



Take advantage of savings during Crazy Day

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Tuesday
July 26, 2005

Norton, Kansas
Home of Bill Beale

Briefly

Food auction set for tonight

The annual Norton County 4-H Food Auction will be held at 5:30 p.m. tonight in the 4-H Building. Blue ribbon dishes prepared by 4-H'ers will be sold during the auction. The money goes back to the 4-H'er who made the item or to the 4-H Council.

Porkburger feed to be Wednesday

The annual Porkburger Special and Watermelon Feed will be held at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday at Elmwood Park. The watermelon feed is free and is sponsored by Jamboree Foods. The Home Owned Carnival will follow the feast, beginning at 6:30 p.m. and running to 11 p.m. Also Wednesday night will be Jackpot Team Roping, which starts at 7 p.m. in the Norton County Equine Facility.

Gospel group will sing tonight

The Advocates, a gospel singing quartet, will perform at 8 p.m. tonight in the grandstands at the Norton County Fair. This is the second year in a row that the popular singing group has been brought to the fair by the Norton County Ministerial Alliance. This is a free concert, but donations will be accepted.

Weather Forecast:

Tonight — low of 53. **Wednesday** — High 83, low 55. **Thursday** — High 88, low 58. **Friday** — High 95, low 63. **Saturday** — High 97, low 63. Temperatures will feel much more pleasant this week but will warm up into the mid and upper 90's by the weekend. Some storms could roll through the area today as a trough in the Jet Stream slides over us heading east. A high pressure will cause temperatures to warm up this weekend and keep out any rain until next week. Temperatures will drop some after Sunday, staying at or below 95.

Howell report:

Friday High 105, Low 74
Saturday High 104, Low 73
Sunday High 103, Low 73
Monday High 101, Low 61
.60 of an inch of precipitation
Week ago High 90, Low 68
Month ago High 96, Low 68
Year ago High 76, Low 54
July precipitation 3.28 inches
Year-to-date precipitation ... 13.80 inches
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

Prayer

Thank you, God, for the tasks you give us to do. Thank you for giving us the tools we need to do them. **Amen**



Horse show offers fun for family

Cole Kinderknecht and Calvin Lowry's horses (above) were in perfect unison as they rounded the corner in the pair sack race at Saturday's open class horse show. Neva Jo Beydler (left) guided her horse around the second barrel in the barrel racing competition. The show was held at the Norton County Equine Facility.

— Telegram photos by Susie Marble

School worries about water cost

By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton School District is trying to find a way to put a lid on rising water costs. Superintendent Greg Mann said at the July 11 school board meeting that they were estimating it cost just over \$8,000 to water the football and practice fields. "On one hand," he said, "it's expensive. But, on the other hand, it's not as bad as I thought it would be."

He said they were estimating it would cost the district about \$14,000 more in 2005-'06 for water and sewer because the city is raising rates to pay for new water and waste water plants..

Mr. Mann said the district has three options — it can do nothing; try finding wells; or talk to the city about getting a discounted rate for the football and practice fields.

He said his reasoning behind the discount is that the people who are paying their own water increases will be paying taxes and so are being charged twice for water.

Mr. Mann said he spoke to Andy Anderson in Hill City about drilling wells at the fields. He said Mr. Anderson didn't think one well would cover Travis Field, but maybe three would at 30 gallons per minute. Also, he said he didn't know if there was enough water at the practice field to drill a well.

At \$15/foot for a cased hole, Mr. Mann said it is an expensive process.

City agrees to discuss water

By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton City Council is willing to talk to the Norton School District about water prices for Travis Field.

School Superintendent Greg Mann was at Wednesday's council meeting to talk about water. He said the district has gotten an exemption, allowing it five-acre feet of water at the practice field and Travis Field. But, he said, the exemption expires Aug. 24.

Also, he said, the district applied for two permits to drill wells. The permit

Board member Scott Ellis said he didn't think drilling three holes would be worthwhile and that the district needed to get the figures on how much it would cost for test wells.

"I think at this point it's still something we need to do something about," said Board member Jeff Nielsen.

Mr. Mann said the district has exemptions until Aug. 24 to determine the exact locations to drill wells. But, he said, the district can probably get a 30-day extension.

Mr. Nielsen said the district could still drill a well even if it gets a discount. "I'm inclined to at least ask for the dis-

count and then in August we can decide whether to drill," he said.

The board asked Mr. Mann to talk to the city council about discounted rates and Mr. Ellis and board member Craig Renner to get the costs for drilling and maintaining wells.

Mr. Mann said the wells were being considered because the city is raising water rates and it would cost the district about \$8,100 to water both fields.

"It is our belief that the City of Norton has as much at stake as USD 211 in keeping Travis Field looking

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Landfill held up by state

Bureaucrat requires additional test on bottom of pit

By VERONICA MONIER and CYNTHIA HAYNES

The Norton County commissioners were not happy to learn that there will be another delay in opening a new landfill.

During their meeting on Monday, the commissioners learned that the person making the decisions on the landfill at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment has requested another test before signing off on the project.

