

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

8 PAGES

Tuesday

August 5, 2008

Norton, Kansas
Home of Brock Miller

Briefly

Council ready to tackle agenda

Here is the agenda for Wednesday's Norton City Council meeting at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall (public invited): Building/Demolition Permits — Jon Sloan, \$10,000, add deck and replace basement wall at 409 N. Wabash, Town & Country, \$14,000, construct pitched roof on building at 419 E. Holme. Old Business — second reading of Ordinance #1577, amending the solid waste collection charges. New Business — 2009 budget hearing; city administrator's report; discuss 2009 budget; discuss resolution adopting policies for use of power-driven mobility devices by people with disabilities within the city of Norton, consider Ordinance #1578, incorporating the '08 Uniform Public Offense Code, consider Ordinance #1579, incorporating the '08 Standard Traffic Ordinance, Public Safety Committee meeting report; and pay bills.

Chip sealing of streets to begin

Within the next two weeks, Norton city crews should be starting to chip seal city streets.

On the list are: East Taft Street from State Street going east to the stop sign; South Wabash Street starting at Park Street going south to the stop sign; the 400 block of Penn Street; the City Building parking lot; Sewer Plant Road, Roadside Park; and Timber Creek Road, which is getting a double seal.

Maintenance crews hope it won't take longer than 2 days to finish.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 1 a.m.

Wednesday — A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy with a high near 87. **Wednesday Night** — A 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy with a low around 65.

Thursday — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. **Thursday Night** — A 10 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.

Friday — A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.

Kingham report:

Friday Low 64, High 94
Saturday Low 67, High 107
Sunday Low 70, High 103
Monday Low 70, High 98
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Dear God, help us to persevere in praying, believing that you hear our prayers and will answer them. **Amen**



At the controls. Joyce Howell, Norton resident, shows off the "NuStep," one of the new pieces of equipment at the Norton County Hospital's new Cardiac Rehab Room. The NuStep resembles a sitting stair stepper. —Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux

Hospital renovations nearing completion

By **BRANDY LEROUX**
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By the end of this week, the renovations at the Norton County Hospital should be pretty much completed. All the equipment is in, now it's just a matter of getting the details done — finish painting the walls, the handrails along the hallways, the carpet laid, and other miscellaneous things.

"We were in definite need of a renovation," said Ryan Stover, Chief Financial Officer of the hospital.

The new physical therapy area is at least twice as big as what it used to be, with new equipment. There are traditional treadmills and stationary bicycles; weights; stair steppers; an off-the-floor exercise mat; a Re-Bouncer, which is a small trampoline set at an angle for medicine balls to be bounced against and caught and the NuStep, which is like a sitting stair climber, useful for people with hip injuries.

Also new are the four private exam and treatment rooms. Before, there was one large room where beds were kept separated by curtains. The staff is very proud of the individual rooms.

One room even includes a whirlpool. It is used for cleansing wounds and increasing circulation of the lower and upper extremities.

The gym now has up-to-date equip-

ment, and they will soon be adding an elliptical machine for low impact exercise.

Employees of the hospital are welcome to use the gym for wellness, which is open five days a week. They may be getting in more equipment for employees to use, but first they have to make sure there's enough room and that it won't affect patient care.

Also new is the TeleMeds room, a way for patients in Norton County, via the internet and a webcam, to converse with doctors also hooked up for tele-conferences. There is a new conference room/education center, and a new board room, all in the basement of the hospital.

Mr. Stover is happy with the work that has been done, and would like to thank the general contractors, The Murray Company, and the local sub-contractors, Garrett's Plumbing, Heating and Electric, Norton Glass, both out of Norton, and Gardine Contractors from Nebraska, who have worked hard to get the renovations done. "They've done a very nice job," he said.

The renovations were financed from the hospital's reserve fund. Originally, it was thought that it would cost about \$496,000 to do, but with architect's fees and various other odds and ends figured in, it's going to end up totaling \$550,000.



Reesa Volgamore, a Norton County Hospital employee, demonstrates one of the uses of the new Total Body Workout Gym in the new physical therapy room.

— Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux

Wind energy talks on agenda

By **BRANDY LEROUX**
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Logan County Economic Development Director Dan Hartman and Norton County Economic Development Director Diane Becker invited the Norton County Commissioners on Monday to a meeting about wind energy.

Mr. Hartman is interested in getting 12 Northwest Kansas counties together to see if they can form a collaboration and all work together to bring wind energy turbines to this area of the state. Mr. Hartman said Sen. Sam Brownback might be there as well.

"It's [the wind energy issue] coming here, and it's important for us to get in

front of it, instead of chasing behind it," Mr. Hartman said. "We live in the Saudi Arabia of wind energy," he said.

Mr. Hartman agreed with the council that there are many, many issues — large and small — that would need to be worked out before even putting in an order for a wind turbine; however, he is very supportive of wind farms in Northwest Kansas. "In the last 50 years, nothing has come down the pike that would put cash directly into the family farmers' hands like this will," he said.

The meeting will be held at the Colonial Steakhouse Restaurant outside of Oakley, Wednesday, Aug. 13 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Welcome picnic for teachers scheduled

The Annual Teachers Welcome Picnic will be held in the Elmwood Park on Tuesday, Aug. 12. This is co-sponsored by the Norton School District, Norton Lions Club and the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce.

Returning school staff and school board members, Lions Club members and chamber members are encouraged to attend. Welcome bags will be given to the 11 new teaching staff.

Fried chicken, rolls and drink will be furnished. Please bring two dishes, salad and dessert and your own table service. Lions Club members, returning school staff and school board members are asked to bring two dishes.