

Forum

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In terms of paying for the potential new pool, Ensز also presented information about financing options for the project, but acknowledged that though the project is estimated at \$3.8 million, exact numbers are hard to nail down because the project design depends on citizen input and hasn't been completed yet.

Citizens at the meeting expressed concern for how the project will be financed and what impact it will have on consumers and businesses in the community. With the question of a sales tax increase expected to be placed before voters in November, the increase amount hasn't be decided, but Ensز did offer some examples of what the tax could entail. Currently, the city's sales tax is one-half of a percent and, with an additional 1 percent, the city can expect to generate up to \$520,000 per year.

One of the concerns raised at the public forum, though, was how the increased tax will affect businesses in the community. Ensز reported that community economies have been ranked by "pull factor," or by the balance of people coming into to town to spend money and people leaving town to spend money. With one being a perfect balance and higher meaning more people visit the community to spend money than leave to spend money, Norton's pull factor is rated at 1.08.

Addressing concerns over exact cost to taxpayers, Ensز and McElyea explained that voters can expect to know by the end of June what the exact



Rick Ensز of Cooper, Malone, McClaine, Inc. speaks to Norton citizens Tuesday evening about potential financing if voters agree to finance a new swimming pool through increased sales tax.

—Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

cost would be for the project, including capital cost and on-going maintenance and operation costs.

The primary concern for pool financing at the forum was what alternatives might be available instead of a sales tax. Ensز explained that the only reliable ways to fund the project would be through a property tax mil levy or through sales tax. In the past, Community Development Block Grants had been available, but those funds have essentially disappeared for projects that aren't

essential to community safety and welfare.

In addition, Ensز said, communities can raise money through donations and fundraisers, but often the donations aren't as generous as expected and may not fund the project as the community had hoped.

Reflecting on the possibility that the increased tax could hurt business, not everyone at the forum was convinced that the tax would be detrimental.

"I wonder if someone would really not make a \$10,000 purchase if it could cost them

\$100 more and they had a nice swimming pool," a citizen expressed. "We're talking about adding \$100 to \$10,000. Would \$100 really stop you?"

At the end of the forum, Norton City/County Economic Development Director Scott Sproul reiterated that donations and grants are almost impossible to find for projects like swimming pools, but his organization is researching possible alternative funding methods and looking for money for the project.

BB Gun

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who was ninth with a 355 and Colton Mulder, who finished 12th with a 350.

Their individual shooting scores were: Elliott, 92 prone, 86 standing, 91 sitting, 88 kneeling, 357 total; Goss, 95 prone, 89 standing, 88 sitting, 83 kneeling, 355 total and Mulder, 89 prone, 81 standing, 92 sitting, 88 kneeling, 350 total.

The two alternates for Norton were Nick Davis and Miles Harrington, both junior shooters. Davis placed 15th and

Harrington was 74th. Their aggregate scores were: Davis, 94 prone, 76 standing, 95 sitting, 82 kneeling, 347 total; Harrington, 85 prone, 70 standing, 84 sitting, 72 kneeling, 311 total.

Norton's assistant coach for this shoot was Ted Hull, a long-time coach in the program.

"We've been working hard in practice and it paid off," said Norton head BB gun coach Cameron Archer. "James and Erin shot very well and the others shot much better.

"We hope to get even better

by attending three state shoots. Our two older shooters know what to expect at shoots but the experience gained from extra shoots will help the younger shooters."

The third shoot to which coach Archer was referring was the American Legion Shoot, which will also be held in Alma, and will be on Saturday, April 28. Just as in the first state shoot, a written test on gun safety will be included in every shooter's final score.

A total of 222 marksmen com-

peted in the shoot, 117 seniors aged 12 to 14 and 105 juniors aged 9 to 11.

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LODGE NOTICES

American Legion Harmonson Redd Post No. 63

Second and Fourth Monday 7:30 p.m.

Darren McMullen, Commander Curt Archibald, Adjutant

Eagles Lodge FOE 3288

Second and Fourth Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.

Larry Hawks, President Secretary, Ron Miller

Veterans of Foreign Wars

Reg. 7:00 p.m.

First Mon. of each Month

Curt Archibald, Commander Joe Ballinger, Quartermaster

I.O.O.F. No. 157

Meet at Eagles Club

First and Third Thursday

Each Month at 7:30 p.m.

Geneva Tier, Noble Grand Randy Knoll, Secretary

The American Legion Riders Post 63

Meet at 2:30 p.m. at the American Legion Building on the Second Sunday of Every Month

website: www.alr63.org

JENNINGS NEWS

Tracey McKenna, Claflin, was the guest of honor for a baby shower hosted by Amy Osborn of Overland Park and Becca Peterson of DeMotte, Ind., at the home of Joan McKenna, rural Jennings.

Others attending included Susan Weber of Claflin, D'Ann Gardner, Mankato, Pam Dieckmann, Woodbine, Kathy Otter, Hoxie, Trudy Stockman, Norton, Donna Sauvage, Paula McKenna, Marlee, Landee, Hallee and Baylee of Selden, Maxine Sauvage and Cheryl Sauvage, Oberlin, Shelley McKenna and Mary Wahlmeier of Jennings.

United Methodist Women met Wednesday, April 4 at 2 p.m. at the Methodist Church. A short meeting was held. No treasurer's report was available.

Rachel Carter read the minutes of the March meeting. Kay reported the new screen for the altar had arrived.

Kay Brown gave the program, "International Ministries" with Ruth Chance, Patty Foster, Louise Cressler and Barbara Patterson reading parts.

Violet Foster gave a very impressional interpretation of the "Lord's Prayer." Alice Mizer furnished cookies but was

unable to attend.

A small group played cards Wednesday at the Senior Center.

Those enjoying the afternoon playing were Eleanor Morel, Alice Wagoner, Stan Shaw, Scott Taylor and Wayne Cressler.

Jennings City Council will meet Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at the Senior Center. Anyone is welcome to attend the meeting. The community-wide city clean-up will be discussed.

Clean-up was scheduled for Saturday, April 14.

The Norton Correctional men worked Thursday and Friday in Jennings. They scraped paint at the shelters in roadside park on Thursday. Since the weather was damp they couldn't paint at the park Friday so they worked upstairs at the Community Hall. The men did an amazing job painting and then varnishing the woodwork upstairs at the Hall. We thank these men for working in our town.

The funeral for Emma Sanford, Oberlin, formerly of Jennings, was held Wednesday, April 4 at 10:30 a.m. Burial was in the Jennings cemetery. The community extends sympathy to the family of Emma. She was an amazing lady.

Sudoku Solution #2509-M

1	9	7	2	5	8	3	6	4
4	8	3	1	9	6	5	2	7
2	6	5	4	3	7	1	9	8
9	3	4	6	1	5	8	7	2
5	7	6	8	4	2	9	1	3
8	2	1	3	7	9	4	5	6
7	5	2	9	8	3	6	4	1
6	4	8	5	2	1	7	3	9
3	1	9	7	6	4	2	8	5

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