



Disabled Services of Northwest Kansas President Jerry Michaud spoke Tuesday to the agency's employees during a swing through the 18 counties it serves. President Michaud urged the employees to support a newly introduced bill that would provide much needed funding to support people with developmental disabilities.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

President rallies support for bill

By CAROLYN PLOTTS
cplotts@nwkansas.com

Disabled Services of Northwest Kansas (DSNWK) President Jerry Michaud was in Norton Tuesday in an effort to rally support of a house bill, No. 2761, that was introduced last week.

President Michaud was on a tour of the 18 counties served by the agency, raising support for increased funding for services for people with disabilities.

He said over 6,000 individuals from Northwest Kansas signed a petition last year to support funding recommended by the Legislative Budget Committee. He is encouraging everyone to personally voice, to their legislators, the need to pass this bill.

He said 3,000 people are still on waiting lists. Until they can be placed in a community care facility, most are being cared for by their families.

Disability service providers have struggled financially for more than a decade, due to only minor funding adjustments by the State.

In December of 2006, the interim Legislative Budget Committee, comprised of leaders from both the House and Senate, proposed a multi-year funding plan for community developmental disability services that would help close the funding gap. The plan calls for an investment of \$70 million dollars in State funds over the next three years to boost

reimbursement to community providers while completely eliminating the State's "waiting lists" of children and adults with developmental disabilities.

The Kansas Legislative Budget committee recommended the Legislature establish a phased-in effort to tackle and eventually eliminate these obstacles.

For more information, please contact, Steve Keil, Director of Development, 785-625-5678.

To voice your opinion to your legislator, write State Sen. Ralph Ostmeier, State Capitol Building, Room 262-E, Topeka, Kan. 66612; or send an e-mail to State Representative John Faber at: faber@house.state.ks.us.

Colby commission breaks meeting law

By JAN KATZ ACKERMAN
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Thomas County Commissioners have an opportunity to avoid prosecution for two Sunshine Law violations which took place Dec. 28, 2007.

Sunshine Law is the slang term for the Kansas Open Meetings and Open Records Acts which open government activities to the public so binding actions are not taken outside the public's awareness.

Commissioners Ken Christiansen, Paul Steele and Byron Sowers have until March 5 to accept a settlement agreement offered by the Kansas Attorney General's Office. Assistant Attorney General Michael J. Smith, in a letter dated Feb. 4, told Thomas County Attorney Andrea Wyrick the commissioners violated the Open Meetings Act by "discussing a salary plan that covered all non-elected county employees behind closed doors."

Smith said a second violation took place when the commissioners failed to open the doors when they said they would.

Smith is giving Christiansen, Steele and Sowers six months to obtain one and one-half hour training on the provisions of the KOMA, according to the settlement agreement. The training must be paid for out of each commissioner's own pocket, not county money.

In addition to getting training about the Kansas Open Meetings

Act, the commissioners must not violate the act in the future. Should they do so, the agreement would be nullified and they could face prosecution. The terms of the settlement agreement does not apply to future or currently unknown commissioner conduct which could be filed with Attorney General Stephen Six's Office in Topeka.

According to the act, any member of a body or agency who knowingly violates any of the provisions of it or intentionally fails to furnish information as required by it shall be liable for the payment of a civil penalty of not more than \$500 for each violation. Smith said the state is offering the commissioners the opportunity to enter into the agreement as a way to avoid expending "additional time and resources on this matter."

While Christiansen and Sowers appeared ready to sign off on the agreement on Monday, Steele was not.

"I have not had time to review the letter," Steele said, wanting to wait until the Feb. 19 meeting to make a decision about signing the agreement.

As previously reported, the 20 minute executive session came under fire when Colby Free Press

Reporter Kevin Johnson questioned whether a formal motion about the closed door session took place during the Dec. 28 meeting.

Despite paperwork on file in Thomas County Clerk Shelly Harms' office which says a motion passed unanimously, the public and press were not allowed back in the meeting until 10:06 a.m., six minutes after the time allotted.

