

Water, water everywhere



Terraces filled with standing water is a sight northwest Kansans haven't seen for awhile. This terraced field, about 10 miles west of Norton on U.S. Highway 36 was photographed Tuesday morning. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Special election sought

Sunday sales of liquor rule may go to vote

By VERONICA MONIER

It's looking like Norton will be having a special election to determine whether or not Sunday sales of liquor and beer will be allowed.

In August, the Norton City Council passed an ordinance allowing the sale of alcohol on Sunday, expect for certain holidays.

By passing the ordinance, the council put the final decision of Sunday sales in the hands of Norton voters.

Once the ordinance was passed, it gave people the option of getting a petition together, which would, with enough signatures, put the decision to a vote in a special election.

At least 130 signatures of registered Norton voters are needed.

Bonnie Laughlin, a Norton resident who is heading up the fight, organized volunteers and is circulating a petition.

"We haven't taken an official count yet," she said Thursday, "but I believe we have over the 130 signatures needed."

She said she personally has received around 70 signatures with the rest coming from two churches, which had passed them around.

Mrs. Laughlin said she had only one man refuse to sign and thought that it was about the same with the other five or six people carrying petitions.

"Most of the people we've talked to have been very encouraging and want it to be voted down," she said.

She said she thinks they will be taking the signed petitions to the county clerk's office next week, where the signatures will be checked to make sure they are valid.

Those opposed to the ordinance have until Oct. 30, which is 61 days after the ordinance was put into effect, to turn in the petition.

Once the signatures are certified as being from legal Norton voters, the county clerk has 45 days to put a special election together.

Then, the voters can decide whether or not they want liquor and beer to be sold on Sundays in Norton.

Bridges top road crews' winter projects

By VERONICA MONIER

Norton County isn't waiting until its bridges fall down to get them repaired and replaced.

The county has been repairing and replacing the main bridges for several years. Now its going to start looking at the smaller ones.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom Brannan said they need to look at box bridges.

The county will be finished with major bridges soon, he said. Next the crews need to go out a township at a time and look at the box bridges, which are anything under 20 feet.

"I'm not saying next year or even the year after, but maybe in five years we will have to look at getting a bond for the boxes," he said.

Commissioner Leroy Lang said he thought there were about 300 in the county.

Mr. Brannan said he thought it was nearer 250.

"We just don't know," Mr. Brannan said.

He said his crew will start numbering the bridges, check their condition and put them on a map.

County pays old tax bill

By VERONICA MONIER

Norton County has a some back taxes to pay.

When Norton County Commissioners asked to see the delinquent tax list at Monday's meeting, they were somewhat surprised to find the county on the list.

County Treasurer Cindy Linner said the taxes were from a parcel of land that was given to the county in 1998 by Norton Development Corporation.

She said when the property, which is just south of the courthouse on Washington Street, was given to the county it had a building on it. The county tore the building down and leveled the lot but nothing has been

done with it since. When the property was donated to the county, it had two years of taxes owed for 1997 and 1998 amounting to \$1,194.51, she said.

The property is now exempt from taxes, since it belongs to the county, but the county still has to take care of the back taxes.

The commissioners asked Mrs. Linner to pay the back taxes, which the county collects, but which go to not only to the county, but also to the state, City of Norton and school district.

Mrs. Linner said that is why the county can't just forgive the bill.

ter map. That way, when a bond issue is needed for repairs, there will be information on where the bridges are and what condition they're in.

This is something the road and

bridge crew can do during the winter, Mr. Brannan said.

He said his department will lock the fuel tanks on heavy equipment. He said there isn't a problem yet, but he didn't want to take a chance

of having fuel siphoned.

It's going to be an inconvenience, he said, but the security should be worth the effort.

"We're talking about \$250 to fill up a motor grader," he said. "We just don't want to take that chance."

Mr. Brannan said if gas prices are still up in November, he wasn't going to fill up the department's big tank.

He said his crew will just use their Norton Coop cards and fuel up there.

He said he didn't want to buy that much gas when it was that high and wanted to wait until the prices came down a little.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Approved a change order from Solid Waste Supervisor Curt Archibald to repack the open cell at the landfill. The commissioners are hoping this is the last thing to do before the landfill is approved to be opened.

- Heard from Mr. Archibald that they received one-half inch of rain at the landfill, which is being pumped out.



Trees at the courthouse are heavy with pears.

Pears ready to be picked

Fall pears are ripe for the picking and anyone who would like to do just that can go to the courthouse and take as many as they like.

The pears are still a little hard and if you would like them a bit softer, just stick them in a brown paper bag for a few days.

Chaplain ministers overseas

Chaplain (Capt.) Douglas D. Gibson, son of Reta and Don Griffin, Norton, is stationed in Afghanistan, where he ministers to soldiers at three forward observing posts.

He said, in a letter, that as an Army chaplain, he has a very unusual congregation. It is made up of soldiers in his battalion, whether they are Catholic, Baptist, Wicca's or Devil worshippers.

He said through his relationship with them, some have come to be Christians. He said he has baptized four people since arriving in Afghanistan and hopes there will be more.

The chaplain has been shot at

and his base has received enemy mortar rounds, his parents said.



Capt. Gibson

He writes that he uses a humvee to travel and has an assistant, who is his driver, bodyguard and religious service assistant. According to the Geneva Convention, chaplains cannot carry weapons.

