

Business in the Spotlight

Each month a Norton County business is featured for their valuable contribution to our economy.

This month's article was submitted by economic development board member Greg Mann.

KQNK Radio
Marvin Matchett: Manager
1530 KQNK Road
785-877-3378
www.kqnk.com

Commercial Radio Station
Marvin Matchett is the manager of Norton's KQNK Radio Station. He became involved in radio as his vocation in a round about way. While growing up in Arizona he was active in his schools' drama program. During his junior year in high school his family moved to Kansas and he became involved in the speech and debate programs offered by his new high school. But, upon graduating from high school he was unsure what he wanted to pursue educationally and vocationally. His mother convinced him to visit the TV station in Oberlin where he visited with the news person. This person encouraged Marvin to look into the new radio broadcast program being offered by the Colby Community College, which he did. Marvin fell in love with the program and more importantly, radio. And now, thirty-eight years later Marvin is still in broadcast radio.

When asked how or why he chose Norton, Marvin replied that "Norton chose me." Marvin was the manager of the Oberlin radio station when it was sold. The new owners gave him the choice of moving to Garden

City or Dodge City; while he really did not want to go to either and leave his aging parents, he chose to move to Garden City. On his return to Oberlin from house hunting in Garden City there was a message on his phone that the owner of KQNK Radio was looking for a manager, and on Oct. 1, 2001 Marvin began working at and managing KQNK Radio.

Marvin relayed that he believes to have had three big successes in his life; #1 is his having found God, second was finding and marrying his wife Millie, and thirdly being successful in bringing smiles and some laughter into peoples' lives. He pointed to his successful fund raising activity for the Greensburg tornado relief as a major professional success. He set out to raise \$5,000 in two days and ended up raising almost \$8,000.

Working in radio is challenging on a daily basis and Marvin said his work is never boring. Marvin pointed to his greatest personal challenge in the business as being when the station he worked at in Phoenix for 13 years was sold and most of the management team was let go. Marvin produced the morning show and had been recognized as "Disc Jockey of the Year" twice. The station had earned the first ever "Marconi Award" as the best radio station in the nation and the people who worked there were very close to each other. Recovering from that setback took a lot of courage and fortitude.

When asked what he would have done differently, Marvin

laughed and said "find something to do that pays better than radio!" He then grew serious and said there was not much he would change. He said his "radio journey has not been perfect, but it has been educational, challenging, rewarding and tons of fun."

Marvin's vision of his future always includes Norton. He loves the community and its people; he never thought that when he left Phoenix he would find another place that he would love more, but he has. Marvin said his dream is to some day own KQNK, but if that does not happen he is satisfied with being the manager "til they kick me out."

Marvin is really encouraged about Norton's business climate and economy. He is very excited about the many things going on right now; he described Norton as "exploding." He believes Norton is what most rural communities aspire to be and the leadership of our community has Norton headed in the right direction. He is very excited to be part of this growth and he believes the most rewarding part of his business is working with the people of Norton.

When asked what advice he could give to other business owners in Norton, Marvin laughed and responded "buy radio commercials!" He then grew serious and said, "Stay positive and remember customer service above all else. How you treat your customers will determine your future with them."

Correctional employees recognized

Norton Correctional Facility Employees of the 1st Quarter 2013

Uniformed: Jerry Dawson
Jerry began his career with Norton Correctional Facility in July 2006 as a Corrections Officer. He was promoted to Corrections Officer II in July 2011. Jerry has worked many different posts and is currently assigned to work the Sally Port.

Officer Dawson is noted to be very security minded. He is diligent in keeping the Sally



Port area neat and clean. He does an excellent job of main-

taining the grounds within the Sally Port by keeping the snow removed during the winter months and the grass mowed during the summer months. As a Sally Port officer he is in charge of many different types of searches and does an excellent job. He is very detailed in carrying out his duties. He often times works overtime on his days off. He is noted to be friendly, positive and does what he can to help build staff morale.

Norton Correctional Facility Employees of the 1st Quarter 2013

Contract: Heather Bausch
Heather is employed by Correct Care Solutions as a LPN. Heather started in September 2006 and currently works on the day and the night shift. Heather is a valued and great part of the CCS team. She began her employment with CCS as a Certified Medication Aide, has since achieved her LPN de-



gree, and is currently studying

to become a Registered Nurse. Heather is always very pleasant, dependable and professional, she never complains. She has volunteered to work the night shift when there was no one to work. She has good assessment skills and works with the optometrist. Her co-workers and supervisors state that Heather works very hard to do her part in keeping CCS in Norton the top in the nation.

