

Arts council has full year planned

The Norton County Arts Council has assembled a wide array of performances for the 2007 - 2008 season to entertain young and old alike. You can save by purchasing a membership. A single membership is \$20; a family membership is \$40; and a patron sponsorship is \$100. All performances are included in the membership fee. Non-member prices are listed after the performances.

Next Tuesday, Oct. 9, the season begins with a performance by African acrobats. They will take over Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gymnasium at East Campus with a public performance at 7 p.m. Adults, \$5; students, \$3; 12 and under, \$1; and reciprocity, \$3.

The Magic and Illusion of Eric Vaughn is scheduled for 3 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 14 at the East Campus Auditorium. Adults, \$8; Students, \$4; 12 and under, \$1; Reciprocity, \$4.

On Saturday, Nov. 3 at 7 p.m. The Blue and Gray Brass Brigade will perform in the East Campus Auditorium. Adults, \$8; Students, \$4; 12 and Under, \$1; Reciprocity, \$4.

The annual Arts and Crafts Fair is scheduled to be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 10.

Dreamweavers will provide instruction and entertainment in the art of belly dancing. Be at East Campus Auditorium at 3 p.m., Sunday, Jan. 13. Adults, \$4; Students, \$2; 12 and under, \$1; Reciprocity, \$2.

A children's show featuring Egyptian animals will be held at 2 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 31.

February and March performances will be announced later.

The season will wind down with a dinner at the Norton American Legion followed by a dance featuring Jimmy Dee and the Fabulous Destinations. The dance is \$10 for non-members. Price of the dinner is yet to be determined.

For more information on any of the performances or to purchase a membership, call Carol Erlenbusch, 785-877-5611.

Presenting the musical skills of...



David and Jacob Mizell performed a Scottish "fling" during the annual Java Jive performance Sunday. One took the high road and one took the low road. The theme this year was "Life Is A Highway". All the numbers performed were about a destination or how to get there.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

County to close unused sand pit

By VERONICA MONIER
vmonier@nwkansas.com

Norton County will be closing a sand pit, now that it is no longer being used.

Roger Sprick spoke to the Norton County Commission at its Sept. 24 meeting about the pit, which the county had been leasing.

Mr. Sprick said he sold the property where the pit is, but it hadn't been closed yet. According to the lease, he said the county was supposed to close it when it was done.

The commission said they would speak to the road and bridge supervisor Tom Brannan and told Mr. Sprick that the county would have the pit closed.

In other business, the commission spoke with:

• **Troy Thomson, Norton County Sheriff**, who said he had checked into a quote given for the installation and materials on an antenna, which was given to the commission the previous week. No action was taken on the quote.

Sheriff Thomson also spoke to the commission about the contract and grant that the county has with Allied for aerial photography of the county. There has been a lot of discussion on the photography and its quality.

• **Tom Brannan, Norton County Road and Bridge Supervisor**, who received an email from Norm Bowers on the rating of bridges in the state. Norton County received a good grade on its bridges. However, with a new formula that the state is using, it is becoming difficult for smaller counties to get money to build bridges.

Mr. Brannan also gave a report on the maintenance and construction of roads in the county. Discussion was also held on the spraying of county roads and the cost split between the road department and

the Noxious Weed Department. The commission asked that Mr. Brannan work out the cost share with Weed Supervisor Reggie Beckman.

He said the chip and seal projects have been finished. The New Almelo, PDRA and Country Club roads were also finished. The commission said they have received reports of a large bump on KQNK Road and asked Mr. Brannan to put a sign next to it.

Mr. Brannan also spoke with the commission to Walt Skrdlant, who had a road concern. Mr. Skrdlant said it is difficult to transport machinery on a country road, which is the only access to the land they are working. Mr. Brannan said the county has tried to work on this road before. But, he said, to correct the problem, the county usually gets the property owner's cooperation. A landowner on one side has not agreed to let the county properly slope the road. The commission said that Mr. Brannan should check the right-of-way and if the landowner doesn't agree, proceed with the right-of-way the county already has.

• **Curt Archibald, Norton County Solid Waste Supervisor**, who said Rose Transportation is on site to crush the "white" goods. He said Rose Transportation is the firm that has contracted with the white goods for several years.