Besides the commissioners, those meeting for non-elected personnel matters were Road and Bridge Supervisor Clair Schrock, Landfill Supervisor Larry Jumper, Emergency Medical Service Director Ken Gatlin, Undersheriff Allen Marcum, Sheriff Mike Baughn, Register of Deeds Maybelle Moore and County Clerk Shelly Harms. Baughn, Moore and Harms are elected officials, all three of which do not qualify as non-elected personnel.

Colby Free Press Editor Patty Decker contacted the Attorney General's office after Johnson reported his suspicion the commissioners violated the act. Steele was the only one of the three commissioners who believed the executive session was inappropriate, according to Decker's complaint filed with the state.

Getting in the act...



David Malmberg, who performed Sunday evening at East Campus Auditorium, entertained his crowd with more than ventriloquism. He also played guitar and had his audience interact with him. Mr. Malmberg's show was brought to Norton by the Norton County Arts Council.

— Telegram photo by Veronica Monier

SCHOOL CALENDAR

NORTON Senior High

Feb. 17-22 — National FFA Week

Monday, Feb. 18 — Basketball vs. Plainville, there, 5 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 19 — Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.; National Honor Society, A.P.; Basketball vs. Colby, here, 4 p.m.; Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) Cake Raffle, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 21 — Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.; S.I.T. Meeting, 7:45 a.m.; Kansas Scholastic Press Association, Regional Contest, Fort Hays State University, 8 a.m.

Friday, Feb. 22 — State Wrestling at Fort Hays State University, 10 a.m.

Saturday, Feb. 23 — State Wrestling at Fort Hays State University, 10 a.m.

Feb. 25-29 — Social Studies State Assessments

Monday, Feb. 25 — Spring sports practices may begin; Wrestling Photos, 3:30 p.m.; Sub-State Basketball, Boys Quarter-Final games, TBA

Tuesday, Feb. 26 — Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.; Junior Class Menu Committee Meeting, High School Art Room, A.P.; Sub-State Basketball, Girls Quarter-Final Games, TBA

Wednesday, Feb. 27 — FFA Ag Mechanics and Spring Meeting, Goodland, Northwest Kansas Technical College, 9 a.m.; S.A.C Meeting, A.P.

Thursday, Feb. 28 — FCCLA Meeting, A.P.; Sub-State Basketball, Boys Semi-Finals at Norton, 6 and 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 29 — Mid-Continent League Art Show at the Dane Hansen Museum in Logan Ends; Sub-State Basketball, Girls Semi-Finals at Norton, 6 and 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, March 1 — Forensics at Ellis, 7:30 a.m.; FFA State Degree Selection at Quinter, 9 a.m.; Sub-State Basketball Championship Games at Norton, 7 and 8:30 p.m.

Junior High

Wednesday, Feb. 20 — Mid-Continent Elementary League Music Festival at Norton Junior High School and Norton Community High School, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 21 — Wrestling

at Osborne with Plainville and Phillipsburg, 5 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 25 — Wrestling Pictures, 3:30 p.m.; Scholar's Bowl at Stockton, 4 p.m.

Eisenhower

Wednesday, Feb. 20 — Parent-Teacher Conferences, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 21 — Fifth and Sixth Grade Level Meeting, 3:40 p.m.

Feb. 25-29 — Fifth Grade Writing Assessments

Wednesday, Feb. 27 — S.I.T. Meeting, 7:30 a.m.; Staff Wellness Meeting, Band Room, 4 p.m.

All Schools

Wednesday, Feb. 20 — No School for Students, K-12

Monday, Feb. 25 — P.D.C. at Unified Office, 4 p.m.

