

# Crop loss assistance available

Farm Service Agency Administrator Juan Garcia announced recently the sign-up period for the 2011 crop year Supplemental Revenue Assistance Payments program will open Oct. 22. The program is part of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill). Under the 2008 Farm Bill, the program authorizes assistance to farmers and ranchers who suffered crop losses caused by natural disasters occurring through Sept. 30, 2011.

Any eligible producer who suffered losses during the 2011 crop year is encouraged to visit a local Farm Services Agency office to learn more about the program and how to apply.

As of Sept. 30, 2011, the Department's authority to operate the program expired along with four other disaster assistance programs: the Livestock Indemnity Program, the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-Raised Fish, the Livestock Forage Disaster Program and the Tree Assistance Program. Production losses due to disasters occurring after Sept. 30, 2011, are not eligible for disaster program coverage.

To be eligible for the program, a farm or ranch must have:

- At least a 10 percent production loss on a crop of economic significance; A policy or plan of in-

urance under the Federal Crop Insurance Act or the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program for all economically significant crops; Been physically located in a county that was declared a primary disaster county or contiguous county by the Secretary of Agriculture under a Secretarial Disaster Designation.

Without a Secretarial Disaster Designation, individual producers may be eligible if the actual production on the farm is less than 50 percent of the normal production on the farm due to a natural disaster. A "farm" for program purposes means the entirety of all crop acreage in all counties that a producer planted or intended to be planted for harvest for normal commercial sale or on-farm livestock feeding, including native and improved grassland intended for haying.

Producers considered socially disadvantaged, a beginning farmer or rancher or a limited resource farmer may be eligible for the program without a policy or plan of insurance coverage.

Farmers and ranchers interested in signing up must do so before the June 7 deadline.

For more information on the 2011 program, visit any Farm Services Agency county office or [www.fsa.usda.gov/sure](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/sure).

# Country star is true to rural roots

By Ron Wilson  
Huck Boyd Institute

The Indianapolis 500 is about to begin. It's time for the singing of the national anthem. The Star Spangled Banner is sung magnificently by a lovely woman with a wonderful voice. This singer has made her mark at the top of the country and pop music charts, but she hasn't forgotten her small town roots. This superstar singer comes from rural Kansas.

Martina Mariea Schiff was born on July 29, 1966 in Medicine Lodge, Kansas to Daryl and Jeanne Schiff. Two years to the day later, her brother Martin was born. They grew up in a rural area of Barber County. Their mother, Jeanne Schiff, says they would sit on the back porch and play and sing and listen to the radio.

Their father, Daryl Schiff, was a farmer, cabinet shop owner, and country music lover. In fact, he had a band called The Schiffers, which was a play on their last name.

When Martina was just eight years old, she had a chance to sing with the band, and her amazing talent became recognized. By the time she was ten, she and her brother became regular features of the band and sang all through high school. After graduation, she moved to Wichita and sang with a band there.

In 1987, she formed her own band and was looking for rehearsal space. She began renting space from a studio engineer

named John McBride. They were married in 1988.

In 1989, they set their sights on a career in Nashville. John and Martina McBride loaded up a trailer and moved to Tennessee. She worked in a restaurant and he got a job on Garth Brooks' sound crew. She performed at a talent showcase and caught the eye of a record company. It was her big break.

"Martina called us and said, 'You guys are going to have to sit down. I'm going to be opening for Garth Brooks!'" Jeanne Schiff said. "It was like a miracle."

That was the beginning of a phenomenal Nashville career. Martina McBride went on to have 25 top 10 hits and six No. 1 hit singles. She has sold more than 18 million albums. Her brother Martin plays guitar in her band and sings backup harmony.

Martina McBride has an incredible career. She won music video of the year, female video of the year three times, the Academy of Country Music Female Vocalist of the Year award three times, and the Country Music Association Female Vocalist of the Year four times.

