

Difficulties at sheriff's office

By Cynthia Haynes
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It's been a tough couple of weeks for the Norton County Sheriff's Department.

"It's been chaos every since - ever since you guys took office," Sheriff Troy Thomson told the commissioners during their meeting on Monday.

The first thing to happen, the sheriff said, was an unsuccessful suicide attempt in the jail.

Due to effective jail checks the attempt was thwarted but the sheriff said that he would like to get a new camera system to alleviate liability issues.

The camera that the jail has now only works when the lights are on.

The commissioners agreed that an infrared system that works with the light out would be a good investment and asked the sheriff to obtain a quote for such a system.

Also, last week, highway patrol picked up a man, who had a warrant out for him from Alabama, the sheriff said.

"(They) dropped him on our doorstep so we had to put him in jail," the sheriff said since there was a warrant out on him.

The problem is that he has cancer, the sheriff said, and will need his next chemotherapy shot on Friday. The shots cost about \$700 and will have to be special ordered by the pharmacy. Along with other medication he takes, the sheriff said, it will probably cost a lot of money.

"It's going to be \$1,000 bucks if he isn't out of here and that's if he's doing well," the sheriff said. "We're going to have a very large medical expenses this month."

The sheriff said that this type of problem comes up fairly regularly with the prison. A prisoner finishes his Kansas sentence and is freed but he still has a warrant out from another state and the

sheriff has to pick up and hold him until he is extradited.

"When he comes into my jail," the sheriff said. "I'm responsible for his medical expenses."

That said, he noted, the prison is a great economic help for the county and provides more money than it costs. It's just sometimes, he said, he feels bombarded.

Commissioner R.A Peterson asked if the county couldn't bill Alabama for the cost of the medication. The sheriff said that is possible but, in his experience, the bill is never paid.

The sheriff's third problem occurred when a prisoner went out of his head, while in the front seat of the patrol car and made a grab for the steering wheel. The officer Tasered the prisoner to subdue him, Sheriff Thomson said.

Because of this, the sheriff asked the commissioners if he could look into getting a half cage for the backseat of one of the patrol cars. There are no cages or barriers between the front and back seats of any of the sheriff's vehicles, Mr. Thomson said.

"This is the first time in my 20 years that something like this has happened," he said.

The sheriff said that he doesn't have cages in the vehicles due to cost. Because the floor plans for vehicles change every year, he said, cages cannot be moved from an old vehicle to a new one when they are exchanged.

Commissioner Possom asked why the prisoner was in the front seat and the sheriff said that it is safer than putting a prisoner in an unsecured backseat where they could put their cuffed hands over an officer's head and choking them.

Mr. Possom said that he thought that all prisoners should be cuffed behind their backs.

The sheriff said that proce-

dures call for securing all prisoners but that since most of the people that the department deals with are local and a lot of arrests are made for bad checks, that is not always followed to the letter.

Officers will not usually cuff a local subject in front of their children, he said. They will put the cuffs on later when they are out of sight of the family.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Decided to not hold a meeting on Monday, Feb. 25, since they would be meeting on Thursday, Feb. 28, the last day of the month, anyway.

- Looked at photos of Road K from W2 to W3, which is being looked at for closing.

"It's nice to have pictures," Commissioner Charles Posson told County Clerk Robert Wyatt, who took the photos. "It looks to me like we ought to close it," he added after looking over the pictures."

Mr. Wyatt said that one of the bridges on the road was in terrible condition and it would cost the county thousands to bring it up to proper condition.

- Set a hearing to close Road P between roads 10 and 11 for 9 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 28. Attorney Doug Sebelius said that he didn't think there would probably be any objections to the closing.

- Heard from Solid Waste Supervisor John Miller that the water testing at the landfill is done monthly and that it costs the county between \$13,000 and \$20,000 a year. This is required testing, he said, and while levels of toxic materials aren't going down, they aren't going up and the water is considered safe.

- Took a 10 minute closed session with Mr. Sebelius for attorney-client privilege.

Two escape serious injury



Two were taken to the Norton County Hospital after a wreck Wednesday morning. According to city of Norton patrolman Jacob Hess, at 7:58 a.m. Wednesday morning officers were dispatched to the scene of a one vehicle accident on North State Street. A pick up driven by Benjie Whittenburg was headed north on State Street when he had what seemed to be a seizure and lost control of the vehicle he was driving. The pick up veered to the right and into the yard of Linda Scheetz.