NORTHERN VALLEY

Monday, Feb. 18 — No School; High School Regional Basketball, TBD; High School Dance team practice, TBD

Feb. 18-23 — National FFA Week

Tuesday, Feb. 19 — High School Regional Basketball, TBD

Wednesday, Feb. 20 — Greater Northern Elementary Conference Scholarship Contest at Long Island, 8 a.m. to 3:10 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 21 — High School Regional Basketball,

CERTIFIED MEDICATION AIDE

Logan County Manor is now accepting applications for a full-time Certified Medication Aide to work 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate compassion, a positive attitude, and a commitment of a team oriented working environment. LCM offers competitive wages include shift differential. An excellent benefit package awaits the successful candidate. Benefits include: Health Insurance, Life Insurance, KPERs, PTO, optional Dental Insurance, AFLAC plans, Flexible Spending Accounts, and Deferred Comp plan. Applications may be picked up a Logan County Hospital, Logan County Manor or obtained on our website at www.logancountyhospital.org and returned to: Logan County Hospital, Attn: Human Resources, 211 Cherry Avenue, Oakley, KS 67748 or you may contact Sandy Koeperich, DON @ 785-672-8109, Ext. 315. Logan County Manor is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

TBD; High School Dance team practice, TBD

Friday, Feb. 22 — High School Regional Basketball, TBD

Saturday, Feb. 23 — High School Regional Basketball, TBD

Monday, Feb. 25 — First possible day of track practice; High School Sub-State Basketball, TBD; High School Dance team practice, TBD

Tuesday, Feb. 26 — High School Sub-State Basketball, TBD

Wednesday, Feb. 27 — Technology Director's Cadre at Fort Hays State University; FFA Spring Area meeting and District Ag Mechanics at Goodland, 9:00 a.m.

Thursday, Feb. 28 — Jump Rope for Heart during Physical Education Classes; KMEA State Music Convention at Wichita; High School Sub-State Basketball, TBD; High School Dance team practice, TBD

720 ACRES CROPLAND, CRP & GRASS
ABSOLUTE LAND AUCTION
NORTON COUNTY, KS
Tues, March 4, 2008 @10:30 AM, CST

AUCTION LOCATION: St. Francis Parish Hall, Norton, KS
SELLERS: The Heirs of the late Leo & Rose Uhrich

This land will sell in 2 tracts!

LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS:

TRACT 1: NW/4 of 28-3-22
TRACT 2: N/2 & SE/4 of 29-3-22 & E/2NE/4 of 32-3-22

This farm is located on a good gravel road close to Norton, KS. The CRP acres adjoins the pasture and could be fenced in with pasture to make a great place for cattle. Many deer "hang out" on the South 80. Plant the small fields to grass and have 720 acres of grazing land. There are 3 ponds in the grassland along with two submersible wells. Fun place, great location — GREAT place to "park" some money.

CALL FOR A BROCHURE OR VISIT us at www.farmandranchrealty.com

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NORTON COUNTY HEALTH PROMOTION BLOOD SCREENING
Monday, February 25
7:00 a.m. to Noon

PROVIDED BY A JOINT EFFORT OF THE NORTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND THE NORTON COUNTY HOSPITAL

HEALTH PROFILE #1 - \$40.00
Screens electrolytes, kidney and liver function, alkaline phosphate, glucose, cholesterol (HDL, LDL, VLDL and triglycerides) and CBC.

PSA - PROFILE #2 - \$20.00
Evaluates prostate condition

TSH - PROFILE #3 - \$15.00
Evaluates thyroid levels and function

Need to be fasting (no food or drink after midnight) before testing

Location: Norton County Health Department
801 N. Norton, Norton, Kan.

NO APPOINTMENTS NECESSARY

ACCEPT CASH AND CHECK ONLY
INSURANCE BILLING NOT AVAILABLE

Results of the screening will be available at the Norton County Health Fair on February 27 at the National Guard Armory in Norton from 4:00-8:00 p.m. Participants that cannot attend the Health Fair will receive their results by mail.

Questions? Call the Norton County Health Department at 785-877-5745

The Norton Telegram is a proud sponsor of the Norton County Health Fair