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Tuesday
February 1, 2005

Committee sets budget prices for cities

By VERONICA MONIER

If the county's small cities want a seat and a vote on the Economic Development Committee, they will be asked to have to pay a small part of the budget.

Norton County Commissioner John Miller said out of the countywide sales tax, Almena received \$17,276.61, Clayton got \$1,993.16, Edmond took in \$1,550.07, Lenora got \$15,146.51, Norton received \$113,594.21, and the county got \$198,177.94.

He said the countywide sales tax totaled \$347,738.50. The money the cities get is

figured by population.

Mr. Miller said the committee had previously talked about using the percentage of sales tax the small cities get to figure out how much each community would have to add to the budget to have a seat and a vote.

He said he thought it would be feasible for Almena and Lenora to pay \$1,000 a year. But he wasn't sure what Clayton and Edmond's part should be, because they didn't get much money.

County At-Large Representative Donna Henderson said she thought if the

committee went too high, none of the cities could afford to be on the board.

Lenora City Clerk Gayle James suggested that the committee do it on a sliding scale, starting at \$500 and then, when the city councils could see how they were benefiting, raise the amount to \$1,000.

"Lenora city council is going to be hard to convince with \$1,000 starting out," she said.

Norton Mayor David Corns, who was an observer at the meeting, said the committee should possibly let the smaller cities have a position with input, but not a

voting position if they didn't want to pay into the budget.

Clayton City Clerk Barbara Brooks said she knew Clayton didn't have \$1,000 to put in.

"I think it would be good if someone from Clayton just came and listened, if the council doesn't think it has the money," she said.

Edmond City Councilman Carl Conkey said Edmond also didn't have that kind of money. He said the city has a \$3,400 budget for the year.

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Norton, Kansas Home of Pedro Hauss

Briefly

Coyote, crow shoot Saturday

Friday is the last day to register for the Norton County 4-H Shooting Sports' coyote and crow shooting contest. Contestants must be registered by 6 p.m.

The contest will be held on Saturday and will begin one-half hour before sunrise and end at sunset. Callers can use any legal means to call and shoot coyotes and crows. Check in time on Saturday will be from 5:30-7 p.m. at O'Briens rear parking lot, 110 S. State St., Norton. No one will be allowed to check in after 7 p.m.

Price of entry is \$30 for adults and \$20 for those 16 or younger. The entry fee includes a meal. Checks should be made payable to Norton Co. 4-H Shooting Sports, 324 S. First Ave., Norton, Kan., 67654.

For more information, contact Rick McChesney at 877-2606 or John Baker at 877-3253.

Pancake supper set for Tuesday

Trinity Episcopal Church will celebrate Shrove Tuesday with its annual pancake supper from 5-7 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 8, at the church, 102 E. Waverly.

The menu includes pancakes, sausage, applesauce, coffee and milk.

Shrove Tuesday, the last Tuesday before Lent, is also known as "Fat Tuesday". The custom is to feast on that day to use up all household fats before the beginning of fasting during Lent. The most common way to use fat during medieval times was to make pancakes, a custom that continues to this day.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Mostly cloudy with areas of fog. Lows in the mid 20s. **Wednesday** — Partly cloudy with areas of fog in the morning. Highs in the mid 40s. Northwest winds 5 to 15 mph. **Wednesday Night** — Partly cloudy with lows in the mid 20s. West winds up to 5 mph. **Thursday** — Partly cloudy with highs in the mid 50s. Northwest winds 5 to 10 mph.

Howell report:

Friday High 39, Low 30
Saturday High 37, Low 32
Sunday High 39, Low 34
Monday High 44, Low 35
Week ago High 69, Low 37
Month ago High 52, Low 27
Year ago High 32, Low 18
February precipitation00 inches
Year-to-date precipitation50 inches
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

Prayer

God, as we run the course of life, we give thanks that you run beside us. Let our goal be always to serve and honor you. May we do your will, and may all our works glorify you and not ourselves. Amen



Bri Cook, left, of Norcatour and Anita Hirsch, Oberlin, (above) belt out a gospel song during the program part of a benefit soup supper Saturday night in Norcatour. The two are part of "The New Harvester Singers" who co-sponsored the event with the Norcatour United Methodist Church. Bob Virgil, Norton, (left) shared some of his original cowboy poetry for the 60 people who braved the fog and muddy roads for the benefit. Kim and Randall Mayo, (right), who had a housefire Jan. 18, were served homemade soup by volunteer Bea Nelson, Norcatour.

— Telegram photos by Carolyn Plotts and Veronica Monier



State wants district teams in case of large emergencies

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

The state wants more teams available for large-scale emergencies.

Norton's Acting Ambulance Director Andy Nielsen and emergency medical technician Ruth Schillig visited with the county commissioners on Monday about working with other counties to form a MERGe (medical emergency response group team.)

