

## There are many we must thank

When people think of Thanksgiving, what images come to mind? Family, friends, a couple days of vacation, a big turkey dinner, pumpkin pie, football games, the beginning of the Christmas holiday season – the list is endless.

But what about the real reason for Thanksgiving – what about the act of giving thanks or a prayer expressing gratitude?

After all, that's how Thanksgiving Day began in this country back in 1621. The Pilgrims had just completed their first year in North America and the fall harvest was bountiful. As the story goes, there was plenty of corn, fruits, vegetables, fish packed in salt and cured meat. They harvested enough food to store some away for the long, cold winter.

To help give thanks for their abundant food and celebrate a peaceful co-existence with their Indian neighbors, Gov. William Bradford proclaimed Thanksgiving Day. This annual celebration has continued throughout the years and become a U.S. custom.

As we travel home to see loved ones or begin work on Thanksgiving in our own homes, let's remember what this celebration

### Insight John Schlageck

is really about. Don't forget when you're eating all of those wonderful holiday trimmings to give thanks for the wholesome, bountiful food we enjoy all year.

When it comes time to give thanks before the family dinner, remember to thank the good Lord for his blessings and include words of thanks for the farmers and ranchers in Kansas and across the United States. Ask a blessing for the cook and those who toiled in the kitchen. Let them know during the meal how much you appreciate their culinary skills. They will appreciate the compliment and you may even receive a future invitation to dine again.

As we wrap up 2007, it is important to give thanks to our agricultural producers. This year has been extremely tough on many farmers and ranchers.

Although farm commodities are worth more than they've been for years, this year started with one of the toughest, longest blizzards and winters in recent history. That was followed by a late winter freeze

that crippled or destroyed the central Kansas wheat crop.

Next came the tornadoes of early May that leveled Greensburg and southwest-central and central Kansas. Floods devastated southeastern Kansas in late June and now farmers across the state, especially southwestern Kansas are terribly dry.

This Thanksgiving, be thankful for all the gifts you are blessed with. Be happy and secure that family, and those you love surround you. Look back and smile about your successes and feel confident that you have learned from your mistakes.

After you've eaten all the turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, gravy and pumpkin pie you can hold, remember the farmers who grow the food we eat. And don't forget to say a prayer for those less fortunate and all those who helped make Thanksgiving a day we can all be thankful for.

*John Schlageck is a leading commentator on agriculture and rural Kansas. Born and raised on a diversified farm in northwestern Kansas, his writing reflects a lifetime of experience, knowledge and passion.*

## Please give adoption a thought

To the Editor,

November is National Adoption Month and we need everyone in the Norton community to help us celebrate all of those families who have opened their homes and hearts to a child in foster care waiting to be adopted.

Today, in the United States, there are approximately 114,000 children in foster care who need permanent, loving families, and many of these children have been waiting years to be adopted.

The Saint Francis Academy currently cares for more than 140 of those children who are waiting

### LETTER

to find forever families.

Let National Adoption Month draw attention to the children in Kansas who are eligible and waiting for adoption, as well as highlight local families who have chosen to expand their families in this special way. If you know someone who is already an adoptive parent, please thank them today for making a difference in

a child's life. If you are interested in learning more about becoming an adoptive parent please contact The Saint Francis Academy at 866-999-1599.

Let's give the children in foster care who are available for adoption, a big reason to be thankful this month. You can be the dream come true for one of The Saint Francis Academy's children. Please contact us today for more information.

*Judy Hawk  
Regional Director  
Adoption and Kinship  
1-620-669-3734*

## Kids experience holiday stress

The holiday season seems to come quickly and start earlier each year, with advertisements and promotions in stores, businesses and in the media beginning as soon as August. As a result, children's interest, excitement and anxiety tend to increase and last for several weeks and can be stressful, not only for them, but also for their parents, teachers and other adults.

