

# Come one, come all...



Timm Meyer stopped by The Telegram last week to enjoy some goodies and sign up for a free subscription during the paper's open house. Winners of the subscription giveaway were Caroline Austerman, Norton, one year; Durant Harvey, Norton, six months; and Kristi Kelley, Norton, three months. — Telegram photo by Veronica Monier

# 4-H'ers take the prize at state

Norton County 4-H'ers did very well in at the 2006 Kansas State Fair. Quite a variety of experiences and projects made up the list of exhibitors. Kelsie Griffith placed 11th in the steer class. Jacquelyn Cawley took first place in Breeding Heifers. Michael Callaway placed seventh with Market Lamb and 11th in the Breeding Lamb class. Two 4-H'ers participated in Horse events. Kyra Fulton placed ninth in the 4-years and older Stock class and Kylena Hager placed sixth in the 2-3 year Stock Filly class. Katrina Wentz received a blue with her Fashion Revue garment. Other exhibits entered at the State Fair were vegetables with Jacob VanSkiike receiving two purple ribbons and a red, Joshua VanSkiike received a blue and red, Megan Wentz received a red for her clothing entry, Wyatt Wentz received a blue ribbon for his clothing entry and a purple ribbon for his quilt, Carissa Wentz received a red on her quilt. Those chosen to display their Arts and Crafts were: Annette Becker, Michael Callway and Wyatt Wentz. In Photography, Josh VanSkiike received a purple ribbon; Christopher Maddy, Wyatt Wentz, Melinda Becker, Diedre Kramer, Jacob VanSkiike, Annette Becker, Tanner Griffith, Carissa Wentz, Katrina Wentz, received blue ribbons; Megan Wentz and Kelsie Griffith received red ribbons. Annette Becker's photography was selected as a Centennial Exhibit. In Rockets, Diedre Kramer received a blue and Wyatt Wentz received a red. Jacob VanSkiike received a red in Annual Flowers, Perennial Flowers and Flowers Arrangements. Luke VanSkiike received a purple on his Wildlife Notebook. In Foods, Megan Wentz received a purple ribbon; Eric Becker, Kyra Fulton, Kesie Griffith and Bryce Lofgreen received blue ribbons; Melinda Becker, Christopher Maddy and Katrina Wentz received red ribbons; and Carissa Wentz and Tanner Griffith received white ribbons.