Her hit songs include My Baby Loves Me, Independence Day, A Broken Wing, Wrong Again, I Love You, When God-Fearin' Women Get the Blues, Blessed, Anyway, Teenage Daughters, and I'm Gonna Love You Through It. Her song This One's For the Girls is a favorite for several females I know. Her

song Teenage Daughters is also fitting, since she and John have three young daughters themselves.

Another side to Martina McBride is her humanitarian work. She is the spokeswoman for the National Domestic Violence Hotline as well as for the National Network to End Domestic Violence and has assisted with many charity events. In 2003, she won the ACM Humanitarian of the Year award. Martina sang O Holy Night as part of a Christmas album and How Great Thou Art as part of a gospel compilation.

She has not forgotten her home state of Kansas and returns frequently.

"She loves to come here," said her mother, Jeanne. "The kids do too. They get to run all over out here, which you can't do in Nashville."

In 2005 Martina McBride was named Kansan of the Year by the Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas. In 2007, a park was named for her back in her rural hometown, the Barber County town of Sharon, population 209 people. Now, that's rural.

The Indianapolis 500 is about to begin, and a country superstar from rural Kansas has sung the national anthem. We commend Martina McBride for making a difference with her hard work and incredible talent, while remaining true to her rural Kansas roots. As her song title said, this one's for the girl.

# Logan students win regional poster contest

Six-year-old Hayden Gottstine and 9-year-old Haylee Tien, both of Logan, are the northwest Kansas winners in the 2012 "Put the Brakes on Fatalities Day" poster contest.

Each student will receive a bicycle and helmet donated by Safe Kids Kansas as prizes for their artistic efforts.

The prizes will be presented by Kansas Department of Transportation at a school assembly planned for Thursday, Oct. 11 at 10:15 a.m. in the

Logan School Auditorium.

Hayden is the son of Janet and Phil Gottstine. Haylee is the daughter of Jaimie Noone.

A total of 614 kids across Kansas ages 5 to 13 took the time to think about safety and participated in the contest, which increases traffic safety awareness.

For more information, go to [www.ksdot.org](http://www.ksdot.org) and click on the safety logo.

# 'The Best Me Is Drug Free' contest seeks entries

The National Family Partnership announces the national contest for its 27th annual Red Ribbon Week, Oct. 23-31. Here's how to enter to win \$1,000 for your K-12 school and an iPad for the home:

- 1.) Students bring the Red Ribbon Week message home by working alongside parents to decorate their front door, mailbox, fence, etc. with this year's theme "The Best Me Is Drug

Free."

- 2.) Take a photo with the family and your Red Ribbon Week decoration, then upload to [www.redribbon.org/contest](http://www.redribbon.org/contest) or [www.facebook.com/RedRibbonWeek](http://www.facebook.com/RedRibbonWeek) by Nov. 2 (must be 18 or older to upload your photos).

- 3.) The voting begins. Ask your family and friends to vote for your entry at [www.redribbon.org/vote](http://www.redribbon.org/vote) Nov. 2-16. Ten winners from regions across

the U.S. will win. Winners will be announced at events at their winning schools in December.

# Battle of the badges



After the annual Battle of the Badges blood drive this summer, representatives from the American Red Cross visited the Norton Fire Department Wednesday morning to present the department with a traveling trophy for garnering the most votes from the competition. This year, a total of 112 units of blood were collected and the fire department collected 42 votes. EMS was second with 22 votes and law enforcement was third with 20 votes. Pictured, Anthony Knoll discusses the award with Steve Otter of the Norton Rural Fire Department, Katherine Younger, Red Cross Donor Recruitment representative and Mitch Jones of the Norton City Fire Department

-Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

# One lake downgraded to an advisory

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment samples recreational bodies of water for cyanobacteria, commonly called blue-green algae, when the agency is alerted to a potential algae bloom.

