

Tuesday
October 26, 2004

Spooks set to parade through town

Do you have a costume that you want to show off? If the answer is yes, or even if it is no, join the annual Halloween Parade and wiener roast Thursday being co-sponsored by the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce and the Norton Volunteer Fire Department.

Those who want to be in the parade need to assemble in the parking lot behind Hall's Clothing at 6 p.m. Troy and Chriselle Thomson will be dividing children into groups from pre-school to sixth grade. Representatives from the Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas and others will be holding signs for each age

group, showing people where to line up. The parade will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will move east along Main Street to State Street, then south to Washington Street and east to the fire department. When the parade reaches the station house, a free wiener roast will begin. Kids will be able to get apples and candy in trick

or treat bags from employees of the Norton County Hospital. The roast and candy have been financed from the donations of area businesses and individuals, which is collected by the fire department. All children are invited to participate. For information, call the Chamber office at 877-2501.

Norton, Kansas Home of James Moser

Briefly Methodists to put on dinner

The Norton First United Methodist Church will host a home-style chicken and noodle dinner from 5-7 p.m. Saturday in the Fellowship Hall of the church at 805 W. Wilberforce. The menu will also include mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, applesauce, rolls, pie and coffee or iced tea. The cost is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children 6-12 and free for children 5 and under. The youth of the church will sponsor a carnival for the kids.

Tag deadline nears for 'S' folks

October is the month for renewing automobile, pickup, motorcycle and/or motorized bike tags for those whose last name begins with "S" or businesses whose name begins with "S". You are required to bring in or include proof of insurance for each vehicle, which includes the vehicle identification number, policy number and expiration date. Office hours are 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. The computers shut off at 4:30 p.m. to balance each day's business. The treasurer's office is a limited service driver's license station. They do renewals on regular driver's licenses and commercial licenses. If you have questions, please call the treasurer at 877-5795.

Quilt club meets

Members of the Heritage Quilt Club will travel to Long Island for their Monday, Nov. 1, meeting at the Community Building. There will be a soup supper at 6:30 p.m. Later, Kay Strey will present the program on "Choosing Batting and Fusibles".

Weather Forecast:

Tonight — Cloudy with areas of fog after midnight. Lows in the upper 40s. East winds 5 to 10 mph. **Wednesday** — Cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers in the morning. Areas of fog in the morning with highs in the mid 60s. East winds 5 to 15 mph with higher gusts. **Wednesday Night** — Cloudy with patchy fog.

Howell report:

Friday	High 76, Low 44
Saturday	High 72, Low 43
Sunday	High 72, Low 35
Monday	High 62, Low 43
Week ago	High 73, Low 49
Month ago	High 81, Low 54
Year ago	High 59, Low 27
October precipitation93 inches
Year-to-date precipitation ...	22.40 inches

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

Prayer

Dear Lord, help us to realize that your love for us exceeds all of our expectations. Help us to trust that you will always provide what we need. Amen



Children from Rosalie McMullen's preschool class spent Wednesday at the Andbe home cleaning pumpkins and baking muffins for the residents. Many little hands were kept busy digging out seeds, mixing the ingredients and filling the muffin tins. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Impounded vehicles clutter up county parking

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
The Norton County sheriff has more vehicles than he knows what to do with — and most of them aren't even his. Sheriff Troy Thomson told the Norton County commissioners that he doesn't know what to do about three vehicles parked in the county lot, some of which belong to prisoners in the jail. The sheriff says he doesn't even know to whom one of the vehicles belongs. The tag on it isn't correct and the stickers on the tag aren't right either. "We have a \$200,000 dog pound," the sheriff said when describing the parking area. While there are only three vehicles now there have been up to five, he said. "It looks disgusting and they're taking up parking spaces needed by taxpayers," the sheriff said. Commissioner John Miller agreed, "If

we get a snow it'll make a mess for the plow." He asked Sheriff Thomson if he has talked to the city about what they do with vehicles the police department impounds. Sheriff Thomson said that the city has about three impounded vehicles at another location. They seem to be safe where they are because no one really knows where they are, he said. The sheriff said that he would talk to City Administrator Rob Lawson about putting county and city impounded vehicles together. The biggest problem is, he said, a person is arrested and put in jail, their vehicle is impounded and towed to parking by the sheriff's office and sometimes they bond out. If they don't, who pays to tow the vehicle to another area? The vehicles can't be driven, he said, because mostly they don't have insurance.