Mr. Nielsen said the state has one such team but would like to have them in each region. He said he and Mrs. Schillig would attend a meeting Saturday in Hoxie on forming a group team.

The team would go into action if there were a tornado, flood or other disaster that would overwhelm local emergency workers, he said.

Each region is getting a \$9,500 state grant to form its own team, he told the commissioners. Norton County is in the northwest region, which has between 15

and 18 counties.

He said the ambulance service has had six runs over the weekend but none were connected to the bad weather that had been plaguing the county.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Signed resolutions excluding the county from following state rules regarding the preparation of financial statements and reports. The rules are outdated, County Clerk Robert Wyatt said, and almost every county exempts itself each year.
- Signed an agreement with Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas, commonly called DSNWK, to provide services for developmentally disabled residents. The money to pay for the services will come from a 1.01 mill county tax.
- Learned that deed and mortgage registration were down by 200 from 2003,

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Economic development gets help to set up structure

By VERONICA MONIER

The Economic Development Committee will have some help setting up its basic structure and vision statement.

Don Ballek, project manager for the northwest regional office of the Department of Commerce's business development division, was at last Wednesday's meeting to see how he could help the newly formed committee.

Mr. Ballek said there were a lot of training opportunities available to committees.

"A lot of the time volunteers don't have a lot of experience with what they are asked to deal with," he said.

He said several agencies in the state got together and made a new training program that focuses on economic development.

"We want to be able to get boards on

the same page," he said. "We've incorporated information from several sources and developed a program that goes through three modules."

Mr. Ballek said the program covers economic development 101, how to be a good board member, and a resource fair. Coming of these three modules would be the opportunity to create an action plan and come up with a vision on where the county wants to go.

Norton County Commissioner and Chairman of the Board John Miller said the committee was trying to figure out what it wanted to do.

"We need to get a vision statement and know where we want to go with this," he said. "Committees like this fail when they don't know where they want to go."

Mr. Ballek said the earliest the pro-

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Theatre plans party for big game

Be sure to mark your calendar, the Norton Theatre is having a party — a super, Super Bowl party — to raise money for repairs. The party is private, so reservations are a must, but everyone is welcome to sign up.

The party is set to start at 3 p.m. on Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 6, at the theatre. The fundraiser will, hopefully, be the first of many in an effort to help recover the losses to the theatre when it was damaged by a fire that destroyed the building next door more than a year ago.

The fire caused thousands of dollars of damage to the 56 year old building that has been the home of family entertainment, scholarship pageants, business meetings, birthday parties and so much more since it opened on March 20, 1948.

"We really hate to see any of that change because of the monetary loss we have experienced due to the fire," said Manager Kim Wicker.

At the party/fundraiser, the Super Bowl will be projected onto the big screen by Mortensen Computer Services. There will also be a free movie playing in the west theater — Racing Stripes at 5 p.m. and White Noise at 7 p.m. — as well as video game contests for the kids, other games and lots of prizes.

Free pork sandwiches, donated by Steven L. Cox Associates in Long Island, will be served, with the catering of the whole hog provided by Home Oil and Nicci Stutsman of Almena, while relish trays will be supplied by Pizza Hut. Western Distributing and Coca-Cola Enterprises have both donated refreshments for the party-goers.

Mrs. Wicker said a lot of details are still in the works, but the fundraiser is a community-wide event.

"This area has always stepped up to keep this theatre running with volunteers," she said. "This event should prove no different."

Local businesses like Western Distributing, Jamboree Foods, The Station at

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Group honors Kansans

By DICK BOYD

The Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas honored athlete and educator Lynette Woodard as Kansan of the Year and philanthropist and financier Emery Fager as Distinguished Kansan of the Year at their annual banquet in the Maner Conference Center in Topeka on Friday evening.

The purpose of the organization is to assist in preserving Kansas history, show loyalty to Kansas traditions, join in honoring our pioneer ancestors and have a part in instilling the ideals of patriotism in youth.

This non-partisan organization is for all Kansans. Any native-born Kansan is eligible. Persons who have adopted Kansas as their native state are welcomed as associate members.

Ms. Woodard was a star basketball player at Wichita North High School, the University of Kansas and in the Women's National Basketball Association professional ranks. She holds numerous records at every level. She still holds the record as the most prolific scorer in the history of women's college basketball with 3,649 points.

Sports Illustrated magazine named her the top woman athlete in Kansas in the 20th century. She is also a tireless community volunteer in her home town of Wichita.

Mr. Fager is chairman of the board of Commerce Bank and Trust in Topeka. In 1959, he received permission to charter the bank and served as the first president. During his tenure, the bank has grown to more than \$1 billion in total assets.

In addition to serving as state bank commissioner of Kansas and president of the Kansas Bankers Association, he has been a volunteer leader in many community organizations.

