

Carriers named year's best

Caspian Whitesell, Keziah Whitesell and Laura Somers were chosen as *The Norton Telegram's* Outstanding Carriers of the Year for 2004.



C. Whitesell



K. Whitesell



L. Somers

To help the newspaper choose which three carriers were awarded this honor, subscribers had the opportunity to vote for their favorites.

Subscribers were encouraged to add comments telling us why they thought their carrier should win.

We also took into consideration overall conduct and reliability in delivering the papers.

Caspian Whitesell is the son of Jolene Porter. He delivers the 100 blocks of N. Brown, S. Brown, Howard, S. Graves, Case, S. First and S. Second; 100-200 blocks of N. Graves; 100-600 blocks of W. Main; 100-800 blocks of W. Washington; and part of the 300 block

and all of the 400-600 blocks of W. Lincoln.

He has been delivering the paper since February and had been a carrier previously. He is very dependable.

His customers said he always puts the paper where it needs to go, never misses a delivery, is polite and always on time.

Keziah Whitesell is the daughter of Jolene Porter. She delivers the 100-200 blocks of E. Park; 300 blocks of S. Kansas, S. Wabash, E. Penn, S. Archer, and S. Norton; and the 200 block of S. State. She also delivers to E. Holme; 200-300 blocks of E. Crane; 300 block of E. Armory Dr.; 1000-1100 blocks

of N. Wabash; 900-1100 blocks of N. Norton; and to Echo Acres.

Keziah has been a paper carrier for several years. Her customers said that she is a great carrier, is polite and that they always get their paper.

Keziah is very reliable and the newspaper and subscribers appreciate her hard work.

Laura Somers is the daughter of Robin and Steve Somers. She delivers the 100-200 blocks of W. Crane; 1000-1100 blocks of N. Second; and the Andbe Home.

Laura's customers said she puts the papers where they need to be, is polite and friendly, delivers the papers promptly and is a swell girl.

She has been a carrier for several years. The paper is happy to have her as a carrier and hopes that she will continue.

All three carriers thank their customers who cast their votes for them and for all their comments.

Caspian, Keziah and Laura each received cash prizes for their hard work.



Norton Lions filled the old Prairie Land Electric Building Saturday morning in preparation for their annual food basket delivery. First was the sorting where canned goods, baking products or personal items were separated into categories. Next club members helped distribute food into 120 boxes. Finally, volunteers loaded the boxes into pickups and vans to be delivered throughout the county. Coordinator, Tom Baumann, said this was one of the biggest food drives ever for the club.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

City picks woman for economic development council

By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton City Council has filled its slots on a joint city/county Economic Development Council with the appointment of its second at-large representative.

Mayor David Corns said Deena Wente, who works at KQNK Radio Station, was interested in joining the council. She was the only applicant and was appointed.

Previously, the council had asked City Administrator Rob Lawson to be an at-large representative.

Councilman Jerry Hawks said the committee's last meeting was good. He said the county is 150 percent committed and that the city is too.

He said the county hasn't appointed its two at-large representatives yet, but plans to advertise for the position so those interested

could be appointed.

As for a director, he said the committee thinks a trained person can be hired, preferable someone who can write grants, also.

He said the committee thinks it will take \$100,000 the first year to cover salary, benefits and expenses. Office space will be needed as well.

He said he told the committee the city might be willing to cover 40 percent of the costs, like it does for the dispatch. The smaller cities, like Almena and Lenora, will probably be asked to pay a membership fee of \$500-\$1,000.

Mr. Hawks said the city has \$40,000 in its economic development fund and also has extra sales tax money that could go towards this. He said the county wanted a commitment from the city.

Councilwoman Elaine Mann

asked if \$100,000 was going to be enough. She said it seemed it would cost more than that with expenses and office space.

Mr. Hawks said he agreed, but that they were only looking at three-fourth of a year.

"We probably won't have anyone hired until March," he said. "By budget time, we'll hopefully have a better idea of what kind of money we'll need."

The council passed a motion saying the city will support the efforts of economic development and will participate financially in 2005.

In other business, the council:

- Scheduled a hearing for 5:15 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 29, to amend the 2004 budget. Mr. Lawson said \$25,000 needs to be added to the general fund.
- Learned from Mr. Lawson that

he has gotten two lease-purchase bids back from local banks and is waiting on a third for the playground equipment. He said the Lions Club met and voted to buy a small piece of playground equipment for Elmwood Park. He said they will be using the George Jones estate money and would like a plaque. Greg Mann, a Lions Club member, said the club would also like to help put the equipment together.

Councilman Ron Briery said he appreciated the club's part in buying equipment and their offer to help put it together.

• Heard from Mrs. Mann that the Norton Manor board had a meeting. She said the Manor received a 94 percent on its Housing and Urban Development inspection, but were marked off for the street and parking. She said the Manor is going ahead with building a parking garage on the east side of the building and that the project is paid for by a grant.

