



"Read Across America Day" was celebrated Thursday by Jared "Cat In The Hat" Cox and Ashley Smith Maybon, as they read stories to third graders at Eisenhower Elementary School. Other readers were Aaron VanDerWege, Stephanie Sheperd, Tabitha Vincent, Heath Vincent, Mark Scheetz, Annette Becker and Lucy Gosselin.  
— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

## Norton resident has fingers crossed

By TOM DREILING

A Norton resident, and her brother, have March 25 circled on their calendars. On that date, Charlene ("Charlie") Eastin of Norton will learn if her brother, Cornell Kinderknecht will be named "Musician of the Year" by the Academy of Texas Music and MyTexasMusic.

Mr. Kinderknecht is one of the five finalists for the honor to be announced on March 25 at the Texas Music Awards ceremony at the Music City Texas Theater in Linden. The awards program this year will be hosted by song writing legend Michael Martin Murphy.

The winner will be determined by two voting processes, the first a public vote taken in February, which accounted for approximately 10 percent of the final vote, and the second by vote of members of the Academy Voting Board.

This year, said Mr. Kinderknecht, more than 15,000 nominations were received, and awards will be presented in 10 categories. "This is an incredible surprise and quite an honor to be nominated alongside such great Texas musicians," he said.

Kinderknecht, a native of Ellis, Kansas and now of the Dallas, Texas area, said that to be eligible for this year's Texas Music Awards, a musician must be a member of the Academy of Texas Music and must have released an album during the period between Dec. 1, 2004 and Dec. 31, 2005. The Musician of the Year must have delivered an outstanding performance on a qualifying album. The honor, said Mr. Kinderknecht, can be awarded to a musician in any genre of music. Mr. Kinderknecht's expertise is the flute.

In June of 2005, Mr. Kinderknecht released his debut solo CD, "Returning Home," an album of original instrumental music featuring flutes from cultures around the world.

He said flutes used are Native American flute, Bansuri flute from India, bamboo flute, ocarina, and recorder.

In addition to composing music and playing the flutes on the CD, he also played the keyboard tracks and engineered the recording.

Contributing musicians on the CD are Shelly Niebuhr, additional keyboards, and Billy Bucher and Frank Lunsford, percussion.

samples, biographical information, and upcoming concert dates can be found at Mr. Kinderknecht's website, www.cornellk.com. The CD is also available online at MyTexasMusic.com, CDBaby.com, Amazon.com and other major vendors. Additional tracks are also available on Apple iTunes.

Mr. Kinderknecht also contributed keyboard and flute tracks to singer-songwriter Shelly Niebuhr's 2005 album, "Believe."

Kansas State University-educated, Mr. Kinderknecht appears regularly around the Dallas area as a solo artist performing on ethnic and historical flutes in both classical and contemporary genres.

He is a member of the Wireless Consort Recorder Ensemble and the Heart of the Cedar Native American Flute Circle. He was recently featured as the artist-in-residence at the Armadillo Flute Society's annual workshop in Flower Mound, Texas. Mr. Kinderknecht additionally works as a software engineer.

Cornell and his Norton sister, Charlie Eastin, will be remembered for their musical input as members of their family's band,

"Angie's Polka Band," playing in many northwest Kansas locations. The band was founded by her late mother, Angie Kinderknecht. Cornell also played with a band while in college and they, too, entertained in this area.

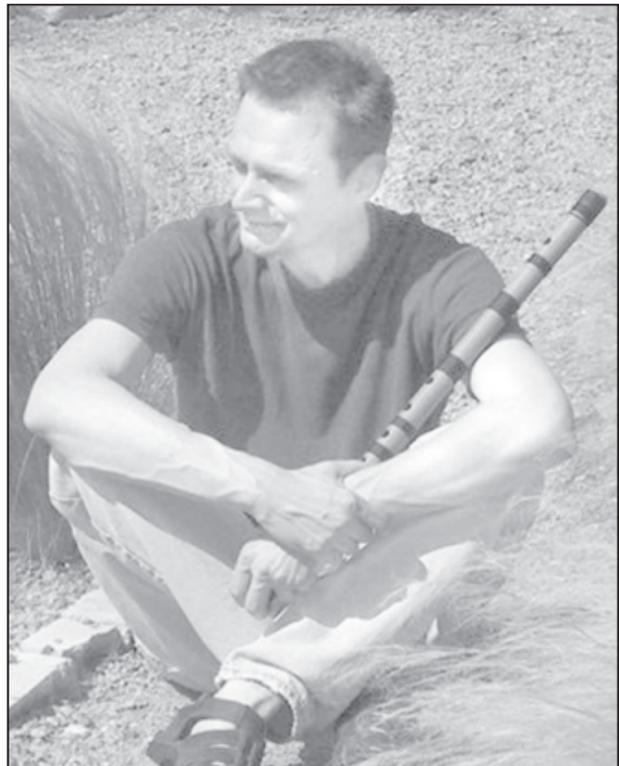
"I remember Norton well from all my high school trips there for music and debate competitions," Cornell said.

Mrs. Eastin is secretary/para for the Southeast Kansas Education Service Center at the Norton Correctional Facility. The service center provides vocational and academic education to inmates.

She has been employed at the facility nearly 12 years, holding down jobs in prison health services and as medical records clerk, before assuming her present post.

Additionally, Mrs. Eastin is part-time administrative assistant at Whispering Pines Independent and Assisted Living in Norton. For 10 years she was part of The Rambling Andy Band, opting to retire from the group a year ago due to health concerns.

Her husband Danny, is a Corrections Specialist One and is in his 10th year at the Norton facility. They have five grown children and four grandchildren.



Cornell Kinderknecht reflects on a most important date in his life that could win him the honor of being named "Musician of the Year" by the Academy of Texas Music.  
— Courtesy Photo

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Norton Animal Health Center  
and  
Schering-Plough Animal Health  
will be holding a producer meeting on  
**March 9, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.**  
at the Town and Country Kitchen  
in Norton, Kansas.

**Please call: 785-877-2411**  
to reserve your seat.

*Looking forward to seeing you there!*

#### Norton Animal Health Center, Ltd.

Aaron R. White, DVM  
Sarah Ketterl White, DVM

801 W. Holme  
Norton, KS 67654  
Fax: 785-874-4976  
Phone: 785-877-2411



Hours: Mon.-Fri., 8-5 p.m. — Saturday Hours: 9 a.m.-noon