

Conservation district plans Local Work Group meeting

The Norton County Conservation District board of supervisors will hold a Local Work Group meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 26, at 7 p.m. at the USDA Service Center.

The purpose of this meeting is to provide advice on the following... FY 2011 EQUIP county allocation distribution and recommendations for FY 2012 programs, including, recommendations on payment percentages. Local Work Groups are asked to review all practices and determine if there are practices that could be paid at the 50 percent payment rate. If the ranking criteria used is acceptable and quality applications are getting funded. Are the eligible lists meeting the needs of the resource concerns of the state? Is there a need to eliminate or add resource concern and/or eligible practices? Watershed restoration and protection strategy for Prairie Dog Creek.

Membership of Local Work Groups: Local Work Groups should be diverse and focus on agri-

culture interests and natural resource issues existing in the community. Membership should include agricultural producers representing the variety of crops, livestock, and poultry raised within the local area; owners of nonindustrial private forest land, representatives of agricultural and environmental organization; and governmental agencies carrying out agricultural and natural resource conservation and activities.

Local Work Groups also take into account concerns of particular historically under served groups and individuals including but not limited to women, persons with disabilities, socially disadvantaged and limited resource groups.

For more information about Local Work Groups, or to become a member, contact the Norton Conservation District office or NRSC staff at the USDA Service Center, 11506 Pineview Dr., Norton, KS at 785-877-2623.

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JENNINGS NEWS

The snow is the big news this week. It is fluffy but laid beautifully as it fell. Several inches on the ground with more predicted. Rev. Glen and Betty Krebs, Wa-Keeney were guests of Keith and Helen Muirhead and family for dinner Dec. 23. Their daughter, Teffani's husband, Joe Zadeh, is a professional astronomer and Rev. Glenn an amateur. They had a good time talking about the heavenly bodies while the rest of us were at a loss. Joe had a new apparatus that showed the stars very clearly.

Keith and Helen Muirhead's guests for the Christmas holiday days were: Mignon and Todd Barry, Wellfleet, Ma.; Michelle and Tom Zodrow and Austin, Grapevine, Texas; Teffani and Joe Zadeh, Natalia and Dyan, Chicago, Ill.

Daughter, Tamala Schulze, spent Christmas at Oklahoma City, Okla. so she could be with

her daughter Kallista, who had to work Christmas night. Kolten Schulze came after Christmas for a few days. Kay and Doyle Brown; Kent and Robin Brown and girls, Estes Park, Colo.; Kurt Brown, Millie and Dashiell, Quinter; Joan Moore, McPherson; Kara Kuntz and Zachary of Hays attended a 70th birthday party for John Tacha, Lawrence, hosted by his wife, Deanell.

Stan and Ramona Shaw; Wilfred and Alice Wagoner are happy to announce the birth of their great-granddaughter, Naomi Adalynn Wagoner. She was born Jan. 3, weighed 7 lbs. 9 oz. and is 20 1/2 inches long. Big brother, Noah welcomed her home. Proud parents are Brandon and Rosa Wagoner, Granby, Mo.. Grandparents Kevin and Colleen Wagoner, Sharon Springs and Danny and Cindy Ward, Joplin, Mo. Megan Faris; Jessica Lemmons, Gabe and Josie, Manhattan visited their grandpar-

ents, Wayne and Louise Cressler three days this past week.

Children's Reading was held Saturday Jan. 8, at the Jennings Public Library. Carla Latimer read a story about dinosaurs to the children. Then pictures were colored. Helen Rhodes helped Carla.

Those enjoying the hour were Jordan Fleckenstein, Candice, Sidney, Rayna and Abe Taylor.

United Methodist Women met Wednesday, Jan. 5 with six ladies attending. The decorations in the church were taken down. Kay Brown and Rachel Carter gave the lesson. Others attending were Lila Jennings, Barbara Patterson, Ruth Chance and Helen Rhodes. Remember the Blood Drive Tuesday Jan. 18 in honor of Lawrence Jennings. It will be held at the United Methodist Church. Contact Marge Hartzog for information. Lawrence is in the Kearney hospital at this time.