The county can recover the cost of storing the vehicles, he said, but the book-keeping is a nightmare. The sheriff said that the generator used as back-up power in case of an emergency was down for 16-18 hours last week while its radiator was replaced. The radiator was not in good shape, he said. It had never been flushed and the coolant looked like mud. "We need to re-evaluate our service," the sheriff said adding that the service person is knowledgeable on electrical things but probably isn't good on motors. "If he doesn't know how to service the motor, I wish he'd have said so," the sheriff said. He said he would probably talk to Engel's Sales and Service about checking the generator engine twice a year. In other business, the sheriff:

• Will probably be holding a woman in the jail for up to one year. He said this is important because expenses will go up since everything for men and women have to be separate from living quarters to laundry. • Said that the jail has been full most of the time. • Asked the commissioners to set up a \$100 sheriff's emergency discretionary fund to help pay for odds and ends that have previously been taken out of money that is earmarked to purchase drugs during investigations. It wouldn't be used often, he said. Once it was needed to pay the library for a conference when the money to pay was late in arriving and once to buy sandwiches for a couple of youngsters who hadn't had anything to eat for a while. The money comes from drug seizures, the sheriff said, not from taxes.

State representative hopes to move to Senate

**By TISHA COX
Colby Free Press**
Republican Ralph Ostmeyer hopes to be promoted next week from the state House of Representatives to the Senate. Ostmeyer, 61, of Grinnell, filed earlier this year for re-election for his seat as representative for the 118th District, but changed his plans after Sen. Stan Clark, an Oakley Republican, was killed in a car accident in May. Mr. Ostmeyer said he never intended to run for Senate, but after Clark's death, with encouragement from family and friends, he decided to run for Clark's seat. He is facing Monument Democrat Tim Petersen in the Nov. 2 general election. Mr. Ostmeyer said he wants to protect traditional family values and thinks of himself as a fiscal conservative. Ostmeyer, a fourth-generation farmer, and his wife Kay have seven children and 13 grandchildren. The couple



Ralph Ostmeyer farms with their son, Terry Ostmeyer of Oakley. The candidate says he enjoys spending time with his grandchildren and working on antique cars. He is a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Grinnell. He said education and health care are (Continued on Page 5)

Monument farmer runs on the Democratic ticket

**By TOM BETZ
Goodland Star-News**
Democrat Tim Peterson of Monument is facing Republican Ralph Ostmeyer of Grinnell, for the 40th Senate District seat that came open after the death of Sen. Stan Clark in a dust storm last May. Peterson, born and raised in Oakley, said he hadn't planned on running for the Senate, but that changed when Clark was killed earlier this summer. Peterson, a Monument farmer, has served as the chair for the 1st District Democrats since 2001, and was treasurer from 1995-2001. He was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Boston in August. While in Boston, Peterson said, he wanted to attend church. "I got into town on Sunday, and I wanted to go to church," said Peterson. "I'm Lutheran, and I found a place called Faith Lutheran Church." Faith Lutheran Church once was a Swedish Lutheran congregation,



Tim Peterson Peterson said, but he was greeted by a church filled with Lutheran immigrants from — Thailand. And that made the after-church potluck something to remember, he said. "We had salmon, fish dishes, things that I don't know what they were, but they were good," he said. "And they were (Continued on Page 5)

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needed more information before accepting a bid.

He said the airport will be OK financially until the end of the year and that the commissioners have been easy to work with.

- Asked Chief Menagh about a police officer driving with his wife in a patrol car.

