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Tuesday
April 24, 2007

Norton, Kansas
Home of Burton Schrum

Briefly Housing forum set for May 2

A forum addressing housing and energy is scheduled to begin at 3 p.m., Saturday, May 2 at the Huck Boyd Center, Phillipsburg.

Co-sponsored by Solomon Valley Resource Conservation and Development (SVRCD) and Phillips County Economic Development, the forum has presentations concerning housing programs, grants, wind development and bio-diesel development.

The housing segment will be moderated by Jeff Hofaker. The SVRCD will moderate the segment on energy.

This forum is open to the public. Learn more by calling 785-425-6647 or going to the Economic Development's website at: www.DiscoverPCED.com.

Parent orientation tonight at 7 p.m.

An orientation session for parents of eighth graders, next school year's freshmen, will be held at 7 p.m., tonight in the Music Room of the Junior/Senior High School. Principal Rudy Perez and counselor Shane Miller will host the meeting which will cover admissions requirements, graduation requirements, the enrollment process, school policies and expectations.

'C' and 'D' tags due April 30

The deadline for businesses or persons whose last name begins with "C" or "D" to renew automobile, light trucks, motorcycles and motorized bike tags will be Monday, April 30. When renewing your vehicles, remember to bring proof of insurance policy number and expiration date, for all vehicles.

Drivers' license renewals can be processed from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Social security cards, or something that has your social security number on it, are needed when renewing drivers' licenses. The Norton County Treasurers Office can only renew regular drivers' licenses and issue identification cards.

For more information, call the office at 877-5795.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Periods of showers and thunderstorms. Some of the storms could be severe. **Wednesday** — Showers likely with a high near 52. Chance of precipitation is 70 percent.

Kingham report:

Friday Low 48, High 77
Saturday Low 56, High 78
Sunday Low 50, High 62, .90" Rain
Monday Low 44, High 69
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Dear Lord, we love you and trust you to walk with us through our living and our dying. Thank you. **Amen**

Giddy-up and go



There was nothing traditional about the way Joni Hilburn and her date, Payton Chestnut, arrived for her prom at Northern Valley High School Saturday. The two rode in on their horses with Joni's cowboy boots peeking out from beneath her red formal gown. A complete story of Northern Valley's prom, with more pictures, will appear in Friday's *Norton Telegram*. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Norton moves forward with water plant

By VERONICA MONIER
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The Norton City Council is moving forward with its water plant renovation. Chris Miller with Miller and Associates, the city's engineers for the project, said they received two bids for the renovation. The first bid was from Industrial Process Technology with a base bid at \$3,366,700 with an alternate bid for covered clarifiers at \$288,320 for a total bid of \$3,655,020. BRB Contractors turned in the second bid with a base bid of \$3,119,000 and an alternate bid for covered clarifiers at \$150,000 for a total bid of \$3,269,000.

Mr. Miller said his firm recommended the bid be awarded to BRB Contractors. The low bid was about \$259,000 over the

original estimate of \$2.9 million, he said. To get the price down, a few changes can be made as change orders.

Councilman Ron Briery said he remembered seeing the estimate at \$3.2 million and wanted to know why it was lower now.

Mr. Miller said the total cost was estimated at \$3.2 million with construction costs set at \$2.9.

Councilwoman Elaine Mann wanted to know if they would have enough money to cover it without raising rates a great deal.

Mr. Miller said they had \$6 million for this, Phase I, and for Phase II, and that there would be enough to cover it. He said he came up with some numbers and if the city used the State Revolving Loan Fund

(SRF), as it is planning to, with a 20-year note, it would cost an additional 99 cents per user a month over what they had estimated. But, he said SRF would be willing to work with the city, allowing them to make a balloon payment before the loan is closed out so that rates wouldn't need to go up anymore.

He said if the council awarded the bid at that meeting, then they could have a contract ready by the May 2 meeting. After that, BRB could start at the end of May or early June. The project will be finished by December.

The council accepted the low bid of \$3,119,000 from BRB Contractors for the water treatment plant renovation project. The council, with the advice of Mr. Miller, (Continued on Page 5)

Grant allows hospital to update for bio-terrorism

By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton County Hospital has a bio-terrorism grant it needs to spend. Mary Hicks, chairwoman of the Safety Committee, told the hospital board the hospital received a \$10,000 bio-terrorism grant to update its decontamination unit.

The unit is in the ambulance garage on the north side of the hospital and has one shower. They want to put in an additional shower and heat, she said.

Ms. Hicks said they also had \$16,000 from a previous bio-terrorism grant that they needed to spend. With that money, they bought a portable generator.

She said the committee is working on a vulnerability study, which will need to be updated on a monthly basis.

In other business, the board:

- Approved the employee handbook

with no changes. Shannan Hempler, director of Human Resources, told the board the policy and procedures in the handbook had been reviewed by the Hays Medical Center.

- Approved the policy and procedures handbook from the Dietary Department.
- Alice Hawks, director of the Dietary Department, reviewed the handbook with the board, outlining the areas that needed to be changed.
- Approved the write-off/bad debt accounts and sent them to the collection agency.
- Heard that a pre-bid conference for the lower level renovation was scheduled for April 24 and that bids were due May 10.
- Approved four medical staff applications.
- Reviewed patient surveys.

- Reviewed quality improvement reports for the nursing, radiology, cardiac rehabilitation, infection control, information technology, discharge planning and engineering departments.
- Heard an update from Hospital Administrator Rich Miller about physician recruitment. Mr. Miller said he has hired Rollie Fisher, formerly of Norton, to put together a marketing brochure on the hospital to try and get doctors interested in coming. He said they will be sending the marketing brochure out to a four-state area once it is finished.
- Learned that the evening clinic is coming along nicely and that the hospital and clinic staff are still excited about it.
- Held a 20-minute closed session to discuss non-elected personnel.

Mayor makes city council appointments

By VERONICA MONIER
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New appointments have been chosen by Mayor David Corns and confirmed by the Norton City Council.

The council/committee appointments are:

- Finance — Councilman Ron Briery, Councilwoman Donna Foley, and Councilman Jerry Jones;
- Utility — Councilwoman Elaine Mann, Mr. Briery, Mrs. Foley;
- Personnel — Councilman Jerry Jones, Mrs. Mann, Mr. Briery;
- Public Safety — Mrs. Foley, Councilman Kelly Gaer; Councilman Jim Williams;
- Parks/Cemetery — Mr. Williams, Mr. Jones, Mr. Gaer;
- Public Works — Mr. Gaer, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Mann;
- Airport Board — Mr. Briery, Mr. Williams;
- K.M.E.A Council Representative — Mrs. Mann, City Administrator Rob Lawson;
- County Commission Representative — Mr. Jones;
- Bed Tax Representative — Mr. Williams;
- Chamber of Commerce Representative — Mr. Briery;
- Library Board — Mr. Corns;
- 20/20 Emergency Planning — Mr. Gaer;

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