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Page 6 & 7

Friday,
April 16, 2004

Norton, Kansas
Home of Jim Williams

Briefly

Site council seeks new members

The Norton Community High School's Site Council is seeking members to serve a two-year term.

Three parent and a business representative positions are open. The term starts July 1.

Site Council meets monthly to assist in developing a school improvement plan. The council provides advice in evaluating state, district and school performance for the high school.

Candidate should submit their name to Vivian Luft at 877-5254 or Principal Lary Stull, 877-3338, by May 1.

April is "C", "D" tag deadline

April is the month for renewing vehicle tags for persons whose last name begin with the letter "C" and "D" or businesses whose name begins with the letter "C" and "D".

You need proof of insurance for each vehicle, which includes the vehicle identification number, policy number and expiration date. The computers are shut off at 4:30 p.m. to balance the day's business.

If you have any questions, call the treasurer's office at 877-5795.

Quilter's auction set for April 25

The Heritage Quilters will hold their sixth annual mini-quilt auction on Sunday, April 25, at the Norton American Legion Building. The auction items may be viewed at 1:30 p.m. with the auction starting at 2:30 p.m.

Proceeds from the auction are used to help pay for school quilts for Northern Valley and Norton.

Admission of \$2 includes the auction, a program and dessert.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Mostly clear with lows in the upper 40s. East winds 5 to 15 mph.
Saturday — Mostly sunny with highs in the lower 90s. West winds around 10 mph becoming southeast 10 to 20 mph in the afternoon. **Saturday Night** — Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Breezy. **Sunday** — Mostly sunny and breezy and cooler.

Howell report:

Tuesday High 67, Low 39
Wednesday High 81, Low 47
Thursday High 83, Low 48
Week ago High 69, Low 47
Month ago High 54, Low 23
Year ago High 89, Low 49
April precipitation 1.62 inches
Year-to-date precipitation 4.29 inches
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

Prayer

Christ Jesus, when fear or grief bogs us down and we cannot see you, come to us. Reveal yourself to us amid the details of our day. Open our eyes so that we may see you. Amen



Norton County Sanitation Administrator Curt Archibald (below) surveys the shredded paper that Ron Zwickle hauled to Norton County Solid Waste for recycling yesterday. Citizens who bring their recycling items into the landfill have to drive upon the scales, where Mr. Archibald weighs and logs each load for their records. Solid waste employee Mitch Jones (above) piles recycled material, which is bound together in bales, onto the loading docks at the landfill. The shipment-ready material is then picked up by a recycling company

— Telegram photos by Kristen Brands



Recycling helps slow trash flow

By KRISTEN BRANDS

Norton County needs to improve its recycling practices if it doesn't want to fill up a new landfill almost before it is built.

In 2003, Norton County recycled only 17 percent of its trash, or 442 tons out of almost 2,600 tons according to records at the Norton County Landfill.

"The bottom line is we want to increase the county's recycling practices, but how do we go about doing that?" Solid Waste Superintendent Curt Archibald said.

"Currently recycling is done on an individual, voluntary basis. It's not as though we are fining people if they don't recycle."

However, the county does have a mandatory recycling program according to Norton County Attorney Doug Sebelius.

Mr. Sebelius said that the recycling program was put into place in 1995 when the

(Continued on Page 5)

Mentally handicapped need not worry about loss of homes for another year

The ink was scarcely dry on a newspaper article on Tuesday about the mentally handicapped men and women, who are cared for by Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas, when the agency was told it would get money for another year.

Earlier in the year the agency had been told its money might be cut and those who take care of the handicapped men and women at two homes in Norton were

worried about both their charges and their jobs.

However, money for the agency was approved by legislators through June 30, 2005.

Individual Program Coordinator Sondra Graham said, "We're excited and relieved that these people aren't going to be uprooted. Their consistency in learning will be maintained. The cost to these

people's lives can't be measured in dollars and cents." Ms. Graham praised State Senator Janis Lee, Kensington, for her efforts on behalf of the agency through her position on the Senate's Ways and Means Committee.

Ms. Graham also said that employees of the agency have the assurance of continued employment.

Local business holds annual meeting

By VERONICA MONIER

When Prairie Land Electric Cooperative held its annual meeting on Tuesday in Norton, shareholders were told that the company was still making money and still moving forward with new projects and new ideas.

Gilbert Berland, president of the board of trustees, said the company had over \$900,000 for a margin for 2003 and had returned over \$6.25 million to its shareholders. He said increased fuel and energy costs affected 2003's margin, which is why it is a little lower than in previous years.

He said the company has partnered with Nex-Tech to provide a high-speed

Internet service called "WildBlue" and is in the process of installing automatic meter readers called "turtles".

Ken Carter, treasurer of the board, said the company's assets were \$30,872,772. He said income in electric revenue was \$12,738,074, while expenses totaled \$11,949,776. Other revenue added \$113,058, making the margin \$901,356.

