

Opinion

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Land market is going up double digits every year

To the Editor,
The Federal Reserve released the yearly survey for the average price per acre of land in each of the 50 states. As of Jan 1, 2005 (note: 2005 and not 2006), the cheapest land was in the desert of New Mexico at \$290 per acre.

The most expensive land is in New England (with) Rhode Island \$11,200; Connecticut \$10,800; Massachusetts \$10,500; New Jersey \$10,300. You will be surprised by the cost of pasture: Wyoming \$350; Montana \$445; North Dakota \$500; South Dakota \$570.

And what about the Southern Plains? Missouri \$1,740; Texas

\$925; Nebraska \$910; Colorado \$845; Oklahoma \$805; Kansas \$800.

Remember, these prices are from 2004 to 2005 and NOT from 2005 to 2006. There is another approximately 10 percent inflation rate from Jan. 1, 2005 to Jan. 1, 2006.

Recently, land in Decatur County sold at auction for slightly less than \$850 per acre. Landowners and Brokers who said this price was "too high" are two years behind a land market that is going up double digits every year.

Arthur Loyd Shelton
Oberlin Kan.

Grant writing abounds

Our first day of spring dawned more like a winter wonderland, and really showed us we're still in Kansas! Thank God for the much needed moisture for the wheat crops. For economic developers, spring also means grant writing season is in full swing. A few grants are available in the fall, but the majority of the government's "Request for Proposals" and "Notification of Funds Available" announcements are released in the spring.

I am currently compiling information for the USDA Energy Efficiency grant applications for small businesses that are high energy driven, with lots of old equipment, such as grocery stores and cleaners. One of the requirements for this grant is to have an energy audit conducted to prove the necessity of new equipment that would bring about a substantial energy savings. Thanks to the city of Norton and Midwest Energy for accommodating us in a timely manner as the applications are due by April 1.

I am also working on a development grant to see an increase in the number of travelers, thereby creating an increase in business along highway 36. Usually there are two rounds for this one, April and September. We'll try for April funding so we can get started on some of these projects.

The city of Norton and Norton County Economic Development are working together to apply for some marketing grants to provide promotional moneys for promoting race track events and the home owned and operated carnival. The funds for 2006 are usually depleted by June so we're applying as soon as we get all of the information compiled.

I've been informed that "Request for Proposals" and applications from the Department of Transportation for a community enhancement grant will be released in June or July. This grant would help improve the overall look of downtown Norton. Many communities use this grant in conjunction with Community Development Block Grants and Development grant funds. We are considering applying this summer, although actual grant moneys won't be released until early 2009.

Marlene Henderson is Norton County Economic Development executive director.

Moving Ahead

Marlene Henderson

The 911 Emergency grant applications should be released by early summer. We're working with the sheriff's office in gathering information now to be ready to write the grant proposal when it is released so we can meet the deadlines. This grant will assist law enforcement to trace emergency calls from cell phones and decrease the response time.

The USDA recently informed us that the city of Almena has been declared eligible for a Business Enterprise Grant; however we are completing Phase 2 of the grant application process. USDA also informed us a few weeks ago that in the past there have been one or two applicants a year for this particular grant. This year they have received 10 applications, which significantly reduce our chances of getting the amount requested for Almena. We will continue the application process and hope for the best.

As you can see my plate is full the next few months with grant writing. It would be great if we received every grant we applied for. Sometimes its a numbers game. Yet, I believe we have a good chance of receiving most of the grants we apply for.

Our office is contacted regularly by new startup businesses and businesses desiring to expand. I am currently assisting a couple of Colorado businesses that are in the process of relocating to Norton County.

Together they could provide a minimum of a dozen new jobs at start up. We have a list of available buildings for sale or lease on the Kansas Commerce website with contact names and phone numbers for businesses and industries that may be looking to relocate to our area.

Please feel free to call and we will do all that we can to assist you. The phone number is 785-874-4816.

Marlene Henderson is Norton County Economic Development executive director.

Councilman wants to be involved

(Continued from Page 1)

an avid motorcyclist. Mr. Jones' wife of 32 years, Debra, works at the hospital, his son works at the sunflower plant in Goodland and his daughter runs a day care in Norton. He has one grandchild and another on the way.

Economic development is a priority

(Continued from Page 1)

running for office. Mrs. Foley moved to Norton about eight years ago from Sacramento, Calif., where she worked for the city in the public works department. So, she said, she has dealt with city issues before.

Mrs. Foley works at Rural Telephone in the accounts receivable department. She and her husband, Ward, have two children, who both attend Kansas University.