That's why his assistant does.

Chaplain Gibson is assigned to an engineering unit that builds roads and buildings. He and other men in his unit adopted a school in Afghanistan. They helped repair and furnish it.

He was born in Denver and graduated from high school in the

small community of Westerville, Neb. He enlisted in the Army right out of high school and has been in the military, one way or another, for more than 27 years. He spent 14 years in the reserves and 14 years on active duty working his way up from a mechanic to the rank of Staff Sergeant. He was commissioned a chaplain on April 1, 1994.

Mail will reach him at: CH Douglas D. Gibson, 864th ECH, HHSC, Kandahar, APO AE 09355.

Chaplain Gibson's tour of duty will end in March and he plans to marry his fiance Colleen on a Florida beach by the Gulf of Mexico, on May 20.

He has two children who live in Hays.

Clown to perform Saturday in Long Island

Dizzy the Clown, aka Rita Winter of Lawrence, plans to be in Long Island at 2 p.m. Saturday at the Community Building.

Dizzy specializes in balloon toys, pain-free tattoos, puppets, storytelling and turning frowns upside-down.

She invites youngsters of all ages to come share the fun.

Dizzy's appearance is sponsored by the Long Island Library and refreshments will be served.

Dizzy's sister, Robbie Griffiths, lives in Long Island.

To learn more about Dizzy the Clown go to her website at: www.dizzythec clown.com.

Service academy applications sought

Congressman Jerry Moran is accepting applications for nominations to the U.S. service academies.

The academies include the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y.; the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.; the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs.; and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, N.Y.

Those selected will enter the academies in June 2006.

Selections are based on college entrance test scores, class rank, grade point average, school records, extracurricular activities, leadership potential, motivation, recommendations and interview

evaluations.

Applicants must be legal residents of Kansas, at least 17 years of age but not over 23, citizens of the United States, unmarried, not pregnant, and without legal obligation to support children or other dependents.

If nominated the applicants must meet the admission requirements of each academy. The academies will make the final decision on who will receive an appointment of admission. Due to limited placement, the congressman en-

courages all interested candidates to apply also to the offices of senators Sam Brownback and Pat Roberts.

Application deadline is Oct. 1. Interested applicants should send a letter requesting application materials to: Congressman Jerry Moran, Attn: Service Academy Selection, Box 1128, Hutchinson, Kan. 67504-1128.

For more information, contact Congressman Moran at (202) 225-2715 or visit his web page at www.house.gov/moranks01/.

REAL ESTATE PROPERTY

ABSOLUTE AUCTION — NORTON, KANSAS

Tuesday, Sept. 13, 2005 • 7 P.M.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION:
Section: 34 Township: 02 Range: 23
SUBDIVISION: Irreg Tracts 34-2-23
TRACT DESCRIPTION: TR BEG 690.5 N OF SW COR SE4 SE4 TH N 158.25 TH E 66 TH S 158.25 TH W 66 TO POB LESS RD R/W

The property has three bedrooms, one full bath, 1/2 bath, large eat-in kitchen/living room, laundry room, new carpets and painted walls plus a back deck, forced air heat and air conditioning. A two car unattached garage is located on a 66'x135' lot with back private fence.

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 324 W. LINCOLN, NORTON, KS

TERMS: 10% down the day of the auction with the balance due upon title approval and delivery of a good and sufficient deed. The closing to be on or before October 28, 2005.

EVIDENCE OF TITLE: Seller will provide title insurance to the Buyer(s) in the amount of the purchase price, with the premium to be paid one-half by the seller and one-half by the buyer(s). Title evidence will be provided on sale day. Buyer(s) may close as soon as closing documents are prepared — no later than October 28, 2005.

TAXES: Taxes for 2005 shall be prorated to date of closing based on the 2004 tax of \$504.44. Seller is to pay all prior taxes.

POSSESSION: Upon closing.

INSPECTION: Seller will provide termite inspection by a licensed pest control firm. Buyer may at his expense conduct any other inspection concerning pertinent facts about the property prior to the auction. Buyer(s) and Seller agree that the broker and broker's agents do not have any expertise in evaluating the environmental condition of the property and that the broker and broker's agents have made no representation, either expressed or implied, concerning environmental conditions.

AGENCY DISCLOSURE: R.J. Metcalf Real Estate and its agents are representing the seller only and will not be considered agent for the buyer.

NOTE: For viewing, please call listing agent Duane R. McEwen at 785-877-3032 or 785-871-0081 (cell). Not responsible for accidents. Announcements made the day of the sale shall take precedence over printed material.

AUCTION TO BE HELD AT THE PROPERTY SITE SEPTEMBER 13, 7:00 P.M.

SELLER: FIRST SECURITY BANK AND TRUST, NORTON, KANSAS

Duane R. McEwen, Auctioneer and Salesperson,
 E. Hwy. 36, 601 East Holme, Norton, KS 67654, PH 785-877-3032 Office, 785-871-0081 Cell
 R.J. Metcalf Real Estate, Carolyn Burtis, Broker, 101 South Penn, Oberlin, Kansas 67749

PUBLIC INVITED

Potato Bar Supper

Saturday, September 24

5:00-7:00 p.m.

NORTON SENIOR CENTER

208 West Main, Norton

Free Will Donation

Weddings, funerals, engagements, and births.
You'll find it all in...

THE NORTON TELEGRAM