

By VERONICA MONIER
Norton County will, hopefully, soon be rid of the problem at the Golden Duck facility.

The county had to take over the daily operations of the facility on Aug. 11 after the Kansas Department of Health and Environment informed the county commissioners of a potentially bio-hazardous condition. Numerous dead animals, which in this case were referred to as geese, were found. The geese surviving became the county's to take care of until they could be sold.

Sheriff Troy Thomson told the commission at a recent meeting that the county should be released from the liability of the facility by Sept. 5, when the geese were scheduled to be sold on the Internet. He said if the sale goes as planned and a buyer is accepted, the auction will close on that date. Once the geese are sold, the buyer has 48 hours to remove them from the facility.

In other business:
• The commission decided to pay for bills from the Golden Duck facility, that have been received since the county took over daily operation, from the county's general fund.

• Doyle Schoen, Lenora, talked to the commission about a survey done on a road in the southern part of Norton County in Modell Township. Mr. Schoen does not believe that the survey is correct and would like the county to re-survey the road in question. The county used its surveyor to complete the original survey and he will certify the work completed. The commission said the county co-surveyor will need to look at the survey papers and, if the work is agreed upon, he will sign the survey to be recorded.

• Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom Brannan gave an update to the commission. He said county bridge OS-202 was progressing well with the driving of the piling to be started soon. The wet weather, he said, has delayed the project somewhat. The project will be completed quickly when conditions improve.

Commissioner Dean Kruse asked Mr. Brannan to check into a couple of pot holes on E-9 going into Almena. He said the asphalt

has broken out and needs to be fixed before conditions get worse. Mr. Brannan said he would look into it and reported on several other areas in the county where heavy rains have damaged the road.

Mr. Brannan spoke about bridge OS-115, which spans the North Fork Solomon River and collapsed in July after an over weight oil field truck drove over it. The estimated construction/repair costs have been received, however County Counselor Doug Sebelius has advised that ordering and replacement of the bridge be delayed until a settlement with the insurance carrier is met.

• The commission went into two closed-sessions lasting a total of 25 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel.

• Solid Waste Supervisor Curt Archibald reported on daily operations and the meetings he has recently attended. He gave a brief report on the conference he attended in Topeka on environmental waste and permitting fees for landfills. Other topics discussed were electronic waste, site and zoning restrictions, funding, long-term plans for closed landfills, small generators, schools and electronic hazardous waste, medical waste, recycle material, abandonment of hazardous waste and being a responsible party, waste tires, equipment grants, pesticides, waste reduction plans, study of statewide recycle rates, plus other topics that will affect and regulate the operations of small arid landfills.

• Deena Wentz and Marvin Matchett of KQNK Radio said they were concerned that they weren't notified of a special meeting of the commissioners held. Mr. Matchett said he was disappointed that they were not given notice.

• The commission talked about the small rural business enterprise loan the county gave the Hanes. Their building was lost in a fire that destroyed it and its contents. Norton County had first mortgage on the property. The commission and Mr. Sebelius discussed the payment and security of the loan and the commission asked that the

Hanes meet with them before any new agreement is made.

Later in the meeting, Lee and Sioban Hanes met with the commission. It was agreed that they would meet with Mr. Sebelius and report back to the commission later.

• Noxious Weed Supervisor Reggie Beckman gave the commission a brief update on spraying and department operations. Mr. Beckman said he is still waiting for Mortensen Computers to set up an appointment to arrange and organize billings for the department. He said he would like to get the billings finished so he can send out statements for the past several months' service.

He said they are continuing to spray noxious weeds and are also still spraying roads with road maintenance crews helping.

• A bid from Mid-Continental Restoration Co., Inc. was received for work on the east and west side of the courthouse entrances. The proposal includes 170 square feet of pavers to be reset at the west entrance and 80 square feet of pavers to be reset at the east entrance. The proposal also includes replacing the pavers that are cracked within the work area. If it is determined that more pavers are needed, there will be an additional \$50 per pave. The repair has been requested due to water setting on each landing in the winter and after rains. After reviewing the bid, the commission would like to see if there is a second option due to cost.

• Norton County District Court Clerk Darla Engel spoke to the commission about pay for trial juries. She said state law has given local commissions the opportunity to adjust the pay for jurors selected for trial. The county currently pays \$10 per day to those selected. The commission discussed the proposed changes and looked at a survey recently completed by the Cheyenne County clerk. Twenty counties responded to the survey, 16 of which decided to keep the pay at \$10. The commission decided to also keep the pay at \$10 per day.