Donna Foley checked to make sure the time was right in preparation for Daylight Saving Time this weekend. — Telegram photo by Veronica Monier

Clocks need to be adjusted Saturday

(Continued from Page 1) in Arizona, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Incidentally, many fire departments encourage residents to change the batteries in their smoke detectors when they change their clocks.

The time change will undergo a

change in 2007. President Bush signed the Energy Policy Act of 2005 on Aug. 8, 2005. What that Act does is change the dates for Daylight Saving Time to begin on the second Sunday of March in 2007 and end on the first Sunday of November.

Further research indicates that the Energy Department Secretary

will report whatever impact the new change has to Congress, which can then opt to stay the course or revert back to the 2005 schedule (the schedule we currently use).

But for now, on Saturday night be sure you move your clocks up one hour before going to bed.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

NORTON

Senior High:

Monday — Tenth grade state math assessments; FFA livestock judging at Cheylin, 9 a.m.; Jay Singers, a.p.; Requisitions due to principal; Junior Varsity Track at Smith Center, 4:30 p.m.; Kay Board, 7 p.m.

Tuesday — Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.; Tenth grade state math assessments; Cheer, a.p.; FCCLA, a.p.; Varsity Golf at Smith Center, 3 p.m.; Forensics at Phillipsburg, 4 p.m.

Wednesday — Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.; Tenth grade state math assessments; SAC, a.p.; Dance sign-up meeting, a.p.; Prom Royalty election

Thursday — Tenth grade state math assessments; Kays, a.p.; Prom servers meeting, 6 p.m.; Kansas Honors program at Logan, 6:30 p.m.

Friday — Tenth grade state math assessments; McCook Art Show; Norton Invitational Golf, 9 a.m.; Norton Invitational Track Meet, 3 p.m.

Saturday — ACT test date, 7:30 a.m.; Promenade, high school gym, 5:45 p.m.; Prom, Junior High gym, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday — FCCLA State Leadership at Wichita

Next Monday — FCCLA State Leadership at Wichita; Dance practice, 7 a.m.; Jay Singers, a.p.

Junior High:

Monday — Stuco, a.p.

Tuesday — Kay Board, a.p.

Wednesday — Team meeting, 7:30 a.m.

Thursday — Norton Invitational Track Meet, 10:30 a.m.

Next Monday — Eighth Grade Drivers Ed meeting, a.p.; Mid-Continent Elementary League Scholar Bowl at Smith Center, 4 p.m.

Eisenhower:

Thursday — IEP Day; Early Childhood-Grade 2 Level meeting, 3:40 p.m.

All Schools:

Tuesday — KPERS Retirement

meeting, auditorium, 5-9 p.m.

Wednesday — Administrators meeting, Alice Tweed office, 9:30 a.m.

Next Monday — Board of Education meeting, Alice Tweed office, 7:30 p.m.

High School Menus:

Monday — Breakfast: Coffee cake, fruit or juice or cereal, toast, milk; Lunch: Burrito, lettuce, tomato, shredded cheese, hot roll, Spanish rice, peaches or chef salad, milk

Tuesday — Breakfast: Biscuit and sausage gravy, fruit or juice or cereal, toast, milk; Lunch: Chili Frito and shredded cheese, garden salad, hot roll, fruit crisp or chef salad, milk

Wednesday — Breakfast: Yogurt, bagel and cream cheese, fruit or juice or cereal, toast, milk; Lunch: Chicken and noodles, whipped potatoes carrots, hot roll, autumn spiced bar, or chef salad, milk

Thursday — Breakfast: Egg muffin sandwich, fruit or juice or cereal, toast, milk; Lunch: Club sandwich, lettuce and tomato, peas, peaches or chef salad, milk

Friday — Breakfast: Waffles/syrup, bacon, fruit or juice or cereal, toast, milk; Lunch: fish sandwich, lettuce and tomato, green beans, applesauce or chef salad, milk

Eisenhower Menus:

Monday — Breakfast: Monkey bread, grape juice, milk; Lunch: Spaghetti, tossed salad, peaches, garlic bread, milk

Tuesday — Breakfast: Sausage gravy, biscuit, orange juice, milk;

Lunch: Corn dog, tater tots, baby carrots, fruit cocktail, milk

Wednesday — Breakfast: Banana bread, peaches, milk; Lunch: Scalloped chicken, corn, pears, celery stick, dinner roll, milk

Thursday — Breakfast: Sausage patty with biscuit, apple juice, milk; Lunch: Beef burrito, cheesy broccoli, rosy applesauce, blonde brownies, milk

Friday — Breakfast: French toast/syrup, pears, milk; Lunch: Grilled cheese sandwich, yogurt, baby carrots, green beans, banana spears, milk

NORTHERN VALLEY

Monday — Breakfast and lunch payment due; State Assessments, Seventh Grade Math, 8:30 a.m.; Eighth Grade Reading, 9:15 a.m.; Fifth Grade Math, 8:30 a.m.; Sixth Grade Math, 9:15 a.m.; FFA Invitational Livestock contest at Cheylin, 9 a.m.; Sixth, Seventh and Eighth Grade Track, K-town Invitational at Smith Center, 12:30 p.m.; Post Prom meeting at Almena in the Lunchroom, 7 p.m.