Norton Correctional Facility Employees of the 1st Quarter 2013

Non-uniformed: Charles Husted

Charles worked with Norton Correctional Facility in 1987 and 1988 as a Corrections Officer I, Corrections Officer II and Corrections Officer III. He left and returned in November 2010 as a Facilities Mainte-



nance Supervisor. Charles is always going out of his way to make sure Norton Correctional Facility is as safe an environment as possible. He is very security minded and communicates well with unit staff. He is highly respected for both his abilities and dedication to his job, as well as his co-workers and the public.

Culinary debate turns into a festival

By Ron Wilson

Huck Boyd Institute

"My meatloaf is better than your meatloaf." "No, my meatloaf is better than your meatloaf." This type of culinary debate creates lots of discussion. In this case, it led to the creation of a remarkable community festival. Get your fork, it's today's Kansas Profile.

Larry and Peggy Winkler are antique store owners and organizers of this festival in Paxico. Larry and Peggy both have rural roots. Larry grew up near Riley, population 848, and Peggy comes from Centralia, population 518. They met at K-State. Larry went on to a career in accounting and Peggy recently retired from the university.

"We bought antiques for our home," Larry said. "In fact, we still have the first piece which we acquired." Through the years, Larry and Peggy enjoyed searching for vintage items. With early retirement approaching, they started selling some of these treasures.

The Winklers rented space. Then in 2010 they purchased a store in Paxico. In 2012, they expanded into the building next door. Today, Aunt Peg's Antique Mall features a variety of antiques and collectibles. Their historic limestone store building has ornate tin ceilings, classic wood floors, a tin storefront overhang, and more.

Because Paxico has several antique stores and is located close to the interstate, it has developed a significant antique business. Aunt Peg's Antique

Mall has sold items to people from coast to coast and as far away as Australia and Sweden.

"We enjoy it," Larry said. "Most of all, we enjoy meeting the people."

One activity which brings lots of people to town is a relatively new event called the Paxico Meatloaf Festival. What in the world is a meatloaf festival?

"There were two restaurants in Paxico at the time," Larry explained. "One of them started serving a meatloaf dinner, so the other one had to do the same. They started arguing over who had the best meatloaf so they finally had a contest to decide which one was best."

One thing led to another. The Great Meatloaf Debate developed into a community festival. The two original restaurants have closed, but Paxico merchants have formalized the contest and built a festival around it. Cooks from around the region now enter their meatloaf and compete for the top prize. Entries have come from as far away as Minnesota.

The meatloaf is evaluated on taste, texture, and appearance or presentation. There are cash prizes for the winners, plus gifts from the Kansas Beef Council and Grandma Hoerners. The winner serves as King or Queen of the parade.

That's right, I said King or Queen. It's not just women who enter. "Last year our top three winners were men," Peggy said. One of those had seen his wife win the previous year.

These artisans of the kitchen

get really creative. In addition to the traditional meatloaf recipe, there has been a German meatloaf with sauerkraut, meatloaf with bacon woven in a lattice pattern on top, and a Mexican flavor meatloaf with taco flavoring. I never knew this dish could be so versatile.

For 2013, the event is expanding with a flea market and a pie bakeoff. (Great! That means there's dessert to go with the main course.) Antique cars and tractors will be on display plus the parade and lots of family fun. There is no admission charge.

"It's a family event," Larry said. "The Paxico Merchants Association coordinates the festival, but we've had outstanding community support and sponsorship from many area merchants." Last year some 400 to 500 people attended, which is especially remarkable when one considers that Paxico is a rural community of only 210 people. Now, that's rural.

New additions have come to the community recently. Two art galleries, a winery and a museum recently opened. For more information, go to www.paxico-merchants.com.

"My meatloaf is better than your meatloaf." "No, my meatloaf is better than your meatloaf." The great debate continues in fun as the community benefits. We commend Larry and Peggy Winkler and all those involved with the annual Paxico Meatloaf Festival for making a difference with this community celebration. It looks like they have a lot on their plate.

