

Church:

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Page 6 & 7

Vol. 97, No. 25
75 cents

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

Honor:

It takes a lot of work and a fair amount of brains to belong to the Norton and Northern Valley National Honor Society.

Pages 8, 9 & 10

Friday

March 26, 2004

Norton, Kansas

Home of Ellsworth LeBeau

Briefly

City Council

to meet Monday

The Norton City Council will meet at 7 p.m. Monday for a special session at the city building to discuss helping pay for repairs to the Norton tennis courts and approve a public hearing for the proposed airport apron project.

Special meeting set for Monday

The Norton School Board will hold a special meeting Monday at noon to discuss the district’s continued membership in the Fort Hays Educational Development Center.

‘B’ folks need to renew tags

March is the month for renewing automobile, pickup, motorcycle and motorized bike tags for persons whose last name begins with the letter “B” or businesses or lease companies whose name begins with the letter “B”.

You need proof of insurance for each vehicle, which includes the vehicle identification number, policy number and expiration date. The computers are shut off at 4:30 p.m. to balance the day’s business.

If you have any questions, please call the treasurer’s office at 877-5795.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of thunderstorms. Windy with lows in the upper 50s. South winds 20 to 30 mph. **Saturday** — Partly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of thunderstorms. Breezy and cooler with highs in the upper 60s. West winds 15 to 25 mph shifting to the North in the afternoon. **Saturday Night** — Partly cloudy and cooler with lows around 40. Northwest winds 10 to 20 mph. **Sunday** — Partly cloudy with highs in the lower 60s. Northwest winds 10 to 20 mph. **Sunday Night through Monday Night** — Partly cloudy with highs in the upper 60s. Lows in the upper 30s.

Howell report:

Tuesday	High 78, Low 44
Wednesday	High 85, Low 54
Thursday	High 85, Low 48
Week ago	High 63, Low 41
Month ago	High 41, Low 23
Year ago	High 70, Low 40
March precipitation32
Year-to-date precipitation	2.42
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)	

Prayer

Lord, teach us to be persistent in our asking, seeking, and knocking that we may in faith receive, find, and have doors opened. Amen



People driving past Jennings on U.S. 383 Wednesday night might have been alarmed at the sight of flashing lights and a fire on top of a hill just south of the town. It was nothing to worry about though

and was completely under the control of the Jennings Fire Department. It was, in fact, just a training exercise.

— Telegram photo by Veronica Monier

Economic money could help airport

By VERONICA MONIER

A tentative date has been set for bid letting for the apron project at the Norton Municipal Airport.

The Norton County commissioners met with Airport Board Chairman Ivan Kingham, airport board member Larry Nelson, and Steve Berland from BG Consultants Monday afternoon to discuss the project.

Commissioner John Miller said City Administrator Rob Lawson, who is the liaison for the project, said they would definitely get a state grant if they approved the project and the county would only be responsible for its 5 percent, or about \$12,500, of the money needed for the project. The money would come out of the county’s economic development fund.

“We need to complete this project so our airport is viable,” said Mr. Miller.

Mr. Berland said the county and city would have to advertise for three weeks before the bid letting date.

The commissioners set the tentative date as Monday, April 19, at 11 a.m. in the courthouse. Mr. Miller said they needed to clear the date with Mr. Lawson and the city before anything could be official.

Mr. Kingham, who brought the plans for the project for the commissioners to look at, said he’s had a request for a six-inch concrete surfacing, rather than the five-inch surface that was planned.

Mr. Berland said the Kansas Department of Transportation’s Aviation Department made the request. He said he

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City delays decision on tennis court project

By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton City Council put off any decision to help pay to repair or replace the Norton tennis courts.

Jay Holste, who is heading up the effort to repair and/or replace the courts, was at Wednesday’s council meeting to answer questions.

Councilman Jerry Hawks said Mr. Holste updated the finance committee last week. Members of the parks committee asked about money for the project. Mr. Hawks said the \$3,375 Mr. Holste was asking for is available.

