

Take advantage of the best local guide to what's on TV next week with The Telegram's handy schedule of programming.

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Tuesday

December 14, 2004

Norton, Kansas
Home of Kevin Lyon

Briefly

Retirement party set for Friday

A retirement reception honoring Dennis Gilhousen, president and chief executive officer of Valley Hope Association will be held from 5-7 p.m., Friday at the St. Francis of Assisi Parish Center, 104 S. Wabash in Norton.

The public is invited. Refreshments will be served and the Jeremy Gregoire Jazz Trio will entertain.

Congressman to be on television

Congressman Jerry Moran will provide a summary of the 2004 Congressional session and discuss its impact on Kansas during a live television appearance on Smoky Hills Public Television. The program, "Mid-America Life: A Conversation with Jerry Moran," will air at 7 p.m. Thursday.

Dr. Richard Heil, director of the political science and justice studies department, with the Docking Institute of Public Affairs at Fort Hays State University, will moderate. Also taking part will be Patrick Lowry, executive editor of the Hays Daily News.

Booster Club to meet Wednesday

The Norton Blue Jay Booster Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday in the high school cafeteria.

Norton wrestling coach Bill Johnson, girls basketball coach Kevin Jilka and boys basketball coach Doug Reusink will report on their team's season-opening competition.

Refreshments will be served. All fans of Norton high school sports are invited.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy with lows in the mid 20s. **Wednesday** — Partly cloudy with highs in the lower 50s. West winds 5mph shifting to the north in the afternoon. **Wednesday Night** — Lows in the 20s.

Howell report:

Friday High 50, Low 31
Saturday High 64, Low 41
Sunday High 49, Low 23
Monday High 40, Low 22
Week ago High 52, Low 31
Month ago High 48, Low 34
Year ago High 54, Low 33
December precipitation 0.00 inches
Year-to-date precipitation ... 25.75 inches
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

Prayer

Loving God, help us to open our hearts and receive all you want to give us. Then help us to show others your love and grace. Amen

Welcome to Bethlehem



Saturday night's perfect weather was an asset for the Living Nativity production that took place around the parking lot at Norton United Methodist Church. Hundreds of people drove and walked the luminary lit route where they saw the babe in the manger portrayed by Anna Lively, Peg Frack as Mary and Dale Carlson as Joseph.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Board irked at parking ordinance

By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton School Board is not thrilled about the Norton City Council's decision to eliminate parking on Washington Street just north of East Campus.

Superintendent Greg Mann said he wasn't sure what happened between a Public Safety Committee meeting he attended and the last city council meeting.

"When I left the public safety meeting, I was thinking that the council was going to amend the ordinance," he said. "They all seemed to be nodding their heads in agreement with some of our alternatives. I'm not sure what happened."

Mr. Mann said he called the city administrator and asked if there was any way to repeal the ordinance, but found out there isn't really anything that can be done except ask the council to change it.

"I don't feel that there is any real possibility that it will be changed," he said.

He said he could go to tonight's city (Continued on Page 5)

Work starts on landfill for county

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

After many months of work and paperwork preliminary work has started on the new Norton County landfill.

On Monday Solid Waste Supervisor Curt Archibald told the county commissioners that BG Consultants, the engineers working on the landfill project, were staking out two new test wells, required by the state, and the pit, which will be where trash is placed, when the landfill is open.

"The wells will have to be purged (tested) five times before we put any trash (Continued on Page 5)

Airport board looks at upgrading facilities

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

Mary and Buddy Oswald, Norton, made a request to the Norton City/County Airport Board Monday to allow them to build a new hangar at the facility to house their airplane and helicopter.

Mr. Oswald said he had a 40-foot-by-60-foot-by-16-foot building in mind that would be of a pole-barn type construction with a concrete floor and apron.

Norton City Administrator Rob Lawson said the building meets all city codes. A site on the north side of Valley

Hope's hangar has been suggested as the location.

The Oswald's proposal prompted a discussion by the board of the need for a detailed written expansion policy.

Board Chairman and Norton County Commissioner John Miller, said, "We need recommendations from each board member by the next meeting as to what they see are services needed at the airport."

Mr. Miller also said the board needed to determine a fair fee structure for housing

planes at the airport.

Some of the areas the board will be examining include: the need for water lines; sewer lines; electrical service; conforming to city and Federal Aviation Association codes; airport usage; and city/county responsibilities to hangar owners.

Norton City Councilman Jerry Hawks pointed out that the red obstruction light on top of the old Brady Grain elevator is not operating. The committee agreed, that even though, it wasn't technically an airport issue, it should be reported for the

safety of flyers.

In other business the board:

- Transferred a certificate of deposit to its checking account in order to pay for the non-directional beacon it had ordered and regular monthly bills.

- Learned the lines had been painted for the new tie downs.

- Learned the Automated Weather Observation System's number, 874-4277, can be accessed by anyone in the country.

New owners take over Pace Fitness Center

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

Ownership of the Pace Fitness Center in Norton changed hands Dec. 1.

