



Norton County shop employees, back row, from left: Jimmy Railsback (partially hidden), Gerald Wetter, Bill Nelson, Topper Cook. Middle row, from left: Maggie Berger, Mark McKenna, Floyd Richards, Tom Brannan, Joe Wray. Front row, from left: Darrell Preuss, Elvin Edgett. —Telegram photo by Erica Bradley

Catching up on projects at home is in the goal for a Norton retiree

By ERICA BRADLEY
er Bradley@nwkansas.com
 Norton County said goodbye to one of its employees on Friday when Darrell Preuss retired after 40 years of service in the road and bridge department. Preuss started in 1969. He has worked in the shop, hauled gravel and worked on the bridge crew until 1979 when he broke his leg. The crew had been working on a plank on a bridge when the plank slipped. Preuss said he was off for three years and three months while

his leg healed. He said he had a compound fracture, and a bone infection. He had several bone grafts and surgery before the leg healed. When he returned to work, he ran a motor grader for 11 years. He also ran a loader and dozer in a sand pit for six years and then ran another motor grader. Preuss said his day started at 5:30 a.m., which gave him plenty of time for a bike ride before he had to be at work. "Now I don't have to get up at 5:30," he said.

Preuss is looking forward to spending time in the house where he plans to catch up on projects. He is married to Sandy, and they have a daughter, Tanya, and a son, Camden. Tanya and her husband Dan have three daughters. They reside in Manhattan. Norton County Commission Chairman Richard Thompson presented Preuss with a plaque for his service. "Thank you for your 40 years of service to Norton County," Thompson said.

Hansen Museum holds many October events

The Joy of Painting Class was held this weekend. We had 26 in attendance on Saturday and 27 on Sunday. The class met 9-3 both days. The Saturday painting was "Mountain Stream" and the Sunday painting was "Days Gone By." Each participant completed a painting per day to proudly display. The Jo Campbell-Amsler Basket Weaving Class will be held Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 31 and Nov. 1. The class will meet from 8-5 both days. The basket for Saturday will be "Gathering Pouch" and Sunday will be "Willow Glen Gathering Basket." If interested, please call 785-689-4846. Our October Artists of the Month are Duane and

Gloria Harris of Stockton. Duane and Gloria have all sorts of fabric art and fashion doll clothes on display and for sale. If you need a gift of some sort or décor for your own home, stop in and check out what they have to offer. Items can also be ordered to specifications. Museum hours are Monday-Friday 9-12 and 1-4, Saturday 9-12 and 1-5 Sundays and holidays 1-5. We are handicapped accessible, there is never an admission fee and we have a free Wi-Fi Hotspot in the Community Room. For more information about this and other exhibits, contact Shirley at 785-689-4846 or check out our web at www.hansenmuseum.org.

Figero and the Mail Man steal pitch tourney

By Jake Durham
Special to The Telegram
 On a rainy night in October, twenty and eight of the faithful gathered for the first Pitch Tournament of the '09-'10 season. Some say it was better than homecoming as high fives, hugs and hand shakes were the order of the day, along with a few suspicious glances by the hard core contenders. According to most it had seemed an eternity since the last hand was dealt in June. The Northern Tier Gang and the Pilgrims from the East came early to get a seat at the knock table as did the Wichita Shark and the Car Salesman. The Ladies from Lyle and the Grand Mothers were handing out good luck charms while the Magician was practicing sleight of hand tricks. The clock on the wall sounded seven o'clock but there was still one team short when a pair of New Yorkers on their way back from shopping the Highway 36 Garage Sale entered through the south door looking for one more bargain. They were immediately given a seat at the last table as the Brown Eyed Girl shouted "Begin to commence." Keeping in mind that in seven point pitch and four hands to a round, times ten rounds equals a possible 280 points, (125 will usually win). Already there was talk of setting new records and you could tell by the bidding that confidence was at a high level. As the scores were posted at the end of round one, the Muddy River Boys had taken the honors and declared the end was already in sight. Figero and the Mailman took the honors after round two but the Muddy River Boys still held the lead, by a narrow margin. Things were settling down by the time round three got under way and the first tie score of the evening was recorded as the Hat Man and the Chef and the North-

