



Tuesday
July 24, 2007

Norton, Kansas
Home of John Stutterheim

Briefly
4-H food auction set for tonight

The 4-H Foods Auction will be held at 5:30 p.m. tonight at the 4-H Building. Local auctioneers Don McMullen, Monty Jessup and Duane McEwen will sell food made by 4-H'ers. A 4-H'er is allowed to sell one item and keep the proceeds. If a 4-H'er has a marketable animal, they may only sell one or the other. If they make more than one item in the foods category, the proceeds will be donated to the Norton County 4-H Council.

Water wells need to be tested

The Northwest Local Environmental Protection Group (NWLEPG) would like to remind residents to have their private waterwells tested, especially with the recent moisture and standing water. The recent rain may have allowed contaminants to leach into your well. The agency provides free water well testing for nitrates and bacteria. Contact them at 785-462-8636 for an appointment. Their office is at 350 S. Range, Suite 4, Colby, Kan. 67701.

'Melon, pork to be Wednesday

The annual watermelon feed and porkburger/pulled pork special will begin at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday in Elmwood Park. When people are finished eating, they can check out the rides at the Home Owned Carnival, which is from 6:30 to 11:30 p.m., or can go to the Ranch Rodeo at the equine facility, which starts at 7 p.m.

Weather
Forecast:

Tonight — Mostly clear with a low around 70. **Wednesday** — Mostly sunny and hot with a high near 97. **Wednesday Night** — Mostly clear with a low around 69. **Thursday** — Partly cloudy with a high near 96. South wind 5 to 10 mph. **Thursday Night** — A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. **Friday** — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. **Friday Night** — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.

Kingham report:

Friday Low 69, High 92
Saturday Low 69, High 93
Sunday Low 69, High 96
Monday Low 67, High 98
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Help us, Lord, when our weaknesses and limitations lead us where you do not want us to go. Teach us to see where we are wrong and, with your help, to mend our ways. **Amen**

Just one more pole...



Johnnye Ruder maneuvered her horse through the course in the polebending competition during Saturday's Fun Day Horse Show. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

City looks at helping airport with project

By **VERONICA MONIER**
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The Norton City Council is checking to see if it can find the money to help pay for a project at the Norton City/County Airport.

County Commissioner John Miller, who also serves on the airport board, asked the city council if it would help the board with a cement project. The project, he said, is being paid for with a 95-5 federal grant, meaning the government pays 95 percent and the airport comes up with the other 5 percent.

Mr. Miller said they are asking the city for \$30,000. The project includes access roads and taxiways. An alternative that they would also like to do is put in an automatic fueling station. The state will give them \$10,000 for the electronic equipment if they apply for it, he said.

"It's cheaper if we do this now," he said. "If we put it off, the price is just going to

go up."

As for the fueling stations, Mr. Miller said the fixed base operator (Delvis Miller) told the board that any raise they wanted to give him could go to the fueling station project. That's how important it was to him, he said.

Gail Boller, another member of the airport board, said self service fueling stations are cheaper and would probably increase Norton's transient traffic at the airport.

Councilman Ron Briery asked who would be taking care of the fueling station. Mr. Miller said it would be the fixed base operator who would be responsible for it.

He said the county has some unencumbered money that they will be putting toward the project and that they are requesting \$30,000 from the city to help with the costs.

Councilwoman Elaine Mann asked

when the money would be needed.

Mr. Miller said possibly at the end of October at the latest. He said he would know more in about a week.

Mr. Briery asked if they could find the \$30,000 in their budget, as it isn't on the budget.

City Administrator Rob Lawson said if the council wanted to do it, they would find the money. It just means they wouldn't be doing something else.

"If you want to do it, we'll make it work," he said. "We can give you a better answer if we have a little time to look through the budget."

The council asked Mr. Lawson and staff to look at the budget.

• Heard that the proposed 2008 airport budget includes an additional \$6,000 from both the city and county. Mr. Miller said they have had to pay several insurance deductions that they hadn't planned

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County valuation goes up with oil prices

By **VERONICA MONIER**
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The county's valuation has gone up, thanks to an increase in oil prices.

Norton County Appraiser Alan Hale told the county commission that the appraiser and the state set the 2007 valuation for the 2008 fiscal year budgets.

Mr. Hale prepared a report for the commission, showing that Norton County's ag-land value was down for 2007 by 9.3 percent and was assessed at \$1,208,115. Personal property value was also down in the amount of \$230,919, a 7.8 percent decrease which was primarily caused by exempting commercial business machinery and equipment.

He said the oil property gained an assessed value of \$831,286, which was a 52

percent increase. New oil leases contributed to the increase. The state assessment also showed a gain of \$762,433, an increase of 11.5 percent. He said increases in all classes of property, such as electric, pipeline gas, telecommunications and railroads, contributed to the rise.

Basically, he said, the county valuation increased as a result of the oil valuation and state assessed utilities.

Mr. Hale also presented the commission with a breakdown of the percentage each class contributes to the Norton County valuation. He said real estate was 69.1 percent, personal property was 6.7 percent, state assessed was 18.1 percent and oil was 6.1 percent.

In other business, the commission:

• Received a report from Economic

Development Director Wade Carter. Mr. Carter gave the commission a copy of a letter, which was going to be sent to the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce, informing them of the proposed 2008 budget. The budget did not include the Chamber's rent and phone expenses, which was coming out of the 2007 economic development budget.

• Heard an advertising report from Diane Becker, also with economic development. Ms. Becker said the internet web page continues to have a large number of visitors. For the week, she said there were a total of 1,245 viewers on the site and a total of 4,800 for the month. She said economic development will have a booth at the county fair and is also planning for the

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Businesses recognized by state

By **VERONICA MONIER**
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Several area businesses were recognized recently by the Kansas Department of Commerce for their contributions to the community and state economy.

The awards were presented at the department's annual Business Appreciation Month Northwest Kansas Regional Awards ceremony in WaKeeney.

"We are thrilled...to recognize the northwest Kansas businesses that make this state strong," said Commerce Secretary David Kerr. "By designating June as Business Appreciation Month, we foster a year-long appreciation for the crucial role our Kansas businesses play in the state's prosperity and quality of life."

In the area, Rural Telephone Service Co., Inc., of Lenora topped the list, receiving the business excellence award in service. The company was also one of five finalists for the governor's award of excellence. Receiving a business excellence award in manufacturing and distribution was Bus and Coach International in Jennings.

Natoma Corporation of Norton received a business achievement award in manufacturing and distribution.

Area businesses receiving merit awards in service were Andbe Home, Norton; Developmental Ser-

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