LYLE NEWS

Kathy VanMeter has been on the sick list and didn't have their Christmas until New Year's. They went to the home of her son, Tim and Jolene Nejdll, at Quinter. She is still not feeling as well as she should.

It has been a rather quiet Christmas season for several of us. Toots Magers was visited by Jane Engelhardt, and Judy and Charlie Easton. A few days previously, Charles and Inez Keller visited. On Sunday, she went to the home of Shanna and Don Nitzel of Oxford, Neb. where she got to meet their 18-month-old twin boys and their three other children.

I know it is late, but I wish to thank the post office for the stamps I received at the Christmas drawing, and the big roast. I forgot who it was from and I can't find my last Norcat news to check it. It was delicious.

Carol and John Moye ate Christmas dinner with Veda and Dennis Wood, and a couple from McCook ate supper with us. Tielia High and the Bader grandkids came by later for a gift exchange. It has been a blessed Christmas season. Dwight and Teresa came by for a while on Friday night. They visited with his twin daughters in Omaha the day after Christmas.

We extend sympathy to the ones in the community who have lost loved ones, and the ones who have had sickness.

Joyce Sumner also spent a quiet day and went to her son, Greg and Von Sumners on New Year's. It was also her birthday.

June Jolly had a soup supper and gift exchange at the home of her daughter, Linda. She took Toots Magers to Norton for cards Sunday evening and they saw a big herd of deer on the way.

NEW ALMELO NEWS

By BETTY OTTER

The family of Marion and Marilyn Otter gathered at their home on Christmas Eve. Those present were Frank and LeVonne Otter, Josh Otter, Brandon Otter, who came from Germany for the holidays, Gabrielle Otter, Russell; Greg and Tammy Otter, Allissa and Seth; Steve Otter, Wichita; Emily and Gary Kessler, Robert and Alan, Lakin; Joni Shellito, Lexus, Johanna and Rayliegh, Norton and friend, Cole; Bridgett Gillis, Hephzibahs, Ga.; Zack Otter, Sarah Sprigg and Javon, Norton; Betty Knapp and children, Manhattan.

Coming to the home of Roger and JoAnn Long for Christmas were Renee and Jack Cella and family, Denver, Colo.; Stephanie and Brian Kirk and boys, Lafayette, La.; Darin and Joannie Winkel and girls, Norton; Roxie and Ed Schuster and family, Wilford, Ohio.

Ardith and Raymond Scheetz's family gathered at their home on Christmas Eve. Those present were Michelle and Alan Goldsby, Hillsboro; Chris and Julie Scheetz and Kayla, New Almelo; Steve Scheetz, Janice Jacobs, Janae and Lakin, Hays; Heather, Rachelle Goldsby and friend Mike; Jared and Stacy Scheetz, Hailee and Brandon, New Almelo; Sara and Troy Collins, Aisley and Emma, Norton. Christmas day guests were Jared and Stacy Scheetz, Hailee and Bradon, New Almelo; Steve Scheetz and Janice Jacobs,

Troy Collins, Aisley and Emma, Norton.

On New Year's many of the Scheetz family traveled to Kansas City to bring in the new year with Ardith's brother Mike and Jeannie Thibault and family; her brother Raymond and Hollie Thibault and children, Ryan and Allison Thibault; Erin and Josh and Natalie, Alaska; Sharon Thibault, Phillipsburg; Ardith Scheetz, Michelle and Alan Goldsby, Rachelle and friend, Mike, Hillsboro; Tyler and Sara Goldsby, Kaden, Manhattan; Chris and Julie Scheetz, Kayla; Jared and Stacy Scheetz and family, New Almelo; Sara and Troy Collins and girls, Norton; Ray was recovering from surgery so he did not make the trip.

Stacy's dad, Don Schuckmann, La Crosse, spent Dec. 26th with the Jared Scheetz family in New Almelo.

Family gathering at the home of George and Vicki Gassmann on Christmas Eve were Randy and Beth Gassmann and family, New Almelo; Wes and Alice James and girls, Ellis; Connie Gassmann and Lee Albers, Colby; Dorothy Mindrup and Ruth Vahling, New Almelo.

