

JENNINGS NEWS

Community extends sympathy to the family of Robert Wahlmeier, Hays. Robert was born to Al and Ruth Wahlmeier on a farm southeast of Jennings on June 28, 1931. He died Thursday, March 31 at Hays. Funeral services were held Monday, April 4, at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Hays.

Ruth Chance was hostess to the Jennings Book Club Tuesday, March 29, at her home. The book the group read and reviewed was "Growing up Laughing" by Marlo Thomas. Those attending were: Kay Brown, Violet Foster, Pat Hall, Terri Hanke, Sue Long, Rachel Mappes, Joan McKenna Helen Rhodes, Patty Foster, Lila Jennings, Joan Metz, Lynn Tacha and Ruth Chance.

The Tuesday Study Club met at the Trojan Steakhouse and Grill in Logan for their March 22 meeting. After ordering lunch, President Joan Metz opened the meeting with the Collect for Club Women and the Pledge of Allegiance. Lynn Tacha read the February minutes and the treasurer's report. These were approved in a motion by Pat Foster and seconded by Helen Muirhead. Roll Call was answered as each member and guest related a favorite memory of living in a small town. Patty Foster, Helen Muirhead, Lynn Tacha, Rachel Carter, Pat Foster, Violet Foster, Pat Hall, Lila Jennings, Sue Long, Kathy Nauer, Neoma Tacha, Joan Metz and guests, Alice Mizer and Bob Jones were present. There was no old business or new business to discuss. President reminded

members that next month is the last meeting of the year. The Club will go to Park's Farm in Stockville, Neb. A new Secretary/ Treasurer will be elected. Ideas for next year's programs will be the Roll Call. Meeting was adjourned. After lunch, they went across the street to the Dane G. Hansen Museum. A woodcarver from Hill City, Allen Riggs, had a display and several photographers had pictures of Western landscapes to view. The St. Peter's Lutheran Church was the next stop. Bob introduced us to Carol Bales. She is a 1967 graduate of Logan High School. When she moved back to Logan in 1993, she remodeled a building on Main Street that is now the Historical Museum. Carol, who calls herself a collector, is now renovating and decorating the St. Peter's Church. The exterior still has its church appearance with a huge bell in its tower, a large cross on a corner wall and, in the entry, a plaque listing the parishioners' funerals. After several years of work, Carol has created an enjoyable place to live close to some of her collections. Her "Old World" French and Italian decorating style has mixed ceramics and stained glass, brick work and tiles, tapestries, velvets and silks, pillars, columns, arches, clever painting techniques, antiques and Las Vegas "Finds" into an awesome home. The sanctuary with its vaulted ceiling is being used as storage for other collections until the remodeling can be finished. Carol graciously served cookies and tea and enthralled us with stories of the

techniques she used and the plans she has for the future.

Marilyn Otter, New Almelo; Mary Amack, Oberlin and Kay Brown met Saturday at the Brown residence to make plans for the Jennings Alumni Banquet. The banquet will be held Saturday evening May 28 in the Sunflower Senior Center. Letters are being prepared to be mailed to all alumni

United Methodist Women will meet at 3 p.m. Wednesday, April 6. Roll Call is Favorite Spring Flower. Devotions by Louise Cressler. At 4 p.m. Sierra Black, Katelin Koch and Alexis Lively, Norton, will give a report on their Met Tour. Snacks prepared by Rachel Carter.

Pat Hall is home and doing well after having three stents put in a heart valve. She went on Friday to Kearney, Neb.

Ann Szeweistis had foot surgery on Thursday at the Denver hospital. She came through surgery real well.

Russell Cressler, Bison, visited his parents, Wayne and Louise Cressler, over the weekend.

Jim and Jane Wahlmeier, Concordia, came Saturday and picked up Rachel Carter, then they all went to visit Rachel's sister Mary Smith at Sharon Springs. Sounds like they had a good time.

Sunflower Senior Citizens Potluck Supper will be April 12 at 6 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Sales tax revenue increasing, says county treasurer

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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Things are looking up in Norton County if sales tax revenue trends hold true.

Norton County Treasurer Cynthia Linner told the county commissioners last week that sales tax revenues are up slightly and should continue upward.

"Trends are going up, it looks like," she told the commissioners at the end-of-the-year meeting.

Revenue from the state, received in March but mostly from January sales in the county, was almost \$3,000 more than last year and up \$7,000 for the year.

Commissioner Carolyn Applegate asked about sales tax revenues from the two big construction projects in town—the expansion at the hospital and the new motel.

Linner said that since both are supposed to be completed about

the end of May, the county will probably not see any extra revenue from them until July as May taxes go into the state in June and are dispersed to the counties the next month.

Linner also told the commissioners that the county had a \$500,000 certificate of deposit, which was maturing on Thursday. The commissioners and County Clerk Robert Wyatt said that Linner could put \$200,000 to \$250,000 back into a certificate but should hang on to the rest to pay for a promised railroad upgrade, for which the county has pledged \$300,000.

Linner also told the commissioners that her office would be closed for lunch on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 12-13, since the staff will be out for mandatory training and she will have fill-in help those days.

NORCATUR NEWS

The results of the pool tournament held at the Cardinal Bar & Grill Wednesday, March 16. Winners were: first Rusty Montgomery, 2nd Von Johnson, and 3rd Larry Lively.

Election time is fast approaching on Tuesday, April 5. I urge you to get registered to vote if you haven't already done so. Due to recent events it's very important that you get out and vote more than ever. Every vote does count especially in a small community.