Mr. Holste told the council that his group couldn’t afford to get new courts built for the 2004 high school tennis season, but came up with a temporary fix that would give them three to five

years to raise the money.

He said the Norton School District would donate \$3,375, but only if the city agreed to do the same.

Mr. Holste said he was applying for a grant called Adopt-A-Court that would match up to \$2,500. But, he said, he needed to have the grant proposal in by March 31 and would appreciate an answer from the council.

He said the Booster Club said it would donate \$500, contingent upon the city and school’s donations. He also spoke with the Lions Club and others.

Councilman Ron Briery said he got permission from Chriss McDiffett, his supervisor at the Kansas Department of Transportation, to do core samples

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Child molestation case upsets Jennings parents

By KIMBERLY BRANDT

The Jennings School Board may review policies on the administration providing information to the board after a meeting at the beginning of the month.

With the arrest of Stanley Shimek, a former Jennings School custodian, on charges of molesting a child, parents and community members had questions for the board.

According to the unofficial minutes from the Monday, March 8, meeting, 12 parents and patrons talked during the meeting. There were many more present.

One of those was Jeff Hayward, who has family in the area. He said parents

were questioning board policies and how they found out about the incident with Mr. Shimek. He said others asked why it wasn’t presented to the board and whether anyone in the district knew it was going on.

Mr. Hayward said the board’s lawyer, Kerry Gasper, handled some of the questions. There were some he said he couldn’t because of legal issues with confidentiality.

It was an informal meeting, he said. The people who talked weren’t on the agenda.

The two main issues discussed were what happened with Mr. Shimek and complaints about kids running around

town tearing up the streets.

Mr. Gasper, a lawyer in Topeka, said although he has worked for the board for years, the meeting was the first he had attended.

He said the people were primarily stating their opinions on information they had heard. The board, said Mr. Gasper, isn’t at liberty to discuss employees or the kids.

The people in the audience addressed the board. Mr. Gasper said his role was to tell the public that the board could hear their comments, but couldn’t discuss anything because of confidentiality issues.

One of the great things about this country, he said, is that people can express their

opinions to elected officials.

After the session, the board went into a closed session for personnel. There was no action taken.

Mr. Gasper said the only thing that came out of the meeting is that the policies or procedures about how the administration gets information to the board may be reviewed.

Several of those who spoke at the meeting were contacted and many of them were left messages on their answering machines. One, Eugene Mrstik, was listed as speaking. He said he didn’t want to comment on the meeting or the issue.

Free tickets for Christian movie available to Norton students

An anonymous donor has made a \$500 contribution to the Norton Theatre to allow 100 Norton students to see Mel Gibson movie “The Passion of the Christ.”

On Thursday, Theater Manager Kim Wicker said that 85 tickets were left, as many people have made advanced purchases of the popular movie pass.

“In order to get their free ticket, students must come down to the theater and present a valid student I.D. during our open hours,” she said. “They, at that time, can designate an evening that they would like

to see the movie. We have already sold out of this Sunday’s 1 p.m. showing.”

Show times, for the movie will be Friday, April 2, at 8 p.m.; Saturday, April 3, at 2, 4:30 and 7 p.m.; Sunday, April 4, at 1, 3:30, and 6 p.m.; and Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, April 5, 6, 7 at 7 p.m.

The show has an R rating but high school students will be allowed into the movie without parental permission.

“Junior high students and younger will need their parents’ permission, given at the front window, during the time of purchase,” Mrs. Wicker said.

Northern Valley students to get 180 days of classtime next year

By KRISTEN BRANDS

The Northern Valley School Board approved the calendar for next year, which includes 180 days of class.

The calendar has 187 teacher days with the extra seven days being used for training and preparation. School will begin on Thursday, Aug. 19, and go until 11:30 a.m. the first day.

High school librarian and foreign language instructor Jill Stoelting gave a presentation on approaches to teaching a foreign language.

She showed some completed student projects and said that, beginning this nine weeks, students will take turns leading a class discussion in French. In addition to studying the language, students will learn about the history and culture of the country.

