

Tuesday,
March 16, 2004

Norton, Kansas
Home of Lottie Wiltfong

Briefly

Register to vote
through Monday

Any Norton County resident who needs to register to vote has through Monday to do so. The books for registration will remain closed until Wednesday, April 7.

Any citizen, who is 18 or will be 18 before the next election, must register before they can vote. When a registered voter changes residence, they need to re-register.

You can register to vote at the Norton city office, Almena city office, Clayton city library, Lenora city office, county health department, Norton Social Rehabilitation Service office and the county clerk's office.

Animal disease
meeting planned

Organizers want to help developed a plan in case of a terrorist attack involving foreign animal disease in Norton County.

A meeting will be held at 7 p.m., Thursday, April 1, at the 4-H Building in Norton.

County and city workers, ranchers, veterinarians, health care workers and area businesses are asked to attend. The meeting will be conducted by Alvin Mapes, Norton County emergency preparedness coordinator; Dr. Hallie Hasel, USAA Veterinarian Services from Leoti; and David Cuthbertson, Kansas Animal Health Department.

Blood drive
set for March 24

The American Red Cross is conducting a blood drive from 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. on Thursday, March 25, at the National Guard Armory, Norton.

To make an appointment call (800) 448-3543.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s. North winds 5 to 15 mph.

Wednesday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the upper 60s. Southeast winds 5 to 15 mph shifting to the west 10 to 20 mph in the afternoon. **Wednesday night** — Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 30s. North winds around 10 mph shifting to the west after midnight. **Thursday** — Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 60s. West winds 5 to 10 mph.

Howell report:

Friday	High 66, Low 41
Saturday	High 68, Low 26
Sunday	High 58, Low 40
Monday	High 54, Low 23
Week ago	High 70, Low 33
Month ago	High 39, Low 21
Year ago	High 78, Low 41
March precipitation	0.32 inches
Year-to-date precipitation	2.42 inches

(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

Prayer

God, may we see your tender mercies and hear your words of comfort. Teach us to express your love to others in need. Amen.

Board flip flops; OKs tennis court money

By VERONICA MONIER

Parents left Monday night's Norton School Board meeting disappointed after the board decided to wait until the next meeting to make a decision to help pay for the tennis courts. But before the meeting ended, the board reversed itself and voted to donate \$3,375 to pay for the repairs as long as the city matched that amount.

Jay Holste, who is heading up the effort to gather funds to repair and replace the tennis courts, told the board that the courts

are asphalt and were paid for by the Department of the Interior, the Norton School District and the City of Norton. He said he wasn't sure why the courts were deteriorating, but they've been there for 26 years and most highways start crumbling after 25 years.

Mr. Holste said he was disappointed when he learned he would not be able to have new courts built for the 2004 tennis season because it would be impossible to get the money together in time.

"I thought new courts could be built for \$40,000 but learned that it will be twice that much," he said. "And that's just for three courts. For a fourth court, another \$20,000 will be needed."

Mr. Holste said he contacted a company in Omaha about the cost of fixing the courts. After reviewing pictures, the company said it would cost about \$13,500 for a fix that would last three to five years.

"I believe that with a joint effort we can do this," he said. "I can vouch that the

community will raise \$6,750 with the possibility of a grant putting in \$2,500 of it. The city said they would donate \$3,375 which leaves \$3,375 left for the school."

Mr. Holste said they still need to look at building new courts. Repairs would just be a way to buy time to raise the money. He said he will continue working on the project until it is resolved.

Later in the meeting, Board member Jeff Nielsen said he voted against decid-

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Both Hannah Fulton (above) on flute and Emily Juenemann (below) on piano participated in the solo instrumental category during the Norton County 4-H Club Day Saturday morning at the junior high. Both of the young women received a blue rating for their performances. — Telegram photos by Veronica Monier



4-H talents
are shown
at Club Day

By KEITH P. VANSKIKE,
Norton County Extension director

The Norton County 4-H Club Day showed off the young people's many talents to "Make The Best Better", as the 4-H motto goes.