Solid Waste Supervisor Curt Archibald told the commissioners that Pat Cox, an engineer with BG Consultants, said that an additional compaction test needs to be done on the bottom of the landfill pit.

BG thought that the additional test would set the landfill back another two weeks, Mr. Archibald said.

The commissioners wanted to know why an additional test was needed when all needed tests had already been taken and the samples had passed.

Mr. Archibald said that the state had not given any reason for the additional test but that BG was getting it scheduled.

"Get him out there. We need to be using this thing," Commissioner Leroy Lang said. "It's a mess."

"This is just an uncalled for thing," Commission Chairman Dean Kruse said. "He shouldn't mind telling us why he wants another report. That's fair in anybody's game."

"It's going to cause the county a pretty large expense," County Clerk Robert

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County valuation edges up

By VERONICA MONIER

Norton County is worth a little bit more this year than last.

County Appraiser Alan Hale told the county commissioners at their meeting last week that the preliminary numbers on the county's valuation, which is based on real estate values, personal property values, oil values and state assessments, show an increase.

He said the valuation has gone up about \$700,000. Last year's valuation was \$39,063,146. This year it looks like the county has a valuation of \$39,783,981.

"It's not a final figure," Mr. Hale warned the commissioners, however.

He said oil prices have gone up, which raises the valuation. But, he said, oil is only a small part of the total. The big one, he said, is real estate, followed by state assessment.

"I see the valuation going up as a way for the county to maintain what we have," he said.

He said that his office has gotten the 2004 Real Estate Appraisal/Ratio Study back. The study, he said, is a report card on how the state rated him and the appraiser's office.

The report is a summary comparing the amount real estate is appraised for compared to how much it is sold for, he said. It includes residential property, commercial property and agricultural land with an emphasis on residential and commercial.

"If we nailed it right on the button of what it sold for we would be 100 percent," he said.

Mr. Hale said the county was a little high on residential sales at 103.2 percent and a little low in commercial in the low

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Friends gathered at Whispering Pines Saturday to celebrate "Christmas in July". They are (left to right) Betty Reid, Lula Hix and Dorothy Ward, Norcatur, and in the foreground, Helen McVay, Norton. Mrs. Hix and Betty

Reid, Whispering Pines "huddled up" (below) behind an array of snowmen.

— Telegram photos by Carolyn Plotts

Christmas visits early in Norton

Christmas cookies, Christmas trees and stuffed snowmen set the mood for a Christmas-In-July party held Saturday afternoon at Whispering Pines Retirement and Assisted Living Center, Norton.

More than 50 people braved the heat to stop awhile and visit with old friends and make new ones. Homemade ice cream, provided by the staff at Whispering Pines, made the heat seem tolerable.

Cynthia Collins, director of the center, said she was pleased to see so many people come out for the celebration.



Young man dies of gunshot wound

A fatal gunshot wound ended the life of a 19-year old Norton man early Friday morning.

At 12:13 a.m., the Norton Police Department, the Norton County Sheriff's Department, and the Kansas Bureau of Investigation responded to a call at 206 N. Norton regarding a possible gunshot wound, said Assistant Police Chief Toby Kuhn.

When the police arrived, they found Rick Kelly, who had apparently shot himself with a handgun in his home. Officer Kuhn said ownership of the gun is under in-

vestigation.

Mr. Kelly was taken to the Norton County Hospital by the Norton County Emergency Medical Service, where he was pronounced dead by Dr. Roy Hartley.

Officer Kuhn said the investigation is continuing to see if alcohol was a contributing factor.

More information will be released at a later time pending further investigation, he said.

See Page 2 of today's edition of *The Telegram* for Mr. Kelly's obituary.

School district asks city for water help

(Continued from Page 1)

- Authorized a resolution allowing the district to pay bills early in order to avoid late payment charges and to take advantage of early payment discounts. The resolution also allows for the reimbursement of sponsors who purchase meals, lodging and transportation for their students while on official school activities.
- Approved the district's

credits cards, their limits and what they can be used for.

- Heard that the welcome back picnic would be held on Tuesday, Aug. 16, at Elmwood Park and that the general assembly would be on Wednesday, Aug. 17.
- Met new Eisenhower Elementary Principal Corey Roy. Mr. Roy said he has had a really good reception and has nothing but positive comments and offers of help.

Additional test holds up landfill

(Continued from Page 1)

Wyatt noted. "I suggest you call Pat (Cox) and tell him that your commissioners are very curious as to why this test needs to be confirmed," Mr. Kruse said.

Both commissioners were worried that the county would need to contact Phillips County, which is taking Norton's trash, to tell them that the landfill has been further delayed.

Last week Mr. Archibald had told the commissioners that the landfill project was moving along well.

"I have some good news," he said. "The road into the pit is in and done."

He said he talked to Mr. Cox, who said the quality assurance report has been sent to Topeka.

Mr. Archibald said he had a good meeting the other week in Topeka about state statute on how close a landfill can be to water wells.