Here are a few suggestions regarding what children need during the holiday season to help reduce stress and make this time of year more enjoyable for everyone involved:

An Evenly Paced Holiday Season: in the midst of changing events and schedules, children are in need of a relaxed atmosphere within the family when possible. School events, guests, gifts, decorating and other plans can be over-

### Plain Sense Karen Schueler

whelming for any family. Space out these activities or eliminate some; choose quality of activities over quantity.

Realistic Expectations: be clear about the amount and cost of gifts. Allow children the opportunity to learn about the true meaning of "giving" by volunteering time as a family in helping others.

Security and Comfort: children benefit from knowing about the family's plans and holiday schedule. In addition, annual traditions such as decorating with specific family ornaments and preparation of time-honored foods can bring a sense of security.

Involvement and Input: include older children in the planning process. Then when time and money are limited, traditions are changed, or events are rescheduled or cancelled, they will be aware of the reasons for those changes. Even when the final decision is not in their favor, children will be more understanding when they have had some say-so regarding the outcome.

Mail questions to: High Plains Mental Health Center, PLAIN SENSE, Consultation and Education Department, 208 East 7th, Hays, Kan. 67601

You may also go to the website at: [www.highplainsmentalhealth.com](http://www.highplainsmentalhealth.com).

*The views expressed here are those of the individual writer and should not be considered a replacement for seeking professional help.*

## Council passes ATV ordinance

(Continued from Page 1)

In other business, the council:

- Heard from Kyle Stewart, who is interested in building a BMX bike track in Elmwood Park. Mr. Stewart said he would be getting more information together, such as cost and the labor and materials needed, and would present it to the Parks Committee on Monday, Dec. 3. The committee will meet at 5 p.m. in the city building.

- Heard from Mayor David Corns that Jay Ryan, who served as the city attorney for 17 years from 1970 to 1987, had died. Mr. Lawson asked permission for city staff to attend the funeral on city time and, if needed, be allowed to close the city office during that time. Mr. Corns said that was fine.

- Re-appointed Bob Millan, Margurite Godbout, Karla Reed and Wally Burton to the Travel

and Tourism Committee for two-year terms.

- Appointed Pat Hillebrand to the Housing Authority Board for a four-year term.

- Re-appointed Timm Meyer to the Planning Commission for a three-year term. There are still two open positions on the Planning Commission. Mr. Corns asked city staff to advertise for the open positions.

- Appointed Norma Browne to the Library Board for a four-year term.

- Appointed Holly Puga to the Recreation Commission for a four-year term. Councilman Jerry Jones abstained from voting.

- Re-appointed John Engelbert to the Norton County Economic Development Board for a two-year term.

- Heard from Mr. Lawson that

the demolition and clean-up of the Steve Horney property was finished. He said the crew did a nice job and he appreciated Mr. Horney's cooperation.

- Heard from Mr. Corns, who thanked the city crews for the excellent job they did during clean-up week.

- Learned that city crews will be picking up yard waste for a little while longer.

- Heard from Councilman Jim Williams that the Parks Committee reviewed the spring and summer schedules for Elmwood Park. He said there were a couple of conflicts between the races and the horse arena. No one from the horse council was at the meeting, so this still has to be worked out.

- Held a 15-minute closed session to discuss non-elected personnel.

## Congressman tries to extend farm bill

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Jerry Moran has introduced a one-year extension to the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, commonly known as the 2002 Farm Bill. Congressman Moran's legislation comes after delays in the U.S. Senate to pass a 2007 Farm Bill.

"It is unacceptable that we are nearing the end of the year without a farm bill to take home to our farmers and ranchers," he said. "Our producers face the uncertainty of making next year's crop decisions without knowing what type of safety net will be available in the coming year. Securing future financing is exception-

ally difficult without certainty of farm programs. Our farmers and ranchers are already burdened with many responsibilities. They should not have to worry about whether Congress can complete a farm bill. I would have expected the Senate Democratic leadership to understand the policy and political implications of their unwillingness to act."

