



A flute choir from Emporia State University presented a concert for students in Norton Community High School's Stull Gymnasium Tuesday. The choir was made up of music professors from the university.

-Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Producer gives Checkoff input

Chris Cox, a pork producer from Long Island, served as a delegate to the Pork Act Delegate assembly on March 6-8 in St. Louis. He was named a delegate by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Ed Schafer in January.

Cox was one of 155 delegates who represented producers from 47 states and importers who sell pork products in the United States. The delegates are charged with helping to provide direction to the pork promotion, research and consumer information programs that are funded by the Pork Checkoff through the National Pork Board.

Producers contribute 40 cents of every \$100 of sales to the Checkoff, and importers use a sales formula to contribute a similar amount. That money helps producers pay for pork promotions such as the Don't be blah™ consumer campaign, TheOtherWhiteMeat.com Web site and research into animal welfare, food safety, swine health, environment and other topics.

"Pork Checkoff programs continue to yield positive results for pork producers, creating a more favorable market for pork and products."

"U.S. Pork broke export records for the 16th consecutive year. We're proud of the role Pork

Checkoff funds have played in building global demand for U.S. Pork," Mr. Cox said.

The National Pork Board approved a 2008 budget for national programs of \$50.8 million. About \$26.3 million, or a little over half, is designated for positively impacting customer's purchases of pork.

"Many of the National Pork Board's desired outcomes for 2008 reflect a commitment to increasing demand for pork products," said Mr. Cox.

"The consumer response to the Don't be blah™ marketing campaign has been very positive and is providing producers a return on our investment."

The Checkoff also is at work in ongoing programs that include efforts to provide science-based answers and educational opportunities including:

- Nutritional Efficiency Consortium—the Pork Checkoff formed a nutritional efficiency consortium to conduct research efforts to assist producers to reduce and/or optimize feed costs and maximize production efficiencies for growth and feed conversion.

- Pork Quality Assurance Plus™ is a workable, affordable and credible on-farm program for answering animal care and food safety

questions of our customers.

- Neighbor-to-Neighbor – an industry image enhancement program, based on the success of Operation Main Street, working through pork producers on the local level.

The pork consumer preference benchmark study consists of consumer taste panels, trained taste panels and a risk assessment to lower the recommended end-point cooking temperature to 145 degrees F.

The National Pork Board has responsibility for Checkoff-funded research, promotion and consumer information projects and communicating with pork producers and the public. Through a legislative national Pork Checkoff, pork producers invest \$0.40 for each \$100 value of hogs sold.

The Pork Checkoff funds national and state programs in advertising, consumer information, retail and foodservice marketing, export market promotion, production improvement, technology, swine health, pork safety and environmental management.

For information on Checkoff-funded programs, pork producers can call the Pork Checkoff Service Center at (800) 456-PORK or check the Internet at www.pork.org.

Free Staters to appear at Oberlin

Oberlin Arts and Humanities Commission will sponsor the Free Staters at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 29, at the Oberlin Gateway Center. This program replaces the KU Dancers, who canceled their performance.

The Free Staters took their name from the tough and determined men and women who settled in the Kansas Territory beginning in 1854. As the territory became a bloody battleground between those for and opposed to slavery, lines were drawn and sides were formed into "Pro-slavery" and "Free-State" or "Free Soil" factions.

In every performance, the Free Staters strive to take their audience back in the nation's history when life was far less complex. It was an era when families spent time together gathered around the piano singing popular songs. Neighbors sat on their front porches tapping their feet and clapping their hands to the sounds of a fiddle, banjo and bones. The Free Staters combine fiddle, early fretless banjo, parlor guitar, and buffalo bones to recreate the music you would have heard coming from an American front porch in the 1940's.

The Free Staters, who dress in period clothing, include Betsey Goering who plays the fiddle and began playing the instrument at age 3. Her violin was made at the turn of the 20th century. She was classically trained for 14 years and has since learned to fiddle and play minstrel tunes because of her love of 19th century music. Also

playing is Jonathon Goering who plays the guitar and minstrel five-string banjo and sings. He plays the banjo in the "stroke style," a method crucial in recreating the sound of early to mid 19th century music. His banjo was made by James Hartel of New York, complete with calf-skin head and cat gut strings. He plays a Ventura classical guitar with nylon strings. He and Betsey are married and live in Wichita.

They play fast-paced, fun, pop-

Telegram 877-3361

Happy 16th Birthday, Punky

Love, Mom, Dad & Sissy

ular music from 1850's America. Popular music by such composers as Stephen Foster came from this time period. Songs like "Old Dan Tucker" and "O Susanna" were also popular during this era.

This is a season ticket event or \$10 for adults or \$5 for students grades 1-12. For information, call Ella Betts (785) 475-3557 or Mary Henzel (785) 470-0218.

