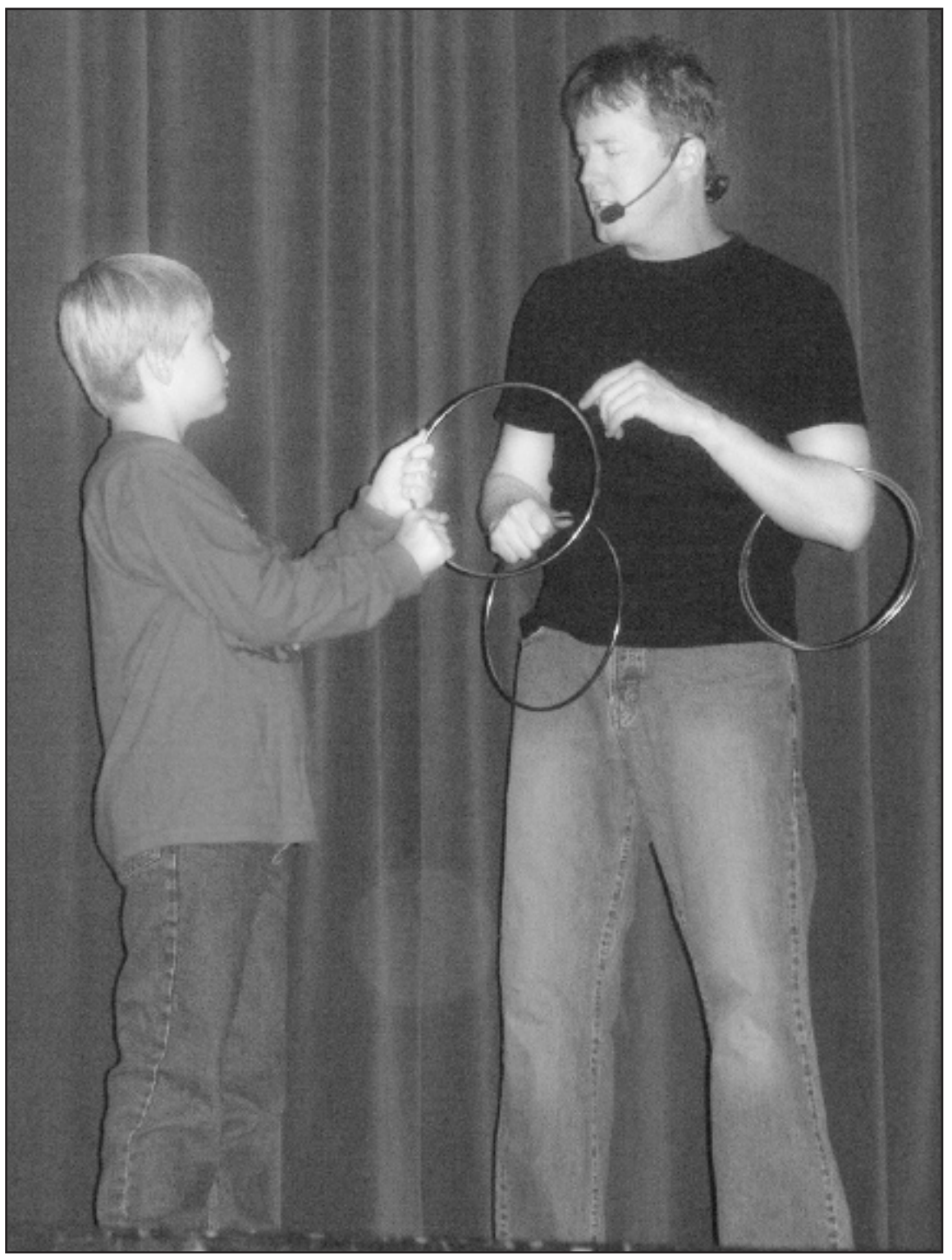

Derek Rowh, 10, (above) appeared on stage with magician and illusionist, Eric Vaughn, during Sunday's performance sponsored by the Norton County Arts Council. Mr. Vaughn, center stage, had Betty Cotton (below) examine his handcuffs. Partially hidden behind Mr. Vaughn is Kelly Karnopp who examined a wooden crate used in the illusion.
— Telegram photo by Patsy Maddy

Horse council checks on funding

By VERONICA MONIER
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The Norton County Horse Council wanted to make sure the county still has money earmarked for it.

Scott Sproul, who is on the horse council, said at the Oct. 1 Norton County Commission meeting that the council continued to work on raising money for its new restroom/concession project at the equine facility in Elmwood Park.

He said the commission had previously agreed to give the council some money from the Special Park fund for the project. He said he wanted to make sure the money was still marked for the council's project.

Also, he said, as the chairman of the Lenora Jubilee Committee, he sent the county a request for money to be used to build a permanent stage and picnic shelter where the grandstand is now in Lenora.

The commission said they will discuss the request and give an answer at a later date.