The 2002 Farm Bill expired on Sept. 30. The House passed its version of the 2007 Farm Bill in July. The Senate is not expected to consider the legislation until December, at the earliest. Following Senate passage, House and Senate leaders will have to work out dif-

ferences in the two versions of the bill before final passage.

"It is next to impossible to think that we can complete this bill in a matter of weeks," Mr. Moran said. "Until now, I have never supported an extension. I think Congress can improve the 2002 Act. I remain interested in completing a five-year farm bill that improves upon existing programs and will continue to work toward that goal. But with the Senate's inability to move a farm bill in an open and transparent manner, Congress must do what is best for agricultural producers and pass a short-term extension."

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

### NORTON Senior High

Tuesday, Nov. 27 – FCCLA Leadership Council at Hesston; Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.; SADD, A.P.; Wrestling Challenge Matches, Junior High Gym, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 28 – FCCLA Leadership Council at Hesston; 7-12 Gifted Seminar, Kansas State University, 9 a.m.

Thursday, Nov. 29 – Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.; FCCLA, A.P.; Scholar's Bowl at Atwood, 4 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 1 – Varsity Wrestling at Hoxie, 9 a.m.; JV Wrestling at Alma, Neb., 10 a.m.; Northwest KMEA at Fort Hays State University

Monday, Dec. 3 – Scholar's Bowl at Colby, 4 p.m.; KAY Board, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 4 – Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.; KAY Hanging of the Greens, 3:45 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 5 – KMO: Library (Library Closed all day), TBA; S.A.C., A.P.; Basketball and Cheer Photos, 3:30 p.m.

### Junior High

Wednesday, Nov. 28 – 7-12 Gifted Seminar, Kansas State University, 9 a.m.

Thursday, Nov. 29 – Basketball at Hill City, 4:30 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 3 – Stuco, A.P.

Tuesday, Dec. 4 – KAYS, A.P.; Band Concert, Junior High Gym, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 5 – TEAM Meeting, 7:30 a.m.; KMO: Library (Library Closed all day), TBA

### Eisenhower

Monday, Nov. 26 – 5th Grade Boys Basketball begins, 3:45 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 27 – 6th Grade Boys Basketball begins, 3:45 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 28 – S.I.T. Meeting, 7:30 a.m.

Thursday, Nov. 29 – 6th Grade Band Concert, 1:40 p.m.; EC-2 Grade level Meeting, 3:40 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 30 – 5th Grade Band Concert, 1:40 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 4 – A.R. Meeting, 3:40 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 5 – Faculty Meeting, 3:40 p.m.

### All Schools

Monday, Dec. 26 – Classes Resume, 8:30 a.m.; P.D.C. Meeting, Eisenhower Library, 4 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 5 – Admin. Team Meeting, Unified Office, 9:30 a.m.

### NORTHERN VALLEY

Monday, Nov. 26 – Kansas Reads to Preschoolers in the High School Auditorium, 7 – 8 a.m.; Junior High Spirit Week

Tuesday, Nov. 27 – KAY Father Daughter Supper in the lunchroom at Alma, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 28 – Career Pathway Inservice at Hill City, noon to 4 p.m.; Lifetouch School Picture Retakes, 8 a.m.; Fall Secondary NCKSEC Gifted Seminar at K-State, 9 a.m.; Technology Directors Cadre at Fort Hays State University, 9 a.m.

Thursday, Nov. 29 – Junior High Basketball vs Golden Plains at Alma, 4 p.m.

Friday, Nov. 30 – High School BB vs Rawlins Co. at Atwood, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 1 – KMEA NW District Convention II at Fort Hays State University, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 2 – KAY Citizenship Week

Monday, Dec. 3 – KAY Citizenship Week; Junior High Service Club "Secret Sisters" Week; Breakfast and Lunch Payments Due; High School Basketball Trego Co. Tournament at WaKeeney, TBD; High School Dance team practice, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 4 – KAY Citizenship Week; High School Basketball Trego Co. Tournament at WaKeeney, TBD

Wednesday, Dec. 5 – KAY Citizenship Week

# You're Invited!

# EXPO

2008

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