

Op-ed

Sound Off!

Focus now is on Kansas Day

With Kansas Day coming up on Thursday, it is time to turn our focus on Kansas and some of Norton County's participation in the festivities.

Recently, Norton County was represented at the reorganizational meeting for the Republican Party in the First Congressional District of Kansas on Dec. 13, 2008 in Hays. Of the counties in the northwest corner of Kansas, Norton was one of the few to be represented. Those attending were the chair of the Norton County Republican Central Committee, Steve Berry, along with vice chair Rebecca Wetter. Being that both are officers, each was a delegate from Norton County with the designation of voting for the slate of officers for the party in the First Congressional District and 37 delegates to the state committee.

While waiting for the tally of the voting on the slate of officers and the delegates, Representatives Deana Horst and John Faber spoke and answered questions from the

floor, as did Sen. Tim Huelskamp. The budget of Kansas was the main topic, with all stating the already known deficit. The interesting question from the floor was, "Is the legislature going to pursue a reimbursement from Governor Sebelius for the use of the state plane for political purposes other than state business and the use of taxpayers' money for some of the parties thrown?" We were advised to write our legislators with our concerns.

It was also brought out that our representation is declining in western Kansas; we have five representatives compared to the seven in Johnson County alone. "Speak up western Kansas and keep us informed," were the ending thoughts of these legislators as they respectively finished their addresses.

As the tally of the voting was announced, Norton County found themselves represented on the state committee through delegate Steve Berry. The state commit-

tee meets during the activities of Kansas Day.

These events had brought the meeting to a lunch break and Rep. Jerry Moran to listen to. Rep. Moran gave a brief bio of himself and touched on current issues to come before Congress when they reconvene. In closing, he stated to keep him informed.

Our seats were resumed to vote for alternates to the state committee. With that soon accomplished, the meeting was adjourned.

As this year starts, let us remember it is the participation of people from the local level that gets northwest/western Kansas heard. That includes you communicating with your county commissioners, state representatives and senators, and U.S. Representatives and Senators to help keep them the statesmen they are elected to be.

Sincerely

Rebecca Wetter, Vice Chair
Norton County Republican
Central Committee

Cold weather sends us upstairs

The cats and I have retreated to the upstairs. It's the warmest place in the house. Since Monday is wash day, and I have stripped the sheets off our bed, the blankets are piled on the floor. The youngest of the three cats is buried in the blankets; the oldest keeps trying to jump on my lap; and the Alpha male found a sunny spot in the lounge for a nap. Dogs have nothing on the lives our cats lead. Eat, sleep and act indignant.

Mother Nature gave us a harsh reminder that she is still in charge. Last week there were two days of shirt sleeve weather followed by a wintry blast that had us grabbing for mittens, mufflers and hot chocolate.

-ob-

I've been helping Jim at the construction site. I am the unskilled

Out Back

Carolyn Plotts



laborer hired to hang the insulation and do clean-up. The house is progressing nicely, but there is no heat other than a space heater. That means the inside is sometimes colder than the outside.

Friday morning the wind chill was about nine degrees. Jim asked me if I wanted to go to work that day.

"Do I have a choice?" was my only question.

"No, you don't have to," he said.

Without hesitation, I said, "Well,

then, I don't want to."

I couldn't believe it was that easy. I wonder if that tactic will work with laundry and meal prep. If I don't want to — I don't have to.

Probably not.

-ob-

We've had a week under the new president's administration and the world hasn't come to an end. Of course, I'm not an embryo whose mother might be considering abortion.

He has kept his campaign promises. And, that's what worries me. Now, whether you support abortion or not, your tax dollar will be helping to fund abortions not only in the country, but around the world.

That's one promise I wish he would have broken.

(carolynp38@hotmail.com)

Election update

(Continued from Page 1)

indicated earlier he would not run for the post.

Almena City Council

3 seats up for election:
Monte Montgomery
Kevin Sides
Lionie Shearer

Lenora City Council

Two city council seats are up for re-election, plus the mayor's position.

Mayor's seat is held by Raymond Heikes

Seat held by Dan Mannell. Mr. Mannell has filed for re-election.

Seat held by Loyd Schoen. Mr. Schoen has filed for re-election.

Edmond City Council:

All four city council seats are up for re-election, plus the mayor's seat. Currently on the Edmond City council are:

Mayor Jim Akers
Norma Riley

Bob Anderson, who has filed to run for re-election.

Jeremy Hallam, who has filed to run for re-election.

Don Knigge, who has filed to run for re-election.

Clayton City Council:

Spelling Bee

(Continued from Page 1)

were Tiffany VanDerVeen, McKinsey Evans, Haley Graham and Erika Chandler. Jim Springer pronounced the words for the 37th consecutive year.

The Norton County Spelling Bee will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 11 in Norton at 4 p.m. Northern Valley will send their top spellers, as will Lenora and Norton. The winner advances to Great Bend for a chance to go to Washington, D.C.

All five seats are up for re-election, plus the mayor's seat. Currently on the Clayton City Council are:

Mayor Russell Bird
Tom Hickert
Ruby Cook
Richard Mather
Michelle Franco
Mary Arnold

Norton School Board:

#4, currently held by Scott Ellis, who has filed for re-election.

