

Givin' them a good flip...



The Norton Lions Club held its annual pancake feed Saturday morning at the Norton Senior Center, where Lions Todd Zerger and Rich Miller took their turn flipping the cakes. In addition to pancakes, the Lions served sausage, orange juice and coffee.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Tennis courts in need of more repair

By VERONICA MONIER

The condition of the Norton tennis courts is once again deteriorating.

Superintendent Greg Mann told the Norton School board at its last meeting that the tennis courts are getting to the point of needing repair again.

He said he attended a Parks Committee meeting held by the city at the tennis courts to talk about it.

"This is year three," he said. "We knew the last fix wouldn't last more than two or three years."

Mr. Mann said he didn't think anyone (the school or the city) was too excited about putting more money into the courts, especially in the current location considering a lot of maintenance problems are caused by where they are located.

A solution, he said, was to possibly go halves with the city on the cost of repairing the courts again, if the city would be willing to do so. At the moment, the city isn't committing to anything.

But, he said, another temporary fix would give them two more years to decide whether or not to fix the courts and if they should build new courts elsewhere.

If they move them, he said they should look at having four courts, that way Norton can host tournaments.

Mr. Mann said no action was needed at the moment from the board, but the matter would probably be brought back up around the first of the year.

In other business, the board:

- Heard that the track's sub-surface is not in good shape. Mike

Dixon with Track Restorations and Coatings, Inc., from Uniontown, said there was some moisture related damage to the subsurface and no base rock under the asphalt to keep it stable. Because of time constraints, he said they decided to repair the asphalt the best they can and then lay the new track surface. Eventually, he said, the asphalt will have to be replaced. But, he said, with a good maintenance program, the track can last five to six, or possibly up to ten, years before that needs to happen. He said he was just giving the board a heads up, so it could decide what it wanted to do. At today's prices, in five or six years, it will cost around \$250,000 to replace the asphalt and base rock.

With the asphalt repairs, it is going to cost about \$8,000 to \$10,000 more than the earlier estimated cost.

- Accepted a \$1,000 donation from Lawrence "Cy" Lemonds and Dorrance Ward Lemonds, both 1934 graduates of Norton, to help maintain the school's sports program. The donation will be used at Athletic Director Larry Mills' discretion.

- Bought new equipment for the weight room, with the money coming from capital outlay. Mr. Mills said the new stations will be safer and will allow more students in the same space with less risk for accidents. He said there will be six new stations and the district will get them at cost from End Zone. Mr. Mann said another school district was interested in buying some of the equipment Norton is replacing.

Forecasts show crop production down from last year

Here is the latest snapshot of grain production forecasts for Kansas as issued by the Kansas Agricultural Statistics Service:

- **Corn** production is expected to total 387.5 million bushels, 2 percent below the previous forecast and 17 percent below last year's crop. Acreage harvested for grain at 3.15 million acres, is unchanged from the previous forecast, but down 9 percent from 2005. Corn yields are expected to average 123 bushels per acre, down 2 bushels from Sept. 1 and 12 bushels below the previous year.

- **Sorghum** grain production is forecast at 144.0 million bushels, down 26 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 60 bushels per acre, unchanged from last month, but 15 bushels below last year's yield. Acreage for harvest as grain is 2.40 million acres, up 100,000 acres from Sept. 1, but down 200,000 acres from 2005. Acres planted are 2.65 million, up 150,000 from Sept. 1, but down 100,000 from 2005.

- **Soybean** production in Kansas is expected to total 93.0 million bushels, unchanged from Sept. 1, but 12 percent below last year's crop. Average for harvest is expected to total 3.00 million acres, the same as Sept. 1, but up 5 percent from last year. Yields

are expected to average 31 bushels per acre, unchanged from Sept. 1, but 6 bushels below 2005.

- **Sunflower** production is forecast at 170.3 million pounds, down 62 percent from last year. Harvested acreage at 141,000 is down 148,000 from last year. The yield is expected to average 1,208 pounds per acre, down 356 pounds from last year.

- **All hay** production is estimated to total 5.50 million tons, down 18 percent from 2005. Kansas acreage harvested is 2.90 million acres, unchanged from last year.

- **Wheat** production in Kansas for 2006 is estimated at 291.2 million bushels, down 3 percent from the August forecast and 23 percent below 2005. Yield is estimated at 32.0 bushels per acre, unchanged from the August forecast, but 8 bushels below 2005. Acres harvested for grain totaled 9.1 million acres, down 300,000 acres from the previous forecast and 400,000 below 2005. A total of 9.8 million acres were planted to wheat for harvest in 2006, down 400,000 acres from the August forecast and 200,000 acres below the previous year.

U.S. crop production shows corn grain forecast at 10.9 million

bushels, down 2 percent from both last month and 2005. **Sorghum** grain production is forecast at 301 million bushels, down 1 percent from September and 24 percent

down from 2005. **Soybean** production is forecast at 3.19 billion bushels, up 3 percent from the September forecast and 4 percent above 2005.

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The City of Norton will be making appointments to the following Boards and Commissions, and would like to encourage citizens to serve on these boards: Norton Housing Authority Board, Norton Convention & Tourism Committee, Norton Planning Commission, Library Board and the Norton Recreation Commission. For more information regarding any of these Boards or Commissions, or if you are interested in serving, please call the City Clerk's Office by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 10, at 877-5000. Current members whose term is expiring will also need to notify the Clerk's Office, if they are interested in serving another term.

Norton County Weather – October 17th – 21st				
Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
65/32	40/28	53/35	58/38	53/35
Normal High: 66		Sunrise: 7:52 to 7:56 A.M.		
Normal Low: 36		Sunset: 6:52 to 6:58 P.M.		

The County missed a hard freeze last week, but chances look good again Wednesday night for temperatures to drop into the 20's. Today clouds will be on the increase with precipitation developing this evening. Rain showers maybe mixed with some snow is likely tonight and through the day tomorrow. A .25" to .75" of moisture will add to above normal rainfall totals since the first of September. It will remain cool the rest of the period with a reinforcing shot of Canadian air Friday.