

## Eat first, work later



Norton Junior High students ate their lunch in Elmwood Park before beginning their projects for the annual Service Learning Day.

—Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

## Cookin' the burgers



Members of the Norton Lions Club served hamburgers to Norton Junior High students who took part in the annual Service Learning Day project. Lion Doug Ray slapped burgers on the grill while Mark Griffin, hidden from view, flipped them.

—Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

## Andbe: projects detailed

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Some specific problems are:

- The nurses station, which is open and therefore not compliant with federal privacy laws.
- The flooring, which is worn out in some places and contains asbestos.
- The handrails, which need to be sanded down and refinished to prevent splinters.
- Formica countertops, which are pulling up at the edges.
- Heating units, which are still working but are so old that replacement parts are not available and could become a problem in the near future.

- All wood surfaces including doors, door frames, built-in dressers, closet doors, cabinets, which are gouged, scratched and in need of repair.
- Wall, which needs to be painted.
- Accordion closet doors, which need replacement.
- Baseboards, which need replacing.

The state has cited the facility for disrepair to the floors and wood surfaces, including the nurses station surfaces and those are being repaired, however, the other things need to be taken care of to avoid future deficiencies.

The state will be doing another assessment sometime between November and March, Ms. McGinnis said

"We don't want to get a deficiency," she told the commissioners. "We want to be a step ahead of them."

The commissioners said they would consider the request but suggested that the group come up with specific amounts they need for specific projects.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Discussed the expense of storing road salt.
- Received a notice from the state board of tax appeals that AT&T will receive a \$6,566 rebate on its second half taxes. This will affect agencies like the extension office, they said, which plan on part of the money to run its programs.
- Talked with Economic Development Director Diane Becker about the possibility of Orschelns putting a store in Norton.
- Received an annual report from High Plains Mental Health, which provides mental health services for the 20 counties in northwest Kansas.

The group served 257 patients in Norton County, including 23 with severe mental illness and 68 with serious emotional problems, last year.

The county provides about \$29,000 for the service.

- Decided to not hold a meeting on Monday. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, which is the last day of the month.

## Primary: Faber, Lee file

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- Sen. Janis K. Lee, Democratic incumbent, Kensington, Senate District 36.

- Rep. John M. Faber, Republican incumbent, Brewster, House District 120.

Also filing were:

- United States Senate — Republican incumbent Sen. Pat Roberts, Dodge City, and Lee Jones, Democrat, Overland Park.

As of Thursday afternoon, Republican incumbent U.S. Representative Jerry Moran, First

Congressional District, had not filed.

There was no indication from the office of Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh whether a rival to Congressman Moran had filed.

The August ballot will also include District Court Judge District 17, as well as Township Trustee, Almena, Center, Highland, Solomon Township; Township Treasurer, Almena, Center, Highland, Solomon Township; and precinct committeemen and committee-women.

## Student learns nose ring a no-no

By Joey Falkoff  
Colby Free Press Reporter  
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Colby High junior Danni Baker bought her first nose ring over the holiday break and was excited to show it off to her friends when she arrived back at school this semester.

But shortly after she entered the high school commons, Baker was stopped by a school official and asked to remove her newly purchased facial piercing.

Shocked at first, Baker scurried for a student handbook, and the bad news soon followed.

"They let people have tattoos and show them. I figured why not facial piercings," she said. "I looked at my school planner, and low and behold it says facial piercings aren't allowed."

On page 37 of Colby High

School's student handbook, it states explicitly under the school dress code, 'facial piercings other than earrings are not allowed.'

It's a rule that caught Baker by surprise at the time and has continued to bother her ever since.

In the last three months, she says she has talked to Colby High principal Rocky Robbins on multiple occasions, but to no avail.

"I've talked to him in his office, during lunch breaks and in the hallway," said Baker. "He's not happy about it. He says it goes against his core morals."

Tired of pleading with Robbins about the issue, Baker took her fight to the board Monday.

Joined by her mom, Tre, Baker spoke to the board for nearly 10 minutes about why facial piercings should be allowed in Colby public schools.

"Facial piercings are becoming more acceptable," she said. "I'm seeing them a lot more in public. There are teachers and people that work at the hospital that wear them. You can say it's distracting, but not any more so than neon green, purple or blue hair."

Her mom chimed in as well and added that the distraction is in the rule itself.

"It's more distracting to tell a kid they can't do it, because then they're all up in arms about it," said Tre. "It's distracting at my house to hear the noise about having to take them in and out. Keep it small and keep it reasonable."

Baker also noted the difficulties of having to constantly take piercings in and out.

"It's a hassle," she said. "It's uncomfortable and makes it more likely for infections to occur."

Baker told the board she understood 'eight facial piercings is unprofessional,' but a certain limit or certain type of ring should be allowed.

"If you just allowed clear or flesh-colored piercings that would work for me," said Baker. "They're not hard to get. Maybe restrict a number of facial piercings. I don't see one facial piercing being that bad looking."

Baker was wearing her clear colored nose ring while she spoke to the board. To prove her point, she asked board president Tracy Rogers if he was distracted by it.

Rogers responded by saying he couldn't even tell she had it in.

"It's funny they say it's distracting when I had mine in and they couldn't see it," said Baker.

No administrators spoke up on the matter.

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### 10th Annual Machine Gun Shoot & Military Vehicle Display



A Benefit for the Cheyenne Wells Volunteer Fire Dept. May 2, 3 and 4 Cheyenne Wells, CO.

Times of shoot: Friday: 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday: 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday: 8 a.m. to 12 noon

FEES: Spectators - \$10 each PER DAY; Children 12 and under, Military, Law Enforcement (with ID), FREE

An adult must accompany minors! Free admission and camping for Military Vehicles and Reenactors

This is not a gun show, no firearms transactions on the property!

Directions for Cheyenne Wells: Highway 40 West 10 miles to First View (CR 34) then North 4.5 miles to the shoot site. Signs will be posted.

For more information: Travis Watson 719-767-5008 www.rmfcso.org

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