

Commissioners discuss new bobcat for county

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Norton County is getting new Bobcat equipment. Each year the county trades out its old equipment and gets new stuff. The county pays \$18 an hour for the equipment it trades in. Neil Coleman with Bobcat out of North Platte, Neb., visited with the commissioners at their meeting on Monday telling them that he brought some of the equipment with him but several others will be coming in over the next month or so. The county is responsible for oil changes and taking care of the equipment, he told commissioners elect Dr. R.A. Peterson and Charles Posson, but he is always happy to get Norton County's equipment, because its usually in great shape.

The program is one of the best of its kind, commissioners John Miller and Richard Thompson told the newcomers. In other business, the commissioners:

- Talked briefly about a checklist for all county vehicles.

Commissioner Carolyn Applegate showed the commissioners forms that the Kansas Department of Transportation requires for the senior buses. There is a pre-check that needs to be done each day before the bus is taken out and a weekly checklist. These need to be sent in to the state each quarter, she said.

The commissioners are looking at something similar, she said.

- Held a 15 minute closed session to discuss non-elected personnel.

Heard from County Attorney Doug Sebelius that the county averages one deer hit a year with its vehicle but new bumpers have helped decrease the damage.

- Got a thank you for the work the county has given to Penco Engineering and calendars from Jerol DeBoer, consulting engineer. He also talked about some federal programs to help replace county bridges.
- Said that they would hold their next meeting at 9 a.m. Friday, Dec. 28, to do end of the year business. Meetings the next two Mondays will not be held because those days fall on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. The commissioners will hold their first meeting of January on Friday, Jan. 4.

JENNINGS NEWS

Roberta Petracek, her sister Vada Jensen, Minnesota and Vada's daughters Deb Simon and Nancy Brye of Wisconsin went to Oklahoma for Thanksgiving. They spent time with Roberta and Vada's brother, Robert and Mary Ballard, their sister, Alice Fisher and Alice's daughter, Linda Hatton and Janice.

Those enjoying cards at the Sunflower Senior Center on November 28 were: Eleanor Morel, Agnes Wahlmeier, Linda Spresser, Scott Taylor, Stan and Ramona Shaw, Wayne and Louise Cressler.

Playing cards on December 5 were: Agnes Wahlmeier, Scott Taylor, Eleanor Morel, Diane Carter, Carol Carter, Stan and Ramona Shaw, Wayne and Louise Cressler. We have lots of fun playing cards and everyone is welcome to join us at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesdays.

Remember our Christmas dinner is Thursday at noon at the center. Meat and fixings are

furnished, if you would like to bring a salad or dessert. The senior organization is collecting items to be taken to the Oberlin Food Pantry and may be left at the center. The Lions will be serving soup from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday at the Community Hall.

Santa will arrive at 1 p.m. and a community drawing will follow. There will be a basket out if you would like to bring items for the Oberlin Food Pantry.

Norton Correctional men worked in Jennings on Thursday and Friday the past two weeks. They were cutting stickers and cleaning the drainage ditch north of the highway here in town. We really appreciate their working for us.

The Jennings Tuesday Study Club met at the United Methodist Church on Dec. 11 for their Christmas luncheon. The festive table decorations, delicious ham, turkey and cheesy potatoes were provided by the hostesses Carla

Latimer and Lila Jennings. Club members brought mouth-watering salads and desserts to complete the feast. "My Favorite Toy" was the roll call response of members Rachel Carter, Ruth Chance, Louise Cressler, Pat Foster, Patty Foster, Violet Foster, Pat Hall, Lila Jennings, Paula Krizek, Carla Latimer, Sue Long, Wilma Mader, Roberta McAllister, Joan McKenna, Shelley McKenna, Joan Metz, Helen Muirhead, Kathy Nauer, Helen Rhodes, Sheila Rhodes, Lynn Tacha and Neoma Tacha. Guests were Marie Miller and Vicki Gassman. An entertaining ornament exchange game was also enjoyed. Following the meeting, gifts for the five angel tree children were wrapped in colorful Christmas paper. Patty Foster, Lila Jennings, Lynn Tacha, Paula Krizek and Sheila Rhodes shopped for the angel tree gifts. Each child also received a handmade Christmas stocking made by Sue Long and

Good food, good reason



The Norton Community Center held an authentic Mexican Dinner Saturday night to raise more money for the new roof. The new director of the center, Melinda Segura, serves Darrell Boston her homemade Enchilada casserole, refried beans and rice. The center hope to come up with half the money so that they can then apply for matching funds. Over fifty people were served and \$513 was donated.

– Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

a stuffed animal provided by Carla Latimer.

