

# Meet the daycare providers



Debbie



Joanna



Angie



Holly



Mirandi



T.C.



Barb



April



Amy



Suzi



Kerri



Libby

This is the national week of the young child and Norton child care providers are ones every mom and dad can appreciate.

Norton is lucky to have many people to care for and instruct our young children while their parents are at work.

We salute these hard working, caring individuals and groups.

### Norton County Home-Based Head Start

Debbie Lawson

Norton County home-based Head Start is similar to the center-based Head Start. The home based Head Start goes into the home and works with children and with their parents to make sure they are ready for kindergarten.

The service offers lessons, crafts and even lets the kids cook.

The service includes all children ages 3-5 in the county regardless of income.

The home-based Head Start program has been in Norton County for several years and Mrs. Lawson has been with the program for three years.

The service goes into the home once a week for an hour and a half and help's the children and parents with the skills they need in order to help prepare the child for kindergarten.

Special activities include a group socialization twice a month, which could include a visit to the fire station or a local greenhouse.

The home-based Head Start program allows the parents to do a better job of teaching their own children.

Mrs. Lawson and her husband, Rob have two daughters, Heather, 22, and Charli, 17.

### Infant/Toddler Specialist Northwest Kansas Child Care Resource and Referral

Joanna Chesterman

Ms. Chesterman is part of a team which works with day care providers. She teaches children and adults with special needs.

This is her first year of working in day care although she has taught in public and private schools for almost 10 years prior to becoming associated with a resource and referral agency.

### Head Start

Angie Hager

Ms. Hager has taught Head Start classes for six years.

She graduated from Fort Hays State University in 2001 with a bachelor's degree in elementary education and in December of 2006 added an early childhood endorsement. She is working on a master's degree in early childhood education from Kansas State University which she hopes to finish in about a year.

She has three children: Stephanie, a seventh grader at Norton Junior High, Alec, a sixth grader at Eisenhower Elementary and Riley, a fourth grader at Eisenhower.

Ms. Hager said that she always wanted to teach preschool and had thought about opening one when the Head Start job opened up.

### Holly's Playhouse

Holly Puga

Holly's Playhouse is a licensed group daycare home.

Mrs. Puga's husband Cory works at Natoma. The couple have four children, Libby, 3 1/2, Corbin, 23 months and Lilli and Layla, 9-month old twins.

She opened Holly's Playhouse in her home in 2002.

Before that she worked at Sunshine Learning Center for four years while in high school and has 10 years of childcare experience. She attended a year of college at Colby Community College working towards a degree in early

education and preschool.

"After coming home for the summer of 2002 and seeing the need for daycare," she said, "I opened my business seven months later. Now, with children of my own, it's a great place to be."

### Sunshine Learning Center

Jennifer McKenna, director

Ms. McKenna has been at Sunshine for 11 years and three years before that at home daycare.

She said that at the learning center the staff aims to have a variety of preschool activities and field trips.

### Busy Bees Daycare

April Bashford

Mrs. Bashford and her husband Tim, who works at Norton Sheet Metal, have two children: Andrew, 9, a fourth-grader who is active in Cub Scouts, soccer, BB Gun and baseball and Clayton, 2, who keeps everyone on their toes.

While she has only been in daycare for a few months, she has had other jobs involving children including working as a paraprofessional in junior high and at Head Start preschool.

"I chose to open a daycare so I could stay home with my child," she said. "I also enjoy the time I get to clean my house and do my school work on-line."

She said that her long-term goal is to become an elementary school teacher and she is working on her bachelor's degree through Fort Hays State University.

### Amy Coffey Daycare

Amy Coffey

Mrs. Coffey and her husband Michael have two children, Kayla, 10, and Zachary, 7.

Both of the Coffeys grew up in Norton and say they want to raise their children here.

She has been a licensed daycare provider in the home for 11 years.

She said that although she loves her job, if she had to choose another job, it would probably be as a nurse in a neonatal intensive care room as both of her children were born prematurely and had to be in intensive care and she remembers the care given them by the nurses.

