

# 'Caring Hearts' drive needs you

## Hospice Services, Inc.

There are many reasons for giving, but when sorted out, the following are the 'Top Ten' reasons to give to the Norton County Hospice Services "Caring Hearts" fund-drive.

**You are not alone!** We all want the best care of our loved ones when they are sick. But when someone we love is terminally ill it's hard to go it alone. Every day in our community we hear about people facing important questions about serious illness, caregiving, end-of-life, and grief. The good news is, you don't have to go through this alone. When decisions are difficult...when you need comfort and support, your community hospice is here 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

**Hospice Services belongs to you - the people of Norton County!** Your hospice is guided by a community based Advisory Board: George Atkinson, Georgia Briery, Vicki Enfield, Elaine Johnson, Doug Sebelius, & Albert Slaby. Vicki Enfield also serves on the Board of Directors who oversees the whole agency. Ward Foley serves as the County Volunteer Coordinator for Norton County. Along with Ward are 15 trained direct care volunteers living in Norton County. These volunteers provide a valuable service from running errands, to brief respite to family caregivers, or just a warm hand to hold or ear to listen.

**Mission to serve and a promise to care!** Your hospice provides services regardless of age, race, religion or financial circumstances. May all who turn to Hospice Services know comfort, peace and understanding. May they find love, compassion and friends to share life's journey.

**Care centered around the patient!** Patients who are confronting death often have goals that are different than from patients whom death is not imminent. Hospice

care centers their care on what patients and their families need and want. By providing physical, emotional, and spiritual care to patients at home and home-like settings, the hospice care giving team enables the dying to cherish and make the most of their remaining time. And that is what hospice is all about; a peaceful passing surrounded by family, friends, and love.

**Years of experience!** The staff who serves Norton County have over 83 years of experience combined. Sandy Kuhlman, RN is the Executive Director of Hospice Services, Inc. Reva Benien, Debbie Evangelidis, and Doris Wiens are the Nurses serving Norton County. Missy Lamont is the Social Worker and Amanda McKenzie is the Volunteer Manager. Jennifer Kibbee & Julia Schemper provide office support.

**Care does not stop with the death of a patient!** The time following someone's death is often difficult for families and friends. Grief is a normal reaction to the loss of a loved one. Hospice Services offer bereavement services to help survivors through the grieving process and to educate the community. Bereavement services are not just for families who received hospice care, they are open to anyone in Norton County who experienced the loss of a loved one.

**All fund-raising stays local!** Even though Norton County is one of the fourteen counties in Hospice Services, Inc. service area, the "Caring Heart" funds are used for Norton County patients only. Hospice Services uses the insurance reimbursement to pay hospice expenses, but this does not meet all

the expenses. At the end of Hospice Services fiscal year each county's percentage of patient days is compiled. Based on this percentage is what each county is responsible for to offset the negative balance. If a county has 10% of the patient days they owe 10% of negative balance.

**Leader with great vision!** Sandy Kuhlman, Executive Director of Hospice Services, Inc. provides consistent, steady and passionate leadership that never settles for status quo. Sandy is a leader among us in improving expectations for and provision of quality care. Her depth of leadership and scope of engagement led to her receiving the Emily Taylor Champion for LIFE Award and election to the National Hospice & Palliative Care Organization Board of Directors.

**We've made it so convenient!** If you would like to continue to make end-of-life care better for everyone in Norton County, you can donate to Hospice Services through the "Caring Hearts" fund-drive. You may leave a donation in a drop box located at: Almena State Bank in Almena & Norton, First Security Bank & Trust in Lenora & Norton, First State Bank in Norton, Norton Area Chamber of Commerce, The Bank in Norton, & the Norton County Hospital.

**Beating the odds!** Hospice Services, Inc. has done and continues to do something that experts say cannot be done - provide quality hospice services in a geographic pioneer area with extremely small population. This is possible due to the support received from the community. We all long for a true community, a sense of belonging, and the comfort of knowing those around us will help us when we are facing challenges. Thanks to your support no one in Norton County will face end-of-life challenges alone or without expert help.



Norton County Commissioners John Miller (left) and Dick Thompson and City Councilwomen Elaine Mann talked water Monday evening at a Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) town hall meeting.

— Telegram photo by Patsy Maddy

## Town hall meetings held on water

By CHRISTA MULDER, WRAPS Coordinator

What's in your water? Some individuals had a chance to find out at the WRAPS (Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy) Town Hall meetings held on Monday in Jennings and Norton.

