After meeting chat



Norton Correctional Facility Warden Jay Shelton, center, talked with Norton County Commissioners Carolyn Applegate and John Miller after the visit with Senator Ralph Ostmeyer and Representative John Faber Saturday afternoon at Town and Country Kitchen.

- Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux

Commissioners updated on shovel ready projects

Norton County Road and Bridge supervisor Tom Brannan, told the county commissioners about "shovel ready projects" that would be eligible for state funding through the Kansas Department of Transportation's Bureau of Local Projects.

"There's just \$38 million to allocate to cities and counties outside the metro area," said local road engineer Norm Bowers. "This is not a lot of money on a statewide basis, so don't get your hopes too high; however, if you don't apply, you cannot

Mr. Brannan said he will continue to work with state agencies and Norton County's engineers and architects about the proj-

He also said the road groom is in use on several county roads and they are trying to bring gravel back into the road beds along with the reclaimer. The crews are working on taking care of smaller projects on the county roads, and the motor graders are only being used when necessary.

Mr. Brannan said he is be-

ginning to receive rock for the spring chip and seal projects, which will include west Washington road, the road to the solid waste site and the Almena road. The roads listed for the spring chip and seal project were on the list for last year, but due to rains the projects were not completed.

He also said there are four bridges on the schedule that need to be repaired or replaced, and work will start on those when the weather permits.

Curt Archibald, Norton County Solid Waste supervisor, said the bentinite for the construction and demolition pit was delivered on Saturday and arrangements were made with the City of Norton for the water needed.

He also gave information on an upcoming meeting in Garden City, which will be hosted by the Bureau of Waste Management for technical training. He said the commissioners' presence at the meeting was requested.

Commissioner Carolyn Applegate reported on recent information received from the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development on the county Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy. She said the information is a very detailed and complete document of vital information on Norton County. The commissioners adopted Resolution 2009-07 to adopt the strategy.

Reggie Beckman, Norton County Noxious Weed supervisor, told the commission about roads that need sprayed or are being requested to be sprayed by the motor grader operators, which totals 485 miles and would require 30 to 36 loads of chemical. Mr. Beckman said he has about 31 loads of chemical in stock, which amounts to

Gina Frack, Norton County Health Department administrator, told the commission that the conference call with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment lab in Topeka will be held on Monday, March 23.

There was no further business, so the meeting adjourned.

A brief end of month meeting

of the Norton County Commission on Feb. 27 brought the following:

• Senate Bill 178, which would require carnival rides in Kansas to be inspected and the operators certified, was passed by the state legislature with amendments exempting those defined as "home-owned carnivals." The definition of a home-owned carnival means it is owned by a not-for-profit entity and operated within a single county, by individuals on a volunteer basis, and does not exceed 12 operation days

• Commissioner John Miller said the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee has warned Kansas counties not to count on the federal stimulus money while figuring their 2010 budgets.

• The commissioners went into two executive sessions, with no action taken when they returned to open meeting.

• The county commissioners paid end-of-the-month bills.

With no further business, the session was adjourned.

Two forensics team members win at Ellis

By KEN THARMAN Forensics Coach

I want each and every one of you to know that the Northern Valley Forensic students have been working overtime to get ready for the competitions this year. They have been traveling to basketball games, taking state assessments, and maintaining their academic grades as well. They have been fighting off colds and practicing their selections after all of the other school activities. They should all be commended for their dedication to the school and the programs offered here.

On March 7, the Northern Valley Forensics team left Almena at 5:45 a.m. The destination was a very large meet in Ellis. Those members who pulled themselves out of bed that morning were: Hannah Hawks, Christina Anderson, Melissa Hawks, Gunnar Hays, Ashley Constable, Samuel Field, Daniel Field, Travis Redeker, Michael Callaway, Matt Dole, Jordan Herman, Kayla Field and Bryant Tharman. The ride down was uneventful and the students got a little extra shut eye.

Once we arrived, they awoke

and got down to business. There were 19 teams in attendance with more than 190 events registered. Due to a couple of unexpected events, some changes needed to take place.

I would like to say thank you to those students that stepped up and volunteered their skills to help the team. After three grueling rounds, those making it to the finals and their placings were: Kayla Field, 6th place in Serious Solo and Gunnar Hays, 1st place in both Informative and Extemporaneous Speaking.