Both Benjie and his son, who was also in the pick up were taken to the Norton County Hospital by ambulance. It is unknown if they have been released yet. The pick up suffered damage on the front right corner from hitting a tree and the rear right tire was flat. The pick up was loaded onto a trailer and removed from the scene.

Whittenburg's son is seen here being carefully removed from the vehicle by the Norton City Fire Department.

- Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

COLLEGE NEWS

Rachel Shepard of Lenora, has received the Earl Sauder Scholarship and ESU Hornet, Foundation, Presidential Scholarships for the 2012-13 academic year at Emporia State University.

Scholarships are helping almost 1,200 Emporia State University students attending classes this academic year. The 2012-13 allocation of scholarship awards, at \$2,076,690, is helping support the educational dreams

of students in Kansas, 17 other states and 13 foreign countries.

For more information about

financial aid and scholarships at Emporia State University, visit www.emporia.edu/finaid.

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• PUBLIC NOTICE • NOTICE OF PROPOSED ROAD VACATION

Published in The Norton Telegram on Friday, February 8, 2013 1(T)

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ROAD VACATION
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at the regular meeting of the Board of County Commissioners of Norton County, Kansas, to be held on the 28th day of February, 2013, at 9:00 o'clock a.m. in the Commissioners Chambers, 2nd floor of the Norton County Courthouse, Norton, Kansas, said Board shall consider and determine the propriety of a proposed vacation of the County roads at the following described location:

County Road P lying between Section 16, Township 3 South, Range 21 West of the Sixth PM, and Section 21, Township 3 South, Range 21 West of the Sixth PM, all in Norton County, Kansas

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal this 4th day of February, 2013.

Robert Wyatt, Norton County Clerk

Home Range Real Estate, with Duane R. McEwen as a Salesperson is announcing the property at 707 North State in Norton, Kansas for sale

This ranch style home built in 1954 with Masonite siding offers 1314 feet of living on the main floor and 988 feet in the basement. It features an island kitchen with an eat in nook, a step down living room with corner fireplace, large dining area, two bedrooms and a bath on the main level.

Extra features in the kitchen are ample cupboard space, a built-in range top and oven. The refrigerator and microwave remain with the kitchen. Both bedrooms have closets. There are plenty of windows to provide a sunny atmosphere. A large lot features a drive through driveway, one car attached garage, chain length fenced back yard and a storage shed. The patio in the back is a plus feature. In the basement is an area for the family, one bedroom, bath area, laundry and storage. The heating and air conditioner are by Lennox. The furnace was new in 2008. US Crafts Master hot water heater was new in 2012 and the roof was new in 2012 also.

See You at the OPEN HOUSE Monday, Feb. 11 From 5:00-7:00 p.m.

Duane can be reached at 785-877-3032 Home Range Real Estate Broker - Gary Richards, Oberlin, KS

• PUBLIC NOTICE • JANUARY 2013 NORTON COUNTY VOUCHERS

Published in The Norton Telegram on Friday, February 8, 2013	Road and Bridge \$102,039.27	DISTRICT CORONER \$200.00
	Ambulance \$50,871.03	EMS Building COP Debt \$9,969.65
	Appraiser's Cost \$12,959.49	911 TAX \$1,240.32
1(T)	County Health \$50,135.06	Alcohol & Drug Test Fund \$61.69
Board of County Commissioners met in regular session at the Norton County Courthouse January 31, 2013 to allow the following bills: K.S.A. 19-337. An itemized copy of this report is available for inspection in the County Clerk's Office.	Economic Development \$13,916.68	Co Attorney Diversion \$737.01
(*Juvenile Service Accounts)	Election \$4,060.58	*Court Trustee - State \$17,423.47
CLAIMS-GROSS PAYROLL	Employee Benefits \$133,098.39	*Court Trustee - Local \$1,160.69
FUND TOTALS ONLY	4-H Maintenance \$1,381.53	*Case Management \$18,058.21
County General \$179,003.78	Noxious Weed \$9,612.07	*JISP \$30,231.33
	Solid Waste \$20,161.74	*Diversion \$10,114.58
	Special Machinery & Equip \$22,767.64	*Juvenile Intake \$8,957.72
	Solid Waste Cap Outlay \$6,469.65	Northwest BT Region \$1,899.85

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