This year the annual event was held on Saturday at the Norton Junior High School.

Presentations given and placings were as follows:

Project Talks — Melinda Becker, Busy Jayhawkers, regional blue; and Carissa

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County purchases much-needed trucks

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

After four to five months of looking, Norton County has finally purchased two Mack semi-trailer trucks to haul sand trailers for the Road and Bridge Department.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom Brannan and employee Steve Thompson flew to Houston, Texas, to find the trucks they wanted after looking all over Kansas plus southern Nebraska and eastern Colorado for two used Mack trucks in good condition with reasonable mileage at a price the county could afford. The county had purchased a truck in November but still wanted to get two more before the spring road work gets started.

The men got the trucks from Houston Mack. One of the trucks they were able to bring back but the other had already

been sent off to another dealership in Chicago. The truck company will get the truck back and send it to Norton County, Mr. Brannan said.

"We're going to have some real good trucks," he said. "They are still putting the radio in, but they're sound. They're tight."

The county is paying \$33,500 each for the trucks. The one that the men drove back had 243,000 miles on it and it got another 1,000 miles on the drive back. The other one has about 280,000 miles on it. This is considered good mileage on these trucks, which should go well over 1 million miles.

The trucks were originally owned by Haliburton, Mr. Brannan said. The safety stickers from Haliburton were still on them but the company's name stickers had been removed from the doors, dam-

aging the paint.

Haliburton trades its trucks off every five years, he said, for tax purposes.

Both trucks have cement blowers which the county will remove and sell.

"If we could sell those for \$2,000 to \$3,000 each it would lower the price even more," Mr. Brannan said.

"We have no use for them. The dealership said they didn't want them."

The county plans to sell three of its older trucks now that it has the newer ones.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Heard from County Health Nurse Gina Frack that she is applying for seven renewable grants. Four of them the county gets on its own and three it goes in with other agencies. She will apply for grant for risk management of chronic diseases

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Nursing
home in
the 'black'

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

The Andbe Home in Norton did a lot of remodeling and still ended the year in the black, directors and those who attended the annual meeting on Thursday heard.

Home Administrator Coni Park told the 40 to 50 people gathered for the meeting in the renovated dining room of the facility that the year had included two large projects — replacing all the windows and installation of automatic fire sprinklers in the south, west and east halls.

These two projects, while they don't show up much, have done a lot to help the facility despite the mess they caused while work was in progress.

"The first week of December was when Darlene (McEwen, resident resource coordinator) wanted to get the decorating done for Christmas and she was told that she would have to work around the sprinkler crews," Mrs. Park said.

Other projects included updating the intercom system, installation of a compact disc player and a job swap, in which staff members work in another department for a day to see what the rest of the staff does.

The staff has also been busy implementing the new federal laws on privacy, learning cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and set up a support group on loss for residents. The loss group allows residents the opportunity to talk about losses in their lives.

The Andbe Home has new mattresses for all rooms, a new washing machine, new floor machine, new lawnmower and a soft-serve ice cream machine.

When the financial report was given those in attendance were told that the facility had made \$52,136 the last year. In 1999 the facility made \$130,559, in 2000, it lost \$129,303; in 2001 it lost \$44,868; and last year it made \$16,009.

In other business, attendees:

- Learned that 20 employees were recognized by the Kansas Association of Homes and Services for the aging for having 15 or more years of service to the home.
- Heard that the average age for residents is 91.7 years. There are 17 men and 60 women in the home and 29 people have moved in in the last year.
- Elected Dwight Heikes, a retired military man; Dick Porter, an incumbent and retired school teacher; and Gloria Zwickle an incumbent and businesswoman to seats on the board.
- Enjoyed cookies and tea and coffee served by the North Dividers club at the end of the meeting.

Fundraiser set
for March 27

Norton County Big Brothers and Big Sisters is hoping to hit a strike with its latest fundraiser — Bowl For Kids Sake.

Teams are forming now to bowl between 11:30 a.m. and 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 27, at Rainbow Lanes in Norton.