With the combined efforts of all of those students in attendance, we finished in 6th place. In a meet of this magnitude, that is AWESOME!

I would like to thank Michelle for going along and representing our school as a judge, sponsor, and driver. I would like to thank those

families and friends that take the time to travel with us and support the kids. Lastly, I would like to thank

the "cookie ladies" in Long Island for their continued sup-

Our next meet is set for Thursday in Colby.

New date set for grants

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service said the application period for 2009 Conservation Innovation Grants funding has been extended to March 20.

The previous deadline to submit applications was March

"Innovation always has been a hallmark of American agriculture and in keeping with President Obama's focus on science, technology and innovation, these grants will provide an opportunity for citizens to directly engage with promoting a healthy environment and

ing Natural Resources Chief Dave White. "We're extending the application period to make certain those interested have adequate time to submit applications." The Conservation Innova-

tion Grants are aimed at helping achieve and promote innovation in critical areas such as water quality, energy, climate change and pollinator habitat.

Natural Resources administers the grant program. Grants will be awarded through a nationwide competitive process and can range up to three years in length.

Up to \$20 million is available • for this national competition.



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Business in the Spotlight

Business Name: Almena Market

Owner: Stan and Twylla Cadwalader

Address: 517 Main Street, Almena

Phone: (785) 669-2512 Website: almgro@ruraltel.

Type of Business: Grocery

It was just over seven years ago that the Almena community was facing the possibility of having no grocery store. At that time, Jeff and Janette Callaway owned the Almena Market. It burned to the ground just into the new year of 2002. With help from the surrounding communities and a spirit we can rebuild,

the store was rebuilt in 2002. Then the Callaways sold the business to the Cadwaladers in February of 2006, and they have

reason they purchased the business was because of rumors that the store was going to close and they felt that the community needed the store.

The older generation that live in Almena won't make the trip to Norton or Phillipsburg to purchase their groceries. Having the Almena Market handy makes their lives easier.

The Almena community has had a grocery store since the

1800's. One of the greatest challenges Stan said he faces on a daily basis is staying afloat with the rising costs of food, utilities, transportation and the loss of jobs in the area.

Some of his retailers charge a surcharge if he does not purchase enough items each month.

Keeping their head above ground in this trying economy

cesses, too. Stan says the layoffs headaches for us all. He sees in the Norton County area are consolidation of schools being taking a toll on his business. He feels the area's agriculture community should help Norton County stay afloat for awhile and that our small rural communities with agriculture to fall back on will have it better than the larger communities.

Some of the other challenges he faces are limited display areas in the store.

It seems that the variety is not as great as the larger stores, but he has a huge variety for his customers.

He researches what items are community." good sellers and he also takes orders for things people need.

Stan feels the store will thrive into the future, but he worries about the future of the state and the country. Watching and listening to the news from Washington D.C. can cause

detrimental to small communi-

One of the most rewarding aspects of working at the Almena Market is the loyalty of his customers and the interaction with them, Stan said.

When asked about advice for upcoming business owners, he says keep doing business as usual and keep serving the community. Stan says "we have become a nation of people helping people and that is very evident in the Norton County



BE - Biotechnology Endorsement

Trent Richmond

BE-Biotechnology Endorsement is available on corn for grain! been running it ever since. has been one of the biggest suc-Stan Cadwalader says the

The numbers 12,895 and 93,300 and 2 may seem random, but they all have meaning for Kansans.

"The first is the number of acres that have burned in large wildfires in Kansas in just the first two months (Jan. 1 to March 1) of this year," said Jason Hartman, fire prevention specialist with the Kansas Forest Service. "The second -- \$93,300 -- is the estimated cost for fighting those fires. The 2 is the number of weeks still to go before we typically enter the Kansas wildfire season."

Wildfires have already been reported

Early 2009 fires were reported from counties as wide-ranging as Riley, Leavenworth and Lyon.

Combined with dry conditions through much of the state, 2009 is showing signs of being an unusual fire season for the state, Hartman said. He is urging Kansans to be extra cautious with outdoor activities that might start a wildfire.

"Before grilling, welding, using a cutting torch, using power tools,

and certainly before doing any kind of trash, brush or field burning, please check with your local fire and emergency management officials to see if conditions are safe to do so," Hartman said.

The area's National Weather Service Office Web site maintains current information on fire weather watches and warnings. Information on wildfire protection and planning is available at local fire departments.

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