### Little Angels Daycare

Suzi Brooks

Ms. Brooks owns and operates Little Angels Daycare, a licensed daycare home, in Norton. She is married with two children.

"After my son was born, I wanted to stay home with him," she said. "So I opened my daycare. That was 3 1/2 years ago."

### Kerri's Kiddie Kollege

Kerri Donahey

Mrs. Donahey has lived in Norton since 1993 and she oper-

ates a licensed daycare in her home.

She and husband Nathan have six children: Lucy, 16, Jordyn, 12, Dallas, 7, twins, Kayla and Kelly, 2, and Austin, 1. Her mother Allie Whitt also lives with the family.

In her free time, she said, she enjoys spending time with her family which includes going bowling, going to the movies, shopping and just hanging out at home together.

Mrs. Donahey said that she has always wanted to be able to stay home with her children and after opening her daycare center in October 2005, she was finally able to do so.

She is a licensed practical nurse and continues to work part-time. She hopes to return to nursing school with her oldest daughter in a few years and go into nursing full time when her children are grown.

### Little Lambs Daycare

Libby Hartwell

Mrs. Hartwell and her husband Jeremy have three children Zach, 14, who is totally into sports; Nate, 9, who loves anything fast that gets him dirty; and Shaylee, 4, who loves babies and Barbies.

The family moved to Norton last May from Larned. The Hartwells were originally from McCook so this gets them closer to home, she said.

She started her daycare in August after working in a preschool class for two years and as a daycare provider for six years before moving.

Mrs. Hartwell said that she has worked in a preschool or provided daycare for the past eight years and decided to open her own so that she could spend more time with her own children.

She said that if she could do any other job in the world, it would be to teach autistic children.

"I have worked with three (autistic) children ranging in age from preschool to fourth grade," she said.

### Little People Daycare

Mona Coffey

Mrs. Coffey and her husband Mike have a son, Michael, who is married to Amy, and a daughter, Michelle Auker. They also have six grandchildren, Kayla and Zach Coffey and Collin, Sylence, Alex and Abbey Auker.

She started Little People Daycare three years ago because her daughter needed daycare for her four small children.

"There is nothing else I would rather do than be a daycare provider," she said. "I love my job."



Mona



A new traffic camera showed snowy conditions on I-70 looking east of Edson about 10 a.m. Thursday. The camera is one of eight put up by the Kansas Department of Transportation to let people see what is happening on roads across the state. The photos are updated every 15 minutes at the Web site 511.ksdot.org.

## Camera catches road conditions

Travelers across Kansas have a new way to see what the road conditions are where they're going with the addition of web camera views at eight locations, including one near Edson on I-70.

The cameras show conditions every 15 minutes on the Kansas Department of Transportation's road condition site, 511.ksdot.org.

The page also can be reached through the Travel and Traffic Info link on the department's home page at www.ksdot.org.

"The camera views will give motorists an important piece of information for their travel plans before they get in their

car or truck," said Secretary of Transportation Deb Miller. "The more information travelers have, especially in inclement weather, the better decisions they can make about when to leave and the route they choose."

The cameras are at eight of the department's 42 road weather information sites, selected because they are spread widely enough to show conditions across the state.

These include four on I-70, at Edson (nine miles east of Goodland), Junction City, Salina and at Walker (nine miles east of Hays). Other cameras are on U.S. 75 at Topeka; K-39 at Chanute; K-96 at Webb Road in Wichita; and U.S.

50 at Garden City.

To view the images, click on the camera link at the top of the "Road Conditions" page. Those using Internet Explorer can also access the images by clicking on camera icons on the road-condition map, the department says.

The eight cameras are the first phase of a program to post road images on the Web site. Twenty-five more will be installed along I-70 from Missouri to Colorado before the end of the year.

"We know travelers like to see road views on the Internet, and I'm pleased we now have an additional tool to share information with the public," said Miller.

## Rural Telephone sets annual meet

The 2008 Annual Meeting for Rural Telephone Service Co., Inc. will be held at 6:30 p.m. Friday, April 18, at the Ruppenthal Middle School Auditorium, 400 Elm, in Russell.