The new owners are Jenny and Doug Tibbetts. They purchased the center from April and Kelly Karnopp who opened the business Oct. 1, 2003.

Mr. and Mrs. Tibbetts have lived in Norton for several years. All three of their children graduated from Norton Community High School. The youngest, Erin, just last year.

Mrs. Tibbetts said, "I have always wanted to do something like this. We are just thrilled. Erin is studying business management, with a focus on health clubs. This is a way for our family to work together in the health field."

Mrs. Tibbetts, a master's Touch Massage therapist, owns Master's Touch Massage. She will be bringing her massage clients to the new center.

The Pace center features 16 stations in

a circuit where you do the prescribed exercise for 30 seconds. Recorded messages playing with the upbeat music, tell the client when to move to the next station.

Mrs. Tibbetts says she has plans for some additions to bring more of a day spa feel to the center. She plans to add a tanning bed, a Pilates class, exercise ball workouts, light weights, low-impact cardiovascular workouts, aerobic classes and aerobic dance classes.

During December, the center is open from 6-10 a.m. and 3:45-8 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 6-10 a.m. and 3:45-7 p.m. Friday; 8 a.m. to noon, Saturday; and closed Sunday.

Starting Jan. 1, the center will be open from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Thursday; 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., Friday; 8 a.m. to noon, Saturday; and closed Sunday.

Assistant Manager is Bob Cotton. For more information, call (785) 874-4940.



Jenny Tibbetts, new owner of Pace Fitness Center in Norton, adjusts one of the eight pieces of equipment in the exercise circuit. Other pieces of workout equipment include an elliptical machine, a stationary bicycle and a weight machine. Pace Fitness Center is at 126 S. State.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Schools want parking

(Continued from Page 1) council meeting to complain. Board member Gary Lacy agreed and said that he would call some of the council members, who aren't on the Public Safety Committee, to tell them about some of the ideas that Mr. Mann presented to that meeting.

He said some of them, like making one block of Wilberforce a one-way street, didn't get mentioned in the council meeting.

Mr. Mann said that the block was 10 percent of the parking at East Campus.

"I don't deny that there is a problem on some Friday nights," he said. "If it was a matter of four or five spots, it wouldn't be such a big deal. But I don't want to give up all mine spots that are on that block."

In other business, the board:

- Accepted David Stover's resignation as the junior high football head coach.

- Appointed Board Member Jeff Nielsen to replace Board Member Pam Shelton on the Professional Development Council.

- Decided to continue its membership in the Kansas Association of School Boards gas consortium and signed a three-year contract. Mr. Mann said it was in one-year increments, so the board could resign any year.

- Held a 20-minute closed session to discuss non-elected personnel with no action taken.

- Appointed Board Member Elaine Mann and Mrs. Shelton to help organize an employee appreciation night. Mr. Mann said one possibility was to show movies. He said it would cost \$360 for two movies and then another \$100 to rent both auditoriums at the Norton Theatre. He said they could have a G-rated movie and another more for adults.

- Heard a presentation on the fine arts curriculum from Chairman David Will. Mr. Will said the Norton district has a history of upholding art education as last year's decision to keep on two art teachers shows.



Monday, traffic was reopened to two lanes over the Robinson Creek Bridge at the west city limits of Norton on U.S. 36. The traffic signals were shut off to allow for two-way traffic at 3:35 p.m. and will soon be taken down. The "Y intersection" of U.S. 36 and Old Highway 36 is scheduled to reopen on Tuesday. The re-

mainder of the work along U.S. 36 should begin in mid-March. The replacement of the Prairie Dog Drainage Bridge, about 1.5 miles west of Norton, is scheduled for next spring. When this work begins traffic will be reduced to one-lane over the bridge, again using traffic signals.

— Photo by Gina Mastin

Teachers could be from here

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

Acting Ambulance Director Andy Nielsen wants people in Norton County trained to teach his emergency medical classes.

Mr. Nielsen told the Norton County commissioners Monday that he would like to send four people to a class in either Topeka or Kansas in March to become emergency medical trainers.

With several trainers in the county, he said, Norton wouldn't have to import a trainer from another county to teach the classes. His emergency medical technicians and first responders need to keep current and keep their certification.

Commissioner John Miller asked Mr. Nielsen to find out the particulars of the course. He said that the county would have to evaluate the cost to see if it would be more efficient for the county to have its own trainers or to continue bringing in someone from Oberlin or Phillipsburg.

Mr. Nielsen told the commissioners that he has just returned from a meeting in Wichita on bioterrorism and trauma. He said he felt it was a good course and worth his time.

He also said that members of the state Board of Emergency Medical Services wants him to go to Garden City with Sheriff Troy Thomson in January to talk about the county changing its radios to 800 MHz.

Commissioner Miller said that he should go because the county will not have a choice but to change even though it will be expensive.

He said that he thought most of the new radios the county has been buying would be convertible to the new system, which the federal government is mandating.

Emergency officer tired of paperwork

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

Norton County Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Alvin Mapes went over requirements for a state and federal grant with county commissioners on Monday but ended up leaving the meeting after he became upset with paperwork requirements.

