



Phyllis Harting, Norton, had her bags filled with daffodils, ready to make her deliveries for the American Cancer Society. Wednesday and Thursday volunteers covered the city delivering the cheery, yellow symbols of spring. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Horse Council asks city to help enclose arena

By VERONICA MONIER
The Norton County Council wants to enclose its arena but it needs the city's help.

Horse Council President Scott Sproul visited with the Norton City Council at its meeting Wednesday about the proposed enclosure, which would be larger than allowed under the present agreement with the city.

Mr. Sproul said the enclosure would be handicap accessible and meet fire code. It would have its own sound system, restrooms, seating stand, office and concessions area, and would be wired so it could be used by the Arts Council or other agencies for concerts and events.

He said scheduling fees would pay for maintenance and utilities. The council is looking for an engineer and would need to put fencing around some of the race track to ensure safety.

Mr. Sproul said the council will be applying for the tax credit program to pay for the project. With the program, business and individuals can buy the tax credits and take them off of their taxes.

"That's money that would stay in the community instead of going to Topeka," he said.

"We're looking at this as an economic development project. If we have about three big events, then that brings people in and they will spend money here. We are trying to be pro-active and make a positive facility for the county to use."

The estimated cost is \$300,000 to \$500,000.

Councilman Ron Briery had some questions.

"When you sold us on the idea of the equine facility, it was based on 4-H," he said. "It seems like we're getting away from that."

"How is this facility going to affect public access? Right now, anyone can go down and ride their horse in the arena. Will they be able to do that if this new facility is built?"

Mr. Sproul said while things aren't all set, a small fee would probably be charged to cover the cost of the utilities and maintenance.

Later in the meeting, Mr. Briery said he isn't sure about the proposed arena.

"We may need to look at moving it before anything new gets built," he said. "I'm not saying I'm against it or for it, but I think we need to take a long look at what we might be getting into here."

Councilman George Jones agreed.

However, the city approved a revised agreement with the horse council for the tract of land in Elmwood Park directly west of the race track rail. The agreement would need to be amended if their proposed improvement project is funded.

In other business, the council:

- Held a public hearing for discussion of waste water treatment improvements. Thaniel Monaco

of Miller and Associates of McCook said the city will have six months after getting the loan from the state for the improvements before making the first payment. Sewer rates will need to be raised to pay for the loan.

• Contributed \$1,500 to replace the lights around the racetrack and authorized city staff to put up the lights.

Councilman Jerry Hawks said the money will be taken from the electric fund because of the anticipated savings from the new energy-efficient lights. Norton County also contributed money from its park fund.

• Heard from Mr. Briery that in October the council approved a bid of \$6,680 from Powerhouse Diesel Services for the inspection of engine No. 7 at the power plant. He said because the representative from the company has had health problems, they haven't been able to reach him and he hasn't completed the work.

The council decided to approve an estimate of \$6,750 plus travel fees from Cooper Energy Services for the inspection of engines No. 7 and No. 8, and decided to notify Powerhouse that another firm has been hired to do the work.

• Asked Glassman Corp. to provide an estimate of the cost for removing the library boiler and installing a new heating and cooling system because the old one isn't working well.

Annual bridge tournament planned

The annual Norton National Bridge Tournament will be held April 15, 22 and 29, the three consecutive Thursdays after Easter, at the Norton American Legion.

All area Bridge players are asked to enter, as this is strictly a fun tournament for players of all levels, from beginners to advanced players. Players will enter as teams and will play the three evenings together.

City crews have been busy putting up the tournament street names, i.e. Slam Blvd., Blackwood Ave., Rubber St., etc.

Karl Kohfeld, chairman of the Holidome committee, said that the Holidome will not be finished in time for this year's tournament as planned because the chandeliers have not yet arrived. Therefore, the Chamber of Commerce has requested that local citizens wishing to provide Bed and Breakfast register with the Chamber.

The Substitute Rule will again be in effect this year. Any player or team that has to miss an evening can enter a substitute player or team.

Entry fee for the tournament will be \$5 per person or \$10 per team. The tournament contact this year will be Mary Jane (M. J.) Wahlmeier. To reach her call (785) 877-3141, e-mail MJWally2000@yahoo.com or mail her at 314 N. Brown, Norton, Kan. 67654.

Permits on 'sale' through March 31

Annual Kansas state park permits are available now at reduced rates.

Through Wednesday, March 31, motor vehicle permits are discounted to \$35.50. A second permit for a vehicle registered to the same owner is \$20.50. Permits for Kansas residents 65 and older or residents with a Kansas handicapped license plate or placard are \$18.25 and \$10.75 for a second vehicle.

Annual camping permits are \$151.

The permits allow free entrance to all Kansas state parks for the rest of the year. Camping permits allow the holder to stay, free of charge, with the exception of utility fees.

Permits may be purchased at the

Prairie Dog State Park office between 8 a.m. and 4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Two accidents reported

The Norton County Sheriff's Department reported two accidents in late February.

On Feb. 26 Zackery C. Otter, 16, New Almelo, was westbound on K-9 when he lost control of the 1978 Chevrolet he was driving and went into the south ditch.

There were no injuries. The Chevy sustained over \$500 in damages.

On Feb. 28 Daylah J. Elliott, 20, Smith Center, was driving a 2000 Ford Focus west on U.S. 36 when she fell asleep at the wheel, and lost control of her vehicle.

The Ford went down an embankment of the north ditch, and rolled into a pasture.

Ms. Elliot was wearing her seat belt and sustained no injuries. The Focus had over \$500 in damages.

Norton hosts music contest

Norton hosted the Mid-Continent Elementary League Music Contest Feb. 25. Other schools participating were Phillipsburg, WaKeeney, Stockton, Smith Center, Osborne, Victoria, Plainville, Hill City and Ellis.

The Norton Junior High band received a 2 rating, while the junior high choir received a 1-

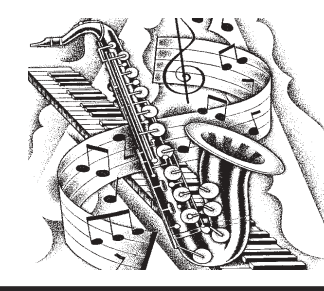
Students receiving a 1 rating were: Alyssa Farber, vocal solo; Jacob VanSkiel, piano solo; Flute Choir; Jessica Gilgenbach, piano solo; Kyle Mindrup, clarinet solo; KaraJo Jones, horn solo; percussion ensemble; Bryce Lofgreen,

vocal solo; Tabitha Vincent, vocal solo; Vocal Sextet; Cyndie Milnes, vocal solo; Laura Lee Baird, saxophone solo; Zach Bainter, piano solo; Kyle Morel, flute solo; Tabitha Vincent, trombone solo; brass ensemble; and Sara Lentz, piano solo.

Receiving 2 ratings were: Lori Ebner, vocal solo; Cherean Kendell, vocal solo; Bri Cook, vocal solo; Girls Small Ensemble; KaraJo Jones, piano solo; Courtney Cox, saxophone solo; clarinet ensemble; Kyle Edgett, baritone sax solo; Karlynn Kent, piano solo; Cody Bredemeier,

trumpet solo; Cindel Harrington, vocal solo; Brittany Boucher, tuba solo; Ben Wuest, tuba solo; Saxophone Choir; Alyssa Farber, piano solo; and Karlynn Kent, clarinet solo.

Receiving 3 ratings were Jessica Gilgenbach, clarinet solo, and Ashley Smith Maybon, flute solo.



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