Stacie Minson, watershed specialist for K-State Research, and Carol Blocksome, extension assistant with the Department of Agronomy at K-State, tested over 30 water samples for fecal coliform bacteria and nitrates.

The meeting consisted of testing water, a meal, a PowerPoint presentation about WRAPS, and a chance for the residents of the Prairie Dog Creek/Keith Sebelius

Lake watershed to voice their concerns and offer their suggestions to improve the watershed.

Some of the concerns included water quality and quantity, failing septic systems, abandoned water wells, chemicals used on the highways, fertilizer being applied to lawns, livestock runoff, vehicle leaks, chlorine use, as well as many others.

Encouraging no-till, education on proper fertilization in urban as well as rural areas, cloud seeding, buffer strips, and education in general were some of the suggestions offered to solve the problems.

WRAPS is an opportunity given at the local level to change the conditions of the Prairie Dog Creek/

Keith Sebelius Lake watershed. If you were not able to attend the meetings and would like to visit about your concerns, please feel free to call me at 877-2623 or email christa.mulder@ks.nacdn.net.

We are currently looking for people to be on the leadership team to help establish goals for the WRAPS project.

Assistance for the meal was provided by the Kansas Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture and Decatur County Farm Bureau. This project is made possible all or in part through financial assistance provided by the State Water Plan Fund through a grant agreement with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

## County Commission looking for paramedic

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opinion. Mrs. Frack also presented an approval form to submit grant applications. The grants written for Norton County Health, she said, must be submitted to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment prior to March 15.

The commissioners approved the request for application. Mrs. Frack said she would submit the applications with a request for \$20,000 in additional funding this year.

### Road and Bridge Department

• Tom Brannan, supervisor of the Norton County Road and Bridge Department, said the road crews are still working where possible, stressing that conditions are still not very good. He said sand trucks are working on areas within the county that need to be spot dressed.

He said there are several places on county roads where damaged occurred from utility crews and other traffic this winter. Mr. Brannan said the crews will apply sand to the areas that need maintenance.

### Norton County Solid Waste

• Curt Archibald, the county's solid waste director, informed the commissioners of a meeting he had last week with Carlos Valencia and officials with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. He, Dan Wells and Doug Armstrong, of the state agency staff, met on the site facility (known as Golden Duck) and

discussed with Mr. Valencia the requirements of populating the facility.

According to Mr. Wells and Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Valencia must be permitted by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and this could take at least six months, perhaps a year. Additionally, in order to obtain the permit, Mr. Valencia must pay the fine from previous action in the amount of \$2,500.

The commissioners will keep an eye on the situation.

Mr. Archibald also presented the commissioners the Norton County Solid Waste Landfill, Phase #1 modification contract for construction of cell #2. Pat Cox of BG Consultants, prepared the contract.

The modification was necessary due to changes made by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment with permitting requirements. The commissioners asked that County Counselor Sebelius review the contract prior to signature. Upon review by Mr. Sebelius, the commissioners signed the contract as presented.

### Noxious Weed Department

• Reggie Beckman, the county's noxious weed director, told the commissioners about cost-sharing sign up. He said he has been receiving calls and walking traffic from landowners interested in participating in the county program.

Mr. Beckman and the commissioners also talked about the

chemicals that will be used and the need to begin spraying soon. Some of the chemicals will need to be applied before the trees and shrubs start to bud.

### In other items:

√ A tax abatement in the amount of \$82.58 was presented due to the taxpayer failing to report the property being removed from Norton County. The abatement was approved and submitted.

√ Patricia McCartney, medical director for the ambulance service, submitted a letter to the commissioners suggesting that Aden Schillig be placed back on the Quality Assurance Review Board. Following a review, Commissioner Lang made a motion to approve Mr. Schillig to the review board, with a second from Commissioner Thompson. The motion passed.

√ Commissioner Lang moved that the commission go into executive session at 1:15 p.m. for 15 minutes to discuss non-elected personnel and to include Ruth Schillig, Patricia McCartney and County Clerk Robert D. Wyatt. Commissioner Thompson seconded the motion, which was passed.

After returning to open session at 1:30 p.m., the commissioners took no action as a result of the executive session.

√ The commissioners later accompanied Mr. Brannan to view a county bridge and easement.

