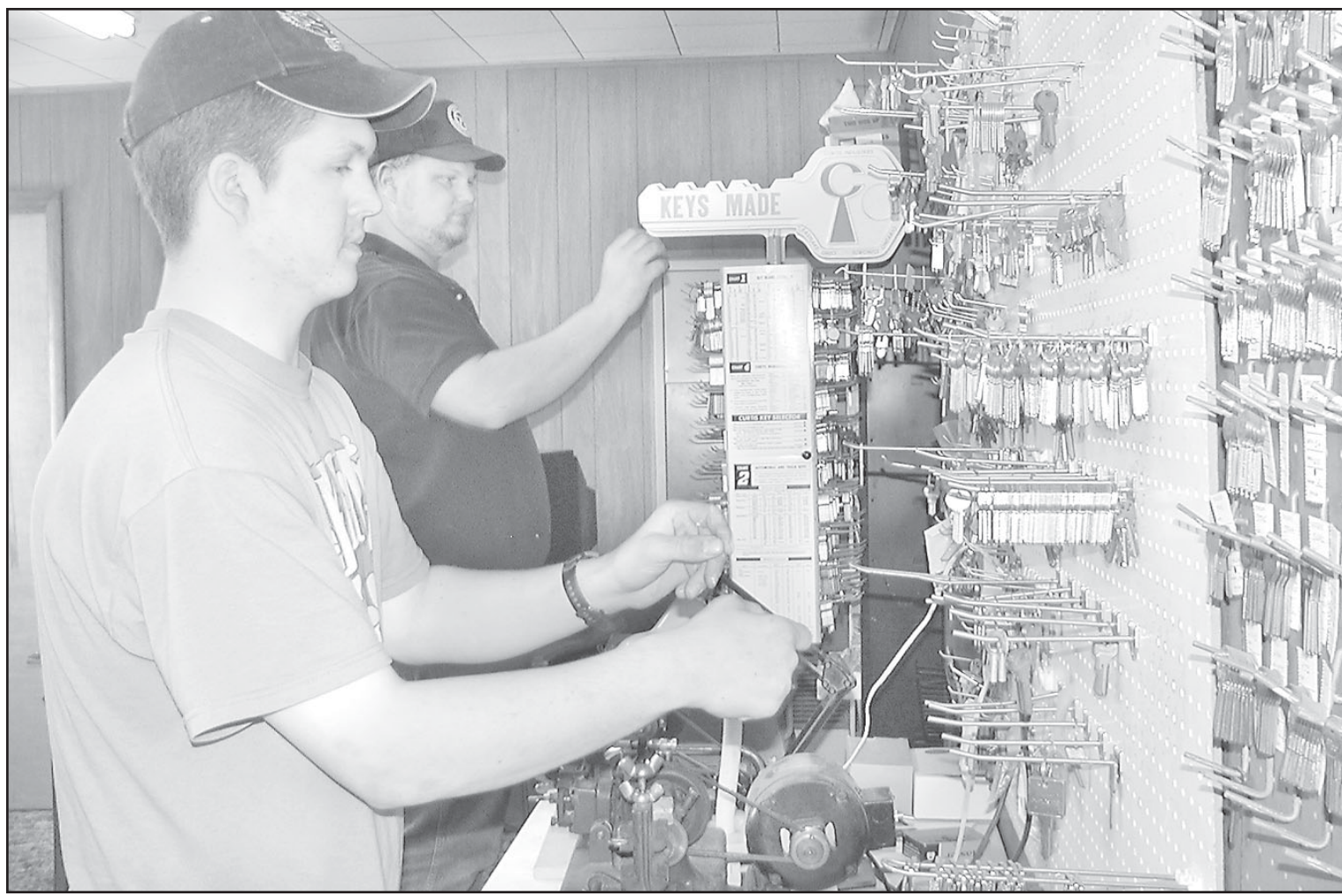


By VERONICA MONIER
Eisenhower Elementary students can expect the same summer school plan as last year. The only change might be one less teacher. Superintendent Greg Mann told the Norton School Board at Monday's meeting, that he and Elementary Principal Larry Hillman would like to keep the same plan as last year for Eisenhower. Mr. Mann said the summer school plan was updated last year, changing from four one-hour periods to two two-hour periods. He said there were fewer students attending summer school last year because a lot are in blended families and leave Norton for the summer to stay with the other parent. He said the program went from 85 students in 2003 to 56 in 2004.

Mr. Mann said using three teachers — Linda Burge, Sally Clydesdale and Teresa Schulze, two part-time aides — Cindy Voss and Rhonda Colip, and one secretary — Dana Madden, would cost the district \$7,800. If the number of students enrolled went back up, then the district could add a fourth teacher — Julie Schrum, which would bring to total up to \$9,700. In other business, the board:

- Heard an update on the projects being done with the Tansill bequest. Mr. Mann said the steel siding on the bus barn has been finished, the ceiling fans in the memorial gym should be done this week, and the windows that are being replaced at East Campus will hopefully be started on Wednesday.
- Learned from Mr. Mann that the kindergarten roundup went well. He said there were several students who showed up who were not on the list. He said he is expecting 33 or 34 students in next year's kindergarten class.