People are asked to form a team of four to five people. Each bowler has a goal of raising \$100 in pledges. The



Norton CARES volunteer Alberta Metheny assists Beth Bryant as Elton Bryant looked on. Both Mr. and Mrs. Bryant are being given a ride to the Doctors Clinic in Norton. For information on volunteering for or requesting assistance from Norton CARES, call Ramona at 877-352.

— Telegram photo by Cynthia Haynes

County health may be able to get grants

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separately this year.

In the past she has applied with Phillips County and received \$2,000. It is possible to get up to \$10,000, however, if Norton County goes alone, she said. However, it is a competitive grant and it is possible the county won't get it again.

The money from this grant goes to put on the Vita-band exercise sessions at the Senior Citizens Center and Mrs. Frack hopes to use it for an after school program for Big Brothers/Big Sisters.

- Learned that the health department is collecting some of the back due money from Medicaid. The

February statement showed a profit from these payments.

- Received a report on the county Extension Service from County Extension Agent Keith VanSkiike. Including providing information on irrigation, pest control, calf management, water tests and wells and grazing. He also worked with Multi-County Extension Agent Brian Olson on a Cover Your Acres program in Oberlin and helped with the Bankers Award program in February. The Extension is also working closely with the 4-H clubs and starting to plan the annual county fair.

Commissioner John Miller

asked why Smith County was judged dryer than Norton County for federal help. This cost farmers and ranchers up to \$100,000, he said.

- Heard from acting Emergency Medical Director Andy Nielsen that the ambulances have made 77 runs this year. At the same time last year the ambulance had had about 50 calls.

Mr. Nielsen showed the commissioners a jumpsuit that he is interested in purchasing for the winter. The jumpsuits would be impervious to blood, keep the emergency medical technicians warm and provide protection. The suits would also have reflective

stripes. Each would cost \$239. Mr. Nielsen said he would like two to four suits.

- Learned that Sharon Broyles is asking that a road about a mile southeast of Lenora be reopened. Although the road has never been closed, Mr. Brannan said, it is only a trail because it has never been used or maintained. Before the road could be rebuilt, he said, the area would have to be surveyed and the land owners in the area notified.

- Heard that the county has been asked to do dirt work for new tennis courts at Eisenhower Elementary School. Commissioner John Miller said he has some problems with that location because of lack of parking and access for the community.

- Learned that Solid Waste Supervisor Curt Archibald is looking at what other counties are doing to increase recycling. The commissioners hope to increase the amount done here so that the new landfill will not fill up so fast when it is finally approved and built.

- Held a 10-minute closed session on non-elected personnel.

Instrumental Solo — Jacob VanSkiike, Busy Jayhawkers, regional blue on piano. Others receiving blues were: Jessica Gilgenbach, Busy Jayhawkers, piano; Johnnye Ruder, Busy Beavers, piano; Kyra Fulton, Busy Beavers, percussion; Hannah Fulton, Busy Beavers, flute; Emily Juenemann, Busy Beavers, piano; Katrina Wentz, Prairie Dog, flute; Megan Wentz, Prairie Dog, recorder; Annette Becker, Busy Jayhawkers, tuba; Tyler Montgomery, Cedar Ridge, baritone; Kynzie Stevens, Cedar Ridge, piano; Megan Cole, Cedar Ridge, trumpet; Alison Cole, Cedar Ridge, piano. Those receiving reds were: Alison Cole, Cedar Ridge, saxophone; Tyler Montgomery, Cedar Ridge, piano; and Diedra Kramer, Prairie Dog, flute.

Talent/Skit — Busy Jayhawkers 4-H Club, regional blue; and Prairie Dog 4-H Club, regional blue.

Model Meetings — Prairie Dog

4-H Club, regional blue; Busy Jayhawkers 4-H Club, blue.