The meeting will include reports from the president and CEO/General Manager, the election of trustees, and a proposed bylaw change to address bringing the 10 new exchanges acquired from Sprint into the cooperative's existing zones.

Another highlight of the meeting will be video presentations by Justin Lee Theleman and Rebekah Hachmeister, from Natoma High School. The two seniors participated in the 13th annual Foundation for Rural Service Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. June 2-6, 2007.

Their participation was spon-

sored by Rural Telephone. In their presentations, they will share highlights of their visit to the nation's capital.

Registration for the annual meeting will be from 5-6:15 p.m. in the Ruppenthal Middle School gymnasium.

Members will be able to browse the "Tech Zone" displays which will also be set up in the gymnasium. Rural Telephone/Nex-Tech staff will be demonstrating Lightning Jack High Speed Internet, Hi-Def CATV, digital video recorders, and "On Demand" CATV programming.

Nex-Tech Wireless representatives will also be available, demonstrating phones, discussing service plan options and providing signup assistance.

In addition, members visiting the Tech Zone displays will also

be treated to free hors d'oeuvres and have the opportunity to sign up for door prizes.

Rural Telephone will also be providing adult supervised childcare for cooperative members with small children who wish to attend the annual meeting.

"Movie Mania" is planned for children ages 3-8 and will be located in a nearby main floor classroom. Movies will be shown, games will be played and refreshments will be served in a safe, supervised atmosphere before and during the meeting.

Rural Telephone staff will be available at the school's main entrance to provide directions to the childcare location.

Prior to the meeting, live music will be performed by 4-Told, a contemporary gospel quartet from the Russell community.

- 1) Open an Account**  
free checking, savings, money market, NOW
- 2) Sign Up for a Service**  
check card, direct deposit, automatic payment or automatic transfer
- 3) Get a \$25 Giftcard**  
to Norton Car & Truck wash on highway 36

**First Security Bank & Trust**  
*If you can't come by, we'll come to you!*

Norton: 785.877.3313  
Lenora: 785.567.4286

Equal Housing Lender  
Member FDIC  
while supplies last

**Anger and Stress Management**  
ITV Course — Worth One Credit  
Friday, May 2 . . . . . 5:30 p.m.-11:00 p.m.  
Saturday, May 3 . . . . . 8:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m.  
CONTACT ANGIE MELVIN BY  
MONDAY, APRIL 28 - PHONE 877-3518

301 E. WASHINGTON STREET, P.O. BOX 160  
**City of Norton 785-874-4294**

**Animal Control**

For calls relating to animal complaints, animal adoption, or to check and see if your animal is at the facility. Leave a message if there is no answer

**You're invited to**

**Attend the**  
**Rural Telephone Annual Meeting**  
April 18, 2008  
Ruppenthal Middle School, 400 N. Elm, Russell  
Doors open at 5:00 p.m. for product demonstrations.  
Register to win great prizes!\*

**Meeting begins at 6:30 p.m.**

**Toll Free 1.877.567.7872**  
www.ruraltelephone.com • www.nex-tech.com  
\*Must sign up April 18, 2008, to receive three months free service and must be present to win. Some services not available in all areas.

**High-Speed Internet**  
Lightning Jack High-Speed Internet is the most reliable and affordable Internet available! With Lightning Jack High-Speed Internet you will be able to check your e-mail faster and surf your favorite websites with ease!

**Nex-Tech Wireless**  
There has never been a better time to switch. Nex-Tech Wireless offers superior nationwide coverage and has added over 150 cellular sites in central and western Kansas. Nex-Tech Wireless is owned by Rural Telephone/ NEX-TECH. We are committed to the communities we serve.

**Digital Television**  
Nex-Tech Digital TV is an advanced technology that offers a superior quality picture and clear, crisp digital sound. With over 130 video channels and 37 music channels, Nex-Tech is the premier choice! We offer Caller ID TV to see who is calling on your TV screen, plus a large selection of Hi-Def TV channels, DVR to pause, rewind, and record live TV and Video On Demand. Bundle your cable TV with other services for big savings!

POWERED BY ONE  
Telephone  
Internet  
Cable TV