Mr. Mapes said that the county can apply for a grant of \$5,056 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which is managed through the Kansas Emergency Management Association state and local assistance program.

One of the requirements is that Mr. Mapes have a high school diploma.

Mr. Mapes said he was taking his final tests this week for his general equivalency diploma.

Another one of the requirements is that the emergency prepared-

ness coordinator document 20 hours a week work.

Mr. Mapes said that he has taken several required state courses in emergency preparedness over the last couple of years in order to stay current and meet the requirements of state and federal grants, such as the one for which the county is applying.

Mr. Mapes had earlier said that he didn't want to do a lot of extra paperwork but he told the commissioners he would do what is needed for the grant.

This is the second year the grants have been available but Norton County did not get the information soon enough to act on it last year, Mr. Mapes said.

Commissioner John Miller said that as he read the grant application the county will get what is available which could be \$56 instead of the more than \$5,000 the

county is applying for.

Mr. Mapes said that could happen and there isn't much the county can do about it.

The commissioners went over various reports

Mr. Mapes will have to fill out and time sheet requirements that will have to be kept and which the state can audit. If these aren't kept correctly, Mr. Miller said, the state can take the money back even if Norton gets the full \$5,056.

The commissioners decided to put off deciding anything until Mr. Mapes had his educational requirements out of the way.

After going over several requirements Mr. Mapes became upset when Commissioner Miller requested written confirmation

that the Kansas Department of Transportation is providing radiological monitoring, which will detect radioactivity due to peacetime incidents, and the county doesn't have to have do anything on that, even though it is a requirement for the grant.

Mr. Miller said that the county has to be sure that every requirement for the grant is taken care of before the county applies.

"We have to read and understand all of this," he told Mr. Mapes.

At that point Mr. Mapes said that he thought he would put in his resignation indicating he was tired of all the paperwork the state and county wants.

Work starts on county landfill

(Continued from Page 1) in the pit" Mr. Archibald said.

This has to be done 60 days before the pit can be opened, he said.

Whitney Brothers, the company which will actually dig the pit, can start the dirt work after the area is staked.

Mr. Archibald said that he has been over to talk to the Phillips County commissioners about continuing to take Norton County's trash until the new landfill is ready to go.

He said they agreed to continue to help.

"That's real nice of them," Commissioner Leroy Lang said.

Commissioner John Miller and Dean Kruse agreed that Phillips County has been generous to allow Norton to use its landfill for as long as it has.

Mr. Archibald said he didn't give the Phillips County commissioners a timeline because the last time he did that it didn't work.

The commissioners said they would like to extend the contract the county has with Tibbetts to haul trash to Phillipsburg for another six months or until Norton gets its landfill opened.

"We want to make sure Tibbetts is treated fairly" Commissioner Miller said.

The county doesn't know how long it will need to haul the trash, he said, but Tibbetts' contract allowed for a six month extension so the county can do that without putting the job out for bids again.

Mr. Archibald said that he is still gathering information on the screening material needed at the landfill.

Large screens will be needed, probably 20 of them, to keep trash from blowing.

The road and bridge department has built 16 screen frames, he said. "They did a good job building the screens," Mr. Archibald said.

He said that he thought the screens Norton is making will be better and safer than those used by either Phillips or Thomas county,

because they are modular and more easily moved.

"They did come up with a good idea," Mr. Archibald said. "What I suggested on the framework worked pretty good and what they suggested on moving them is good."

For the screen itself, he said, Phillips County uses a plastic netting.

"They like it," he said. "They've used it for five to six years. The only thing they've had to replace on it are the plastic ties that hold it on."

He also told the commissioners that a Bobcat needed in the recycling area is on order and should be in this week from South Central Bobcat out of Hastings. The machine is two years old and will cost the county less than \$1,000.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Learned that Mr. Archibald will be sending paper and cardboard to a recycling center in Phillipsburg, which will be closing down in January for three weeks of annual maintenance.

- Visited briefly with Jerol Deboer of Penco Engineering about the bridges the county is planning to replace over the next few years.

Mr. Deboer gave the commissioners a Christmas gift of sausage and cheese, which they handed over to courthouse employees because they said they couldn't accept personal gifts.

- Decided that they knew of no accident or incident that might pose a risk for the county being sued after an end-of-the-year request for the information from the Kansas Association of Counties Multi-line Pool insurance.

- Held a 15-minute closed session to discuss non-elected personnel with County Clerk Robert Wyatt.

- Reappointed, by resolution, deputy county surveyors Wayne Dietz and Elmer Zerr for another year.

- Held a 10-minute closed session to discuss attorney-client privilege with County Attorney Doug Sebelius.

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The 'Carrier of the Year,' as selected by subscribers of The Norton Telegram, will receive a \$30 cash award. First runner-up will receive \$20 in cash and the second runner-up will receive \$10.

Fill out the entry form at right and drop it by the Telegram office or mail it to Norton Telegram 215 S. Kansas Ave. Norton, KS 67654.

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Entries must be received by Wednesday, December 17 to be counted.

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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