Physical education teacher Jim Cole showed some cup stacking activities that promote hand/eye coordination for students in kindergarten through eighth grade. He said that he runs races

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on the tennis courts.

“I think it needs to be looked at before we commit any money,” he said.

Mr. Hawks said he didn’t think there was any possibility of finding a solid base; this is just a temporary fix.

Mr. Holste said he didn’t want to repair the tennis courts, but it was the only way he could see to salvage the girls tennis program.

Mr. Briery said he has been told by several people that they didn’t think the city should sink that kind of money into something “that’s going to go to pot in six months.” He said he thought it should go back to parks.

“I’m just looking at the economics,” he said. “Things are tight.”

Mr. Hawks said Councilwoman Elaine Mann, who is also on the parks committee, also requested that it be sent back.

He said he hoped this didn’t interfere with Mr. Holste’s fundraising.

In other business, the council:

- Sent an invitation to the county commissioners to meet with the council to look at an economic development position for Norton County. The meeting was to be held on Monday at 5 p.m.
- Heard from Mayor David Corns that the city council election will be held on Tuesday, April 6.
- Three council positions are up for election — Mr. Hawks, who has 18 years on the council and 12 years as a city employee; Councilman Jim Williams, who has 7.5 years on the council; Councilwoman Harriett Gill, who has three years on the council. Jerry Jones, who is running for a council seat in Ward I, served on the council for 7.5 years previously.
- Sent an ordinance, which would restrict parking on part of south Second Street by the Norton Manor, back to committee. Randy Roberts, who owns property in the area, said a lot of people park on the west side of the street and it would make more sense to close the east side. Mr. Hawks said the Manor is working on more parking.
- Mr. Briery said they should have no parking on the east side of the street with a 15-20 minute limit for unloading.
- Allowed Beverly Bethune to purchase more than six spaces at the cemetery. She has already bought four spaces and wanted to buy another four.
- Heard that public works employee Steve Reedy has been named employee of the month for March. He has been with the city for 10 years.
- Agreed to a request by Larry Enfield, Jr of Enfield Funeral Home that, when an indigent person dies, the city will open and close the grave at no cost.
- Asked the staff to prepare information, schedule a date, and advertise for the Spring Clean-up.
- Approved a bid from Boxler Insurance for the city’s business protection policy, contingent upon a city attorney review. Boxler was the only agency that submitted a bid.
- Heard from Mr. Hawks that Airport Board Chairman Ivan Kingham gave the finance committee the preliminary construction estimates for a new apron at the airport. Two bids were received, which did not include any in-kind work.
- Asked staff to speak with the Kansas Department of Transportation about the detour signs at the intersection of U.S. 36 and 283. Mr. Hawks and Mr. Jones both said it could be a potentially dangerous situation. Mr. Briery suggested they speak with Travis Scott or Harold Schliecher to see if the department would consider moving the signs.
- Mr. Hawks also asked staff to look at the highway markings on the first block going north of the stop light. He said there is a double yellow line that is confusing and many think it is a turning lane, which it is not. He said there may be a better way to mark it.



Emergency Medical Technician Andy Nielsen applied pressure to his arm after giving blood. Mr. Nielsen was one of 119 donors during Thursday’s Red Cross Blood Drive.. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

PUBLIC NOTICES

Special Meeting of City Council

Published in The Norton Telegram on Friday, March 26, 2004. (1T)

CALL FOR A SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Office of the City Clerk,
Norton, Kansas
March 22, 2004

To: City Council Members and the Public:

You are hereby notified that there will be a special meeting of the governing body at 7:00 p.m., on March 29, 2004, at the City Hall for the object and purpose being to consider the request for funding for the Tennis Court repairs, and to discuss and approve a public hearing for the proposed airport apron project.

Witness my hand and the seal of said City this 22nd day of March, 2004.

David N. Corns, Mayor
Darla R. Ellis, City Clerk

being a part of that alleyway vacated and reverting to Lot Four (4) in Block Eight (8) heretofore by virtue of a certain Ordinance enacted by the City council of the City of Norton, Kansas, commonly known as 404 South Second, Norton, KS 67654.

