

Tuesday
August 22, 2006

Tidying up the place

**Norton, Kansas
Home of Pat Morel**

Briefly

**Republican picnic
to be Saturday**

The 26th annual Phillips County "Old Fashioned Republican Picnic" will be held at 6 p.m. Saturday on the lawn at Hansen Memorial Plaza in Logan.

Keynote speakers will be the Republican leaders of Kansas. A fried chicken dinner will be served. Tickets are available from Mapes & Miller CPAs, Rodgers & Associates and Judy Rowland, Phillipsburg or Polly Bales, Janene Schneider or Lynn Clements, Logan or Linda McDowell, Agra.

**Well testing
service provided**

The Northwest Local Environmental Protection Group provides environmental health services to Norton County. A representative will be in the county at least once a month. Services provided by the group include free water well evaluations and testing for nitrates and bacteria.

For an appointment, call their office in Colby at 785-462-8636 or call the Norton County Health Department at 877-5745.

**Author will be
in Phillipsburg**

The lawyer who represented the family of Nancy Cruzan in the first right-to-die case heard by the U.S. Supreme Court will speak at 6 p.m. Wednesday at the Huck Boyd Center in Phillipsburg.

Bill Colby, author of "Unplugged: Reclaiming Our Right to Die in America" and "Long Goodbye: The Deaths of Nancy Cruzan" will speak, free to the public, in a forum sponsored by Phillips County Caring Community, Hospice Services and Phillips County Health Systems.

Mr. Colby has appeared on *Larry King Live*, *Hardball*, *Frontline*, *Today*, and *CBS This Morning*. He is a Senior Fellow with the National Hospice and Palliative Organization and a national spokesperson for their *It's About How You LIVE* national campaign.

For more information contact Hospice Services, Inc., 785-543-2900.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Mostly clear with patchy fog after midnight. **Wednesday** — Mostly sunny with highs in the mid 90s. **Wednesday Night** — Mostly clear with lows in the upper 60s. **Thursday** — Mostly sunny with highs in upper 90s.

Kingham report:

Friday Low 66, High 96
Saturday Low 63, High 79, .20 Prec.
Sunday Low 59, High 84
Monday Low 60, High 89
(Readings taken at the Fred and Karolyn Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

O God, teach us to be faithful disciples, willing to help those in need around us. Thank you for empowering us through prayer. **Amen**



He's ready for the first bell. Five-year old Shayd Dicks located his desk and stowed his supplies during Thursday night's open house at Eisenhower Elementary. Shayd, the son of Amy Dicks, will be in Cheri Brooks' first grade class. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Hospital scales back renovation project

By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton County Hospital board is taking another look at a few potential renovations to get the cost down.

Hospital Administrator Rich Miller said the cost to renovate the physical therapy, cardiac rehab and surgery departments, as well as the Colby Community College nursing area, was a lot higher than they estimated.

Surgery alone would cost them over \$900,000, he said. Together, it would cost in the area of \$1.67 million.

"We decided we needed to come back to the basics," he said.

The staff of physical therapy and cardiac rehab worked with maintenance supervisor Ty Bruton to come up with a new plan, which will probably keep the cost down, he said. Mr. Miller described some of what the

plan involved, using available space.

No grants were available to renovate the nursing college and so a new plan will need to be formed for that area and surgery to also keep the cost down, he said.

Board member Dennis Gilhousen said the new plan was a lot more practical. He said he didn't have a problem with letting the architect take a look at it. The new plan offered less disruption as well, he said.

The board agreed to have the hospital's architect look at the new plan for physical therapy and cardiac rehab. They will look more into the other areas in the future.

In other business, the board:

- Went over a statewide patient satisfaction survey with Quality Improvement Coordinator Lynn Thiele. Ms. Thiele said there were 1,297 hospitals nationwide and 22 in Kansas who participated in the sur-

vey. The Norton hospital is measured against the other participating hospitals to see how it compares on patient satisfaction. She said overall, the hospital did well. She will be taking the results to the hospital's employees to help them work on those things that need to be improved.

- Reviewed patient surveys for July.

- Learned that in the month of July, the hospital had 355 patient days, 74 admissions, 3 births, 25 surgeries, 3,882 out-patient procedures, 1,192 Doctor's Clinic visits, and 787 in-patient procedures.

- Heard the 2006 Site Audit Review went well. Chief Financial Officer Ryan Stover said the hospital's net income is \$73,874, which is before the Medicare adjustment.

Mr. Miller said they were very confident that they would not have to pay into Medi-

care, which would put the net income above \$73,874. The report will be reviewed at the September meeting, when John Harris with Mapes and Miller will be there.

- Learned Mr. Miller is still working on physician recruitment to find a permanent doctor to replace Dr. Roy Hartley, who retired this summer.

- Approved the purchase of a new colonoscope. Mr. Miller said to have the old scope upgraded it would cost \$13,000, while buying a new one would cost around \$18,000. The hospital did 65 procedures using the scope last year.

- Heard from Mr. Miller that the parking lot project is finished and the concrete is curing.

- Held a 30-minute closed session to discuss matters relating to attorney-client privilege.

*Firemen plan
for day of fun
at Jennings*

The Jennings Firemen are completing plans for the 15th annual Firemen's Fun Day scheduled for Saturday.

Started in 1991, as a way to bring the local children and adults together for a day of fun and games, it continues, in spite of dwindling numbers, to be a day of enjoyment. It's also a way of making money for local volunteer organizations.

As always, the day will begin with a health fair sponsored by Decatur Health Systems and Decatur Emergency Medical Services. Those who wish to have the Hemagram done must be fasting. (The hemagram includes the 28 usual tests as well as a thyroid study and a breakdown of your cholesterol levels.) A prostate cancer screening test will also be available. (Continued on Page 5)



St. Joseph's Parish in New Almelo held another successful quilt auction during this year's bazaar. Mike Weimer of Hoxie donated his services again this year. Weimer is shown at right as he takes bids from the large crowd for the Tree of Life applique quilt which was sold to Linda Wahlmeier for \$575. Also pictured are, from left, Tammy Otter and Angie Feldt. — Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

**Annual bazaar
is a success
in New Almelo**

By BETTY OTTER

Saturday, August 12 was the date of another successful New Almelo Bazaar. As in the past, many former parishioners as well as people of neighboring communities were in attendance.

This year, however, members of the Lenora High School classes of 1975, 1976 and 1981 added to the crowd as they completed their reunions by attending the bazaar.

A total of 368 tickets were sold for the barbecued beef and pork meal with all the trimmings. The bake sale opened by 4:30 p.m. with a variety of delicious baked items. The fancy work booth had the added attractions this year of parish history/cookbooks and homemade (Continued on Page 5)