General Manager Allan Miller said the company has 8,523 customers, 5,373 miles of line, \$8,082 in investments per mile of line and annual sales of 153,841,897 kilowatts of electricity.

In 2003, he said the company had nearly \$2.5 million in investments.

Mr. Miller said most of the company's

expenses, about 57 percent, come from power costs. This, however, is down from 67 percent 10 years ago.

Operations were 16.9 percent of the total expenses.

The company purchased 166,375,450 kilowatts of electricity in 2003.

He said since 1999, the company has given about \$1,309,000 in rural economic development loans, which include loans to the Norton County Hospital and several fire departments in the area.

"We're basically a conduit for getting federal money into the area," he said.

The satellite for WildBlue is expected to be launched in June or July. Also, the

(Continued on Page 5)

School puts tennis back into play

By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton School District reinstated the girls tennis program, which it had said it would drop.

The sport was discontinued two months ago because the tennis courts had deteriorated to the point they were no longer safe.

However, since then the community has worked together to resolve the problem and found a contractor, who will repair the courts for \$13,500.

Jay Holste, who has been heading up the repair efforts, said in addition to the \$3,375 the school donated to the project, the city has agreed to also pay \$3,375.

He said a grant proposal for \$2,500 from the Adopt-A-Court program was accepted, leaving the community to come up with the remaining \$4,250.

Mr. Holste said he isn't going to raise money to build new courts at a different location at this time.

"Our courts have never been professionally repaired before," he said. "With good maintenance, these could last another five or six years, because we now know the base is good."

He said a maintenance program needed to be developed.

The school board rescinded a previous motion to offer girl's golf in the fall.

In other business, the school board,

- Accepted a bid from Eakes Office Supply of Kearney-McCook for \$17,142 for three Sharp copiers with staplers. Mr. Mann said he sent out three bids and got two back. The other bid was from Tri-Central Office Supply of Hays for \$18,895.

- Held a 45-minute closed session to discuss non-elected personnel. No action was taken.

- Accepted a bid from Weathercraft Roofing of North Platte for \$18,230 to replace the roof over the Eisenhower Elementary library. Mr. Mann said the company would be ready to start right after school was out.

- Four bids were sent out. Two were sent back. The other bid received was from Geisler Roofing of Concordia for \$24,940. The district's estimated cost for the roof replacement was \$19,000.

- Approved the revised general fund budget. The district was credited with 1.6 more full-time equivalent students, which gave it an additional \$6,181 for its general budget.

Mr. Mann said he recommended the money be put in utilities in the general fund. He said that republishing the budget will not raise taxes.

Tractor, farm safety is a high priority

As the busy time for farming nears, there will be a tractor safety course for young people next month.

The Kansas State Research and Extension offices in Norton, Ellis, Decatur, Gove, Graham and Sheridan counties will be offering the Spring Tractor and Farm Safety Course on Saturday, May 1, at the fairground in Hill City.

Class will start at 8 a.m. A pre-registration fee of \$10 is due by Wednesday, April 28, which includes lunch, refreshment breaks and a student manual.

The course is for those 14-15 years old, who will be doing farm work especially for those working for someone other than their parents. It will cover basic farm and machinery safety and machine maintenance.

If you are going to work for someone or, if you are a parent of a work-

(Continued on Page 5)

(Continued from Page 1)
turtle system of automatic meter readers has been started.

Last year, Prairie Land began a heating, air conditioning and venting company, which is going very well, Mr. Miller said.

DIRECTV growth has come to a stand still at 1,921 customers, because the area has pretty much saturated.

John McClymont, the company's attorney, announced the Board of Trustee election results. Mr. Berland, Robert Johnson and Ivan Bohl were all re-

elected.

Mr. Berland presented plaques to the families of Cathy Bohl and Leonard Paxson, trustees who died last year.

He said the winners of this year's Youth Tour Program were

Nick Evans of Norton and David Ross of Stockton. Lindsey Jessup of Alma and Lacey Ninemire of Clayton were selected to go to the Cooperative Leadership Council.

Door prizes were given out at the end of the meeting.

Safety class set for next month

(Continued from Page 1)
ing child or an employer contact your county's extension office by April 28. The early registration is important in order for those attending to do some preparation home-

work before the class is held.

Employers who plan to hire youth must realize that they cannot hire anyone under 16 years of age, unless that person has taken this safety course.



Plumb Creek is ripe for the picking

Greg Plumb, owner of Plumb Creek Collectibles and his wife, Jolene, (above) work together inside what they call, "The World's Smallest Antique Store". Jolene Plumb (left) rearranges some of the treasures she has collected over the years. The store is located at 106 W. Lincoln, Norton. — Telegram photos by Carolyn Plotts

Norton's newest store full of antiques

By CAROLYN PLOTTS
Plumb Creek Collectibles, Norton, claims to be "The World's Smallest Antique Store" and so far that claim remains unchallenged.