Senior Citizens met Friday, March 18, at the Educational Building at 1:30 p.m. for cards. There were 16 players present. Winners were Bob Strevey, Margaret (Toots) Magers and Eleanor Jensen. Next meeting was Friday, April 1.

Happy Birthday to Quintin Wentz, March 24, Rex Knapp, Teresa Reves Wood, March 27,

Carolyn Applegate, March 28.

Happy Anniversary to Stan and Carolyn Applegate, March 27.

Bob and Anita Montgomery and Renee Harman, Oberlin, attended their Great-grandsons and Great nephew Keegan Shuler's wrestling matches in McCook and Bartley, Neb. on March 5 and 6. His brother Karson also wrestled. Keegan is 6 years old and Karson is 2 1/2 years old. We also celebrated Keegan's sixth birthday with a BBQ.

Ron, Gina and Alyssa Montgomery, Jennings and Shane and Crystal Montgomery, Norton, were in Denver, Colo. March 12 and 13 to help Gina's grandmother celebrate her birthday.

Bee Nelson took a decorated sheet cake to the Andbe Home on Thursday, March 17 to help Bob Sawdon celebrate his 90th St. Patrick's Day birthday. He shared

his cake with the residents in the Special Care Unit and the staff. Bee was a dinner guest of Bob and they had a delicious dinner together.

The Norcatour Cemetery Memorial Fund received a donation from Yearl Sparkman in memory of Knox Sparkman. Donations were received in memory of Allen Sebaugh from Bee Nelson, Bonnie Rapp and Genevieve Brunk.

Jim and Carolyn Plotts returned home late Saturday night from their annual Spring mission trip to Mexico. This year they went to Acun, Mexico, just across the Rio Grande from Del Rio, Texas. They helped lead a team of 75 students and faculty from a university in Wisconsin. In three days the team built three homes for three poor Mexican families.

As part of the trip, the Plotts stopped to visit family along

the way. They spent a night with Carolyn's brother, Bob Kelley, in Marquette, two nights in Dallas with her daughters, Halley and Kara, and two nights in San Antonio with Jim's two girls, Jennifer and Becky.

Everyone was invited! A "community conversation" was held in Norcatour on April 3. It was hosted by Decatur Tomorrow and conducted by Terry Woodbury of Public Square.

A community conversation is a means to focus on a community's positive aspects and perhaps help direct its efforts toward beneficial projects.

We all want to see Norcatour be the best it can be. This was a public forum where your ideas were heard. Please come. The Norcatour Citizens Alliance received a dona-

tion from Stan and Carol Miller for the Norcatour News in memory of Phyllis Leichter and Bob Shick. The Alliance also received donations from Shirley and Jerry Gallenting; Dewaine Stapp, and Doris Jackson in memory of Phyllis Leichter. Thanks for using Norcatour Citizens Alliance.

Norcatour Citizens Alliance c/o Dennis Leichter, 1001 RDO, Clayton, Ks. 67629
Mark your Calendars!

Please mark April 10 at 2 p.m. on your calendar for an afternoon of Christian music. The Norcatour United Methodist Church will be hosting the Maple Grove music ensemble for Christian Gospel Music. Come spend some time with us!

Beth Sebaugh, Oberlin; Dorothy Ward and Bee Nelson spent

the afternoon in McCook Sunday, March 20 to help Dorothy Ward celebrate her birthday. They ate dinner at the Kentucky Fried Chicken and then went to "Wally World" and J.C. Penney before heading home. It was a fun afternoon! We had beautiful weather!

Sympathies to the family of Allen Sebaugh who passed away March 14, 2011, long time Woodland Hills pharmacist and resident.

Count on the Classifieds to Do the Job

County not ready to switch cell phone service companies

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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Norton County Commissioners like what they have and aren't about to give their business to a new cell phone company.

During their end-of-the-month meeting on Thursday, the commissioners visited with Mike Harms and Steve Befort with Viaero Wireless, which is headquartered in Fort Morgan, Colo., and deals mostly with rural communities.

However, County Chairman Carolyn Applegate told the men that they were likely wasting their time since Rural Telephone, a large cell phone service provider, has its main offices in the county and is one of the largest taxpayers.

The men offered to provide a quote for the county services and loaner cell phones for people to test out.

Applegate politely declined the loaners and quote. "One of our largest employers and taxpayers is Rural Telephone," she said, adding that using another service would be frowned upon.

"We appreciate your call today, she said. "But, just as we ask our citizens to shop in their hometown, they expect their commissioners to do the same."

"We understand that," Harms said.

"We have employees who live and work here also," Befort said.

The men asked to be able to bid the next time the county's contract came up.

County Clerk Robert Wyatt said

that would be in a year and a half and the men said they would get back with the county before then with a bid.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Learned that the county treasurer's office will be closed for lunch on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 12 and 13, due to employee training.

- Discussed problems with the elevator, landscaping and ice build up at the new emergency medical services building with Steve Arpin of BG Consultants, the engineering firm for the project.

- Signed a contract, presented by Arpin, with Nelson Brothers for \$54,720 for jail improvements including the visiting area and a new handicapped-accessible cell, grab bars in the courthouse restrooms and exterior sidewalks and ramps.

- Held a 10-minute closed session with Emergency Medical Services Director Jane Wyatt to discuss non-elected personnel.

- Signed several tax abatements for a taxpayer who had moved from town but was still paying the old rate.



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