ern Tier Boys recorded the high round of the evening. The die was cast evidently as the Oil Man and the Secretary also tied with the Grand Mothers for the Honors on round four. A break was immediately declared as everyone rushed to the leader board to assess the situation. The Grand Mothers were now in the lead with a high average score while the Great White Hunters and the Northern Tier Boys were tied for second. A record was set on round five as a three way tie was recorded as the Golfing Girls hit the chart along with The Secretary and the Oil Man and the Barber and the Coach. The Northern Tier Boys squeezed past the Grand Mothers for a one point lead as the half way mark came to a close. The Quiet Man and the Smiling Lady posted the high score on round six along with the Wichita Shark and the Car Salesman but a quick glance at the leader board still had the Northern Tier Boys in the lead by the narrowest of margins. Team Double Z took the honors on round seven and the Ladies from Lyle hit the top of the chart on round eight. Another break was declared as everyone crowded around the leader board to assess the damages. Playing low key along the way, the Ladies from Lyle had moved into the lead, Figero and the Mail Man, the Northern Tier Boys and the Grand Mothers were tied for second one point off the lead. The next five teams were stacked another one point off second and at least another five were poised to make their move. The crucial ninth round was coming up. What to do, what to do. There were those who had to take the plunge and go for broke and there were those near the top who had to play it tight as an over bid now would be disastrous. A good hand was needed by all. The Grand Mothers took the honors on round nine and moved to the top

of the leader board with a seven point lead, the largest margin of the evening. As the tenth and final round began, a more serious atmosphere prevailed and as the final round came to a close, you could hear the usual sighs and groans, and the mashing of teeth and the Dawgs barking in the background. The Mail Man and Figero had taken the honors on round ten and had clenched the victory. The Ladies from Lyle and the Grand Mothers had tied for second. The Northern Tier Boys had taken fourth and the Oil Man and the Secretary rounded out the top five. The winners took their hard earned accolades with humility and dignity and vowed to return in November to defend their title. The top five teams were: 1. Dan Hazlett and Fig Millan; 2. June Jolly and Margaret Agers; 3. Eleanor Jensen and Joyce Sumner; 4. Marshall Hadley and Richard Conner; 5. Dee and Thelma Bushnell. Other teams in random order were: Dan and JJ Porter; Darren McMullen and David Brooks; Bill Glennemeier and David Shely; Norman Walter and Doug Spatz; Mary Jane Wahlmeier and Jackie Porter; Duane McEwen and J. D. Daffer; Arnold and Dorothy Zillinger; Dee and Thelma Bushnell; Todd and Doyle Brooks and Gil Otter and Jake Durham. It had been a fun evening to say the least. As the evening quieted down and the farewells were being said, the winners were offering the finer points of strategy to the game of Pitch to any who would listen. The juke box was playing an Elvis tune and a quick glance at the calendar on the wall had the first Sunday in November as the 1st of the month. The Games start at seven so bring your partner and sign in early and pick your lucky number.

Landfill rates have not gone up

By ERICA BRADLEY
er Bradley@nwkansas.com
 Norton County Landfill is seeing an increase in business due to many residents doing fall cleanups. During Tuesday's Norton County Commission meeting, Curt Archibald, Norton County Solid Waste supervisor, told the commission 69 people were at the landfill on Monday mostly dumping trees, leaves and other items. The commission discussed landfill fees with Archibald, saying the city fees have gone up, but the landfill fees have remained the same. In an interview after the meeting, Archibald told The Telegram the rates have not gone up since 2001. "Our rates have not gone up," he said. The current rate is \$68 per ton. The city refuse rate increase will be effective Nov. 1. Discussion was also held regarding solid waste employees getting the H1N1 vaccination. Commissioner John Miller told Archibald they need to get it because their risk of contamination is high due to handling waste. Archibald also discussed the bill for Kyle Railroad. He said the full bill has not been paid for both

