



A cartoon about an elephant that was afraid of bugs captivated the audience of children, day-care providers and parents during Thursday's Story Hour at the Norton Public Library. As part of the summer reading program, "Catch the Reading Bug", the video was presented by Smoky Hills Public Television.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

## First load of wheat arrives

By CAROLYN PLOTTS  
cplotts@nwkansas.com

There's a tension in the air. It happens every year about this time. Farmers are keeping one eye on the sky and one eye on their fields of golden grain. It's harvest.

It's just a guess, but Megan Tegtmeier, office manager at Ag Valley Co-op, Norton, is predicting a million bushels of wheat this harvest season. She said some farmers are reporting that the wheat looks pretty good. Ms. Tegtmeier said, "Now, it all depends on the weather."

The first load of wheat showed up at Ag Valley about 4 p.m. Thursday. It had a test weight of

61 pounds and a moisture content of 13 percent.

In Norton County, harvest is expected to be in full-swing by the middle of next week. Peggy Ninemire, the office secretary at High Plains Co-op in Lenora, said a sample cut was expected Thursday afternoon. She also said the Hoxie Co-op had taken three loads of wheat by noon Thursday. She said there had been some hail in the area.

Rod Johnson, manager at Almena Agri-Service, said the elevator is as ready as it can be for harvest. He said railroad cars have been pre-ordered. Mr. Johnson said he thought there would be some cutting in the Almena area

by Monday and definitely by the Fourth of July. He wouldn't venture a prediction on how much grain the elevator would see this year. He said, "Let's just hope we don't get any hail."

Mr. Johnson did say he thinks the markets are definitely on the upside and that the price of wheat will stay up.

Rangeland Co-op manager at Logan Rick Triplett said there was no wheat being cut, but he expected some to be coming in over the weekend. He said he did not have any reports of hail damage in the immediate area. Mr. Triplett echoes the opinion of Mr. Johnson by saying the price of wheat has been steadily going up.

## Fire District 2 to receive funds

The Norton Rural Fire District No. 2 has received state approval for a Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant this year.

The rural fire district will receive \$4,612.50 of grant money made available through the Federal Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act. The money is to be used to organize, train, and equip the fire department to prevent and

suppress fires.

Kansas Forest Service Fire Management Coordinator Ross Hauck said, "This is a great way for the Kansas Forest Service to encourage small community and rural fire departments to improve their services."

"The federal share usually does not constitute a large part of a department's budget, but it may

make a big impact on a small, volunteer department."

Fire Chief Steve Otter said the rural fire department will purchase a slip-in unit to improve safety during fire and other emergencies. It will be installed on the 1990 Dodge chassis the department received from the Norton City Council and the Norton County Commissioners.

## Emergency farm loans available

Farmers in Norton, Phillips, Decatur and Rawlins counties, who suffered crop or livestock losses due to the severe storms, tornadoes and flooding on May 22, and continuing, can now apply for Farm Service Agency emergency loans.

That's the word from John C. Vogt, farm loan manager at the Norton Farm Service Agency office.

"Loans covering physical and/or production losses may be made at a 3.75 percent interest rate, and are scheduled for repayment as rapidly as feasible, consistent with

the applicant's reasonable ability to pay," he said.

Farm Service Agency loans covering physical losses may be used to replace installations, equipment, livestock, or buildings (including homes), lost through this latest disaster, according to Mr. Vogt.

Loans covering production losses, may be used to buy feed, seed, fertilizer, livestock, or to make payments on real estate and chattel debts.

"Funds can also be used for other essential operating and living expenses," Mr. Vogt said.

To be eligible for an emergency disaster loan, an applicant must be operating a family size farm or ranch, must be unable to get credit elsewhere, and must have suffered a qualifying physical and/or production loss from the disaster, Mr. Vogt explained.

Applications for the above should be made at the Norton County Farm Service Agency office at 11640 Pineview Dr., Norton, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The office number is (785) 877-5156.

## Transportation boss urges involvement

The Kansas Secretary of Transportation is worried about a looming crisis that could dramatically impact funding for the state's needs. Deb Miller, secretary, in letters mailed several days ago, urged 125 Kansas transportation stakeholders to contact the state's Congressional delegation to express concerns and a desire for prompt action to address a potential reduction in funding to Kansas and all other states.

"Congress has yet to pass legislation that addresses the shortfall in the federal Highway Trust Fund, from which money is dispersed to states. Action is needed before

October to prevent a more than 30 percent cut in federal highway funds from affecting both state and local transportation projects," she said. "The cut would reduce funding to Kansas by nearly \$120 million."

"I am becoming increasingly worried that time and reasonable options to fix the problem are quickly running out," Secretary Miller said.