Tuesday — State Assessments, Seventh Grade Math, 8:30 a.m.; Eighth Grade Reading, 9:15 a.m.; Tenth Grade Math, 8:30 a.m.; Fourth Grade Math, 9:45 a.m.; Stuco visit with Eighth Grade at Long Island, 11 a.m.; Junior High Music Recital at Long Island, 1:30 p.m.; High School Forensics meet at Phillipsburg, 3 p.m.; High School Cheerleading practice in Almena, 5 p.m.; FFA Chapter Banquet at Almena in the big gym, 7 p.m.

Wednesday — State Assessments, Tenth Grade Math, 8:30

a.m.; Fourth Grade Math, 9:20 a.m.; Junior High Music Contest at Logan, 8 a.m.; High School Cheerleading Practice at Almena, 5 p.m.

Thursday — No School; League Forensics Meet at Almena, 9 a.m.; Mentor meeting at Fort Hays State University, 9 a.m.-11 a.m.; Seventh and Eighth Grade Track Meet at Norton, 10:30 a.m.; Kansas Honors Program at Logan, 6:15 p.m.

Friday — First and Second Grade Plays at Almena in the grade school gym, 2:50 p.m.; High School Track at Norton, 3 p.m.

Saturday — ACT Test at Almena in the high school gym, 7 a.m.-1 p.m.

Northern Valley Menus:

Monday — Breakfast: Breakfast burrito, grape juice, cereal; Lunch: Soft shell taco, tossed salad with dressing, corn, chocolate pudding

Tuesday — Breakfast: Donuts, scrambled eggs, orange slices, cereal assortment; Lunch: Chicken patty, bun, mashed potatoes, dill spear, broccoli, yellow cake with frosting

Wednesday — Breakfast: Waffles/syrup, ham slice, peaches, cereal assortment; Lunch: Spaghetti, tossed salad with dressing, garlic sticks, carrots, fruit cup

Thursday — No School

Friday — Breakfast: Plain muffin/jelly, scrambled eggs, sausage patty, cereal assortment; Lunch: Macaroni-n-cheese Little Smokies, French bread, green beans, pears

Eminent domain most discussed issue

During my six years of public service in the Kansas legislature, two issues stand out in my mind for having the most public feedback from my constituents: The Marriage Amendment and Eminent Domain.

I recall a conversation with Harold Lundgren of Gove. He said "Good fences make good neighbors." I agree with him. People get along best when they feel secure in their possessions, and when they can be confident that their earnings will be secure from their neighbor's desires. Government and local officials must come to see the vital importance of property rights in any free country. There can be no other rights without property rights. A civilized political system simply cannot survive when a government can

take away people's property and give it to whatever group with the most political influence. The definitions of "Public Use" can not be interpreted to mean "Private Use." Tightening the legal definition of "blight" would help ensure that eminent domain is only used for truly unsafe property, not just property that fails to produce enough tax revenue.

We should not allow cities, counties, or state agencies the power through eminent domain to force someone to involuntarily sell their house, their business, or their farm so they can give it to other private owners for their own private use. Until the Kelo decision, the fifth amendment of our U.S. Constitution has allowed government to take private property for "public use" only. The Kelo decision opened up the arena to allow

Senate Doings

Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer



anything a governmental unit decides will benefit the public, including increased tax revenues. I don't agree with the argument that eminent domain is a valuable tool for economic development. Eminent domain abuse will damage people's faith in their own government, and people who are not secure in their own possessions cannot plan for their own future.

A healthy economy is best achieved when individuals are free to use their own resources as they see fit.

Job Opening

The Norton Telegram is looking for someone to join Hypatia Day in the Advertising Sales Department. Previous sales experience helpful, but not required. Training provided. Good working conditions. Commission-based, but great potential for the right person. Super staff.

To set up an appointment, or learn more about the opportunity, please contact the newspaper's publisher, Tom Dreiling, at (785) 877-6908 (daytime) or 877-3823 (evenings).

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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