

Fire Safety:

Find out how to protect yourself and your property in case of fire.

Page 8 & 9

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THE NORTON TELEGRAM

Sports:

Huskies run at Hays. Norton to play Ellis today. Junior Jays hit the football field.

Pages 10 & 12

Friday
October 8, 2004

Norton, Kansas
Home of Curt Luehrs

Briefly



Veterans plan annual parade

The annual Veterans Day parade will be sponsored by the Norton American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars at 2 p.m., Veterans Day, Thursday, Nov. 11.

Everyone, all area churches, youth, fraternal and service organizations, school organizations and clubs and others are invited to enter. Antique car and tractor owners are especially invited to participate as well as horse owners and saddle clubs. All veterans, active duty, guard and reserve, are asked to march with the veterans' group. Cars will be available for veterans, who can't march.

Send entries to or call Jake Durham, 414 N. First, Norton, 877-2400, or Richard Wiltfong, 1105 Nixon Dr., 877 2459.

Church to hold spaghetti supper

The Ellis United Methodist Church invites anyone coming to the football game this evening between Norton and Ellis to attend a spaghetti dinner at the church at 1201 Washington St.. Serving will begin at 5 p.m.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Clear and cooler with lows in the lower 40s. **Saturday** — Sunny with highs in the lower 70s. **Saturday Night** — Mostly clear with lows in the upper 40s. **Sunday** — Cloudy with highs in the upper 60s. **Sunday Night** — Cloudy with lows in the upper 40s. **Monday** — Cloudy in the morning with highs around 70.

Howell report:

Tuesday High 75, Low 56, Prec. .26
Wednesday High 59, Low 53, Prec. .21
Thursday High 76, Low 56
Friday High 73, Low 52
Week ago High 78, Low 53
Month ago High 88, Low 57
Year ago High 82, Low 58
October precipitation 47 inches
Year-to-date precipitation ... 21.94 inches
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

Prayer

Thank you, God, for loving us unconditionally. Help us to recognize our blessings and to remain faithful to you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Lack of vaccine halts flu shots

By VERONICA MONIER

Norton County Health Department Director Gina Frack was setting up clinics and preparing to give flu shots. But that is all down the drain since the vaccine is not available.

Many high-risk people won't be able to get the vaccine, let alone people who are healthy, she said.

She said at high-risk are children 6-23 months, adults 65 years or older, people

with chronic medical conditions, pregnant women, residents of nursing homes, health care workers and anyone who provides care for young children, including people who live in the household with the children or care-givers such as day care providers.

"There are a lot more people who are high-risk than there is vaccine available," she said. "Just because you are high risk this year doesn't guarantee you'll get the

vaccine."

A major reason for the lack of vaccine is that Chiron Corp. out of England, a major supplier of the vaccine, lost its license. She said the company usually supplies the U.S. with 48 to 50 million doses, which is half of the country's supply. The England company isn't supplying any vaccine this year.

Mrs. Frack said she didn't know the details about why the company lost its li-

cense, but it had something to do with the inspection process.

She said with the lack of vaccine, people are just going to have to do what they should be doing all the time — hand washing.

She said washing your hands or using a hand sanitizer is still the best way to avoid getting sick. Also, she said covering your mouth when you cough or

(Continued on Page 5)

Man questions new barn

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

Norton resident August Muehe wanted to know what the county is doing about the proposed ambulance barn and why a sheriff's vehicle is parked in front of an officer's home at night, so he dropped by the Norton County commission meeting on Monday.

The commissioners said they had read his letter to the editor in *The Norton Telegram* and were pleased that he had come by to talk about his concerns.

Mr. Muehe wanted to know why the county didn't just buy the land near the old ambulance barn and add onto the barn or put up a new metal shed.

Commissioner John Miller said that the county didn't own the land and couldn't buy it.

Mr. Muehe asked about eminent domain, the process by which government entities can purchase private land for public uses when the owner doesn't want to sell.