Sens. Max Baucus, D-Mont., and Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, have proposed a one-time transfer

of funds to the Highway Trust Fund to prevent the loss of federal funds to states. An attempt to include their language in the Aviation Authorization bill failed, the secretary said.

"There are only a few applicable bills during the remainder of this Congressional session that could be used as vehicles to insure that federal highway funds won't be cut," Miller said.

"I can't state this too strongly: **Congressional action is needed soon,**" she said.

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# Emergency medical building plans for county moving along

By CYNTHIA HAYNES  
c.haynes@nwkansas.com

Things are looking good and moving forward on a new emergency medical building for Norton County, commissioners learned on Monday.

Tom Arpin of BG Consultants, the county's engineers out of Manhattan, was in town to go over the plans and look over the proposed site.

The building will be facing east, he said with paved parking for about 30 vehicles on the north side.

Emergency Medical Services Director Jane Wyatt and technician Aden Schillig were also at the meeting to talk about the new facility.

Mrs. Wyatt was complimentary of all the work done by the engineers.

"Tom and his crew have done an awesome job," said Mrs. Wyatt.

The grant has been secured for the building and the next step is to purchase the land from Prairie Land Electric.

Commissioner Leroy Lang said that the county has an option on the land but that the exact dimensions of the lot have not been decided.

The lot needs to have room for future expansion, he said, reminding the council that one of the problems with the old building is its inability to be expanded.

Mr. Arpin said that the proposed building would support future expansion. The lot can be changed to a certain extent, he thought.

"This facility doesn't need much more than what we're show-

ing right here," Mr. Arpin said showing the commissioners and emergency workers the blue prints for the building. "If you want to put something else out there like a fire station... (you'll need to re-access your needs.)"

"You just need to tell us (how much land is needed)," Commissioner John Miller said. "Upon your recommendation, we'll tell Prairie Land. Have your people mark that off and we'll get together with Prairie Land."

Mr. Lang agreed, saying that the utility company is easy to work with.

Mr. Arpin went over some of the changes he and the emergency medical crews have made to the original plans, including a door to the shower from the decontamination area and a door between the training room and one of the vehicle bays.

The structure is like two metal buildings, he said — one 40-foot and one 50-foot using a common end wall.

There will be a basement, which is reached through a lean-to off the back. The basement will be used for storage and as a storm shelter.

Mr. Miller suggested that the specs for the opening to the basement be changed from a regular three-foot entrance to a 42-inch door, to allow easier access for equipment.

"We have room to do it so that's not a big deal," Mr. Arpin

agreed.

While the building will be metal it will have some brick facing, he said, and will blend in well with the nearby Prairie Land building.

"We're kind of treating the highway as the front and it's kind of going to be dressed up a little bit," he said.

The commissioners and Mr. Arpin discussed the best way to heat and cool the building. The plans call for electric central heat and air but Mr. Lang said he would still like to look at the possibility of a heat pump to save money in the future on energy.

The facility will have three restrooms, Mr. Arpin said. One will be for decontamination and it will have a laundry. There will be one for the general public and one near the training area. No bathrooms are planned for the basement but plumbing will be put in so that one or more could be put in down there in the future if needed.

Mr. Arpin said he hopes to have the plans for the building completed with changes by the end of the month so that the project can be put out for bids and hopefully award a bid on Monday, Aug. 4.

The contractor will then have a week or so to prepare and contracts could be signed later that month so that construction could begin in the fall.

The project is expected to cost about \$700,000, Mr. Arpin said, with a federal grant picking up about half the cost.

## Assault, battery reported

By CAROLYN PLOTTS  
cplotts@nwkansas.com

A well-known Norton window artist/window washer, Norm Myers, 40, was the victim of an assault and battery in the downtown area early Saturday morning. He was transported to Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney, Neb.

Norton Police Chief Pat Morel said the last report he had was that Mr. Myers' condition was improving.

The chief said the incident is still under investigation. "We are still gathering information and statements and conducting interviews," Chief Morel said.

He said his department should have the investigation wrapped up by the first of next week. He said all information will then be turned over to County Prosecutor Doug Sebelius, and it will be up to him to determine if charges will be filed.

## City's pool too cool, too loud

ST. FRANCIS — Apparently the swimming pool was too cool... and too loud.

That was the situation facing the pool's crew.

The pool had been drained and refilled, according to The St. Francis Herald, and the temperature of the water was a bit too chilly for the users.

The pool had become cloudy and workers thought maybe keeping the water cooler would help keep the water clearer.

However, they had several complaints and have since turned the temperature up.

The pump had been broken and they are now using their backup pump. It appears to be running fine.

Additionally, the speakers have been replaced and the pool's employees were asked to keep the volume down.

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