



Jordan Koehn talked to junior high students from Norton and Northern Valley schools about the dangers of drug use. Mr. Koehn was a featured speaker at a youth forum held last Thurs-

day, sponsored by the Norton County Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs. —Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Council wants locals given a chance to bid

(Continued from Page 1) need to support our local businesses and hire companies who are willing to do so as well."

Mr. Briery said he would understand if S&R Ready Mix were outbid by another company, but they haven't been given the chance to put a bid in at all.

"I think they should ask (S&R Ready Mix for a bid)," he said, "and I'm voting no because of it."

Councilwoman Elaine Mann said she agreed that BRB needed to ask local businesses for bids and wanted to know if there was any way to convey the council's displeasure about this to them.

Mr. Miller said he would talk to BRB and send them a letter saying they need to get local bids on top of any other bids they get.

"We're just asking that they get the opportunity to bid, whether or not they get it," said Mr. Briery.

The motion to send notice to BRB of the contract award passed 5-1 with Mr. Briery voting no.

In other business, the council:

- Rejected both offers from Roger and Michael Moffet on their properties at 205 S. State Street and 212 S. Kansas. The Moffets asked the city to reconsider buying both properties for \$15,000.

And, if they rejected that offer, to consider taking the old service station on State Street as a gift for a release from the clean-up/demolition orders for that same property.

Mr. Briery said there was too much liability in assuming the property and that he felt the city needed to continue with the process of abatement (clean-up/demolition orders).

Councilwoman Donna Foley said she thought the city would benefit from owning the State Street property and having it cleaned up. In that regard, she felt the council should consider the second offer.

The motion to reject both offers passed 5-1 with Mrs. Foley voting no.

- Heard from Mayor David Corns that in March city sales tax receipts were \$16,758.36 and county receipts were \$12,127.91 for a total of \$28,886.27, bringing the year-to-date receipts for 2007 up to \$137,527.29. Mr. Corns said they have collected about \$10,000 more than last year at this time.

- Donated \$150 to the Norton Flower Committee.

- Paid bills in the amount of \$667,754.42.

- Learned from Councilwoman Elaine Mann that the Utility Committee toured the water and sewer plants to see the progress of the improvement projects and what still needed to be done. A lot of work has been finished at the sewer plant, she said.

- Learned that June will mark the 15th anniversary of the new library.

Big Brothers Big Sisters event termed successful

(Continued from Page 1) stay there. Community-based volunteers can take their "littles" places, like to a movie.

Community-based volunteers are asked to spend two hours with their "little" three or four times a month, while site-based volunteers meet about once a week for 45 minutes to an hour.

Mrs. Woodyard said anyone wishing to hold a program on Big Brothers Big Sisters is welcome to give them a call. She said they have given four after-school pro-

grams in the Norton/Phillipsburg area this year.

"Our fundraisers and programs help to raise awareness that we are here for the kids," she said. "It's a great program and one we hope to keep in the community."

To contact Big Brothers Big Sisters, call 785-874-4200.

Young hear the real story behind drugs, alcohol

By CAROLYN PLOTTS
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Junior high students from Northern Valley and Norton heard the real story behind drug and alcohol addiction at a youth forum held last Thursday at St. Francis of Assisi Parish Hall.

Sponsored by Norton County Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs, the youth dined on pizza and soft drinks before hearing a special presentation by Annie Bryie, a counselor at Valley Hope Alcohol and Drug Treatment Center. Ms. Bryie told them about her struggle with drugs.

Others participating in the forum were Norton County Sheriff's Department, Karen Griffiths,

Norton County Attorney, Janae Talbot with the Smoky Hill Foundation, District Magistrate Judge, Deb Anderson, Pam Shelton a private counselor, and Joan Bolt and Pam Menagh, Wellness Coordinators at Eisenhower Elementary School.

Other presenters were Duane Steinshower, Hoxie and Mary Leet, Kearney, both recovering alcoholics.

Featured speakers were Jordan Koehn, formerly of Hays, a recovering drug addict and Brody Strange, Colby, a recovering alcoholic. Both young men, themselves less than 10 years older than the students they were speaking to, told of the downward spiral of

their lives after becoming addicted.

Jordan shared how he was first introduced to marijuana and the rapid escalation to cocaine and then to crack. He told how his nose bled all the time, how he spent all his money on drugs, his physical deterioration and ultimately the loss of all his possessions and his life living on the streets of Wichita.

Brody was the son of an abusive, alcoholic father. He vowed to never become like his father, but under heavy peer pressure, gave in to temptation and began to drink. He soon became addicted and had to drink first thing every morning, just to control the shaking.

Brody had been a state cham-

pion wrestler, but soon quit the team and sank deeper and deeper into alcoholism. He experienced frequent black-outs and one time, broke into his employer's business and stole money to finance a one-night drinking binge for him and his friends.

Both young men emphasized the point — if you need help, ask for it. Both said not to be ashamed, talk to someone.

Both are clean and sober now, looking forward to what lies ahead in their lives. They said they have to make the decision, every day, to stay clean.

To learn more about drug alcohol treatment, go to Valley Hope's website: www.valleyhope.com.

Norton man urges financial help for tornado victims

(Continued from Page 1) be many people all over the nation who want to help these people with cash contributions," Mr. Maddy said.

He pointed out that there were many farm families northeast of Greensburg who lost everything too, and he fears they may be forgotten in all this, the reason he sent in his contribution to be given to those farm families.

"If any of you want to help these people, send any contributions to the Haviland Friends Church, in care of Mrs. Eugene Ross, 104 Emporia, Haviland, Kan. 67059," he said.

The death toll was put at 9. The tornado was classified as an EF5 with winds in excess of 200

miles per hour. It reportedly was one and a half miles wide.

Disaster declarations declared

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius acted swiftly in declaring the county a disaster area, and President Bush followed up with a federal declaration. The president's action came on the heels of a letter signed by Kansas Senators Pat Roberts and Sam Brownback and Congressmen Jerry Moran and Todd Tiahrt, along with the governor's

request.

In part the letter, dated May 5, said: "We write to urge your immediate declaration of a major disaster area for Greensburg, Kansas and the surrounding area. The small community of Greensburg was hit by a devastating tornado yesterday evening.

"We request your help to provide any federal assistance available for overwhelmed local and state officials. In addition, with the level of devastation in

Greensburg, we request any federal housing assistance that may be available, including USDA rural housing.

"Mr. President, one of our Kansas communities was literally erased from the map last night. The residents of Greensburg and the surrounding area are in desperate need of assistance from local, state, and federal authorities. We urge you to take immediate action to request that all federal agencies provide any available assistance."

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