their allotments when the page is scheduled. For this reason, you should make every effort to report on the day assigned.

Senators are authorized 20 pages and Representatives get 10 pages for an entire legislative session. Legislative page dates are assigned to legislators on a first-come, first-serve basis during the first week of the session. Available openings fill up quickly, so it is advisable to get your request to your legislator as far in advance as possible. When contacting the Senator or Representative, provide

brief information about honors, awards and why you are interested in serving as a page.

Senate Rule 66 states at "Appointments shall be restricted to boys and girls of junior high or high school age." Similar restrictions also apply to the House of Representatives. This means that pages should be 12 years of age or older. To experience the opportunity of serving as a page, contact your legislator to submit your name as a candidate.

Parents will be responsible for the pages transportation, meals and lodging expenses while in Topeka. They also will be responsible for page supervision when not on duty. Pages should know how to locate them in case of illness, injury or early release from page duties.

Your local county election commission office or your county clerk can provide the names of your legislators.

STUDENT NEWS

Every year in February, the Kansas State High School Activities Association hosts "1234A All-State Honor Band" (As well as other performing honor groups) in conjunction with the Kansas Music Educators Association (KMEA). Students who have made it into their District Honor Band and are in grades 10-12 may audition for The All-State Honor Band. This year, Norton Community High School had three members of the 1234A Kansas All-State Honor Band! Congratulations to Landon Slipke (senior) who was 5th Chair out of 12 in the

Flute Section, Lauren Mordecai (sophomore) who was 14th Chair out of 25, on the Clarinet, and Valery Rostek (sophomore) who was 2nd Chair out of 2 on the Tenor Saxophone. Also worth mentioning, Steve Cummings (junior) made first alternate on the French Horn. It goes without saying that these fine young musicians have had several instructors over the years, including David Will (Norton Community High School Band Instructor 1988-2012), Jordan Kinsey (Norton Community High School Band Instructor 2012-13), and Don Mordecai

(Current Norton Community High School Band Instructor). Valery Rostek studies privately with Dr. David Nabb, University of Nebraska at Kearney.

These students did a great job representing Norton Community High School when they traveled to Wichita on Feb. 27, rehearsed for two and a half days, and performed with the Band on March 1, 2014. This year's band was directed by Kirt Saville who is currently The Professor of Music Education and the Associate Director of Bands at Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah.

On February 26, Norton Junior High School hosted the annual MCEL Music Festival. The Norton Junior High Band and Vocal students did an amazing job of representing our school and community. Nine schools brought band and vocal students to show off their talents and be judged. Norton students, once again, rose to the challenge and performed at their best.

Both the junior high band and choir received (I) superior ratings from the judges for their performances. Three vocal ensembles received superior ratings and one ensemble received an "AP," which stands for advanced performance. All fourteen vocal solos received either a superior (I) or an excellent (II) rating. Two vocal solos were awarded an "AP."

The band students were also involved in five small ensembles, of which all received very

high marks - superior, excellent and good! The twenty-one instrumental solos all received either excellent or superior ratings!

In addition to the music performances, the Norton Junior High School students demonstrated exemplary behavior and were most respectful throughout the day.

Wow! Way to go musicians.

*** ATTENTION ***

PRAIRIE LAND ELECTRIC MEMBERS

Vote YES for Self-Regulation

Your YES vote means:

Savings- Self-regulation could save Prairie Land Electric nearly \$300,000 annually in fees and related costs.

Flexibility- With self-regulation, Prairie Land Electric will enjoy greater flexibility in determining policies and issues that confront the cooperative.

Local Control- Self-regulation allows Prairie Land Electric to be exempt from the jurisdiction of the Topeka based Kansas Corporation Commission, and returns control to your locally elected Board of Trustees.

Mail-in ballots on self-regulation were mailed February 28, 2014. The Board of Trustees and Management urge you to vote "YES" on this important cost saving issue.

HANSEN MUSEUM

The Dane G. Hansen Museum announced the return visit of a Wheatland, Wyo. artist. Barbara Schaffner will be instructing a four-day painting workshop at the Dane G. Hansen Museum, 110 W. Main, Logan, Kansas. These classes will be held on April 9, 10, 11, and 12, and will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a one-hour break for lunch. This learning opportunity is brought to you through the Hansen Museum Continued Education Program and offered at reduced rates to the public. Cost of the workshop is \$140 with discounts available for Hansen Museum members. Intermediate and advanced artists may call 785-689-4846 for more information or to register by phone. The class is limited to 20 students.

Schaffner was an honors student at West Texas State University, majoring in fine art and art education and returns to Logan, for her 10th year. She will be in-