• The commission donated \$2,000 from the Alcohol and Drug Fund to the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program.



Norton's newest eye care professional, Dr. Todd Zerger, O.D., performed an eye exam at Prairie Wind Eyecare. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Norton has a new eye doctor

By CAROLYN PLOTTS
The search is over. Prairie Wind Eyecare has a new doctor on staff.

Dr. Karen Aldridge had been actively recruiting for a doctor to join her in her practice with offices in Norton and Hill City. Dr. Aldridge lives in Hill City and part of the bargain was for the new doctor to live in Norton. When she met Dr. Todd Zerger and his wife, Krisha, they were both interested in coming to Norton.

Dr. Zerger, originally from Elyria, graduated from high school in Moundridge. Mrs. Zerger is from Sterling. They met at Bethel College in North Newton.

Following college Dr. Zerger taught chemistry and physics for two years at Peabody High School. In 2002, the Zergers moved to Memphis, Tenn., where he attended the Southern College of Optometry. During his training, Mrs. Zerger worked as a nurse at St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital in pediatric oncology.

Conversations about coming to Norton began between Dr. Aldridge and Dr. Zerger in 2004. They came to an agreement and in

June, following his graduation in May, Dr. and Mrs. Zerger arrived in Norton. He began his association with Prairie Wind Eyecare Aug. 1.

Dr. Aldridge said, "No. I am not retiring, I'm not old enough, but I needed to expand the time available for patients to be seen in their own hometowns."

With two doctors now to handle appointments, patients can be seen every day in either Hill City or Norton. In Norton, Dr. Zerger will see patients Monday mornings, Tuesday afternoon, and all day Wednesday and Thursday. Dr. Aldridge will be in Norton Tuesday mornings and all day Fridays.

The Hill City office will have Dr. Aldridge scheduled to see patients all day Monday; Monday afternoon Dr. Zerger will provide vision therapy to patients; Tuesday Dr. Aldridge will schedule appointments; the office is closed Wednesday; Thursday Dr. Aldridge will be

there all day; and Dr. Zerger will see patients all day Friday.

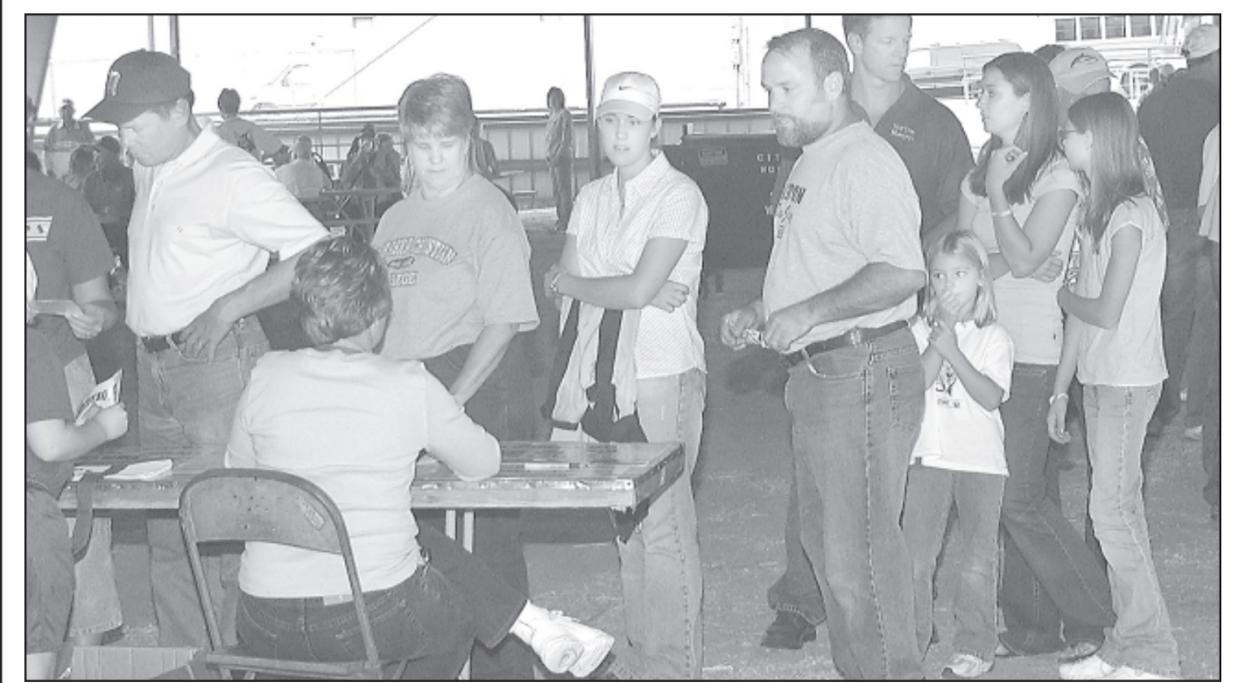
Dr. Zerger has nothing but high praise for Dr. Aldridge and Prairie Wind Eyecare. He said, "Things are top-notch here. We are at the top of the game at Prairie Wind. We are a true primary care facility."