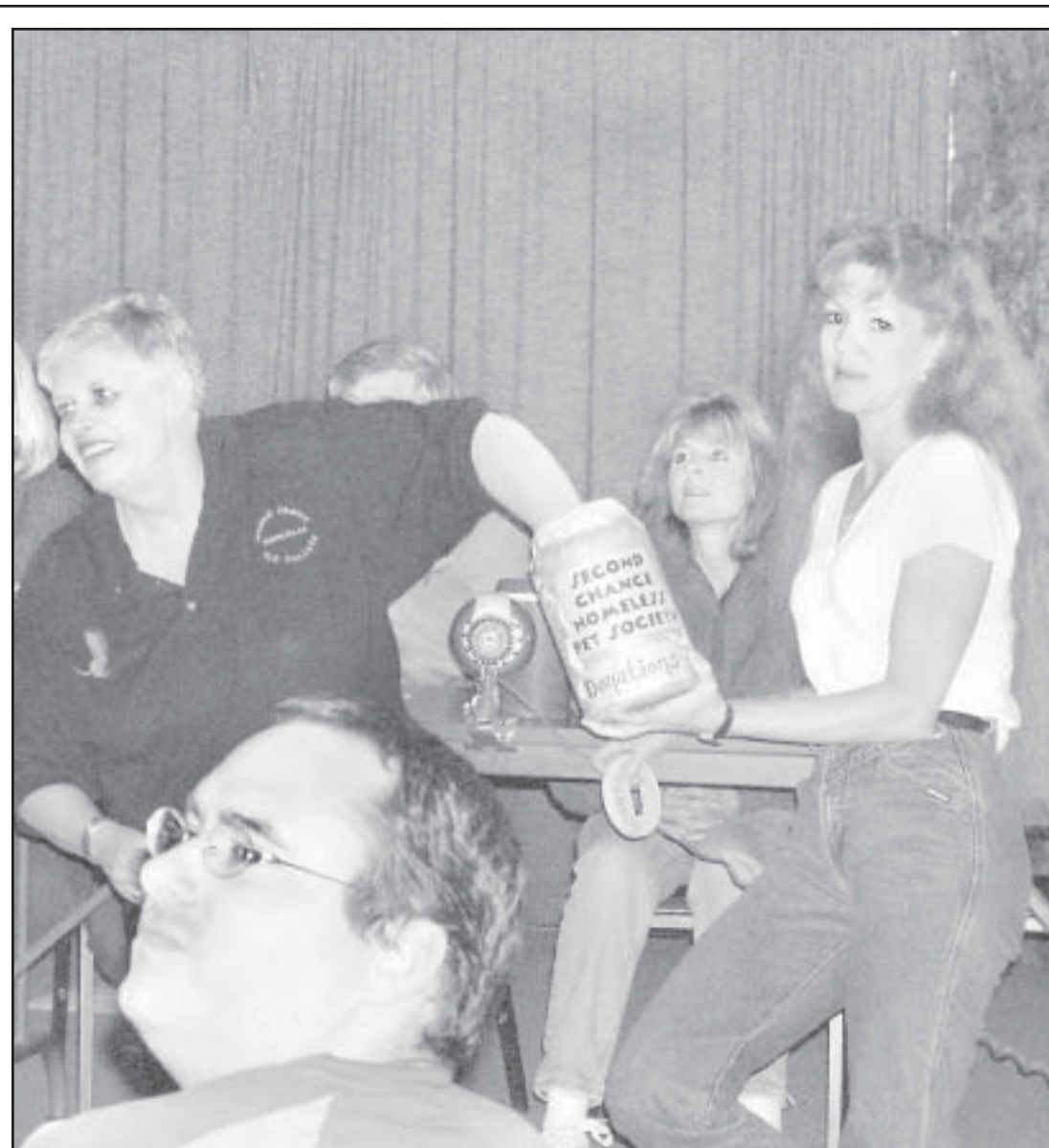
Chief Menagh said they have a policy for a ride-along program. The woman is a new emergency medical technician and is familiarizing herself with the streets. He said she signed a waiver before going on the patrol.

- Heard from Mr. G. Jones that it is too late to find grant money to pay for a curb and gutter program this year, but that a meeting has been planned for the first of the year to talk about it.

- Learned from Mayor David Corns that the city's board appointments will be made in November.

- Heard from City Clerk Darla Ellis that Dr. Abio-Tona Sokari stopped by the city office to see if it was interested in having a program for the blind and visually impaired.

Mr. Hawks said he thought it would be a good program for the area and suggested the doctor talk to the county health department, who would be more capable of organizing this kind of program.



Master of Ceremonies Marvin Matchett kept things running smoothly during the Trivia Contest Saturday at the Norton Eagles to benefit the Second Chance Homeless Pet Society. Seventeen tables of trivia buffs huddled to answer ten rounds of seven questions each to win the annual contest. Kathy Thibedeau (left) dug deep to pull out a winning ticket for one of the drawings at Saturday night's Trivia Night. Judy Braun (right), one of the volunteers, helped by holding the cannister and picking up answer sheets.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Democrat wants to balance budget

(Continued from Page 1)
amazed that a delegate from Kansas was worshipping with them.” Peterson said his top priorities as a state senator will be school finance and balancing the budget.

“The state has not properly funded our schools,” he said. “My children do not have up-to-date textbooks. My son could not bring his science textbook home because there were not enough to go around.”

“Clearly, there are not enough funds available at the classroom level. My goal as state senator will be to find ways to get more money into the classroom. I will encourage the development of auditing tools that will allow taxpayers to closely examine school finances.”

“The next Legislature should use the pending Kansas Supreme Court decision as an opportunity to completely revise school finance laws. There is no reason for budgetary deficiencies that allow plenty of funds for buildings and hardware, but force teachers to beg for supplies from parents.”

Peterson said he isn't convinced that the state needs to raise taxes.

“As your state senator, I will work to solve our budget problems in three steps,” he said. “First, I will make sure that all administrative costs in our state government are similar to those of a well-run business or charity — 3 to 5 percent of total costs.”