Commissioner Miller said that the county doesn't want to use eminent domain and that expanding the present barn isn't necessarily the best way to go since the county needs a place to store documents and the new election equipment that will be required by the federal government. He said the commissioners are looking at using the ambulance barn as a storage facility once the emergency medical people move out but that won't be for a year or more.

Mr. Miller said the county is trying to get more space by getting rid of some unused property at an auction on Wednesday.

He pointed to chairs on four legs with wheels and said that they are illegal and the county needs to get rid of them since only five-legged chairs with wheels are considered safe today.

(Continued on Page 5)



Rob Britz used a grinder on "Mudslinger", the namesake of the business he and Drew Knuth operate together on East U.S. 36 in Norton. The Jeep is the shop project and sports a one and a half foot handmade lift kit.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

New business offers custom service

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

Don't let his youthful appearance fool you. Rob Britz has put in a lot of years under the hoods of cars and trucks.

Rob and Andrew (Drew) Knuth have opened Mudslingers 4X4 on east U.S. 36 in Norton. They specialize in overhauling and fabrication. They also do suspension work and offer lift kits to give your rig that high clearance it needs for off-roading and "mud playing".

Perhaps the best advertisement for their business is its namesake, "Mudslinger".

"Mudslinger" is a 1979 Jeep CJ-7 that sits in the east bay of their shop. It's the shop project Drew bought for "Tuff Truck Competition" and mud racing.

They have already put in over-sized axles and a one and a half foot handmade lift kit with plans for a V-8 engine.

Rob will do the body work and paint job, featuring flames shooting up the sides.

Drew is considered the general manager and Rob the mechanic who operates the business on the day-to-day basis. Both men have other jobs, but the world of cars and customizing is what draws them to their shop.

They hope to have a full-service garage in operation soon with gasoline, oil changes, tune-ups, winterization and all-around maintenance work available. Right now they are waiting for their Kansas fuel permits in order to sell gas. A tow truck is also in their future plans.

"We have a good location here," Rob said. "It's a busy road. We've been open a couple of months and we want to do customizing work for people. Our motto

is, 'The way you want it is the way you get it.'"

Rob graduated from a Colorado automotive school at the age of 13 and has 18 years of experience at Corvette Specials in Denver. Since moving to Norton seven years ago he has added State Street Steakhouse, Brady Grain and McDonald's to his resumé.

Rob helped customize a '49 Ford truck he restored for Bill Steinmetz. It was an old feed truck that had been in the Steinmetz family for years.

When Rob received it, the truck had been sitting in a draw for 15 years. He said it took him about six months to do the body work and then Jerry Jones painted it.

To call Mudslingers and talk with Drew call 871-2194 or Rob at 874-4865.

New officer joins police

A new face can be seen in the ranks of the Norton Police Department.

Jeff Rydquist, 28, began training as an officer on Labor Day.

He graduated from Fort Hays State University with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

Officer Rydquist said his cousin and half of his mother's family are in law enforcement.

"It runs in the family," he said. "Besides, I wanted to help people and didn't want to be a doctor."

So far, he said he's done a lot of orientation with the Norton Police Department, including riding with other officers on the force to see how things are done first hand. He hasn't written any tickets or investigated any accidents yet.

(Continued on Page 5)



Jeff Rydquist

Second mailer blasts commissioner

By VERONICA MONIER

Commissioner Leroy Lang is again having to face accusations made in an anonymous flyer mailed to Norton County voters.

The flyer was mailed on Monday. The author claimed to be concerned with the confusion over Mr. Lang's feedlot as described in an earlier anonymous mailing.

The new mailing says that Mr. Lang's 1996 permit is not a permit.

"(It is) only a registration required by Senate Bill 800, which says that Mr. Lang had a feedlot as of July 1, 1994, and it gives Leroy a right to apply for a permit to bring his facility up to regulation standards.

"(This has) not given him the right to have an uncontrolled pollution hazard for the last ten years."