Dr. Aldridge added, "Over the years, I've built relationships with specialists, so I know who to refer patients to. Between the two of us, there's not a thing we can't handle, treat or refer."

Dr. Zerger is trained in diagnosing diseases of the eye, vision therapy, fitting contact lenses and treating injuries to the eye.

A family man, Dr. Zerger ranks playing with his 17-month old daughter, Ava, as his favorite hobby. He and his wife are expecting another baby in December. They are working on remodeling their home and he is excited to become part of the fan base for high school athletics in both towns.

At the tailgate party...



A record crowd attended the Blue Jay Booster Tailgate Party prior to the football game with Smith Center on Friday night. Pictured here are some of the fans paying for their booster club annual memberships and purchasing meal

tickets. The size of the crowd was enhanced by the presence of hundreds of Norton alumni celebrating during the All-School Reunion. — Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

SCHOOL CALENDAR

NORTON Senior High
Wednesday — School Photos, 8:30 a.m.; SAC, a.p.
Thursday — Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.; Junior Varsity Tennis at Trego, 1 p.m.; KAY Board, a.p.; FCCLA 9th Grade Step One, a.p.; FFA Meeting, 7 p.m.; Cheerleaders, 8 p.m.
Friday — Jazz Ensemble, a.p.; Football vs. Trego, There, 7 p.m.; Senior Class Meeting, Gym, a.p.
Saturday — Junior Varsity Tennis Quad at Norton, 10 a.m.; Cross Country at Wamego, 9 a.m.; Junior Varsity Volleyball at Quinter, 9 a.m.
Next Monday — Junior Magazine Sales end, a.p.; Jay Singers; C Volleyball vs. Trego, Here, 5 p.m.; Junior Varsity Football vs Trego, Here, 6:30 p.m.; Java Jive Auditions, 7 p.m.; Cheerleaders, 8 p.m.
Next Tuesday — Drama, a.p.;

Tennis at Goodland, 3 p.m.; Tennis at Phillipsburg, 3 p.m.
Junior High:
Wednesday — Norton Junior High School TEAM Meeting, 7:30 a.m.; School Photos, 8:30 a.m.
Thursday — Volleyball at Phillipsburg, 4:30 p.m.; "B" Football at Phillipsburg, 5 p.m.; Football at Phillipsburg, 7 p.m.
Tuesday — Volleyball at Phillipsburg (Phillipsburg, Ellis and Plainville), 4:30 p.m.; "B" football at Southern Valley, NE, 5 p.m.
Eisenhower:
Thursday — IEP Day; 3-4 Grade Level Meeting, 3:40 p.m.
All Schools:
Wednesday — Admin Team Meeting, Unified Office, 9:30 a.m.
Next Monday — Board of Education Meeting; Unified Office, 7:30 p.m.
High School Menus:
Wednesday — Breakfast:

Breakfast tornado, potato puffs, fruit or juice or cereal, toast, milk; Lunch; Slivered roast beef sandwich, lettuce and tomato, peas, Jell-O with whipped topping or chef salad, milk
Thursday — Breakfast: Pancakes, bacon, fruit or juice or cereal, toast, milk; Lunch; Beef nachos, relishes with dip, hot roll, pears, brownies or chef salad, milk
Friday — Breakfast: Blueberry bread, fruit or juice or cereal, toast, milk; Lunch: Ham and cheese rollup, green beans, coleslaw with carrots, applesauce or chef salad, milk
Eisenhower Menus:
Wednesday — Breakfast: Breakfast burrito, fruit cocktail, milk; Lunch: Potato boats, baked beans, fruit cocktail, whole wheat roll, milk
Thursday — Breakfast: Canadian cheese, biscuit, apple juice, milk; Lunch: Macaroni and

cheese, Little Smokies, mixed veggies, rosy applesauce, French bread, milk
Friday — Breakfast: Pumpkin bread, rosy applesauce, milk; lunch; Sloppy Joe, homemade bun, corn, tater tots, bananas, milk
NORTHERN VALLEY
Thursday — Jr. High Volleyball and Football vs Hill City at Long Island; Volleyball at 5 p.m.; Football at 6:45 p.m. Middle School Open House and Masonic Lodge Watermelon Feed following Football Game; High School Cross Country Mankato Invitational at Mankato, 4:30 p.m.; High School Dance Team Practice, 6:15 p.m.
Friday — High School Cheerleading Practice, 7:15 a.m.; Junior High and High School Band Practice at Almena, 11:55 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; Kansas State Fair at Hutchinson, Sept. 8-17; High School Football vs Eastern Heights at Almena, 7 p.m.