After several hours of discussion, now the group of Kansas De-

partment of Health and Environment people and county officials, decided to reword the statute, rather than rewrite it.

He said the statute has to do with how close a landfill can be to a city's water supply, including wells. They took a look at how to expand a landfill, depending on where it is in proximity to a water supply, including private wells. Grading and water flow also has to be checked.

"So, in our case, it (the statute) won't affect our landfill at all?" asked Commissioner John Miller.

Mr. Archibald said that it wouldn't. All of the city's wells are far enough away and so is the lake. He said they were talking about leaving the distance at a half a mile.

Commissioner Leroy Lang wanted to know how it would affect the county if someone wanted to drill a well within half a mile of the landfill.

Mr. Archibald said he didn't know, but would find out.

Cost of green fields becomes expensive

(Continued from Page 1)

good," he said. "For visitors to Norton from the north or south it is either the first thing they see as they arrive in Norton or the last thing they see as they leave.

"Travis Field is as attractive an area as will be found in western Kansas and it sets a tone and an attitude for Norton. Not just the schools, but the entire community."

Mr. Mann said the district would rather not drill wells and would like to negotiate with the city to see what could be done.

He said he was asking the council for permission to drill wells inside Travis Field or for representatives to sit and talk.

Councilman Jerry Jones said he saw no problem with getting together with the school district. But, he said, several people he has talked to don't see the need.

Mr. Mann said it was the school's duty to maintain Travis Field, but an attachment to the lease also said the city would help.

Councilwoman Elaine Mann said she agreed with Mr. Jones in that there was no problem with talking.

"There is never anything wrong with talking about something," agreed City Administrator Rob Lawson.

The council voted to send the matter to the finance committee, which will meet with the school district at its Aug. 1 meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the city building.

In other business, the council:

- Heard from Rural Fire Chief

Steve Otter that there is a problem with people parking in the alley (behind McDonald's) in front of the new rural fire building. He said several of his men couldn't get through when they were trying to get to the station for a fire call. He asked if the alley could be designated as a fire lane so that people wouldn't park there.

"I don't want to cause any problems, but it's just that we need an entrance," he said.

The council sent the matter to public safety committee, which will meet at 5:30 p.m. on Aug. 22.

• Heard from Donna Foley that the public safety committee had discussed the possibility of combining the police department with the sheriff's department. She said it was the recommendation of the committee to leave the police force as it is and not pursue the issue any further.

Mr. Lawson said he would like to see the issue put to rest for a long time and not discuss it again.

"This is the fourth time its been brought up and every time we decide not to do it," he said. "It destroys morale in the police department. I wouldn't want to work under those conditions, wondering if I'm going to have a job."

In other business, the council:

- Commended Judge Jerry Hawks for his efforts with weed clean-up.

- Set a budget hearing for 12:15 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 10.

- Went into a 10-minute closed session for attorney-client privileges.

County has higher appraised value

(Continued from Page 1)

to mid 90s.

"Statistically, we're not perfect, but we're working on it," he said.

Mr. Hale said one of his employees retired last week so she could spend more time on her family's farm. The employee was part time, but he said he thinks the position should be filled with a full-time person.

He said the appraiser's office will have about \$6,000 to \$7,000 extra that will come from going from a family plan on insurance to a single plan. He said the county no longer offers a family plan, except to those employees who already had it when the change was made.

"We need someone with energy," he said. "Whoever we hire will be outside a lot. We're not anticipating getting a lot of experience in this field."

The commission told him to run a budget sheet so they could see how the figures would turn out.

In other business, the commission:

- Heard from Alice Barnett, who requested a drop box for the Extension office. Ms. Barnett said those

wishing to drop off paperwork either during the lunch hour or after hours can no longer slide it under the door because the office has been carpeted. She said the door is mainly glass, but a slot at the bottom should work all right.

The commission said they would have Maintenance Supervisor Gary Matson look at the door to see what could be done.

- Learned from Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom Brannan that construction on bridge OS-220 is nearly finished. Once a little dirt work is done around the base, the project will be finished.

- Heard from Sheriff Troy Thomson that the sheriff's office has changed the way it handles money when booking someone into jail. He said, before, the person being booked would have his money put in a bag in a locker, but that still left the money sitting there.

Sheriff Thomson said after talking to Steve Zodrow, an accountant with Mapes and Miller, it was recommended that the department open a checking account, where all of the prisoners money would be deposited. Then, when they are

released, a check will be written to them from the account.

- Learned that the sheriff's department is looking at getting a jail management program. Sheriff Thomson said, with the program, everything will be computerized. He said he was estimating the program would cost around \$15,000 and he will be getting bids.

- Heard that the sheriff's office is still looking for a deputy. Sheriff Thomson said he thinks the problem is the hours. Most deputies, he said, will work 90 hours in a 14-day work period and then will also be on call another 45 hours during that time.

"It's hard not having anyone to work nights and weekends," he said.

- Went to the National Guard Armory to attend the 150th Guard Whistle Stop Caravan.

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