



A Red Cross technician from the Hays area office stood by as first-time donor, Tanner Jessup, 16, donated blood. A Red Cross Blood Drive was held Wednesday at Northern Valley High School. Beginning at 9 a.m. in the school's conference room, the blood drive netted 19 pints. Students, age 16, can donate with parental consent. Students 17 and older don't need consent.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Electric cots for ambulance aired

By Cynthia Haynes
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Purchasing new electric cots for the ambulance might save money in the long run for Norton County

County Emergency Medical Services Director Jane Wyatt told commissioners at their meeting on Monday that she has been investigating the possibility of getting electric-assist cots.

While it would be beneficial for Norton, she said, Lenora and Almena crews have said they don't need them because they always have plenty of help to lift during emergencies because of the number of firemen and volunteers who show up.

Mrs. Wyatt said that she really appreciated all the help her crew gets from firemen and police and sheriff's officers, especially when something happens in the middle of the night.

However, she said, sometimes the patients are pretty heavy.

"Our cots are limited and we did have one individual, who weighed in excess of 300 pounds," she said.

Emergency medical technician Aden Schillig said he remembers one over 400 pounds and while the cots the service uses now are rated for 500 and 600 pounds, they get pretty squeaky with heavy loads.

Mr. Schillig said he had had a chance to use the electric-assist cots, which use electricity to raise and lower themselves and have their own generator for power.

"They are really awesome," he said, adding that he thinks they would be well worth the money.

Commissioner John Miller said the county's workers comp insurance representative has told him that that type of cot is pretty cheap compared to paying a claim for a back injury.

Mrs. Wyatt said that she would like two cots for the county's most used ambulances but she has to prioritize what she buys.

One problem with the electric cots, she said, is they are about 25 pounds heavier than the others.

"I've never been able to tell the difference between 325 pounds and 350 pounds," Mr. Schillig said, adding that because the cots raise and lower themselves they don't seem so heavy and you don't move them like you do a regular cot.

Mrs. Wyatt said Commissioner Richard Thompson had come by for a question and answer session with Dr. Elizabeth Sliter but it hadn't gone well. The doctor was sick and couldn't make it, she said, and then the phone rang constantly.

The commissioners went into closed session with the emergency workers, County Counselor Doug Sebelius and County Clerk Robert Wyatt at Mrs. Wyatt's request for 15 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Heard from Solid Waste Supervisor Curt Archibald about his trip to Overland Park last week for a meeting. He said he and employee Kirk Foley received eight hours of continuing education each on handling household hazardous waste.

- Learned that because of the rain on Monday, the cleanup program for the city and county was put off a day and would continue through Thursday instead of Wednesday.

- Heard from Mr. Lang that he had looked at the heat pump system at Prairie Land and thinks the county should look into that sort of system for the new emergency management building, as it should save money on heating and cooling over the lifetime of the facility.

- Talked to Economic Development Director Diane Becker about the county helping pay for the demolition of 10 old houses in

2009. The county has said it would help pay for the destruction of up to six houses in 2008, she said, and wanted to know if commissioners would look at upping that for the future.

The commissioners said they would take her suggestion under advisement but it depended on landfill space and other budgeting constraints.

- Heard that Ms. Becker felt the job fair, held last Friday, was a success. There were 13 vendors, she said, and about 40 to 50 people there filling out applications.

- "Last month we had 3 percent unemployment (in Norton County)," she said. "That is considered full employment."

That makes getting quality workers a problem, she said, adding that employers have told her that housing is a primary issue. The quality isn't what people need.

Commissioner Miller suggested that she question employers closer and find out what exactly their people are looking for in housing.

"We need employers to tell us why the houses that are available aren't good for their employees," he said. "Somebody's got to tell us what they want. What's acceptable and what's not acceptable."

Norton banker named to board

John Engelbert, President of First State Bank, Norton, is one of three new directors appointed to the board of Bankers' Bank of Kansas. The other two are Steven Carr, chairman and President of Community Bank of Wichita and



J. Engelbert

Dennis Lull, President of The Bennington State Bank, Salina. The three men join the organization's 13-member board.