Come Look-Try One!

2005 Dodge Stratus SXT 4 Door Sedan — Inferno red, V-6, 18,000 miles.
2005 Dodge Stratus SXT 4 Door Sedan — Sterling silver, V-6, 26,000 miles.
2004 Dodge Inrepid SE 4 Door — Bright white, V-6, 48,000 miles.
2004 Chevrolet Monte Carlo LS Coupe — Sandstone beige metallic, V-6, 28,000 miles.
2003 Mitsubishi Eclipse G5 2 Door Hatchback Coupe — Bright silver, 2.4 liter engine, 36,000 miles.
2002 Chrysler Concorde Limited 4 Door Sedan — Stone white with sandstone luxury leather seats, V-6, 38,000 miles.
2001 Chrysler Sebring LX 2 Door Coupe — Satin white, V-6, 69,000 miles.
2005 Chrysler Town & Country LX — Stone white with gray cloth, 7 passenger quad seating, 21,000 miles.
2005 Chrysler Town & Country LX — Bright silver metallic, rear seat, DVD player.
2004 Ford Freestar Limited Passenger Van — Gunmetal blue with silver lower, V-6, 29,000 miles.
2003 Chrysler Town & Country LXI Wagon — Brilliant black crystal, neutral leather, 7 passenger quad seating, V-6, rear seat video system, 23,000 miles.
2003 Chrysler Town & Country LX Wagon — Bright silver metallic, 3.8 V-6, 44,000 miles.
2003 Chrysler Town & Country LX Wagon — Stone white, 3.8 V-6, 44,000 miles.
2000 Pontiac Montana Extended Length Passenger Van — Dark red with gray lower, rear seat DVD player, new tires, ???,??? miles.
2006 Dodge Durango 4 Door, 4 Wheel Drive — Atlantic blue, 8 passenger seating, V-8, 20,000 miles.
2005 Chrysler Pacifica Sports Touring Wagon — Linen gold, 25,000 miles.
2004 Chrysler Pacifica Sports Touring Wagon All-Wheel Drive — Butane blue pearl, 38,000 miles.
2004 Chrysler Pacifica Utility Vehicle — Inferno red pearl coat, 44,000 miles.
2002 Jeep Liberty Limited 4 Door, 4 Wheel Drive — Salsa red pearl, 3.7 liter V-6, 40,000 miles.
2005 Dodge Dakota Quad Cab 2 Wheel Drive — Flame red, V-6, 7,000 miles.
2004 Dodge Ram 1/2 Ton Quad Cab Short Box 4 Wheel Drive — Bright silver metallic, V-8, 5 speed automatic overdrive, 51,000 miles.
2004 Dodge Ram 1/2 Ton Quad Cab Short Box 4 Wheel Drive — Bright white with leather seats, V-8, new tires, 88,000 miles.
2003 Dodge Dakota Club Cab 2 Wheel Drive — Bright white, V-8, 5 speed automatic, fiberglass topper, 51,000 miles.
2003 Dodge Ram 1/2 Ton Short Box Regular Cab 2 Wheel Drive Pickup — Flame red, V-8, five speed automatic, 26,000 miles.
2003 Dodge Ram 1/2 Ton Short Box Regular Cab 2 Wheel Drive Pickup — Atlantic blue, V-8, five speed automatic, 43,000 miles.
2003 Dodge Ram 1/2 Ton Quad Cab Short Box 4 Wheel Drive — Mineral gray with silver lower two-tone, V-8, 65,000 miles.
2003 Chevrolet 1500HD Crew Cab Short Box 4 Wheel Drive — Bright white, LS decor, 6.0 liter, V-8, 70,000 miles.
2003 Chevrolet Silverado 3/4 Ton Crew Cab Short Box 4 Wheel Drive — Victory red, 6600 Duramax Diesel, Allison automatic, 134,000 miles.
2002 Dodge Ram Quad Cab Short Box 2 Wheel Drive — Flame red, V-8, automatic overdrive, 35,000 miles.

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