

## FOCUS ON KANSAS PROGRAMS FOR 2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER 2013

- 4-7 Jamie Rathbun, K-State Research and Extension family and consumer sciences agent in Ellsworth County, discussed some of the things people can do ahead of time to be ready for a disaster as it relates to key documents, what things you need, and where they should be stored. Reno County Sheriff Randy Henderson also discussed a series of meetings the department is sponsoring dealing with bullying.
- 4-14 Becky Spencer of Grandstaff Ministries discussed the work of their organization, which works with needy children in Africa, especially children whose parents have died from AIDS or other HIV-related diseases. Kay-Ann Graham from the Early Education Center discussed activities related to Week of the Young Child.
- 4-21 Program featured Elizabeth Smart, who gave the Dillon Lecture at Hutchinson Community College and talked about her experience after being kidnapped from her Utah home at age 14 and being held captive for several months, and how her life has been impacted as a result. As part of that, she discussed her advocacy for victims of similar crimes.
- 4-28 Deborah Bartlett from Main Street Sterling discussed the community's Pots and Pedals Festival, and Lorna Nelson from the McPherson County Old Mill Museum talked about Millfest, which features the running of the historic Smoky Valley Roller Mill in Lindsborg.
- 5-5 Mike Rausch, co-chairman and historian of the McPherson County All Schools Day Celebration, discussed some of the history behind the annual event that honors school children and is in its 100<sup>th</sup> year in 2013.
- 5-12 Gary Sechrist, superintendent of Lyons USD 405, discussed a \$13.25 million dollar bond issue voters in the district will consider June 4<sup>th</sup>. The project's major item was the construction of an addition onto Lyons High School to accommodate students now at the 1930 era Lyons Middle School. Sechrist explained the process that went into development of the bond issue including various options that were looked at including renovating the existing middle school.
- 5-19 Megan Gottschalk, chapter manager of the Central Kansas Chapter American Red Cross, discussed a number of topics including upcoming blood drives and their Hometown Heroes project, which recognizes several individuals for contributions that go above and beyond the normal. (Also see 6-16)
- 5-26 Chris Palacios from Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in South Hutchinson discussed their annual Fiesta, which is one of their major fundraisers each year supporting church projects and activities. The program also featured Bill Spiegel from Kansas Wheat, who talked about the National Festival of Breads, a biennial amateur baking contest held at Kansas State University.
- 6-2 This week's program featured K-State Research and Extension nutrition specialist Mary Mack Higgins, who talked about including more whole grain foods in the diet.
- 6-9 Katie Ross from the Reno County Health Department and Hutchinson Reno County Chamber of Commerce Community Development Director Bailey Stiggins discussed the HEAL Cooperative, a group that works to promote healthy lifestyles in Reno County. The Cooperative is a new group resulting from the merger of two other organizations that had been working on various aspects of this. One of the major initiatives the group is involved with is improving walking and bike access in various parts of Reno county.
- 6-16 (ONE HOUR PROGRAM) This week's program featured the second annual Hometown Heroes Presentation of the Central Kansas Chapter American Red Cross. (For details on the program, refer to the May 19<sup>th</sup> Focus on Kansas)
- 6-23 Irene Hart, housing program manager for the City of Hutchinson, talked about a number of issues that have been under discussion by the city regarding addressing housing issues in the city. Particular focus was given to issues regarding substandard housing in the city, how property maintenance codes are enforced, and efforts to address a need for "workforce housing" in the city.
- 6-30 Julie Tommer from the Sterling Chamber of Commerce discussed Sterling's Old Fashioned 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration, including the 75<sup>th</sup> annual turtle races and one of the area's largest fireworks displays. John Brown and Vaden Daugherty from the Mid State Street Rods talked about their annual Show and Shine Car Display July 3<sup>rd</sup> in Carey Park. This event in recent years had been held as part of Hutchfest, an event that has been sharply curtailed for this year.