#5, currently held by Craig Renner, who has filed for re-election. Joe Durham has also filed to run.

#6, currently held by Elaine Lofgreen, who has said she would not seek re-election. County Clerk Robert Wyatt has filed for this position.

Northern Valley School Board:

District 1 for the Northern Valley School Board has two seats open for election, currently held by Blaine Marble and Glenn Brands. Clint Lowry and Curtis Lowry have filed to run for these positions.

District 2 for the Northern Valley School Board has one opening, currently held by Alan Woodside.

Lenora School Board:

#4, currently held by Nicole Rhea, who has filed to run for re-election.

#5, currently held by De Ann David, who has filed to run for re-election.

#6, currently held by Jim Nine-mire.

Busy day for county 4-H'ers

By BRANDY LEROUX
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4-H members were busy cooking up dishes and designing place settings Saturday at the Annual 4-H Favorite Foods show. Judges Janelle VanKooten, Hays, Barb Eckols, Hill City, and Edith McClain, Gaylord, talked with the 23 contestants about meal preparation techniques, nutritional values of the foods, how the favorite foods fit into a menu, the food guide pyramid, and the presentation of the food in a table setting.

The 4-H members had to select table linens, place settings and centerpieces for their displays to represent a table setting for a meal or snack where their "favorite food" would be served.

Of the 23 members who prepared foods for the show, there were four outstanding ratings given, one in each of the Foods and Nutrition levels.

Top purple in Level I was awarded to Shane Cozad, Norton, a member of the Busy Beavers 4-H Club, for his Peanut Butter Cookies.

"I made the peanut butter cookies because I like them," said Shane. "They're my favorite. I might do something else next year. I think I have an idea what it will be."

Shane said he was surprised to win the top prize, and that it only took about 30 minutes per batch to make.

Top purple in Level II was awarded to Molly Maddy, Norton, a member of the Busy Jayhawkers 4-H Club, for her Chicken Sour Cream Enchiladas.

"I wanted to do this recipe because it looked challenging and I like enchiladas," said Molly. "I was surprised to win."

Molly said she will probably enter again next year, though she doesn't know yet what recipe she will do.

Top purple in Level III was Macy Kasson, Norton, a member of the Cedar Ridge 4-H Club, for Macy's Favorite Breakfast Casserole.

"I made this because I really like it," said Macy. "Mom's made it a lot and it's my favorite food. It wasn't hard to make; it only took half an hour. I had to make it three days in a row to practice, and I

think we all got kinda sick of the casserole."

Macy said this is the first year he's won top purple at the favorite foods show, but he's always gotten a purple ribbon in the past.

Top purple in Level IV was Carissa Wentz, Norton, a member of the Prairie Dog 4-H Club, for her Chocolate Covered Strawberries.

"I thought this looked good," said Carissa. "It took about an hour and a half. I was surprised to win."

"These kids were awesome," said judge McClain. "I was impressed with the younger ones as well as the older ones. I'm amazed at the table settings knowledge with what to put with the food. I am very, very impressed."

The 4-H Favorite Foods show has been an annual event for at least 30 years, though no one can remember exactly when it started.

"This was something for the 4-H members to do in the winter when things have slowed down," said Beverly Kindler. "There are food shows during the summer, but they all have to be non-perishable. With this, they can make their favorite food, and it can be perishable."

Purple ribbons were awarded to Kailey Gill, Busy Beavers, for S'mores Brownie Bites; Micah Kasson, Cedar Ridge, for Chocolate Chip Cake; Amy Wentz, Prairie Dog, for Easy Layered Delight; Bryndon Wentz, Prairie Dog, Cinnamon Apple Pizza; Tyson Gill, Busy Beavers, for Cheeseburger Macaroni; Carson Wallace, Cedar Ridge, Super Bowl Stromboli; Quentin Wentz, Prairie Dog, for Walk-Along Chili; Megan Wentz, Prairie Dog, for Chocolate Souffle; Wyatt Wentz, Prairie Dog, for Pizza Stromboli; Morgan Baumann, Busy Beavers, for

Dreamy Mac and Cheese; Bryce Lofgreen, Busy Jayhawkers, Chicken Posole; and Christopher Maddy, Busy Jayhawkers, Pumpkin Creme Cake.

Blue ribbons were awarded to Lizzie Smith, Busy Beavers, for Golden Sesame Braid Bread; Katie Johnson, Cedar Ridge, for Christmas Tree Brownies; Marisa Maddy, Busy Jayhawkers, for Pheasant and Wild Rice; David Smith, Busy Beavers, for Banana Pound Cake; Rebecca Wentz, Prairie Dog, for Marinated Teriyaki Chicken; Anthony Wentz, Busy Jayhawkers, for Touchdown Treat: Football Cupcake; and Jarrett Wentz, Busy Jayhawkers, for Cowboy Caviar.

"Over 60 people attended the Tasting Tables that were set up to allow the public to sample the 4-H'ers favorite foods," said Keith VanSike, K-State Research and Extension. "And gifts were awarded to all the participants. The favorite foods show is sponsored as an event of the Norton 4-H Events Council and K-State Research and Extension."

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