

Commissioners ink agreement

The Norton County Commission signed an agreement, during its meeting a week ago Monday, with Haake Benefits Consulting Group to help the county with its health and retirement benefit accounts.

Rob Mahoney spoke to the commissioners about the county's health reimbursement account and talked about the positives and negatives of going to a health savings account instead.

A health reimbursement plan is similar to regular insurance, which people use when they have a health issue. The health savings account plan gives the employee more options which sometimes leads to fewer doctors visits.

He gave an outline of employee benefit and market project analysis with several options. The report included an analysis of several insurance companies including Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Coventry, Humana and First Health, which

is also known as Principal.

Mr. Mahoney provided the commissioners with a cost comparison of the companies adjusting their deductible plans and using both the health reimbursement and health savings plans.

After discussion of the plans submitted, the commissioners decided to use Principal.

In order to find out what the insurance will actually cost, Mr. Mahoney said each employee will need to fill out a medical underwriting form.

He will use these to come up with a final quote on insurance costs.

The commissioners decided to have each employee fill out a form and turn it in by Friday.

The county will use a third-party administrator for insurance claims whether it goes with the reimbursement or health savings account plan, Mr. Mahoney said. He suggested Phillips Resource

Network, a firm his company has used in the past.

Phillips will charge a fee for the plan document, a monthly participant fee and a plan set-up fee and compliance, which will cost about \$5,700 the first year, Mr. Mahoney said.

Each employee would receive a debit card for health services and Phillips will bill the county.

In addition to the cost of the third-party administrator, the county will be paying Mr. Mahoney's company \$24,000 a year at the rate of \$2,000 per month.

County Appraiser Alan Hale and staff members Mindy Harting and Natalie Linner attended the commission meeting to discuss the future of the geographical information system the county is using.

The county has invested a lot of money in the system, Mr. Hale told the commissioners but updates and maintenance continue to be an

expense and there is going to be a need for continuing education and training on the system as well as additional software and updates.

The software will cost about \$2,500, Mr. Hale said, but it is possible that something other than county money might be used to help pay for it.

Mr. Hale said he will need an additional \$5,000 in this year's budget for the system.

The commissioners asked him to get them more information on the exact costs involved.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Went into two 30-minute closed sessions to discuss attorney client information with Emergency Management Services Director Jane Wyatt and County Attorney Doug Sebelius.
- Approved and signed a resolution regulating the building and use of commercial wind energy facilities in the county.

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Railroad signs get upgrade

A county road signing project to replace the advanced warning railroad signs and cross-buck signs along the Nebraska, Kansas & Colorado (NKC) Railroad running through Phillips, Norton, Decatur, Rawlins and Cheyenne Counties began this month, the Kansas Department of Transportation's Northwest Kansas Public Affairs Manager and Operation Lifesaver volunteer Kristen Brands, Norton told The Telegram.

Fulsom Brothers Inc., Cedar Vale, is the primary contractor in charge of the \$152,283 job.

The project is jointly funded by the Kansas Department of Transportation and the Nebraska,

Kansas & Colorado Railnet. Work will be completed by the end of July, weather permitting.

The project will update the signage with high reflectivity sheeting and improve both day and night-time visibility for travelers who encounter roadway/rail intersections.

"The project will not affect traffic, but we did want the public to be aware of the work that will take place along all the county at-grade crossings as well as the towns along the route," said the transportation department's Area Engineer Harold Schleicher, of the Phillipsburg Office.

According to Operation Life-

saver, a non-profit organization which works to raise awareness of at-grade railroad safety practices in all 50 states, drivers should "Always Expect A Train"; and pay attention to the signs which alert drivers of at-grade highway crossings.

For more information about this project, please contact the Kansas Department of Transportation's Area One Construction Engineer Travis Scott at (785) 543-2163 or e-mail scott@ksdot.org, in Phillipsburg or Kristen Brands at 785-877-3315 or e-mail kristenb@ksdot.org in Norton.

Library exhibits in place for all to view

Have you visited the Norton Public Library to see the current exhibits?

You will want to study and admire the artwork of Linda Fuller as you view her pieces in the art gallery. She has used water colors, batiks, pastels and pencil to create scenes influenced by the culture and geography of Colorado and Utah. Linda studied commercial art in Denver and worked as a commercial artist in Steamboat Springs. You will be intrigued by the detail of her work. Also check the matting and framing of each piece. Linda does the matting and framing of her artwork.