Mr. Archibald said Geo Core called with a concern about a past billing and has asked the county to look into records from 2006 on contract service.

• **Diane Becker, Norton County Economic Development Director**, who said she had recently met with Jay Shelton, the warden at the Norton Correctional Facility, about housing projects in the county. This project would be

to build cabins, working with the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development.

Ms. Becker also spoke to the commission about the Neighborhood Revitalization Act and about the financial issues of the economic development board regarding the transfer of funds to a capital outlay fund. A time has been set during the next board meeting to discuss this.

• **Carl Eyman, KWORC Claims Director**, who spoke to the commission about the county's workmen's compensation status. He gave them a claim status report for the past five years, which included a breakdown of the department claims, types of claims filed, and a total claims loss report for the county.

He also said he conducts seminars and safety courses, which would be given without charge. Mr. Eyman said he will hold meetings for employee safety on site for any member county that wishes to participate. He said he has held several courses for the county's road and bridge department and would like to set up a course with the ambulance service.

The commission also:

• Approved three write-off accounts from the ambulance department totaling \$1,068.50. There was also an account from 2005 totaling \$293.50, which was too old to file with the insurance company.

• Held a 50-minute closed session to discuss non-elected personnel. No action was taken.

• Approved vouchers and payroll at a Sept. 28 end-of-the-month meeting.

• Heard from County Treasurer Cindy Linner that, in September, the county received \$29,659.30 in sales tax, making the year-to-date total \$315,088.71.

Center director represents county at legislature

Ramona Pabian, director of the Norton Senior Center, plans to represent Norton County in the 25th Annual Kansas Silver Haired Legislature. The organization consists of individuals, aged 60 years old or older, elected to develop bills and resolutions that are of interest to Kansas Seniors and their families.

During the legislative session, Oct. 1, 2 and 3, the representatives will consider:

• Insurance — concerning the mandatory reinstatement of insurance policies for those 65 and older for up to a 6-month deferral of premiums in certain cases relating to health, both physical and mental.

• Request for a percentage of monies which may be raised from the new casino tax dollars and this

to be placed in a Senior Trust Fund to be administered by the Kansas Department on Aging.

• Resolutions supporting a geriatric mental health act and establishing a geriatric service program; support of a possible Kansas Retired Employees (KPERs), cost of living adjustment (COLA), and in support of eliminating

predatory lending practices and advance income tax payment practices affecting older citizens in Kansas.

Mrs. Pabian said, "I don't say a lot. I think I learn more by listening. But, I do hope to get on the insurance committee. I think that's the one I would have the most experience with."

Environmental program deadline is Nov. 2

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has set Friday, Nov. 2 as the cutoff date for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) applications to be considered for fiscal year 2008 funding.

EQIP, one of the largest programs in the 2002 Farm Bill, is a voluntary conservation program that promotes environmental quality and assists producers to meet local, state, and federal regulations.

When farmers or ranchers apply for 2008 EQIP funding, they will be required to fill out the Kansas EQIP Self-Assessment Worksheet.

"If they plan to apply, they should start the process very soon if they haven't done so already," said Klaege.

"The self-assessment worksheet is an educational tool, providing landowners with a clear indication of what natural resource concerns they have, what they can accomplish, and what they need to do to qualify for the program.

"We see the worksheets as a time-saving and money-saving tool. We envision them reducing the time it takes NRCS to process applications for EQIP. By reducing the federal dollars required to administer the program, more dollars should be available for producers."

EQIP is available to help address the unique circumstances and concerns of limited resource and beginning farmers and ranchers, who have natural resource concerns that need to be addressed on their land.

In Kansas limited resource and beginning farmers and ranchers may receive a higher payment rate through EQIP for structural and vegetative practices.