cleanups. In July, a train derailment spilled an estimated 15,000 bushels of wheat, and in August a train collided with a tractor west of Norton. In other commission business: •Norton City/County Economic Development Director Diane Stiles reported on the Kansas Legislative Policy Group meeting held in Great Bend. The group is made up of county commissioners in western Kansas and focuses on government funding and legislative policy. Stiles told the commission Senator Derek Schmidt, Independence, spoke about the need to increase funding for the Department of Corrections. She said restoring funding is the best way to ensure the Norton facility stays open. Stiles also reported on several local businesses who have approached her with concerns about the increased utilities. She said some are considering relocating outside of Norton County. •Tom Brannan, road and bridge supervisor, reported the department is focusing on dirt roads for the harvest, but they are not sending anyone out in the fog. Brannan said it is too dangerous. He discussed with the commission new signs, saying it will cost \$3,200 this year. Discussion was held regarding the purchase of a sign machine, which would

allow shop employees to produce the signs when there is inclement weather. The commission decided local contractors are the best option. Aluminum is the biggest expense. They also discussed upgrading bobcats. The shop purchased an A51 last year, and through a program offered by bobcat are able to upgrade this year. Murphy Tractor and Equipment recommended upgrading to an A71. That machine has better sound reduction and a keyless start, among other features. The commission debated which machine to upgrade to, opting to stay with the A51. The new bobcat is expected within three weeks at a cost of \$5,004. A motion was made to accept the upgrade of the A51 bobcat. Vote taken, motion passed. •Bradley Harding, owner of New Look Body Shop in Norton, was in to discuss the purchase of a new bumper for a Norton County ambulance. The unit is out of service now due to an accident with a deer. The commission discussed replacing the front bumper of three units with the heavy bumper and grill protection, which would protect against damage. Norton County Emergency Services is interested in putting the heavy bumpers on its three transfer units.

Applications being taken for spaying and neutering dogs

By ERICA BRADLEY
er Bradley@nwkansas.com
 Norton Animal Health Center is taking applications for reduced cost spaying or neutering for dogs and cats. Amber Nuttycomb, vet tech,

said applications are being taken through October. A decision will be made at the end of the month. She said at least two applications will be approved, but more could be taken depending on how many applications are received.

"We're doing it to help people who can't afford the cost and because of the pet population," she said. Applications can be picked up at the clinic, located at W Holme St.

Northern Valley places in Cross Country meet

Northern Valley cross country runners competed at Grainfield on Oct. 15 with two girls placing in the competition. Coach Marvin Gebhard said Kayla Lowry received third place with a time of 17:20 and Kynzie Stevens placed 12th place with a time of 20:27. "The girls competed hard and now have a week to prepare for regionals on the 24th," Gebhard said. **Next action:** Northern Valley cross country will compete in regionals at Grainfield tomorrow.

Applications being taken for spaying and neutering dogs

"We're doing it to help people who can't afford the cost and because of the pet population," she said. Applications can be picked up at the clinic, located at W Holme St.

Grand Opening

Saturday - October 24, 2009
 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Liberty Buildings, LLC.

Located: SW Corner of Hwy 183 & K18
 312 North Washington
 Plainville, KS 67663

Hamburgers & hotdogs—cooked via, Traeger Grill.
 11:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Drawing for a door Prize!

~ Factory Representative in Attendance ~

See us for your building needs.
Cover-All is ideal for machinery, hay/feed, commodity, vehicle, or RV storage.

COVER-ALL - COVERS ALL!

An alcohol and drug-free entertainment event to raise funds for Norton Valley Hope Patient Fund

GARRETTS

October 29, 30, 31
 Th-Fri-7:00-11:00pm Sat-7:00-12:00pm
 Free Admission to Carnival - \$10.00 Admission to Haunt
 Norton National Guard Armory - Norton, KS

Contests, games, fortune teller, friendly family fun & snackbar

Event Sponsors
 Gerald & Helen Heim
 Hoxie Implement Co.
 Hoxie, KS
Garrett's
 Hoxie, KS
 Walter Motor Company
 Wes & Casey Bainter
 Construction Services
 Hoxie, KS

Featuring
 Tunnel of Terror

This coupon good for \$3.00 off each ticket for as many that you wish to purchase

\$3.00 OFF

PRINTABLE COUPONS AVAILABLE AT
www.nortonhaunt.com
 CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER OFFER

www.nortonhaunt.com - For more information & coupons