• Learned from Mr. Lawson that he met with engineer Thaniel Monaco of Miller and Associates about the sewer treatment plant. He said there is a new grant avail-

able which could offset \$1 million of the cost of the project.

• Accepted an application from Doug and Kerri Ray for water services outside the city limits. The Rays will be responsible for the cost of the waterline extension, will need to sign an agreement

consenting to annexation and will need to get the necessary permits from Norton County.

• Recessed the meeting. The council will reconvene at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 29, to pay year-end bills and other business.

Money to help improve schools

By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton School Board has money to spend, it just has to decide the best way to use it.

The board is trying to decide what to do with money that remains in the Tansill construction fund.

When the district received the Tansill bequest, it put roughly half of the money into scholarships and the other half repairs and construction costs.

Of the \$198,969 that was earmarked for construction, the district has \$22,726 left.

The money has been used to buy the Belden property to extend the high school's parking lot, build the parking lot, put a pavilion up over the high school entrance, and do some electrical work.

Superintendent Greg Mann had previously asked school board members to decide what they wanted to do with the remaining \$22,725.31. He also asked the three principals to list their top wishes.

Putting ceiling fans in the memorial gym came first with replacing the windows in the East Campus gym lobby second.

Board Member Jeff Nielsen said he wasn't against any of the projects, but that there wasn't just one thing that absolutely must be done.

Board Member Elaine Lofgreen said maybe they should pick out a couple of the projects and get definite prices. She asked Mr. Mann to get prices on the ceiling fans and the window replacement.

Board Member Gary Lacy said he would also like to see what it would cost to put metal siding on the bus barn. He said it's been coming up for years and the barn is probably getting pretty bad.

Mr. Mann said he would. Mrs. Lofgreen said maybe they could make a decision when they knew a little more.

In other business, the board:

- Put the Eisenhower Elementary property up as collateral for the Qualified Zone Academic Bonds money. Dan Walter, the board's attorney, said it was originally proposed to use the wrestling building as collateral, but there were a few snags, such as none of the buildings on that block have been surveyed and a quit claim would be needed from the county.

Mr. Mann said at some point, the district needed to have those thing done.

• Temporarily adopted a new superintendent evaluation form.

Mr. Nielsen said they looked at

several forms and liked the one they chose because it seemed simplest. He said if they didn't like it they could always change.

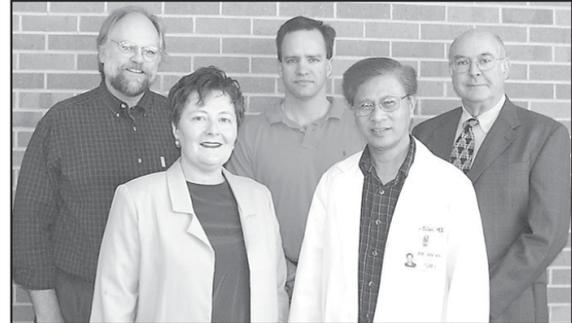
• Held a 10-minute closed session to discuss employee/employer negotiations.

• Appointed Board Member Jennifer Terrell and Mr. Nielsen to serve as the board's negotiating team.

• Offered the Prairie Heights School District (Jennings) the same contract that Norton has with the Lenora School District.

• Approved the revised college credit request form.

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Cancer Center moves forward under the direction of Dr. Puray

Dr. Merla Puray, a medical oncologist, is now in practice fulltime at the Callahan Cancer Center at Great Plains Regional Medical Center in North Platte.

Since arriving in August, Dr. Puray has already advanced in training and certification by seeking board certification in oncology, in addition to her board certification in internal medicine.

Dr. Puray's background includes four years of medical school, a three-year residency and an additional three years in fellowship training. Her residency in internal medicine and fellowship in medical oncology and hematology were completed at Montefiore Medical Center - The University Hospital of Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Bronx, NY.

Prior to leaving the North Platte community, medical oncologist Dr. Patrick Judson, said:

"I have come to know Dr. Puray as an excellent, compassionate physician. She has excellent skills, a wonderful bedside manner and a strong determination to continue the high level of care we demand of ourselves as physicians and staff at the cancer center."

Highly qualified interim physicians will also provide medical care at the cancer center until other medical oncologists are recruited. These physicians work side by side with Dr. Puray as part of the cancer care team.

The Callahan Cancer Center has built its reputation on providing top-notch medical oncology and radiation therapy services. Our team of physicians and support staff continue to provide quality care in a supportive and nurturing environment that is close to home. If you have any questions, feel free to call Dr. Puray to learn more about her philosophy of care at 308-696-7386.

Callahan Cancer Center
601 W. Leota, North Platte, 308-696-7386

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