# Sheridan County election gets messy

By JAN KATZ ACKERMAN Sheridan County resident Doren Follis sought specific answers from commissioners recently in Hoxie about the county's controversial general election. "These are my thoughts and opinions formed from the questions asked of me," Follis said. Although chairman for the county's Republican Party committee, Follis said he was acting on his own behalf seeking answers to questions posed by party members, taxpayers, voters, print and broadcast news crews and state officials. "One state official said this stinks to high heaven and is a bunch of B.S.," Follis said. Follis told Commissioners David Zimmerman, Keith Kennedy and Ron Schamberger the questions their integrity, ethics, and treatment of everyone involved in the Nov. 7 election and recount. He said he did not like their allegations of dishonesty toward County Clerk Paula Bielser, her election workers and others in the community who helped at the 4-H building on election night. Since Nov. 7, Sheridan County has been in turmoil since voting machines failed to count 50 ballots. Fifteen of those ballots pertained to a highly contested race between Schamberger, a first-term incumbent and Victor Bielser, husband of County Clerk Paula Bielser. Schamberger's election night vote count of 220 topped Vic Bielser's 214 votes. But a recount authorized by Paula Bielser ended with Bielser winning 227 to 220. However, that recount was not certified when commissioners learned state law requires a canvassing board, not a county clerk, to order a recount. "As far as our integrity," Zimmerman said, "it should be questioned. We should have people questioning us and taking us to task. As far as the best interest of Sheridan County, that's my goal." Follis asked why the commissioners thought a second election, as suggested by County Attorney Mike Haas, was too costly when they last week alone spent \$1,164 for legal advice from Oberlin attorney Steve Hirsch. When the commissioners could not reach Haas, who was out of town on personal business, on Nov. 18, they hired Hirsch to attend a special meeting to canvass ballots. "As far as the special meeting, we had to certify the election by Monday (Nov. 20) since all three of us were going to be out of town," Kennedy said. Kennedy said the commissioners never asked Hirsch how much his hourly rate was when they contacted him to come to Hoxie. Commissioners said they could not canvass ballots on Nov. 20 due to their attendance at a Kansas Association of Counties meeting in Topeka that week. Follis asked why the public was not notified about the special meeting. Kennedy defended the commissioners' position that they did not know who was on the prenotification list for county meetings. "Surely you or Hirsch had an idea of someone who was interested," Follis said. Zimmerman suggested a copy of the meeting prenotification list be obtained from the county clerk's office and it be posted in the commission meeting room. "Could it be that you commissioners don't want your buddy-buddy group broken up?" Follis asked. Kennedy said the only thing the commissioners wanted was a fair election, and did not care which candidate won — Schamberger or Victor Bielser. Follis said he is concerned about alleged harassment of one or more county employees which has caused threats of quitting. And he asked about a flyer placed in mailboxes of residents in District No. 1 prior to the election which discredited Victor Bielser. The commissioners did not address the alleged harassment, but Schamberger said he did not authorize the flyer or know about it until after it was circulated. "I had nothing to do with it," Schamberger said. "I certainly didn't like it. I ain't going to play that game." Kennedy said the commissioners also did not certify the recount because they believe Paula Bielser refused help from ES&S, the voting machine equipment company, to determine what went wrong election night. Paula Bielser said today she refused the company's help election night because of "exorbitant costs to the county," but is waiting for ES&S to perform diagnostics on the machine. Zimmerman agreed with Follis the turmoil over the general election is a "bad situation." "My personal thinking is that you acted too quickly and refused advice, rather than considering the long term, which will have ramifications into the election of 2008 concerning county officers," Follis said.

*Norton Schools*

## Staff Spotlight

*Classified Employee*



**Cathy Kellerman**

Mrs. Cathy Kellerman is a special education para-professional at the Eisenhower Elementary School. She has been employed as a para in USD 211 for 25 years and 17 of those have been in EES. She and her husband Lonnie have two grown sons. Her favorite pastimes are camping, working on her house and watching sports. What she likes most about her job is when the kids eye's light up when they understand something new.

*Certified Employee*



**Amie Burge**

Mrs. Burge is a first grade teacher at Eisenhower Elementary School. She is a graduate of Fort Hays State University. She is in her 8th year of teaching, all of which have been in Norton. Mrs. Burge and her husband, Darin, have two daughters. She lists her favorite pastime as working with and caring for her miniature horses. What she likes best about her job is when the kids eyes light up when they "connect the dots" between something they had learned earlier and something new.

# Congressman starts tour

(Continued from Page 1) this tradition to make sure I know what is on the minds of Kansans and to bring their thoughts and concerns back to Washington, D.C., where I work to address them." You can see his itinerary at: [www.jerrymoran.house.gov](http://www.jerrymoran.house.gov) to stay up-to-date on tour stops that are still being scheduled. Area residents are invited to meet with him at any of the stops: 8:30 to 9:30 a.m., Friday, Dec. 29, Trojan Cafe, 107 W. Main, Logan; 10 to 11 a.m. Lenora Community Center, 110 N. Main, Lenora; and 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Graham County Courthouse, Commissioner's Room, 410 N. Pomeroy, Hill City. During the tour, Mr. Moran will travel more than 5,000 miles to visit with area residents and learn about issues important to Kansans.

**Norton County Weather – December 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>**

<b>Tue</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
				
34/23	30/18	28/15	35/18	40/20

Normal High: 40      Sunrise: 7:56 to 7:58am  
Normal Low: 15      Sunset: 5:18 to 5:20pm

Looks like we will see a white Christmas after all! A major winter storm develops this afternoon and continues through early Thursday morning. Total snow accumulations of 4" to 8" and some icing are possible with this storm. Skies clear Thursday night and temperatures climb above freezing Friday and Saturday. This storm will lack strong winds and allow for the wet snow to lie nicely. This moisture is a perfect gift from above for Christmas!

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