Harry and Marge Unrein's daughters and families were at their home for Christmas. Those present were Susie and David Howe and Jake; Sherrie and Clint Lowry, Christopher, Brady and Jace, Alma; Missy and Steve Schibi, Dylon and Tanner.

Christmas day Vicki and Glen Kendall, Phillipsburg; and Dustin

and Crystal McClurg and family, Logan; gathered at the home of Raymond and Bonita Slipke, Rachel, Landon and Raelynn. The Slipke family were to go to Hoxie to the home of Miriam Slipke on New Year's Day, but because of illness couldn't go. Miriam Slipke has a new granddaughter, April Dawn Slipke, the daughter of Alan and Phyllis Slipke, Netawaka.

Coming to the home of Alfred and Betty Otter over the Christmas weekend were Tina and Will Ritter and family, Olathe; Tom Otter, DeSoto; Mark and Sheila Otter and family, Ulysses; Ashley Otter, Hays; Jolene and Jim Moss and family, Smith Center; Karl Otter, Great Bend; Charles Otter and family, Salina; joining the group Christmas afternoon were Gary and Gary and Bertise Bruinekool, Renee Bruinekool and Kirk Persinger, Norton.

Christmas Eve the family of Carl and Linda Walhmeier gathered at their home. Those present were Craig and Lisa Walhmeier and Gentry, Alma, Ark; Curt and Becky Walhmeier, Taylor and Luke; Cary Welhmeier, Tessa and Keegan, Shawnee; Dan and Shelly Walhmeier, Jazmin and Joaquin; Eric and Jeannie Strict, Bayne, Arnett, Okla.

On Dec. 26, Jeff and Kathleen Vahling and family, Hays; and Jeremy and Missy Rumbach and family, Lenora, gathered at the home of Marcia and Russ Aumiller for their Christmas celebration.

New governor sworn in; ceremony moved inside

Topeka - A snow storm and freezing conditions didn't stop the 2011 Inaugural Ceremony at the Statehouse today. More than 500 Kansans joined Governor Sam Brownback, Lt. Governor Jeff Colyer, M.D. and other elected officials at they took their oaths of office in the House Chambers.

Governor Brownback took the oath of office on the same family bible he used when he took office in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives. After taking the oath, he recalled how our state was "born on Hope... in sacrifice and bloodshed."

"Our challenges should be well known to us - nearly 100,000 of our people actively seek gainful employment and cannot find it. Our public finances strain under the weight of commitments beyond our present means. Our families and social fabric fray against the crassness of modernity. Yet we have known worse and overcome more," Brownback said. "Freedom is central to the Kansas experience, as is opportunity. Free land settled the state. If you had enough courage and self-sacrifice to come claim 160 acres of challenge, then it was yours. Some succeeded, some failed, and a state was born!"

Brownback remarked how Kansas has always been an enigma to the casual observer, a state where the unusual arises and the exceptional is commonplace.

"To live in Kansas is to have a type of sober optimism that is both realistic and hopeful; well-grounded yet soaring. It's a land whose unpredictability and sometimes harshness only yields its fruit with self-sacrifice, trial, patience and care. That type of place produces character in her people," Brownback said.

The 46th Kansas Governor called on words by Governor Arthur Capper when he asked his fellow Kansans to lead the nation in a return to virtue, a reformation of manner and a rejuvenation of optimism.

"I believe it was said best by Governor Arthur Capper, "We have had a great start; we have great resources and almost unlimited possibilities, but what the greater Kansas will be, depends primarily upon the sort of men and women who constitute the state," Brownback said. "Let us, in Capper's words, "do our part, be it large or small, in making the world a little cleaner, a little more decent, a little happier, a little more God-like."

After the governor's inaugural speech, Brigadier General Lee Tafanelli, the Adjutant General-Select, Major Alan Stocklein, Acting Superintendent of the Kansas Highway Patrol and Lt. Col. Barry Thomas, Commander of Troops, lead him through the Assumption of Command Ceremony. It was followed by a 19-gun salute and a

review of the troops.

The four tribes of Kansas blessed the ceremony and presented the governor with a gift.

The ceremony closed with the singing of the state song, "Home on the Range".