Currently, she and her husband own Rawhide Iron Works where she designs the artwork produced there. Have you looked at the metal artwork scenes on the poles that line State Street?

Linda's art will be displayed through June 30.

In the display cases you will find egg cups, angels and a Webkinz collection.

Ada Arford is sharing her collection of egg cups. In England it was the tradition to give a silver egg cup at a child's birth. Then another, usually whimsical in design,

was presented for daily use. Ada has shared egg cups that are whimsical; egg cups from Italy, Mexico, Japan, Russia and pre WWII Germany. The egg cups are made of china, glass and ceramics. They are large and small. Ada has also displayed eggs made of different mediums - crochet thread, wood, china and paper. Check out the mini stories that Ada has included with her display.

Maggie Nielsen wanted a Webkinz so she could play games with her cousins in Nebraska who have Webkinz also. Webkinz are both stuffed and virtual pets that come with a special code so that you can adopt them online. There are daily activities and games you may play.

Maggie's collection includes elephants, alligator, frog, bears and unicorn. What other Webkinz can you find?

Candy Colby and Mary Luehrs cooperated to present an exhibit of angels. Candy's angels are Avon angels representing the seasons - spring, summer, fall and winter. She also shared an angel with child, which was a gift from her husband.

Mary's angels portray diversity - angels that are crocheted, angels made of wood, an angel made of pods and whimsical angels. Some are standing, some are kneeling.

The display also features a collection of McGuffey's Electric Readers.

These collections will be displayed through May 30.

Plan some time to view these exhibits when you are at the library to check out books, tapes or DVD's.

•PUBLIC NOTICE• IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF GILBERT M. COURTAINE, II, DECEASED

Published in The Norton Telegram on Tuesday, April 21, 28, May 5, 2009. (3T)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF NORTON COUNTY, KANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

In the Matter of the Estate of GILBERT M. COURTAINE, II, deceased Case No. 2009-PR-15

NOTICE OF HEARING
The State of Kansas to All Persons Concerned:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in this Court by Cynthia J. Linner, as a surviving sibling of Gilbert M. Courtaine, II, deceased, praying for the determination of descent regarding said Gilbert M. Courtaine, II, deceased. You are hereby required to file your

written defenses thereto on or before the 12th day of May, 2009, at 2:00 o'clock p.m. of said day, in said Court, in the City of Norton, in Norton County, Kansas, at which time and place said cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon said petition.

Cynthia J. Linner
Petitioner

John F. McClymont, #09379
RYAN, WALTER & McClymont, Chtd.
120 S. State - PO Box 364
Norton, Kansas 67654
785-877-5183
Attorney for Petitioner

•PUBLIC NOTICE• IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF GENEVA L. PERSINGER, DECEASED

Published in The Norton Telegram on Tuesday, April 21, 28, May 5, 2009. (3T)

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF NORTON COUNTY, KANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

In the Matter of the Estate of GENEVA L. PERSINGER, Deceased Case No. 2008-PR-27

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR FINAL SETTLEMENT

The State of Kansas To All Persons Concerned:

You are hereby notified that a Petition has been filed in this Court by Vicki L. Gruen and Patti Kay Bonnett, duly appointed, qualified and acting Co-Executrices of the Estate of Geneva L. Persinger, deceased, praying Petitioners' acts be approved; account be settled and allowed; the heirs be determined; the Will and "Valid Family Settlement Agreement" be construed and the Estate be assigned to the persons entitled thereto; the Court find the allowances requested for attorneys' fees and expenses are reasonable

and should be allowed; the costs be determined and ordered paid; the administration of the Estate be closed; upon the filing of receipts Vicki L. Gruen and Patti Kay Bonnett be finally discharged as the Co-Executrices of the Estate of Geneva L. Persinger, deceased, and be released from further liability.

You are required to file your written defenses thereto on or before May 12, 2009, at 1:30 o'clock p.m. in the District court, in Norton County, Kansas, at which time and place the cause will be heard. Should you fail therein, judgment and decree will be entered in due course upon the Petition.

Vicki L. Gruen and Patti Kay Bonnett
Co-Petitioners

John F. McClymont, #09379
RYAN, WALTER & McClymont, Chtd.
120 S. State - PO Box 364
Norton, Kansas 67654
785-877-5183
Attorney for Co-Petitioners

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