Located at 106 West Lincoln, in what is known as the old Ward's Liquor Store, Plumb Creek has managed to squeeze a whole lot of stuff into a small space.

Greg Plumb and his wife Jolene are avid collectors. They both claim to "absolutely love" auctions and they have managed to accumulate a lot of inventory. Their approach is that they had fun collecting it; now they're going to have fun selling it.

"We almost had to do this," Mrs. Plumb said. "We couldn't keep it all at home. The house and garage were full."

In the short time Plumb Creek

has been open they've already seen shoppers from Colorado, Arkansas, South Dakota and California besides many people from Norton and surrounding towns.

Plumb Creek specializes in a little bit of everything. Big pieces are not on the agenda, but they do have some small tables, trunks and lamps. Shoppers will also find knick-knacks galore, salt and pepper shakers, lunch boxes and books. If you are looking for something special, just tell Greg or Jolene and they'll watch for it at the next auction. The Plumbs are anxious to help collectors find that special piece they've been looking for.

The couple moved to Norton from Phillipsburg a year ago. Greg has been a corrections officer at Norton Correctional Facility for 5

1/2 years. They have two sons, Jacob Brafford, 20, South Dakota and Jeremy Brafford, 17, a senior at Norton Community High School.



Norton County Solid Waste employee Mitch Jones sorts through the clear plastic jug pile at the Norton County landfill. The recycled items are placed into bins after inmates from the Norton Correctional Facility sort through the recyclables that are brought into the facility.

— Telegram photo by Kristen Brands

'Throw-away' society needs to start reusing its recyclables

(Continued from Page 1)
Kansas Department of Health and Environment told the county it needed a recycling clause in its procedures for the newly constructed incinerator.

"It is indeed written into the resolution 1-1995 that some sort of recycling be carried out in the county, but how that is carried out is up to the county sanitation director," Mr. Sebelius said. "Now that we're not burning our trash through the incinerator, recycling should really be increased."

Mr. Archibald agreed. "Right now the county owns 60 acres at the landfill site," he said. "When we fill that 60 acres up with burying practices, then where will we go? And who will want to sell their land to the county?"

"We're lucky to have our landfill so close to town, because some communities - like Goodland, have to haul their trash 16 miles out of town."

Mr. Archibald hopes that increased recycling could help alleviate the county's reliance on a landfill.

"What is the incentive for people to recycle?" he said. "People aren't paid for it, but then again they aren't charged for it either."

"Should they be, I just don't know?"

"Right now we're saying that recycling is mandatory, but not enforced. Yet it is the best thing for our environment. I really wasn't an environmentalist before I worked here, but after seeing all that is thrown away each day how can one not be affected?"

For those Norton County residents who do recycle, they know the drill.

But for those who do not, here are the procedures put into place when collecting, dumping, and accounting for the county's re-usable items.

Curbside pick-ups of recycled material are made on the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday trash routes in the city of Norton.

Almena brings its recyclables into the landfill on its trash truck once a week. Lenora also brings its recycled items to the landfill in a trailer when it is full, usually weekly.

"Lenora parks their recycling trailer in town, and Rural Telephone really does a great job filling it up with their paper products," Mr. Archibald said.

He pointed out that recyclables need to be distinguished from regular trash in the bagging system.

"Our employees know that recycled items are in the blue bags or clear bags, while regular trash is usually put into the black or white bags," he said.

Once the recycling is picked up, it is then hauled to the landfill where it is sorted by prisoners from the Norton Correctional Facility and put into eight bins by category.

The categories include: PET bottles (pop and juice bottles); colored plastics (laundry detergent bottles); clear plastics referred to as "virgin plastics" because they are new (milk and water jugs); paper (newspaper, magazines, ad slicks, and shredded pa-

per); tin cans; cardboard; glass; and aluminum cans.

"We do have some guidelines we ask that people follow when recycling their items," he said. "We want the tins cans rinsed out, with the lid dropped in the bottom of the can to avoid a cut or injury by our sorters."

He also asked that folks rinse containers before bagging them.

In addition to listed recycled categories, housed within one of the landfill's giant garage structures, a "white goods pile" of metal is accepted as recycled material.

"The white goods, dumped onto a pile north of their buildings, consist of anything like washers and dryers, sheet metal, bicycles, and refrigerators," Mr. Archibald said. "If the refrigerators are still full of Freon, we charge the individual who is dumping \$10 plus the charge of their freight."

The landfill charges residents \$35 a ton for white goods, and a salvage company removes and recycles them periodically. The tin cans also go into the white goods pile.

The paper and cardboard items are shipped off to Tamko in Phillipsburg, where they are made into shingles and tar paper. The aluminum cans are sold to F & F Iron in Norton. The plastics are picked up by Reclaimed Resources, a Colorado company.

"I think the answer to increased recycling is through educating both ourselves and our children," Mr. Archibald said. "Because we certainly are a throw-away society, and we all could be better at reusing what we throw away."

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