301 E. WASHINGTON STREET, P.O. BOX 160
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Happy 70th Birthday Pa-Pa

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TOBY KUHN

District puts focus on being healthy

By TOM DREILING
tom.d@nwkansas.com

Focus on health appears to be the in-thing in the Northern Valley School District. Chris Robertson, PreK-8th principal, at a special meeting of the school board on March 10, invited the board to take part in "Fun Fit Friday" from 3:30-8 p.m. on March 28.

This event, according to the principal, is for fifth through eighth grade students and will include games and demonstrations of healthy living practices.

Principal Robertson also gave an update on the "Biggest Loser Contest," in which some of the district's staff and board members are currently involved.

The board reviewed and discussed the Student Handbook, with a feeling the handbooks and the Policy Manual need to be aligned. It was noted that teachers and Student Council members are reviewing handbooks and will be making suggestions. It was felt these tools will give administrators guidelines and will let students be aware of consequences for their actions.

During the meeting, Mrs. Montgomery talked about getting ready for assessment tests and also shared tools she uses for preparing students for the tests. Additionally, Mr. Fessenden reported on Accellus Math, a computerized program

whereby students can work at different levels. He said all areas that are covered in the district's math curriculum are covered in Accellus Math.

The board approved a motion to continue participation in the Kansas Joint Utility Management Program for the next three years. The Kansas Association of School Boards contracts gas purchases for districts in this pool.

George Griffith, Superintendent/9-12 principal, presented copies of grant applications he has prepared for submission to the Cole Foundation, Morgan Foundation and Hansen Foundation for the purpose of replacing the floor and seating in the main gym. The board approved a motion to approve the filing of the grants. Mr. Griffith is in the process of getting bids for the flooring and seating.

In a related matter, the board will look into finding out what will be needed to get a tax identification number for the Northern Valley Foundation.

In other business, the board:

- Accepted, with regrets, the resignations of Cynthia Schemper as elementary school custodian, and Pat David, vocal teacher. Stephana Tubbs was approved to fill in as a part-time elementary custodian at \$9.50 per hour until school is out and as summer student custodian at minimum wage.

- Approved, on a 5-2 vote, to allow students who have been given out-of-school suspension to earn 50 percent credit for work they complete retroactive to the beginning of the second semester. Board members Doyle Baird and Glenn Brands opposed the motion. (All other votes necessary during the meeting were 7-0.)

- Approved a motion to increase Roger Shearer's pay for substitute custodial work to \$10 per hour retroactive to February and March 2008 payrolls.

Superintendent Griffith said he has checked into a suggestion that a clicker system be used for student responses to questions in classes. He told the board he would get two sets, one for use in Almena and one for use in Long Island. He said the \$2,500 cost will be paid from the district's Small Rural School Achievement Grant.

The board held several executive sessions to discuss matters relating to actions adversely or favorably affecting students, and to also discuss Personnel Review, Negotiations and Superintendent's Evaluation.

No action was taken when the sessions returned to open meeting.

The meeting started at 7:30 p.m. and concluded at 12:05 a.m.

Norton's city clerk elected

Marietta Lucas, President of the City Clerks and Municipal Finance Officers Association of Kansas, said today that Darla Ellis, Norton's city clerk, was elected as a board member of the association for the 2008-09 year.

"Darla has been a valued member of the association for several years, and I look forward to working with her to promote the association and the educational and networking opportunity it offers to city clerks and municipal finance officers across Kansas," she said.

The City Clerks and Municipal Finance Officers Association of

Kansas provides a comprehensive support network of professional development resources and education opportunities for the benefit of its members and the communities they serve, the organization's president said.

She said the opportunities encourage competency, integrity, efficiency and accountability in the delivery of local government services.

For more information, log onto www.ccmfoa.org.

Mrs. Lucas is city clerk at Chapman.

Lazy days of spring break here again

If things seem a lot quieter around the schools this week, credit *Spring Break*.

The break began Monday and continues through Friday. Colorado High Country has lured some families, while others have chosen sites closer to home.

And still others will find their kids sleeping in later, opting not to disturb this opportunity with travel.

But whatever, reality returns early on Tuesday morning, March 25.

How did the BB Gun team do at state? Check out the report on page 8

Wear Your Best Easter Bonnet

Whispering Pines Retirement is having an Easter Coffee, Thursday, March 20 • 2:30-3:45 p.m.

Contest for the "Best Easter Bonnet"

Kansas Department of Aging - Partnership Loan Program - Medicaid Approved - HCBS Approved WEST HIGHWAY 36, NORTON, KANSAS

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Contact: Carol at First State Bank or Karla at the Chamber Office or send check to: P.O.Box 225, Norton, Kansas 67654

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