The above described real estate is taken as the property of the Defendants Peterson and is directed by said Order of Sale to be sold and will be sold without appraisalment to satisfy said Order of Sale.

Troy Thompson
Sheriff of Norton County, Kansas
Daniel C. Walter #09431
RYAN, WALTER & McCLYMONT, Chtd.
120 S. State - PO Box 364
Norton, Kansas 67654
785-877-5183
Attorney for First Security Bank & Trust Co., Plaintiff

Public Notice of Sheriff’s Sale

Published in The Norton Telegram on Friday, March 19, 26 and April 2, 2004. (3T)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF NORTON COUNTY, KANSAS
FIRST SECURITY BANK & TRUST CO.
Plaintiff,
v. DONALD F. PETERSON, in rem and KAREN E. PETERSON, in rem and HOMEQ SERVICING CORPORATION, formerly known as TMS MORTGAGE INC., a New Jersey Corporation doing business as THE MONEY STORE, Defendants,
Case No. 2004-CV-1

PUBLIC NOTICE OF SHERIFF’S SALE

By virtue of an Order of Sale issued to me out of the District Court of Norton County, Kansas in the above entitled action, I, will, on the 5th day of April, 2004 at 10:00 o’clock a.m. of said day in the first floor lobby of the Courthouse in the City of Norton in the County of Norton, State of Kansas, offer at public sale and sale to the highest bidder for cash in hand, all of the following described real estate situated in Norton County, Kansas to-wit:

Lot Three (3) and the South Fifteen (15) feet of Lot Two (2) in Block Eight (8) of Broquet’s Addition to Norton, Kansas together with all land reverting to said Lot 3 by virtue of vacating Ordinance No. 257 of the City of Norton, Kansas, vacating alley lying adjacent thereto. And

A tract described as commencing Seven (7) feet North of the Northeast corner of Lot Four (4) in Block Eight (8) of Broquet’s Addition to Norton, Kansas, running thence 120 feet West, thence 2 feet North, thence 120 feet East, thence 2 feet South to the point of beginning,

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540 B, Phillipsburg, KS
Randy Jennings, Owner

County works on airport project

(Continued from Page 1)

didn’t think the change would cost a whole lot more, but it would be a better surface.

The Department of Transportation would like change because the standard forms used to pour concrete are made for six-inch rather than five-inch concrete.

He said the plans were modeled to the city and county’s budget, because it’s been planned in phases.

“This is the part, I really appreciate,” said Mr. Kingham. “They’re going to do this in phases so the airport is never shut down. Airplanes will be able to use the airport at all times.”

In other business, the commissioners:

- Spoke with Fred Nelson about a road northwest of Lenora. Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom Bran-

nan said the road, W-8, is scheduled to be elevated this year. He said construction probably wouldn’t begin until after school is out because it is a bus route.

Mr. Brannan said the construction will be on W-8 from K-9 to Road Y, which is about three miles. He said the north half is in fairly good shape, but the south half needs some serious work.

Mr. Nelson asked if any work would be done on a half-section of road that is perpendicular to W-8 on the west side. Mr. Brannan said he didn’t think so, but would check to see if it was ever opened as a county road.

- Discussed the Kansas Supreme Court and its possible rulings and opinions on the county’s case on confined animal feeding operation regulations with County Attorney Doug Sebelius. The commissioners had expected the court to rule on a law suit last week, but it did not.
- Heard that Norton County Health Department Administrator Gina Frack wanted to re-open bids for a retaining wall at the health department. She said the original bid went to Scott Evans Construction three years ago, but neither had the original bid.
- Mr. Miller said County Clerk Robert Wyatt, who was absent on Monday, might have a copy of the original bid and she should check with him.
- Mrs. Frack also told the commissioners that the health department will not have services next week, but the office would be open Monday-Thursday, if anyone wanted to schedule appointments for the following week. She said home health will run as usual.

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THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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