Mr. Lang said when he applied for a permit in 1996, Doug Armstrong with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment District Office in Hays said he was in compliance.

Since then, he found out he didn't have an actual permit and so took action to get one.

He said in 2001 the Natural Resources Conservation Service sent out an engineer to help him draw plans for a new feedlot,

rather than building a lagoon by his home.

He said he didn't want to build the lagoon because there is a lot of wildlife around his home and it would fill up quickly. Pollution could possibly penetrate the protective bentonite lining.

The engineer agreed and plans to build a new feedlot began.

Mr. Lang said it has taken a long time to get the detailed ag waste management plan finished.

The plan, which includes sections on manure and wastewater handling and storage, soil nutrients, and burial, is being processed by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. If approved, a permit will be issued.

"The new facility is in the process of being reviewed," said Mr. Armstrong. "The plans were drawn up by the NRCS."

The mailer also makes negative comments, not only about Mr. Lang, but about the commissioners as a whole.

"A vital piece of information was intentionally left out of the section about the 300 animal units, and that information is: 'any significant pollution hazard should be controlled regardless of size' if the lot is used for more than 30 days a year. I am concerned about the philosophy of our commissioners. It seems that they abide

by the rules that fit their agendas, but they do not abide by all of the rules that apply to all animal feeders. Now, Mr. Lang is correct in stating that his operation is smaller than 300 animals.

"However, his proximity to our water supply requires that this pollution hazard be controlled, regardless of size. I feel that having the Kansas Supreme Court rule against them should have helped the commissioners realize that."

Mr. Lang said neither he, nor the other commissioners, intentionally fail to abide by the rules.

"I want to make it clear," he said. "I'm working on this and have been since 2001. We're abiding by the laws just like any citizen in Norton County should. We're no better than anyone else. The laws apply to the commissioners, too, which is why I'm working on building a new wintering lot"

He said that is why he is in the process of building a new feedlot. The old lot was built by his father over 50 years ago.

Mr. Lang said for the new lot, they soil tested 20 acres of ground and took about 100 samples to find the area where the soil is right.

(Continued on Page 5)



Wednesday afternoon Tom Brannan headed up a work crew of county employees to empty the basement at the Norton County Courthouse of many years of accumulation. Old tables, book cases and even pump jacks were hauled out and over to the old Farm Service Agency offices for an auction of surplus items that evening. Helping with the move were: Darrell Preuss, Floyd Richards, Bill Nelson, Topper Cook, Chris Davis, Bernard McCormack and Herman Pfannenstiel. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Commissioner hit with second flyer

(Continued from Page 1)
The mailer worries about the water supply.
"After visiting with neighbors of Mr. Lang's feedlot," it says. "I discovered that there are natural water springs that flow from upstream and downstream of Mr. Lang's feedlot periodically throughout the year. I inquired about the newly drilled well west of his feedlot and found that the water table is 56.4 feet down. Now, Mr. Lang failed to mention that the well is drilled on top of a hill. This hill is around 50 feet higher than the stream bed and feedlot. I am very concerned about the proximity of this pollution hazard to our water supply."
Mr. Lang said two wells were recently dug by Woofter Pump and Well. Both wells pump six gallons per minute, which isn't a great deal of water, he said.
The first well, which the flyer refers to, is one-half to three-fourths of a mile west of the feedlot and will be used as a pasture well. He said it didn't have anything to do with the feedlot.
Mr. Lang said the company who dug the well didn't strike water until digging 94.5 feet. He

said the water has since risen, which is the nature of wells. The second well, he said, was drilled next to an old well. The company dug 70 feet before hitting water.
"We're having a hard time finding water out here," he said. "In a three-fourths mile area, we found only two wells."
Mr. Lang said the streams, which are about half a mile away from the feedlot, are almost always dry.
Also, he said several of his close neighbors called him after they received the flyer to tell him no one had contacted them.
The mailing also talks about weeds in Mr. Lang's feedlots and also about the lack of a lagoon.
Mr. Lang said as soon as the new lot is built, the old one will be replanted with grass, which is also in the Ag Waste Management Plan. He said there is no lagoon because the new feedlot will be using filtering strips as planned by the conservation service engineer.
Mr. Armstrong said the usual process is for the old lot to be used while the new one is being built. He said the reason for building a new feedlot is that the old lot can't keep up with regulations anymore.