On Thursday, Dec. 13 a Christmas dinner held at Sunflower Senior Center was enjoyed by 15 Jennings people. The organization provided the turkey, roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, dressing and the California blend of vegetables. Others brought a salad or dessert. Everyone is welcome to come and join us, regardless of age. We have several boxes of food, paper goods, soap and etc. collected to take to the Oberlin Food Pantry this week. We thank everyone who contributed. Even though the doors of the senior center were being replaced on Wednesday, Dec. 12 and some times it was a little chilly in the center, there were eight people to play pinocle. Those enjoying the after noon were: Carla Latimer, Eleanor Morel, Agnes Wahlmeier, Carol Carter, Diane Carter, Scott Taylor, Wayne and

Louise Cressler. Saturday was an exceptionally happy time in Jennings with Santa coming at 1 p.m. to the Community Hall. He visited with a large group of children and gave them each a sack of candy. The Jennings Lions served 100 plus bowls of delicious chili and vegetable soup. After Santa's visit, names were drawn for the many gifts donated. Many people brought gifts, the Decatur Co-op Association gave 2 -\$25 gift certificates to be used toward gas purchase at the Co-op, The Bank gave 6 -\$5 gift certificates to be used at any Jennings business, the Lions gave two turkeys and

other gifts, the City of Jennings gave two turkeys and two hams for the drawing. This event is a huge success only because everyone works together.

The city water meters will be read on Friday, Dec. 21. The Jennings area received a much needed rain Friday night with reports of .60 in most gauges. We are always thankful for rain.



We are now on Facebook!
Check us out!

KDOT is ready for the incoming winter weather

The season's first winter storm is expected to blow into Kansas this week and the Kansas Department of Transportation has done its best to be ready for whatever Mother Nature has in store.

"At this time, we are stocked up with salt and sand, ready to go," said Peter Carttar, Assistant Bureau Chief in Construction and Maintenance KDOT.

But, he said, the most important element in responding to a winter storm is a well-trained maintenance force.

"There is no better way to be efficient and cost effective than to have your frontline people focus on managing resources and interacting with each other during a winter event," Carttar said. "Our maintenance staff

believes in the job they do and they have pride in taking care of their communities."

Improvements also continue to be made in the techniques and technologies used in inclement winter weather, Carttar said. A few examples include:

- Salt brine pretreatment of bridges and certain roadways when conditions are appropriate. This works to prevent snow and ice from bonding to the pavement, which makes it easier to remove during and after the storm.
- Road Weather Information Systems (RWIS) technology that uses remote sensors across the state to measure air and pavement temperatures, wind speed, visibility and other pavement conditions. This

gives maintenance crews and forecasters better information on conditions.

- Salt spreader control equipment in trucks to help monitor and control how much salt is being put on the road for maximum effectiveness.
- Improved weather forecast tools to assist maintenance workers in choosing the right maintenance action at the right time and to provide real-time information throughout and after a storm.

KDOT provides motorists information so they can be prepared in inclement weather as well. Call 511 in Kansas (1-866-511-KDOT (5368) outside the state), check travel information on KDOT's website at www.kandrive.org or

visit 511mm.ksdot.org on your mobile device.

"Stay off the roads as much as possible during inclement weather," Carttar said. "If you are traveling, always buckle up, reduce your speed and give our crews on the highways extra room."

Landfill

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the county on the landfill from its inception, also weighed in on the discussion.

"Is Norton county still going to be here in 90 years? he asked. "Yes," he said.

"Are they still going to have landfill problems? Yes," he added.

Mr. Foster noted that it would be a good idea to get the permit for a 40-foot pit, whether the commissioners decided to dig that deep or not.

"Just because you permit for 40 feet," he said. "you don't have to go that deep. But, you can't go 45 feet. You can go 30 or 35 feet. Get that permit and in five years when you need to dig it, make the decision on the depth.

He said that he thinks it will be cheaper to do it sooner rather than later because the biggest cost of the excavation is fuel and he doesn't see that coming down a whole lot.

The county should add about

\$180,000 to its budget for the landfill in 2013, he said to cover the cost of running the landfill and the cost of construction.

Mr. Foster said he would send out requests for bids on doing

the geology work at the landfill, since that needs to be done regardless of how deep the pit will be.

The commissioners agreed that that was a good idea.

Norton County has some specific instructions for recycling:

- Plastic - No. 1 soft drink and beverage and No. 2 milk, juice, shampoo and detergent bottles.
- Glass - unbroken clear, green and brown bottles and jars from food or beverages.
- Aluminum cans - soft drink and beverage (no pie pans or aluminum foil)
- Steel - (tin) cans from vegetable, soup, coffee, pet foods and empty aerosol cans and lids off jars.
- Rinse all plastic, glass, aluminum and steel items and remove lids from everything except (tin) cans. Metal lids are recyclable but not plastic ones.
- Paper - newspaper, magazines, catalogs, cereal/mix boxes, office paper and cardboard.
- Batteries - flashlight, hearing aid, toy, watch and calculator. Place in orange (or clean if orange is not available) bags and take to landfill or Norton City office.
- Batteries - car, motorcycle and truck. Take to landfill.
- Household hazardous waste - cleaners, insecticides, paint, pesticides, stains, thinners and poisons. Take to landfill.



Hope you have a wonderful holiday season!

Our office will be closing Monday, December 24th at Noon and we will be closed all day on Tuesday to observe the holiday

There will be NO paper on Dec. 24 and Dec. 25

DEADLINES: Country Advocate for 12/26/09 Wednesday, Dec. 19 at noon Inserts for Monday, December 24 will be in the Friday, December 21 issue. There will be a regular paper on Dec. 28 which will include the Dec. 31 inserts

Thanks for Your Business This Past Year!

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THE NORTON TELEGRAM

NORMAL OFFICE HOURS: MON., DEC. 24, 8 A.M. TO NOON
AND REGULAR OFFICE HOURS DEC. 31. CLOSED JAN. 1