Directors Christopher Costello, President of Tampa State Bank in Tampa, and Mike Ewy, President of Community State Bank in Coffeyville, will serve as chairman and vice chairman, respectively.

"As the correspondent leader for Kansas banks we are pleased to have the knowledge and strength

of these gentlemen leading the way for Bankers' Bank of Kansas. It is visionary leaders like these who have helped us grow and succeed for the past 20 years," said Bruce Schriefer, the Bankers' Bank of Kansas chairman and president. Bankers' Bank of Kansas has more than \$3 billion in assets under management and serves nearly 300 customer banks with complete, competitive correspondent bank services.

4-H Regional winners announced

The Annual Regional 4-H Club Day was held at Hill City last Friday with top selections from Norton, Phillips and Graham counties involved.

A total of 104 individuals and group entries were given, representing these categories: Demonstrations, Talks, Readings, Music Selections, Talent, Skits and Model Meetings.

Beverly Kindler, former Extension Family Consumer Sciences Agent, judged the Senior Demonstrations. Keith VanSlike,

Norton County Extension Director, assisted.

Each club in Norton County was represented.

The results for Norton County were as follows:

Wyatt and Quentin Wentz, Red, Project Talk

Colten Bach, Red, Project Talk

Phillip Becker, Blue, Public Speaking

Melinda Becker, Top Blue, Public Speaking

Quentin Wentz, Red, Jr. Demonstration

Rebecca Wentz, Blue, Jr. Demonstration

Carissa Wentz, Red, Sr. Demonstration

Megan Wentz, Blue, Sr. Demonstration

Busy Jayhawkers, Blue, Model Meeting

Kelsey Mordecai, Blue, Instrumental Solo

Lauren and Kelsey Mordecai, Blue, Instrumental Ensemble

Lauren Mordecai, Blue, Vocal Solo

Busy Beavers Club, Blue, Dance

Cedar Ridge, Blue, Skit

Dalton Vanover, Blue, Jr. Reading

Michael Callaway, Blue, Sr. Reading

Kegan Vanover, Blue, Sr. Reading

Distribution of surplus food slated

The Norton County Senior Citizens, Inc. will distribute government surplus food from 2 to 4 p.m. Friday, April 11 at the Norton Senior Center. In Lenora, surplus food will be distributed from 2 to 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 9 at the Senior Center.

Food distribution will take place in Almena from 2 to 4 p.m., Friday, April 11 at the Almena Senior Center and in Clayton from 2 to 2:30 p.m., Saturday, April 12 at the Clayton Library.

Food available for distribution is: pears, beef stew, rice cereal, peas and peaches. For more information, contact Ramona Pabian, 877-5352. No early pick-ups, please.

College to host juniors April 24

High school juniors and their parents are invited to get a "bird's eye view" of college life at Cloud County Community College's Junior Day April 24 on the Concordia campus.

The day begins at 9 a.m. with a campus tour. A complimentary lunch will be provided at 12 noon with the event concluding at 1 p.m.

College admissions staff will share information to help students formulate questions and gather answers to help them make the right college choices.

Do you have interest in IT and ready to start working as a management level employee within a growing company?

Driven by the success of the electronic health record software developed by Valley Hope Association, Valley Hope has recently launched the commercial sale of its software and other value-added services. In turn, this is requiring that we expand our customer service and technical help desk support. We are seeking a highly motivated and results-driven individual to act as the Help Desk Manager. The Help Desk Manager is responsible for managing the help desk team in providing high quality customer service for both internal and external clients of our VHA-IMCSS software products. Candidate must be customer-oriented with at least three years of customer service focused experience and have the ability to coach and mentor staff. A BA in computer or business field is preferred, but not required. Candidate must also have the ability to troubleshoot in IT environment and have excellent written and oral communications skills. Starting annual salary is up to \$38K with good salary growth potential to possible earn over \$50K p/year and an outstanding and highly competitive benefits package.

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