Zach King, foreground, and his dad, Don King, sort and hang keys in their new business, Keys and Locks, located at 203 S. State, Norton.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Man goes from police work to locks

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

A Norton man has learned that sometimes you have to make your own keys if you want to open the door when opportunity knocks. After 21 years in law enforcement, Don King has had to find a new career. Mr. King worked for the sheriff's department in Ottawa County and with the McPherson police department before taking a job at the Norton Correctional Facility about ten years ago. A back injury at work a year and a half ago has developed into degenerative disc disease and he can't go back to work at the prison. So, now he has retrained with Foley-Belsaw Company, Kansas City, Mo., as a certified and bonded locksmith. When Warren Heaton, Norton's only other locksmith, retired, Mr.

King bought out his inventory and equipment and moved everything into his office at 203 S. State in Norton, right behind U.S. 36 Collectables. Mr. King and his son, Zach, a 2004 Northern Valley graduate, are busy sorting and displaying the thousands of keys they now have in their inventory. Zach also plans to complete training as a locksmith, so that he can work with his father. "Keys and Locks", the name of their business, pretty much says it all. Their slogan is, "Our service is the key". "We can do anything that has to do with keys and locks," Mr. King said. "We can open locked cars, install lock assemblies and dead bolts, work on building entries, doors and windows." He said he plans to expand the

business to include electronic security services, intruder alarms, smoke and fire alarms and an alarm answering system. He said the electronic services would be of special interest to customers who travel south for the winter or others who leave their house or business vacant for extended periods of time. "How many people have keys to your home?" he asks. If you don't know the answer to that, you may want to talk to him. He has a large inventory of door knobs, dead bolts, car keys, house keys, specialty keys, skeleton keys and memory chip keys. He can even make a key to fit that antique trunk or desk. If a key should break off in a lock, he can fix that, too. He said he can order locks for existing keys and he has all kinds of entry systems, including keyless.

He also offers emergency lock-out service and re-keying of locks. Future plans include completing studies that would qualify him to service safes. His wife, Ruth, is a corrections officer at the prison. Besides Zach, they also have a daughter, Jessica, who is a sophomore at Northern Valley. An open house and ribbon cutting for Keys and Locks is planned for Wednesday, March 30. To talk to Mr. King call him at 874-4449 or toll free (888) 874-4449.

Secretary of State to visit

At their meeting held March 3 at the Norton American Legion, the Norton County Republican Central Committee learned that Kansas Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh will visit Norton Wednesday, March 30. Chairman Steve Berry reported the secretary's plane will arrive at Norton County/City Airport at 7:30 a.m. He will be taken to the Town and Country Kitchen Restaurant where Dutch treat breakfast buffet will be served at 8 a.m. As this will be an open meeting, the public is encouraged to attend. In other business, Chairman Berry reported on his recent conversation with the Republican state office about Norton County's financial quota. Last year's quota was \$850. It was agreed the quota would remain the same for 2005. Chairman Berry agreed to ask the state office to send a quarterly report on the county's contribution.

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THE NORTON TELEGRAM

Child advocate group looks for donations

By VERONICA MONIER
The Court Appointed Special Advocates group needs money and volunteers and they are hoping that they can find both in Norton County. Executive Director Kristal Stanton and Board member Joan Mann of Norton were at Monday's Norton County Commission meeting to give an annual report and to ask for help. Ms. Stanton said the special advocates help abused and neglected children in the court system. She said they place children in protective custody, do legal and court services, find safe homes for the children, and find local volunteers to assist the children. She said the group helps those up to 18 years old. "The kids we serve are not causing problems," she said. "They're just caught up in the system. It isn't their choice to be there and it isn't their fault their parents choose to neglect them or do drugs." Ms. Stanton said this region covers Norton, Smith, Graham,

Decatur, Phillips and Osborne counties. She said they were able to get three volunteers last fall, which is when the last training session was. She hopes to have another one sometime this spring. In 2004, she said the advocate program served 30 children in the six counties, two of them from Norton County. There are six children on the waiting list right now who live in Norton County, but are not able to be helped because of lack of volunteers and money, she said. Ms. Stanton said it costs about \$533 a year to help a child. Placing that same child in juvenile services costs about \$145 a day. She said about 25 percent of the group's money comes from the counties. The rest is from grants, fundraising and donations. This year they had a chocolate auction, which raised about \$8,000. "The businesses in our six counties really stepped up for this," she said. "Without their donations and the hard work of the board, it

wouldn't have been the success that it was. "We're right on track and have almost doubled our budget." Most of the money, she said, goes to volunteer training and to pay mileage. A volunteer averages about 238 miles a month, but they are getting paid a fraction of it because of a \$50 cap. She said each volunteer ends up paying about \$480 of their own money to help the children. Ms. Stanton said there were 10 active volunteers now. Each can have a maximum of three cases. "I think our program is successful at finding these children in the system and talking to them and finding them a stable home," she said. Commissioner Dean Kruse asked if Norton County was on par with the number of children needing advocate services in the past. Ms. Stanton said yes. Commissioner John Miller asked why the state is only allowing three cases per volunteer. Ms. Stanton said there had to be

a standard so the volunteers didn't get stretched too thin. Most of them have full-time jobs, she said. "It seems to me that we should give them a little money for each one of those kids who need help," said Mr. Kruse. Mr. Miller asked if there was any way to take the money out of the special alcohol fund. Ms. Stanton said that is where some of the other counties the advocates serve find the money to help the program. Mr. Miller asked Ms. Stanton and Mrs. Mann to talk with the county attorney to see if there was a way to legally do that and then get back to the commissioners, since it wasn't budgeted for this year. Ms. Stanton also asked if they had any ideas on volunteers. "We're always looking for volunteers," she said. "We need a diversified group, including men. It's hard to find someone who is willing to give up their time to do this." The commissioners said they would keep that in mind.

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AUCTION CALENDAR:
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