Wheat variety tour on June 11

K-State Research and Extension and Twin Creeks Extension District, also with Steve Washburn, will be hosting the Wheat Variety Tour on Tuesday, June 11 at 7 p.m. To get to the plot, go west of Norton on U.S. Highway 36 for approximately 6.5

miles. Go past the Highway 36 and 383 intersection. The plot is located on the north side of U.S. 36 near mile-marker 110. Wheat signs are up in front of the plots and are able to be viewed. The public is invited.

Jim Shroyer, K-State Extension

Agromonist; Daryl Strouts of the Kansas Wheat Alliance will be on hand to feature varieties and other related wheat topics. Some varieties featured are: 1863, Denali, Ruby Lee, Southwind, Wolf and Tam 111.

Norton FFA member competes for top honor

Norton FFA member Dylan Sprigg competed as a finalist against five other district stars for the state's top honor of State Star Farmer May 29-31 at the 85th Kansas FFA Convention on the Kansas State University campus.

Each year, the Kansas FFA Association recognizes three FFA members who have the top Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) programs with the Star Farmer, Star in Agribusiness and Star in Ag Placement awards. The Star competitions are sponsored by ICM, Inc., United Bank and Trust and Kan-

sas Farm Bureau.

Sprigg's SAE is in Diversified Livestock Production Entrepreneurship. He owns 16 cow/calf pairs and sells the calves at weaning weight each fall. In addition to raising cattle, Sprigg also purchases four hogs to show and sell at the county fair. He said his greatest challenge

is watching the livestock markets to determine when to buy and sell cattle as well as watch the grain markets to determine when to keep feeding grain or if he should turn his cattle out to pasture.

Sprigg is the son of Dwight and Michelle Sprigg. His advisor is Garrett Beydler.

Entries needed for Chamber photo contest

CONTEST ALERT! The Norton Area Chamber of Commerce is in need of more great photos of activities/places/people in Norton County. Submit your photo by June 15 - the winner gets a \$100 Chamber Gift Certificate, good at many local stores.

To submit your entry, like the Visit Norton Facebook page www.facebook.com/visitenorton and then post your photo to the site. You can also drop by your photo in hard copy to the Chamber office at 205 S. Street in Norton, Kansas or email your photo to nortonccc@ruraltel.net. By submitting your photo, you give the Chamber the rights to use your photo in any marketing and promotional materials deemed appropriate.

For any questions, contact the Chamber office at 785-877-2501. Thanks for your help and good luck!

WANTED!

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Ya'll are invited to join us at VBS
JUNE 10 THROUGH JUNE 14
6:00 - 8:00 P.M.
Don't Dilly Dally-come join us for Bible Stories, Bug Juice and Biscuits, Music and Crafts!
Have questions or need more information:
Cindy Voss: 785-871-0594 or Brenda Dole: 785-871-0244
FOR AGES 4 THROUGH SIXTH GRADE



SANDER FURNITURE'S

FATHER'S DAY EVENT

FRIDAY, JUNE 7 - 8 A.M.-9 P.M.
SATURDAY, JUNE 8 - 9 A.M.-6 P.M.
SUNDAY, JUNE 9 - 1 P.M.-5 P.M.

No Matter if You are Looking for Dad's Gift or Great Prices for New Furniture and Mattresses, This Weekend Event is the One to Attend!!

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Norton, Kansas - Phone 785-874-4974
DOWNTOWN - HIGHWAY 283
Norton, Kansas - Phone 785-874-5102

COLLEGE NOTES

Demetria Fanchon Stephens of Jennings was among more than 2,750 students who received degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln at

commencement exercises May 3 and 4.

Stephens received a bachelor of journalism degree from the College of Journalism and Mass

tained are listed below.

Jordan Bebb of Lenora, KS, Associate of General Studies degree;

Michael Callaway of Almena,

Communications.

The graduates are from 44 states and 36 countries.

KS, Associate of General Studies degree;

Ashley Esslinger of Norton, KS, Associate of Applied Science degree;

Kansas

Norton

Brock Daniel Lauer - Construction Management/Human Resource Management



On Saturday, May 18, 2013, in Lynn Farrell Arena, 224 undergraduates and 18 Master of Arts in Teaching students graduated from Hastings College.

The degree recipients are listed below.

Bachelor of Arts

Call Mike with all your social news.
877-3361