The commission also spoke with:

• **Larry Noffsinger, Meritain Health representative**, about the county's health insurance. Mr. Noffsinger said his purpose in meeting with the commission was to inform them of Meritain Health's services. If the county is going to take bids for health insurance, he said he would like to submit a proposal. Meritain has offices in Denver and Kansas City and is the largest independent employee health benefits provider in the area, he said. Meritain, he said, is a member of the PPO network, which allows employees to be treated throughout the country.

For prescriptions, Mr. Noffsinger said Meritain used Scripworld, who is a pharmacy benefit management provider. He said the important thing to remember about Meritain is that they are an administrator only and that they use a large number of insurance companies to present health insurance coverage to the employees. Meritain works with their customers through partial self-funded employer medical plans.

The commission discussed the pros and cons of partial self-funded policies and what the maximum liability to the county would be. After discussion, the commission agreed to have Norton County employee information and plan coverage mailed to Mr. Noffsinger so that he could put a model plan for the county together.

• **Tom Brannan, Norton County Road and Bridge supervisor**, who said he recently met with the Furnas County Commission about the availability of gravel or sand in the area. He said from their discussion, it was decided that the location of sand and the availability to Norton County was difficult due to distance. He said they also talked about the roads and their conditions on the Norton/Furnas county line.

• **Reggie Beckman, Norton County Noxious Weed supervisor**, who said they were spraying trees in the road ditches and also spraying a few spots for bindweed. He said the private spraying was nearly finished for the season.

Mr. Beckman said he and Mr. Brannan had come to an agreement of cost sharing between the two county departments for chemical to spray county roads.

• **Curt Archibald, Norton County Solid Waste supervisor**, who said he recently attended a meeting on an E-Waste grant that was given to Osborne County for a recycle program. Norton County has agreed to participate in the program, which allows for the disposal of electronic/computer waste. But, he said, the contracts for the program have not yet been finished.

Mr. Archibald said Rose Transportation was finishing their work on the county's white goods. He said they have been on site compacting the goods and one load had already been hauled away. It weighed 49,500 pounds.

He said the city was planning a city-wide clean-up in November, but that the dates for it weren't ideal for him as he has training at that time. The commission said other solid waste employees could be used to fill in for Mr. Archibald.

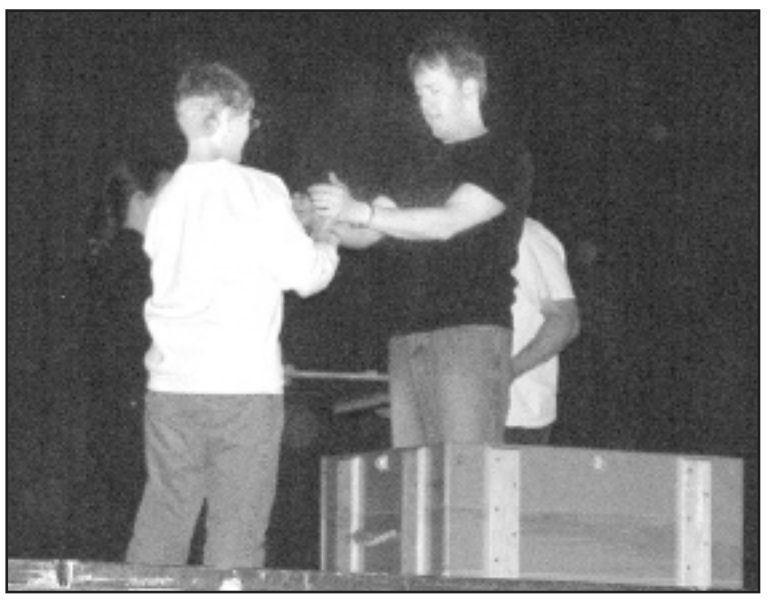
• **Diane Becker, Norton County Economic Development director**, who said a recent request was made to look into the possibility of plans and funding for a community building. The commission felt that the community had enough buildings and meeting areas and that pursuing a community building was in no one's best interest at this time.

In other business, the commission:

• Discussed a request for payment from Blue Sky, Ink on the Rural Fire Department's grant. There is confusion on who is responsible for the bill, which is $12,600. County Clerk Robert Wyatt said he would contact the fire department for a copy of the contract, so that County Counselor Doug Sebelius could review it.

• Held a 45-minute closed session to discuss non-elected personnel.

Magic blooms in Norton



By CAROLYN PLOTTS
cplotts@nwkansas.com

It was mystifying, marvelous and magical. Those were some of the adjectives used to describe the magic and illusion of Eric Vaughn.

Mr. Vaughn and his wife, Amanda, performed Sunday afternoon at East Campus Auditorium as part of the season ticket events sponsored by the Norton County Arts Council.

Council president Carol Erlenbusch said, "It was an excellent performance — very professional. The thing I liked most is that it brought the families. That is the one thing we have been striving for — good family entertainment. We had a very good turnout."

Mr. Vaughn performed feats of magic including audience members and highlighting Squeeky, "The Amazing Chihuahua".