## Senate Bill 123 needs discussion

### Senate Doings Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer



Water issues have dominated legislative discussions these past couple years, and rightly so. Senate Bill 123 is an act that establishes an upper Arkansas River Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program. This area includes Hamilton, Kearny, Finney, Gray, Ford, Edwards, Pawnee, Stafford, Barton, and Rice counties in Southwest Kansas.

The purpose of this CREP is to reduce withdrawal of the aquifer, improve water quality, protect public water supply, and enhance wildlife habitat. This program will also provide for voluntary retirement of water rights in the Arkansas River Corridor.

To put this into perspective, you could say that this issue is twelve inches deep, and this bill addresses about one quarter inch of the problem.

More importantly we must not forget the negative economic impact this bill will hand to businesses in these small communities. In my District I can use Ness

County as an example. After a two-year sign up of dryland acres being converted to CRP acres, it is evident how this type of program has affected the business community.

There is always the question of how these counties plan on recovering property tax revenues to support local and county services when values of those acres will be taxed as dryland once implemented.

There is no proof that water will actually be saved. Only three other states have a CREP program in place, and none of them has had it long enough to have any documentation. Grain elevators, automotive stores, grocery stores,

small locker plants, furniture stores, and the list goes on of the potential negative impact to our rural communities.

These businesses will either work for less or shut completely down. Kansas State University has conducted a study that predicts 119 lost jobs and \$14.8 million annual negative economic impact to the Arkansas River Corridor region upon implementation of this program.

Originally this bill would have forced these acres into the CRP program, but I am hoping to get a dryland provision added to the wording. We are still working this with these communities.

The CREP program in Southwest Kansas may not directly affect my district right now, but I fear what it could mean for us in the future. I also question whether SB123 will help encourage the next generation to return to the farm.

Senator Ralph Ostmeyer represents the 40th District. E-mail ostmeyer@senate.state.ks.us.

## Care packages go out to soldiers in need

(Continued from Page 1) ing stuff to either. One man, he said, gave several bags of suckers to be given to the kids in Iraq.

Mr. Brannan said the three soldiers aren't from Norton, but that didn't stop anyone from helping. Sgt. Brannan, Sgt. McGrew, PFC Grogan and PFC Bono are all members of the "Big Red One" and are stationed out of Ft. Riley.

They are all serving in Bagdad with a combat ground infantry unit and will be serving overseas for a year to a year and a half.

"The turnout really made us proud of Norton and Norton County," he said. "Hopefully, when they get back on leave, they can come here and meet everyone."

Mail can reach them at:  
• Sgt. Jared McGrew, C Com-

pany/1-28 IN, Unit 42532, APO AE 09361;

• PFC Tyler Grogan, C Company/1-28 IN, Unit 42532, APO AE 09361;

• PFC Michael Bono, C Company/1-28 IN, Unit 42532, APO AE 09361;

• Ssg. Jason Brannan, C Company/1-28 IN, Unity 42532, APO AE 09361.

## St. Patrick's Day partiers shouldn't drive

(Continued from Page 1) traffic fatalities that occurred on St. Patrick's Day in 2005 (latest statistics) were alcohol-related.

All together there were 585 crashes resulting in seven deaths and 209 injuries. Col. Seck said of those crashes, 42 involved alcohol, causing three deaths and 19 injuries.

Nationwide, the colonel said, 59 percent of all traffic fatalities dur-

ing St. Patrick's Day in 2005, occurred during the evening and the early morning hours following, with blood alcohol concentrations of .01 or higher, and 89 percent involved drivers with concentrations of .08 or higher.

"If you plan on drinking, never drive impaired, and don't let your friends drive if they are impaired," Col. Seck said.

The superintendent again re-

minded Kansans that penalties for impaired driving include loss of driving privileges, fines, court costs and possible jail time.

The more severe consequences, he warned, include injuring or killing yourself, an occupant of your vehicle, or the occupants of another vehicle.

The colonel asks that you report impaired drivers to local law enforcement.

## Job Opening

The Norton Telegram is looking for someone in the Advertising Sales Department. Previous sales experience helpful, but not required. Training provided. Good working conditions. Commission-based, but great potential for the

*To set up an appointment, or learn more about the opportunity, please contact the newspaper's publisher, Tom Dreiling, at (785) 877-6908 (daytime) or 877-3823 (evenings).*

**THE NORTON TELEGRAM**

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