

Jail gets repeat business

Sheriff hires Norton native for new deputy

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

Norton County Sheriff Troy Thomson told the county commissioners on Monday that he estimated that 75 percent of his jail expense is for repeat offenders.

Monday was a big day for court and before noon the sheriff had several inmates, including one man who was sentenced to a year in jail.

On the bright side, the sheriff said, he was going to hire Jody Enfield, a former Norton resident, to fill the long-unfilled job of deputy sheriff.

Mr. Enfield is graduating with a degree in criminal justice, the sheriff said, and wants to come home.

He said that he had a couple of near misses during the recent storms; one time he had to dive out of the way of a sliding car while attempting to get another, which was stuck, out of snow bank.

The sheriff said that he plans to get another four-wheel drive vehicle the next time the county buys a truck for his department, probably in 2007.

He also told the commissioners that he is working on an emergency preparedness grant through the state highway patrol.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Suggested that weed department employees could work with the road department during the winter since they have little to do then.

- Were told that the ambulance service gets 20 to 30 minutes to prepare for an air transport. However, in bad weather this can be a problem when the runway may need to be cleared.

- Learned that Ambulance Director Andy Neilsen and emergency medical technician Teresa Clydesdale have passed an advanced life support system course they took in Phillipsburg and can now start intravenous injections.

- Agreed to allow the ambulance service to set up a debit card system to replace petty cash.

When crews do an out-of-town transfer they have been given some cash for lunches. The debit card would replace the cash.

- Talked about alternative energy sources and ways to make fuel out of waste products.

- Set a budget hearing for Tuesday, Dec. 27, for solid waste, road and bridge, special bridge, noxious weed, county health, the appraiser, and the ambulance departments.

County Clerk Robert Wyatt said that he couldn't cut checks for departments that have overspent their budget authority.

- Decided to not pay the 2005 dues for the Solomon Valley Resource, Conservation and Development group.

The county just received the late notice and commissioners said they might pay the 2006 bill if it arrived earlier in the year.

- Talked to Steve Roberts of Calvert about a 911 address system.

"I was going to get something delivered and they wanted a physical address," Mr. Roberts told the commissioners.

The commissioners said that they were looking at the problem but that it would be expensive and a pain.

"No body wants to force the farmers to change their address but the post office and the appraisers office is working around it to get something," Commissioner Dean Kruse assured him.

"We've been looking into it and it's going to cost us a pile of money," Commissioner Leroy Lang added.

- Talked to Janae Talbot with Smokey Hill Foundation of the Regional Prevention Center, who told the commissioners that her group works with Big Brothers Big Sisters in Norton County to stop drug, alcohol and tobacco use among young people.

Sharing the holidays



Kindergarten children from Eisenhower Elementary shared their Christmas spirit with residents of the Andbe Home Thursday afternoon. The children made Christmas cards and sang several songs.

— Telegram photos by Carolyn Plotts

Airport board hears good reports

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

Things seem to be going well at the Norton City/County Airport.

With a quorum present, Airport Board Chairman John Miller wasted no time in conducting Monday night's meeting.

Airport manager Delvis Miller reported he was taking a survey regarding improvements made at the airport. A request for the study was made by the state office of the Federal Aviation Administration.

Board members agreed to have Nelson Brothers Construction go ahead with plans to have a new door installed in the airport office.

Members learned of a \$1,000 donation made to the board from the Kelling Foundation Trust.

Chairman Miller told the board that he had not been able to contact Jeff Dietering to schedule an airport visit. Mr. Dietering supervises Non-Primary Entitlement funding and his approval is needed

to release money the airport should receive.

The next meeting will be held at 5:30 p.m., Monday, Jan. 9, in the basement meeting room of Norton City offices.

Guard members to get free licenses

Kansas will offer active members of the Kansas Army and Air National Guard who are state residents free hunting and fishing licenses, as well as free state park permits. The permits will be available on Dec. 17 and will be valid for the remainder of 2005 and all of 2006.

Licenses and permits will be issued on a first-come, first-served

basis until the money for the program runs out.

Application forms for 2006 licenses and permits can be downloaded from the Department of Wildlife and Park's website at www.kdwp.state.ks.us. The forms must be signed by the National Guard member's unit commander and mailed to the department with documentation of service.