When a lake is under an advisory or warning, marinas, lakeside businesses, and park camping facilities remain open for business, although swim beaches will be closed. Park drinking water and showers are safe and not affected by the algae bloom. Also, it is safe to eat fish caught during a harmful blue-green algae outbreak, as long as consumers clean and rinse the fish with clean, potable water; consume only the fillet portion; and discard all other parts. People should also wash their hands with clean, potable water after handling fish taken from an affected lake.

When an advisory has been lifted, health officials say visitors to the lake should still exercise caution and look out for algae blooms in the water, as conditions can change quickly depending

on the weather. Some algae blooms can look like foam, or a thick slurry. The blooms can be blue, bright green, brown or red, and they may look like paint floating on the water. However, some blooms may not affect the appearance of the water.

- Centralia Lake, Nemaha County
- Chisholm Creek Park Lake North, Sedgwick County
- Harvey County East Lake, Harvey County
- Hiawatha Lake, Brown County
- Logan City Lake, Phillips County
- Memorial/Veterans Lake - Great Bend, Barton County
- Brown County State Fishing Lake, Brown County
- Central Park Lake, Shawnee County
- Harvey County West Park Lake, Harvey County
- Lake Scott State Park, Scott County
- McPherson County State Fishing Lake, McPherson County

# Online risk management courses begin Oct. 18

Technical Retraining to Achieve Credentials is currently accepting students for risk management courses to be delivered online starting Thursday, Oct. 18. Risk Management courses are applicable to nearly all industries and make jobseekers more employable due to their ability to reduce risks around their organization, company,

school, etc.

The Risk Management program is designed to prepare individuals for career opportunities in the risk management field and/or develop risk management expertise for already employed professionals. Those who complete the program will learn to protect assets and reduce liabilities for their employer and fellow employees. The program is offered completely online to accommodate the needs of working professionals, adult students and those not located in the

Highland Community College area.

For more information, contact Melissa Stevens by phone (785) 597-0129 or by email to [mstevens@highlandcc.edu](mailto:mstevens@highlandcc.edu).



## Duplicate Bridge

There were three tables for Duplicate Bridge played Wednesday night at Norton Manor. First place honors went to the pairing of Mary Lue Archibald and Myron Veh. Taking second place were Norman Nelson and Jerry Moritz.

Showing at the  
**NORTON THEATRE**  
**The Odd Life of Timothy Green**  
(PG) 2 Hours and 7 Minutes (Presented in Digital Sound)  
Friday and Saturday - 8:00 p.m.  
Sunday - 5:00 p.m.  
Mon., Tues., Wed., 7:00 p.m.  
**The Expendables 2**  
1 Hour, 53 Minutes, (R)

Let's Go to the Movie

All passes accepted for The Odd Life of Timothy Green; All passes accepted for The Expendables 2

Timothy Green is General Admission Price of \$6.00 and \$5.00 - \$3.00 on Sunday  
The Expendables 2 is General Admission Price of \$6.00 and \$5.00 - \$3.00 on Sunday

Visit our Website:  
[nortontheatre.com](http://nortontheatre.com)

COMING SOON

POPcorn

# Producers can get assistance

Norton County U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency Executive Director Carl Warner has announced that the agency will issue Conservation Reserve Program and Direct and Counter-cyclical Program payments during the first few weeks of October.

The agency will issue the payments timely as long as all producer eligibility requirements are met.

Payments could be affected if producers have not submitted the required Adjusted Gross In-

come forms. Affected producers will need to submit the proper forms before payments can be issued. In addition, producers who signed up for emergency haying and grazing and did not pay in advance will notice that their annual rental payment was reduced by the acreage that was hayed or grazed.

For more information on program payments, contact the Norton County Farm Services Agency office at (785) 877-5156.

Join Us for Round Up...  
**Sunday, October 7**  
at 3:00 p.m. for a  
Potluck Supper, Games,  
Singing, Fellowship for all Ages  
**FIRST CHURCH OF GOD**  
EVERYONE WELCOME!

**HACHMEISTER HSC SERVICE CENTER**  
**GRAND OPENING**  
770 N. MAIN LENORA, KS  
Monday, October 8, 2012