Other Dance — Katrina Wentz, Prairie Dog, regional blue; Carissa and Hannah Fulton; Kelli Johnson; Melissa and Dana Hillebrand; Monica, Alison, Megan and Kelli Cole; Karen, Josh and Luke VanSkiike; Annette Becker; Pat Burton; Mary Vanover; and Beverly Kindler.

The 4-H'ers who received a regional blue will be competing at the regional 4-H Club Day event in Osborne on Friday, March 26.

Fundraiser cash to go to kids

(Continued from Page 1)

team with the best score will be awarded the traveling trophy.

If you would like to be a team captain or join a team, call Erin Manning at 874-4200.

Big Brothers and Big Sisters was able to match 30 children in Norton County with an adult mentor last year. This year the goal is 50 children.

In Norton County, 200 youth qualify for the Big Brothers Big Sisters program.

Many of these young people come from single parent homes with little contact from an absent parent. Some have lost a parent to early death, and some are enrolled in the program with a referral.

A common myth about the organization is that only troubled children are enrolled. In fact, many children in the program are outstanding students, athletes and artists. Many simply need an extra adult role model to provide one-on-one attention.

Studies have found that youth

matched with a Big Brother or Sister are much less likely to start using drugs, to start drinking, to skip school or engage in violent behavior. They are more likely to have a positive attitude, more self-confidence and better relationships with teachers and other adults. Mentoring gets results.

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Norton district adds to funds for courts

(Continued from Page 1)

ing anything right away because he didn't want to rush. He said this would be a temporary fix, but didn't see anything wrong with repairing the courts.

The board decided to discuss re-instating the tennis program at the next meeting after seeing what happens with the proposed repairs and fundraising.

In other business, the board:

- Heard that Doug Reusink was named Kansas boys basketball coach of the year by the National High School Coaches Association, Doug Ray and Deyton Hager were named 3-2-1A assistant coaches of the year and Fig Millan was named media person of the year by the Kansas Wrestling Coaches. Superintendent Greg Mann congratulated Coach Bill Johnson on winning the state wrestling tournament.

- Learned that the East Campus gym floor did not need to be replaced, but could just be sanded and painted, which will give the

district another 12 to 15 years of use. Mr. Mann said both the East Campus floor and the high school gym floors could be re-sanded and painted for about half of the price of replacing the East Campus floor.

He said he contracted Sloan Plumbing to reroute the plumbing from under the floor at East Campus, but needed approval to treat for termites. The board accepted a bid from Von Lintel Floor Refinishing of Hays to sand and paint both floors and Oked termite treatment.

- Directed the board clerk to republish the 2003-'04 general fund budget. Mr. Mann said the district got to include 1.6 students as part of the enrollment and with republishing the budget, the district would have \$6,181 more in the general fund. Republishing the budget will not affect the mill levy but a hearing will be held at the April 12 meeting.

- Set summer school to two sessions of two hours each at the suggestion of Principal Larry Hillman.

- Left the fee for summer driver's education at \$50 for in-district students and \$100 for out-of-district students. Mr. Mann said the average price other districts charge is \$85 for in-district students and \$164 for out-of-district students.

- Accepted a bid from Norton Glass for \$11,204 for the replacement of the boys locker room windows at the East Campus gym.

- Continued participation in the Parents as Teachers program. Norton County Facilitator Michelle Bohl said that the program helped families.

Mr. Mann said last year the program cost the district \$6,664 and would probably cost more this year. Board member Pam Shelton said she had participated in the program with her children and liked it. The board approved participation 6-1 with board member Elaine Lofgreen voting no.

- Approved the revised food service budget, allowing an additional \$20,000 if necessary.

FARM

Consignment
Auction

West Hwy. 36

SATURDAY, APRIL 17

Now accepting consignments for the spring consignment auction. Will be accepting all farm related items, vehicles, livestock supplies and equipment, trucks, tractors, machinery, trailers, and other inventory you may want to turn into cash. Turn in your consignments early for advertising purposes. Several items already consigned — to add yours or for more information, call McMullen & Wyatt Auctions 785-877-3299, Donald 785-877-2028, or Robert at 785-877-2731. No household items please.

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