Cardinal Bar and Grill



Main Street, Norcat~ 785-693-4499

Thursdays: Mexican Night

Friday, December 16: Pizza Night/\$1 Draws
CLOSED SATURDAY NIGHT FOR NORCATUR
PRE-SCHOOL BENEFIT SUPPER

[ORDER OFF MENU ANYTIME]

HOURS: Mon.-Thurs. 7 a.m.-10 p.m.; Fri.-Sat. 7 a.m.-Midnight

Homeowners of all Ages

Apply now for a Home Preservation Grant to do major repairs on your home

You must reside in your home to apply. Actual funds are released based on income eligibility guidelines and the number of people living in the home. To qualify, \$10,000 Cash assets is the maximum savings the homeowner may have on hand. For best results applications must be completed by January 1, 2006

Stop by the Norton County Economic Development Office at 116 N. First St., Suite 112 or Call Marlene—PH 785-874-4816 to receive an application in the mail

Road crews fight to open icy roads

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

The Norton County road crew had two weeks of digging people and things out of the snow, Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom Brannan told the commissioners on Monday.

"Basically that's all we did all week long — reopen drifts, widen roads, get things open," Mr. Brannan said.

He couldn't say how much the blizzard will cost the county. There wasn't much overtime but there will be some costs for fuel and some parts.

There have been some near misses, he said, and at least one accident involving the county equipment.

Last Friday afternoon there was an accident northwest of Alma.

A northbound pickup truck struck a county grader pretty much square on, Mr. Brannan said. Nobody was hurt but the pickup was totaled.

Mr. Brannan said that the grader was stopped and that the impact slid it about eight inches sideways

on the ice. The grader was at the top of a hill and had its flashers on, Mr. Brannan said.

"People just drive too fast on those roads," he told the commissioners.

A week ago early in the morning one of the men was opening up a snow drift and a vehicle came over the hill too fast. However, it took the ditch and was pulled out, he said.

Mr. Brannan said that someone from the Norcat Cemetery asked to have the entire cemetery opened up because they thought they might have a funeral soon.

However, he said, he wouldn't do it because of the fear of hitting the gravestones.

Mr. Brannan said that if there was a death, the county would open the cemetery to the grave site.

"Basically, we're on call. If they have someone die we'll go over and open them up," he said.

He said that he has also told the post offices that the mail route would be opened for carriers, but would not open short cuts.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Estate of Sophia A. Otter

Published in The Norton Telegram on Friday, December 15, 23, 30, 2005. (3T)
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF NORTON COUNTY, KANSAS
In the Matter of the Estate of SOPHIA A. OTTER, Deceased

Case No. 2005-PR-39

NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

THE STATE OF KANSAS TO ALL PERSONS CONCERNED:

You are hereby notified that on December 13, 2005, a Petition was filed in this Court by Alfred Otter, named in the Last Will and Testament of Sophia A. Otter, Deceased, dated September 20, 1988, praying that the will filed with the Petition be admitted to probate, that he be appointed as Executor without bond, and that he be granted Letters Testamentary.

You are required to file your written

defenses thereto on or before January 6, 2006, at 10:00 o'clock A.M., of said day, in this Court, in the City of Norton, Norton County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

All creditors are notified to exhibit their demands against the estate within four (4) months from the date of first publication of this Notice, as provided by law, and if their demands are not thus exhibited, they shall be forever barred.

Alfred Otter, Petitioner

R. Douglas Sebelius, #09157
SEBELIUS & GRIFFITHS, LLP
105 South Norton Street
P.O. Box 10
Norton, KS 67654-0010
785-877-5143
Attorneys for Petitioner

Mr. Grinch

will be present for our

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

at all 3 Kellie's Locations

Plainville Open House

Monday, December 19
FROM NOON TO 9:00 P.M.
Exclusive Money Saving Offer Available at Open House

Hill City Open House

Tuesday, December 20
FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M.
Exclusive Money Saving Offer Available at Open House

Norton Open House

Thursday, December 22
FROM 9:00 A.M. TO 8:00 P.M.
Exclusive Money Saving Offer Available at Open House

December 17 to December 23

**Buy One Accessory —
Get the Second Accessory Half Price**

*Refreshments Served — Register for Drawings
2006 Calendars for Customers on the Open House Days*

303 West Main, Hill City • 785-421-6245
107 E. Main, Norton • 785-874-4718
200 W. Mill, Plainville • 785-434-2126

Limited-time offer at participating locations. Requires service agreement, credit approval and approved handset. \$200 early termination fee applies. Activation fees may apply. Other restrictions apply. Terms and conditions are available at Authorized Agent locations or www.alltel.com