“Second, I will argue forcefully that our spending priorities change. We need to spend more for our schools and less in other areas of our government.”

“Finally, if taxes must be raised, I will fight any increase in property or vehicle taxes. These taxes hurt our seniors who are on fixed incomes.”

Peterson feels controlling health care costs and economic development are important to northwest Kansas.

“I will work for the Kansas family morally and physically,” he said. “I believe that it is morally wrong to take money from ciga-

rette, alcohol, and gambling syndicates. This is dirty money. These companies prey on families. My opponent takes their money.

“Physically, I will support families by working to improve our health care, our schools, and our economic opportunities. We should not force families to choose between proper health care and food. We should not force families to gamble by going without some type of basic health insurance. I will work to help these families.”

“I will work hard for economic development in Senate District 40. I will use every opportunity to promote northwest Kansas as a great place to live, retire, and do business. I will work to build networks between local entrepreneurs and venture capitalists.”

“Finally, I want to make Kansas ‘senior friendly,’ and promote northwest Kansas as a retirement destination.”

“We have many blessings that make this area a great place to retire: good health care, good transportation, low crime, low cost homes, clean air and solid community volunteers. We need to count our blessings and use what God has given us.”

Peterson and his wife Rebekah have two children, ages 12 and 10. His educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Kansas with a major in geography and quantitative methods (statistics). Two years ago, he became nationally registered as an emergency medical technician and is a volunteer with the Logan County Emergency Medical Service.

He is the past chairman of the U.S. Farm Service Agency state committee and now is vice-chair of the Kansas Agricultural Remediation Board. He was appointed to the board by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius and confirmed by the Kansas Senate in January.

Peterson serves as one of the northwest Kansas representatives on the Rural Life Task Force appointed by Gov. Sebelius.

Republican looks at school finance issue

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two of his main concerns, including school finance. Mr. Ostmeyer said Judge Terry Bullock's decision ordering the state to increase spending by almost \$1 billion is now before the Supreme Court, but the Legislature will have to deal with this issue one way or another.

“We'll have to move on from there,” he said.

One of the main issues on school finance is getting enough money to the classroom, he said, and that is his priority, but he wouldn't support a property tax increase to fund education.

Mr. Ostmeyer said property taxes are already high enough, and are starting to create a burden for small businesses. He suggested that the sales tax could be used to fund education instead.

Mr. Ostmeyer also touched on the state's budget. He said the state was \$50 million to \$60 million positive this year, and the numbers are looking better.

He said the state is still feeling the effects of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. The state has a tax structure in place, he said, but the

economy still hasn't turned around yet.

Mr. Ostmeyer said other issues he sees include a law on used car valuations for sales tax purposes that went into effect July 1, and the destination sales tax issue that was put on hold until Jan. 1.

He said the way the car sales tax law works right now is a “bad idea.”

The law requires people to pay sales tax on a used car based on the book value instead of what they actually paid. It only applies if someone buys a car from a private seller or auction and not a dealership. People who buy junkers have found themselves paying tax on the price of a vehicle in much better shape.

The law was passed because tax officials thought people often understated what they paid in private transactions to keep taxes down.

“It's something we can fix easily,” Mr. Ostmeyer said. “Something has to be done.”

He said the destination sales tax is “detrimental to small business,” adding the state will have to see what the federal government is going to do before the state moves.

On the horizon, Mr. Ostmeyer said, he sees several matters that could be important in northwest Kansas, including health care, an animal identification system for cattle, homeland security and economic development.

He said health care will probably continue to be an issue as counties must deal with insurance for their employees and medical lawsuits keep cropping up.

“I'm not sure where we need to start,” Mr. Ostmeyer said, adding that the health care savings accounts the Legislature approved are a start.

For farmers, he said, animal identification tags and emergency response plans for counties in case of disease are going to be an issue, and federal money is available for that and homeland security use.

He said economic development will take time, but efforts will benefit the entire state, including western and northwest Kansas. He emphasized taking care of the area and the people here, including getting people to come back.

Mr. Ostmeyer said he is pro-business and thinks communities need good schools, hospitals and

more in order to survive.

“The best economic development a community has is its own people,” he added.

Mr. Ostmeyer said he isn't in favor of more casinos in Kansas. He said there are too many problems associated with gambling, problems that far outstrip the financial benefit of having them in the state.

“I don't support gambling,” he said, adding that he would instead favor tax increases over gambling.

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Proven Leadership and Experience
for the Future of Norton County

On November 2

Re-Elect John Miller and Leroy Lang

Paid for by Norton County Republican Central Committee, Jon Lofgreen, Chairman, Joe Ballinger, Treasurer