KTKA-TV Anchor and Reporter Ben Bauman served as Master of Ceremonies. The National Anthem was sung by Reverend Cecil T. Washington. Dr. David Mugler delivered the Invocation. The Honorable Lawton R. Nuss, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Kansas, administered the oaths. Lauren Libby, Trans World Radio, Cary, N.C. delivered the Benediction.

The winter weather pushed the ceremony inside the Statehouse. It was the first time in the state's 150 years of statehood a governor and Lt. governor were sworn-in in the House Chambers.

Governor Brownback recognized Governor Mark Parkinson for his service to the state and thanked him and his staff for a peaceful transition.

He also offered his thanks to House Speaker Mike O'Neal for allowing the ceremony to be held in the House Chamber and to the Kansas National Guard, the Kansas Highway Patrol, and the Kansas Adjutant General's office as well as the Kansas Facilities Management and Statehouse staff for their work in moving the ceremony inside the Statehouse.

Northern Valley releases honor roll

Northern Valley High School has released the names of students that are on the honor rolls for the second nine weeks of 2010 - 2011.

Highest: Freshmen, Hunter Chandler; Sophomores, Alex Tharman; Juniors, Daniel Field, Melissa Hawks, Gunnar Hays and Tyler Montgomery; Seniors Matthew Dole.

Honors I: Freshmen, Jasmine Drone and Ian Vincent; Sophomores, Erika Chandler; Juniors, Fayth Davenport, Austin Herman, Kenzi Husted and Kynzie Stevens; Seniors, Caleb Bach, Kenzie Chandler,

Staci Dole, Kayla Lowry, Amber Kinderknecht, Colton Lowry, David Puent, Brian Siard, Bryant Tharman and Zachary Vincent.

Honors II: Freshmen, Jordan Baird, Mike Griffin and DaKota Hilburn; Sophomores, Brittanie Larison, Daniel Lentz and Harley Rupp; Juniors, Calen Bach, Ashley Constable, Cassie Lowry, Dillon Hogan, Ashley McMullen and Sarah Whitney; Seniors, Sean Braun, Steven Brown, Stacie Meyer and Shelby Schaefer.

PROPERTY TAX REPORT

At Rural Telephone, Nex-Tech and Nex-Tech Wireless, we aim to be good corporate citizens of the region. We understand the need for property taxes to help support our schools and other public resources. For the year 2010, we paid ALMOST \$3 MILLION in property taxes.

Arapahoe County, CO	\$2,605	Ness	\$10,354
Barber	\$15	Norton	\$416,285
Barton	\$47,666	Osborne	\$247,000
Cheyenne	\$7,856	Pawnee	\$6,161
Decatur	\$32,815	Phillips	\$217,445
Edwards	\$2,560	Rawlins	\$13,207
Elbert County, CO	\$4,699	Reno	\$6,936
Ellis	\$289,049	Republic	\$65,853
Finney	\$1,136	Rice	\$4,876
Ford	\$392	Rooks	\$158,026
Franklin	\$24	Rush	\$11,332
Gove	\$133,776	Russell	\$218,743
Graham	\$300,914	Saline	\$249
Greeley	\$5,937	Scott	\$1,758
Hamilton	\$127	Seward	\$94
Jewell	\$112,324	Sheridan	\$48,291
Kit Carson County, CO	\$8,869	Sherman	\$7,015
Labette	\$22	Smith	\$224,881
Lane	\$3,091	Stafford	\$6,927
Lincoln County, CO	\$3,842	Thomas	\$20,150
Logan	\$17,884	Trego	\$237,041
Mitchell	\$23	Wallace	\$10,933
Neosho	\$8	Wichita	\$1,181
		TOTAL:	\$2,910,372

These property taxes, together with the dollars we spend on services, payroll and upgrading our plant facilities, help support the local economy.

We would like to thank those of you who continue to put your trust and hard-earned dollars into products and services from Rural Telephone, Nex-Tech and Nex-Tech Wireless. We realize you have a choice when making purchases such as directory yellow page advertising and other telecommunication products and services.

When you choose Rural Telephone, Nex-Tech and Nex-Tech Wireless, you keep your dollars in the local economy to support YOUR SCHOOLS and YOUR PUBLIC RESOURCES.



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