The next show on the art council's agenda is the Blue and Gray Brass Brigade. They will perform at 7 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 3 at East Campus Auditorium. Members of the military are encouraged to attend as there will be a special recognition for them.

Admission is by season ticket or: $8 for adults, $4 for students, $1 for children 12 and under, reciprocity, $4.

Norton doctor receives certification

Dr. Jeffery McKinley recently received certification from the American Board of Family Medicine. Dr. McKinley has been on the staff of Norton County Hospital and Doctors Clinic since 2000.

Board certification insures a standard of excellence in knowledge and practice to physicians who, not only certify via the examination process, but who also work to maintain these skills during the seven-year cycle between exams.

To achieve rectification Dr. McKinley had to verify completion of 300 hours of acceptable continuing medical education over the past six years; possess a full and unrestricted license to practice medicine in the United States; and successfully complete a one-day, written examination of knowledge and problem-solving abilities. The exam covered adult medicine, care of newborns, children and adolescents, maternity and gynecological care, community medicine, elder care, human behavior, human behavior and mental health and care of the surgical patient.

Developmental services given grant

Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas, was recently named as the recipient of a $69,000 grant from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation.

The grant award will be used to make necessary repairs to the roofs at Wheatland Developmental Center in Colby and Reed Developmental Center in Hays. Both roofs sustained significant damage during the severe winter storms in early 2007. The damage caused water to flow from the roofs into each of the buildings which affected the usage of many offices and work areas.

In Colby, the damage was so significant the individuals and staff were required to relocate to Atwood until the roof replacement could be completed. Unfortunately, due to the fact that most of the damage to the roofs was determined to be "pre-existing" by the insurance adjuster, the agency was forced to pay for most of the costs associated with the roof replacements.

"We are deeply appreciative to the Hansen Foundation for their vital support of the services we provide to people with disabilities. These repairs will allow us to continue to provide the highest in quality services to the people we serve," expressed Jerry Michaud, President.

Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas is a private, not for profit organization serving more than 500 individuals with developmental disabilities in the 18 counties of northwest Kansas.

Annual parade set for Oct. 25

The Halloween Parade and Wiener Roast will be held next Thursday, Oct. 25, in downtown Norton.

The Norton Volunteer Fire Department and the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce will again co-sponsor the event.

Participants in the parade are asked to assemble in the parking lot behind Hall's Clothing at 6 p.m. Norton County Sheriff Troy Thomson and his wife Chriselle will be dividing the children into groups from pre-school to sixth grade. Representatives of Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas and others will be holding signs for each age group to direct children and parents where to line up.

The parade will begin at 6:30 p.m. and will move east along Main Street to State Street, then south to Washington Street and east to the fire department's station house.

When the parade reaches the station house, a free wiener roast will start. Kids will be able to get apples and candy in trick or treat bags from employees of the Norton County Hospital. The wiener roast is financed through donations from businesses and individuals in the Norton area. The candy will be donated by the hospital.

All children are invited to participate.

For more information, call the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce Office at 877-2501.

Play to be in Oberlin Saturday

The Southwest Nebraska Community Theater Association will present the stage play, "The Curious Savage" by John Patrick, at Morgan Theater at The Gateway Theater in Oberlin at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 20.

In addition to the Oberlin performance, the group will also present the play at the high school auditorium in McCook on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 26, 27 and 28.

For details about the Oberlin performance, call Ella Betts at (785) 475-3557 or Mary Henzel at (785) 470-0218.

PLEASE DETACH AND SAVE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

USD 211 Emergency School Closings

In the event there is a need to start school late or close schools due to inclement weather or other emergencies, the announcement will be made on the radio and television stations listed below. KQNK Radio of Norton (1530 AM or 106.7 FM) is the primary broadcast outlet for the Norton schools.

If inclement weather develops during the school day, parents should attempt to tune to one of the designated radio or television stations below. In the event there is an early dismissal students will be allowed to call their parents if instructions are needed.

If school is not called off, but parents believe the weather to be too hazardous to send their child(ren) to school they are to follow the normal procedures for reporting absences.

RADIO STATIONS:

KQNK	1530 AM/106.7 FM	Norton
KRVN	880 A.M.	Lexington, NE
KFNK	101.1 FM	Oberlin
KKAN	1490 AM	Phillipsburg
KQMA	92.5 FM	Phillipsburg

TELEVISION STATIONS:

KSNK-TV	NBC	Channel 8
KBSH-TV	CBS	Channel 7
KAKE-TV	CBS	Channel 11
NTV	ABC	Channel 13

Also, district patrons can sign up to receive text and email notifications of school closings by going to www.usd211.org and clicking on "BLUEJAY ALERTS" and following the on-screen instructions.

Ham & Lamb Fry
Saturday, Oct. 20
6:00-8:00 P.M.
American Legion
POST 63 • NORTON, KANSAS
(Legionnaries, Auxiliary, Sons of Legion)
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