Monetary awards were also presented to winners of the Olive Ann Beech Kansas Factual Story contest and the Mamie Boyd Kansas! Say It Above A Whisper essay contest.

Polly Bales, an accomplished pianist from Logan, played piano music prior to the banquet and accompanied vocalist Megan Clements, a Logan native who is a student at Butler County Community College. Miss Clements sang the National Anthem to open the program and closed with American Anthem, a new song which was sung at this year's presidential inauguration. Miss Clements also led the large crowd in singing Home on the Range before adjournment.

Cities will have to pay for seat, vote

(Continued from Page 1)

County At-Large Representative Curtis Eveleigh said the sales tax money was something that no one had last year.

"I think the thing we're missing here is that this sales tax money goes to everyone," he said. "If Norton gets a new business, everyone benefits. It's a windfall and I think people should get involved and take advantage of that."

Norton At-Large Representative Rob Lawson felt that everyone should have something invested in the committee.

"The (Norton) city council and the county commissioners, who will both probably put in the major part of the budget, are going to have to hear about it if this thing doesn't work," he said. "But, if the small cities don't have anything invested then they don't have anything to lose and won't care as much if it does fail."

"I think the city council sees and the county commissioners see that this partnership is important," said Mr. Miller.

"I'm not opposed to a sliding scale. It may take 18 to 36 months before we see something positive. So the smaller cities might have that original sliding scale figure for two years."

Mr. Eveleigh said the committee was going to somehow come up with a percentage or something like it to make it equitable. Sliding at \$500 is fine for Lenora and Almena, but, he said, the committee could not use that figure with Edmond and Clayton because it wouldn't be fair.

Mrs. James said she wasn't opposed to have different figures.



After 40 years, Logan's Polly Bales (above) still enjoys playing the piano for the annual Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas Banquet in Topeka. Megan Clements, Logan, (below) sings the National Anthem at the banquet. Behind her are Steve Johnson and Mary Nichols, co-presidents of the organization. — Telegram photos by Dick Boyd



Miss Clements, who is the daughter of Karen and Lynn Clements, also sang for the Republican Women's Luncheon. She has been a regular soloist at the Native Sons and Daughters Banquet for a number of years. Dick Boyd, Norton, was co-secretary of the organization this year and will be co-vice-president next year.

Ms. Bales has provided her piano expertise for the organization's banquet for the past 40 years. In addition to playing the piano for the Native Sons and Daughters Banquet, she also played for the Republican Women's Coffee and Republican Women's Luncheon on Friday and for the Women's Kansas Day Club Luncheon during the Kansas Day celebration on Saturday.

Ms. Bales also participated in "A Century of Fashion" show on Saturday when she modeled her wedding dress.

City/County Attorney Karen Griffiths said she had a rough figure of what everyone's percentage of the countywide sales tax was. She said Almena got .049 percent, Clayton was at 0.00573 percent, Edmond was at 0.00445 percent, Lenora got 0.043 percent, Norton was at 0.33 percent, and the county got 0.57 percent. She said the numbers weren't absolute and would probably change every year.

Mr. Miller suggested having Edmond and Clayton put in \$100 each.

Mr. Eveleigh said the committee needed to set the figures so people would have something to go back to the city councils with.

"We need to set a figure and go with it," he said.

Mrs. James said she thought Lenora would agree to \$500, but didn't know about \$1,000.

Mr. Eveleigh said since a large portion of the budget would be coming from the county, so the outlying communities should chip in to the county's part. He said Lenora and Almena should pay \$500 apiece, while Clayton and Edmond should both put in \$100. The committee agreed.

Mr. Corns said even if the small cities decided to not put in for the budget, they should still come to the meetings and give their input. Mr. Miller agreed, saying that he would like someone to come and just sit in so they know what's going on.

If all of the cities help with the budget it would be \$58,800 from the county, \$40,000 from Norton, \$1,000 from Almena, \$1,000 from Lenora, \$100 from Edmond and \$100 from Clayton.

Committee gets program to help with organization

(Continued from Page 1) gram could come to Norton was the end of February. He said the economic development 101 wasn't entirely necessary if the committee wanted to skip it and go straight to making an action statement.

City/County Attorney Karen Griffiths suggested the committee do an hour of the economic development 101 and then go on to making an action statement.

Mr. Ballek said he thought the committee would do well.

"I like your commitment," he said. "You'll be able to go far with

a budget of \$100,000. With that kind of budget, you'll be able to hire someone with some experience or some talent and will still have money left over for some programs. I think you'll be able to find some talent."

He said there were some counties that run their economic development on shoestring budgets of about \$16,000. Those counties have struggled, he said, and haven't been able to hire more than a secretary.

"There are a lot of things that you guys will be able to do," he said. "The sky is the limit."