Flu shots cancelled due to lack of vaccine

(Continued from Page 1)
sneeze, and then washing your hands, is important.
"Prevention is just common sense," she said. "Hand washing is important. Another thing is when people are sick, they need to stay home — don't go to work, don't send your kids to school. But, these things are the same with any disease."
Prevention needs to be kept in mind because Norton County doesn't have any flu vaccine.
Mrs. Frack said the state is trying to get it redistributed. She said if the county gets some, then first it will go to the home health patients who need it and then a close look will have to be taken at the counties high risk patients. Needs will have to be prioritized with nursing home residents and small children high on the list.
She said a public clinic is unlikely.
Pamida Pharmacy had clinics

scheduled for Oct. 15 and Oct. 25, but both have been canceled, said Pharmacist Leighann Hahn.
In a normal year, Mrs. Frack said they start giving the vaccine in mid-October and that the flu season can last until March. It usually peaks sometime in January or February, but last year it peaked earlier. She said on average, the flu causes 36,000 deaths in the U.S. with the majority of the deaths being in the elderly.
Mrs. Frack said symptoms of the flu can vary and includes fever, cough, sore throat, headache, chills and muscle aches.
She said most people who get the flu are only ill for a few days and that, if you are healthy, it probably won't affect you too much.
"I can only hope that the public is understanding of the situation," she said. "We're doing the best we can with the limited supply available."

New officer joins police force

(Continued from Page 1)
He said he will be attending the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center in Hutchinson from Jan. 24 to April 29 where he will learn everything he needs to know to do his job.
So far, he says he likes Norton a lot and is happy to be here.
Officer Rydquist brings the Norton police force up to five officers including Chief Lynn Menagh and Assistant Chief Toby Kuhn. He is filling the position left open by Officer Eric Denault, who went to work for the Kansas De-

partment of Wildlife and Parks. He is originally from Colby. Officer Rydquist and his wife have one son.



Man questions barn, sheriff's vehicle

(Continued from Page 1)
"That sounds stupid to me," Mr. Muehe said.
"It sounds stupid to us," Mr. Miller agreed.
Mr. Muehe asked about the City Motors building on U.S. 36 by the viaduct.
Commissioner Miller said that he thought that building would be caught up in the judicial system for a long time.
Mr. Muehe asked about having a new ambulance barn put on the ballot.
County Clerk Robert Wyatt said that the county is planning

to use a grant and money already in reserve to pay for a new facility. The county usually would put something on the ballot if it requires a raise in taxes or a bond issue, which would be another type of tax increase, he said.
"I just don't know what's going on," Mr. Muehe said. "I have a lot of questions."
The commissioners assured him that they were there to answer his questions and that they would do the best they could.
Mr. Muehe said that he also had been wondering about a sheriff's car he has seen sitting in

front of an officer's home most of the time.
The commissioner said that Sheriff Troy Thomson wants his deputies to have their vehicles with them since he feels they are on call 24/7.
The commissioners also explained that they have very little control over elected county officials except to set their budgets.
"The sheriff is actually the strongest elected person we have in the county," Commissioner Miller said adding that the county has no say about the sheriff's personnel, vehicles or jail.

"We're very happy all our elected officials come and talk to us and tell us what they are doing," Mr. Miller said. "Otherwise we wouldn't know what's going on."
Mr. Muehe thanked the commissioners for their time and they said that they appreciated him coming in to talk to them about his questions especially since there are probably a lot of other people with the same questions and this gives them a chance to answer some of them.

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