



The Northern Valley second grade class put on a play about Native Americans for their parents and families Thursday afternoon in Almena. Five students narrated, telling about what each tribe was known for and how they adapted to the changing times, while others acted the scenes out, including planting corn (left) and eating corn cakes (above). Involved in this year's play were Macy Kasson, narrator one; Khriissanna Van Patten, narrator two; Ame Baird, narrator three; Te'a Van Patten, narrator four; Brant Cox, narrator five; Laramie Boyle, Columbus and Standing Horse; Christiaan Van Zyl, Man Who Likes Berries; Clinton Cole, Fleet Foot; Stewart Whitney, Running Deer; Morgan Hawks, Rising Sun; Carson Montgomery, Gray Wolf; Erin Archer, White Doe; Gabriel Anderson, Medicine Man; Matthew Stutsman, Lone Wolf; Kobie Unterseher, Little Bear; Tony Anderson, Eagle Feather; Ashly McReynolds, Morning Star; and Makayla Smith, Running Girl.

— Telegram photos by Veronica Monier

# City Council decides to purchase playground equipment

By VERONICA MONIER  
Norton youngsters will finally be getting some new park playground equipment.

The City of Norton will be lease-purchasing new playground equipment for Elmwood Park.

At Wednesday's City Council meeting, City Administrator Rob Lawson said he went to a local Resource, Conservation and Development meeting and presented an application for playground equipment. He said the group doesn't have the money to buy playground equipment but might be able to find some from other sources.

Then, he said, another application would have to be filed with whoever has the money. The process could take up to six months and the price of steel is set to go up

at the end of the November. That would make the price of the equipment go up as well.

Councilman Jerry Hawks suggested that the city buy the playground equipment and then apply for a grant for a retaining wall.

Councilman Ron Briery said the Parks Committee has talked about this for years and that it was time to take action. He made a motion to lease-purchase the equipment at a price not to exceed \$85,000.

City Attorney Karen Griffiths said the lease-purchase price could only cover the actual equipment and couldn't include ground cover or a retaining wall.

Councilwoman Elaine Mann said she was all for new playground equipment, but would like to see things a bit more organized before the council made a decision.

Mr. Briery said because the price of steel is going up at the end of the month, they needed to get this taken care of.

Mr. Hawks said the Lions Club has agreed to buy a small piece of playground equipment. And, he said, the county commission told him the city would be getting about \$2,000 a year from its special parks fund.

Mr. Briery asked if the Lions Club could donate the ground cover instead and then the city would lease-purchase both pieces of equipment.

Mr. Lawson said he would ask. The vote to lease-purchase passed 5-1 with Mrs. Mann voting no because she felt more details needed to be worked out first.

The council asked Mr. Lawson

to contact the playground equipment company and talk to them and see how long the bid is for. Then it authorized him to get lease-purchase bids, approve the best bid and then order the equipment.

In other business, the council:

- Approved a revised Agreement for Communication and Jail Services with Norton County and authorized the mayor to sign it.
- Re-appointed Vicki Fisher, Stella Snyder, Tammy Ball, Myron Veh and Jim Ray to the Tourism Committee. All five positions were up for re-appointment on Nov. 30 and are for two-year terms.

- Paid the city's 5 percent share of the airport apron project. The city paid \$8,548.59. The county also paid 5 percent at \$8,548.60, while the state paid 90 percent. The total cost of the project was \$234,987.58.
- Re-appointed Diana McGee and Georgia O'Neill to their positions on the Housing Authority Board. Both four-year terms expired on Nov. 30.
- Heard from Mr. Lawson that the transmission on a police cruiser went out and is being replaced.
- Appointed Ruth Hartman and Patsy Barnard to the Library Board. Ms. Hartman has been on

the board and was re-appointed. Ms. Barnard is replacing Beverly Kindler. Both terms expired on Nov. 30 and last for four years.

- Waived the formal first reading of Ordinance No. 1541, relating to electrical rates. The ordinance extends the term of the electric rate increase, which was made in the middle of the year and was supposed to sunset in January but will now last through 2005.
- Re-appointed J.D. Daffer and Timm Meyer to the Planning Commission. The position held by Charles Posson is vacant so they will advertise for a replacement. The terms expire on Nov. 30 and last for three years.

# Hospital computer system assisting medical staff, office

By VERONICA MONIER  
The Norton County Hospital is getting a new computer system.

The new Dairyland Information System, which will allow the hospital to do more with computers for everything from X-rays to billing, is being installed with only a few glitches.

Chief Financial Officer Brian Carlton said at Wednesday night's hospital board meeting that the system is up and working in the clinical departments, including the lab, X-ray, physical therapy and respiratory therapy. Now, these departments can send and receive orders and results.

He said that doctors, nurses and their helpers will be putting orders on the computers to go directly to the labs. As soon as the hospital gets a few more machines, the doctors will be able to enter orders from their offices.

Being able to send orders to the various departments has made things much faster, he said. Now, rather than waiting for a fax with orders for lab or X-ray, those departments get the orders by computer and can get right on it.

Mr. Carlton said the nursing staff is getting up to speed as fast as they can.

Trainers from Dairyland have been helpful, he said, even arriving at the hospital at 3 a.m. to train the night staff.

The staff is checking all statements to make sure they are correct, he said, so this is slowing the billing a little right now.

Hospital Administrator Rich Miller said he has the utmost respect for the staff right now.

## Medical student joins staff

Trevor Gaskill, a student at the University of Kansas School of Medicine in Kansas City, is studying in Norton for four weeks.

Dr. Roy W. Hartley of the Doctor's Clinic is a volunteer mentor, or preceptor, with the school's Kansas Rural Preceptor Program. The program

places fourth-year medical students in communities across the state to expose them to the practice of primary care in non-urban areas and to increase their awareness of professional opportunities in rural areas.

Mr. Gaskill will begin his rotation with Dr. Hartley on Monday.

- Received a statistical report from Mr. Carlton. For the month of October, the hospital had 346 in-patient days, 50 in-patient admissions, five babies born, 21 surgical procedures, and 7,088 outpatient procedures. There were 1,226 Doctors' Clinic visits.
- Reviewed the hospital's bioterrorism program plan with Safety Committee Chairwoman Mary Hicks. The hospital's staff has gone to several programs, to make sure the necessary equipment and supplies are in place in both the hospital and the area.
- Hospitals across the country are working closely with emergency preparedness directors and county health departments to develop local plans.
- Went into a 30-minute closed session to discuss non-elected personnel.
- Reviewed patient surveys

## Arts, crafts show planned

The Oberlin Holiday Arts and Crafts Show will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 27, at The Gateway in Oberlin.

Exhibitors from Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico and Kansas will be filling 80 tables. Lunch will be served and a babysitting service will be available in the building. Door prizes will be given all day. There is no admission charge.

For details, contact Mary Henzel at (785) 475-3329 or email mhenzel12@juno.com.



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