The 2008 Kansas EQIP eligible priority natural resource concerns are as follows:

- Forestland Health — Productivity, Health, Vigor
- Grazing Lands Health — Productivity, Health, Vigor; Noxious

or Invasive Plants; and Inadequate Stockwater

- Soil Condition — Organic Matter Depletion
- Livestock Waste — Water Quality and Air Quality
- Water Quality — Nutrients/Pesticides/Suspended Sediment
- Water Quantity — Inefficient Water Use on Irrigated Land; Aquifer Overdraft; and Insufficient Water Flows in Water Courses

"After Nov. 2, NRCS staff will begin evaluating applications received in Kansas. All contracts will be signed and obligated with producers by Jan. 25, 2008," explained Klaege.

The NRCS will evaluate each application and give higher priority to those applications that use cost-effective conservation practices; treat multiple resource concerns; address national, state, or local priorities; and provide the most environmental benefits.

Kansas received over \$23.9 million in 2007, and over 1,600 contracts were funded. More than 2,900 applications were received.

In Kansas, EQIP funds will help farmers and ranchers install conservation practices that improve and protect Kansas's priority natural resource concerns.

"The objective of EQIP is to address natural resource concerns through the application of improved conservation systems. EQIP is an environmental enhancement program," said Klaege.

Agricultural producers interested in participating in EQIP can apply at any time at their U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Service Center at their local NRCS office. Information about 2008 EQIP is available on the website at www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/2008 or at your local USDA Service Center from the NRCS or conservation district staff. This will include information about 2008 EQIP—Kansas EQIP fact sheet; the Kansas EQIP Self-Assessment Worksheets; an applica-

tion form; a list of eligible practices and payment rates; and specifics on Kansas's ranking process, including criteria used to evaluate applications.

Visit the Norton County NRCS office at 11640 Pineview Drive, Norton, Kan. or call (785) 877-2623.

The Best Kept Secret is

Norton Manor Apartments

Come in and Apply Today or Call at 877-2714

COWBOY JUNCTION
HILL CITY, KS • 421-3005

COWBOY JUNCTION FUNCTIONS

Located at 2649 280th Avenue
Hill City • 785-421-3005
(One mile east of the stop light)

Sat., Oct. 6..... Russell Hull, 1-Man Band
Sat., Oct. 13..... Sly Ridge, from Hays
Sat., Oct. 20..... Open Mike Night, 6 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 26 ... Halloween Costume Contest
Sat., Oct. 27 Ramblin' Andy, 8 p.m.

CLAYTON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Bazaar Supper and Auction

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13

Clayton Community Building

Supper: 5 to 7 p.m.; Auction Following

Adults—\$6; Ages 6-12—\$2.50;
Ages 5 and Under Free

MENU...Barbecue Beef and Pork on a Bun, Baked Beans, Assorted Salads, Homemade Pie, Rolls, Tea and Coffee

THIS AD IS SPONSORED BY:
Brooks Manufacturing (Clayton)

As Valley (Norton-Reager-Clayton)

New Motorola² V9m

Sleeker. Smarter. MOTORAZR². Pick up the new MOTORAZR² V9m - the super-sleek, feature-focused phone designed with you in mind. With a contoured body and strong metal finish, it's as designer as it is durable. Plus, the large interactive external screen with touch-sensitive controls gives you easy access to recent calls, music and messaging without ever having to open the phone.

Sale Price \$299.99* *New 2-Yr Contract Price
with a \$100.00 mail in rebate

PREMIER PHONE FEATURES: • Large external LCD with touch sensitive controls • 2 MP camera with video • MP3 player with Jump Music capabilities • Celltop ready • Stereo Bluetooth®-capable • GPS-capable • Expandable memory slot

TOOLS AND GADGETS: • Calendar • Calculator • Alarm clock • Airplane mode

ACCESSSM FEATURES: • Messaging Capabilities-Jump Music capable • Messaging capabilities-Text, instant, picture and video • Download Games, ringtones and more in the Access shop

TOLL FREE 866-944-5225

Kellie's Celltel Inc. wireless authorized agent

STOP IN TODAY AT ONE OF OUR THREE LOCATIONS:

Hill City	Norton	Plainville
101 E. MAIN 785-421-6245	107 E. MAIN 785-874-4718	200 W. MILL 785-434-2126

Limited-time offer at participating locations. Other restrictions apply. Terms and conditions are available at Authorized Agent locations or www.celltel.com