In other business, the committee:

- Set the next meeting for Wednesday, Feb. 23 at 5 p.m. The committee will do several parts of the program Mr. Ballek was talking about and set a three hour maximum on the meeting's time.

- Heard that a Northwest Kansas Manufacturer's Roundtable will be held on Feb. 22 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Town and Country Kitchen. Gail Boller, owner of Natoma Corp., said manufacturers who want to participate need to make reservations with the Small Business Development Center at 785-628-6786.

County's deed registration is down

(Continued from Page 1) 1,423 from 1,634. Register of Deeds Wanda Vincent said her office put \$46,767 into the county general fund last year as compared to \$59,286 in 2003 and \$53,650 in 2002.

"2003 was a good year," Mrs. Vincent said, pointing out that her office does a lot of other things besides deed and mortgage regis-

tration.

- Went into a 10-minute closed session with Mrs. Vincent to discuss non-elected personnel.

- Went into a 20-minute closed session to discuss non-elected personnel with Mr. Nielsen and Mrs. Schillig.

- Visited with Gale Schulze, who is on the Rural Fire District No. 2 board, about the rural fire

department's need for a new fire truck. The state turned down their last grant request but Mr. Schulze said he was reapplying in the next round of grants. He said they were applying for a big truck and for a couple of pickups to fight grass fires.

- Heard the scraper the county purchased arrived late Wednesday and has been taken to the landfill.

Theatre plans party for Sunday's big game

(Continued from Page 1) Home Oil, Husky Hogs, Steven L. Cox Associates, Pizza Hut, Quizno's, Engel's Sales and Service, Walter Motor Company, Norman Walter, Norton Home Store, End Zone Sporting Goods, Hall's Clothing, Moffet Drug, Twice Sold Treasurers, Pamida, Rojas Mexican Food, Russ' Jewelry, Master's Touch Fitness and Massage, Nex-Tech and Elicia's

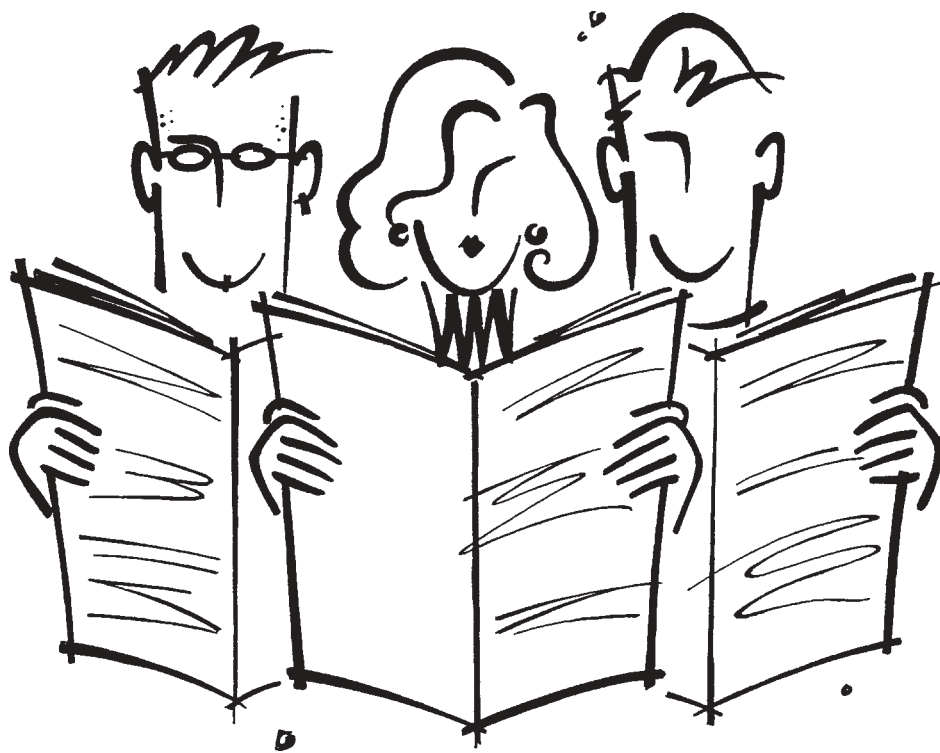
Hair Design are helping out by donating prizes. Warner Brothers and Dreamworks, both major movie companies, are also throwing their hats in the ring by sending gifts to give away.

Mrs. Wicker said reservations have to be in by Friday, Feb. 4. People can call her in the evenings at the theater at 877-2075, leave a message at her home at 877-2276, or pick up invitations at any par-

ticipating sponsor. People can also make reservations by e-mailing the theater at: ntheatre@ruraltel.net. Party tickets are \$25 for adults, \$10 for children 12 and under, and \$40 for couples.

So if you like football, free food and drinks and fabulous gifts, call Mrs. Wicker to make your reservations today.

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