



Norton public works supervisor Dan Bainter checked on Andrew Black and Bryce Engelbert who were repairing a water line on North State Street last Thursday.

- Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

Transportation Department employee stepping down after 39 years on the job

By KRISTEN BRANDS kristen@ksdot.org Jerry Moritz, District Three Maintenance Engineer, will officially retire from his position at the Kansas Department of Transportation's District Three Office in Norton on Friday with more than 39 years of state service. He started working for the department in 1970 as an Engineer in Training at Topeka's headquarters office. In Topeka, he also worked for the Bureau of Construction as a specification engineer. In 1975, Mr. Moritz moved to Norton and became the Resident

District Three Engineer. Within the district, he has also held positions as the materials engineer; the district construction and materials engineer; staff engineer; and the Area One Engineer in Phillipsburg. In 2005, he was promoted to the maintenance engineer's position—and developed snow and ice policies to improve communication efforts with several outside agencies. He was also instrumental in establishing the agency's acquisition and installation of the new snow gates along Interstate-70.

His hobbies include remodeling his home, hunting, gardening, and fishing. He plans to travel and visit his children and grandchildren during his retirement years. He and wife Marie make their home in Norton. Their children are Audra Bradbury and Scott Moritz. They also have two grandchildren, Kellen and Tristen Bradbury. The public is welcome to attend an open-house retirement reception to honor Jerry on Friday from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at the department's District Three Headquarters Office in Norton (come and go as you please).

Commission: no protection needed

The Norton County Commissioners voted to pass a resolution which asserted its authority to coordinate with the United States Fish and Wildlife Services regarding the listing of the black-tailed prairie dog. Norton County has a policy against listing the species as endangered, and the facts show that the species does not need protection, the commission said. The commission passed the resolution, 3-0. During their meeting, the commission also discussed: Adam Zerr spoke about his road entrance. He was concerned about erosion problems on a hill north of his driveway. The commission agreed to view the road and left the meeting for the purpose of viewing the road. Curt Archibald, of Norton County Solid Waste, gave his weekly report on the waste site.

The annual permits have been applied for and are ready to submit. The staff is doing pumping work from the CD cells because of the recent rain, he said. Northwest Kansas Juvenile Services Director Peggy Pratt discussed the annual data for Norton County. Juvenile services are based in Decatur County and covers 17 counties in Northwest Kansas. There are eight youth in the diversion program, two in case management, five in intensive supervision, three in thinking for change and 19 in the juvenile intake program. The focus of the program is to reduce offending by showing that the law needs to be followed. The program has a 90 percent success rate, Mrs. Pratt said. A motion was made to approve the new policy and procedures for Norton County on Expense

of Travel for County Business, which took effect on June 1. The policy outlines the expense for travel, motel and meals, and it changes the policy on meals that do not require an overnight stay. Vote taken, motion passed. A motion was made to establish the guidelines for the assignment of county owned or leased vehicles, the documentation and approvals necessary and the taxation of the personal use of county-owned or leased vehicle by employees. Vote taken, motion carried. A resolution adopting the Norton County cell phone policy was presented. It outlines the policy for employees who are assigned phones and telephone service as an essential nature of a department. Vote taken, motion passed. The next county commissioners meeting will be held on June 15.

Atwood to host U.S. 36 meeting

The United States 36 Highway Association will hold its annual meeting Friday in Atwood, with members and dignitaries set to hear a report on an economic survey of the route across Kansas by experts at Fort Hays State University sponsored by the group. A reception and social hour from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday at the "Not a Hilton But It'll Do" motel and convention center on U.S. 36 will kick off the meeting. Chris Sramek, Rawlins County chamber president will offer a welcome during the reception. The meeting starts at 8 a.m. Friday with registration, followed by

a welcome at 9 a.m. from Mayor Betty Mickey and the Atwood Chamber. President Steve Haynes of Oberlin, who will be the master of ceremonies, said the association meets twice a year. The idea of the association is to promote traffic and business along the road, promote improvements to the highway and good transportation in general. Before lunch, there will be reports from the Kansas and Missouri Departments of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration and discussion with some of the state legislators. Over the lunch hour, there will be a report from Dr. Preston Gilson and Dr. Gary Brinker of the Docking Institute for Public Affairs at

Fort Hays State. The institute is working on a study of the economic impact of widening and improving U.S. 36 to a four-lane expressway across the state. The \$48,000 study is being paid for with grants of \$2,000 each sought from the 13 counties along the road and a \$30,000 grant from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation, Mr. Haynes said. In the afternoon, the association will hold a business meeting and elect officers. Among the topics will be final fund raising for the road study. Tickets for the luncheon are \$18 each at the door. All U.S. 36 Association members, the public in general and anyone interested in transportation issues is welcome to attend.

Group seeks nominations for several state honors

By DICK BOYD nortontelegram@nwkansas.com With a deadline of June 15, the Native Sons & Daughters of Kansas are accepting nominations for the 2009 Kansan of the Year, 2009 Distinguished Kansan of the Year and for Special Citation recipients. The only difference in the two honors is that the Kansan of the Year must be native born. For nearly a century, the Native Sons & Daughters of Kansas have been meeting annually around Kansas Day to honor Kansans or adopted Kansans who have made a positive difference in the lives of our citizens. The winners of this year's awards will be honored during the 92nd Annual Banquet of the Native Sons & Daughters on Friday, Jan. 29 in the Capitol Plaza in Topeka. The Board of Directors of the Native Sons & Daughters will consider any nominees submitted for any of these honors. A nomination form is available at www.ksnativesonsanddaughters.org.

The purpose of the non-profit organization is to assist in preserving Kansas history, show loyalty to Kansas traditions, honor our pioneer ancestors and instill ideals of patriotism in our youth. The Native Sons & Daughters organization is open for membership to anyone. Lifetime dues are \$10. For more information, contact John Fager in Topeka at (785) 267-8558.

PUBLIC NOTICE NORTON COUNTY COMMISSION PUBLIC HEARING MONDAY, JUNE 15

Published in The Norton Telegram on Tuesday, June 9, 2009.

The Norton County Commission will hold a public hearing on Monday, June 15, 2009, at 9:30 a.m. in the County Commission Room, 105 South Kansas, Norton, Kansas, for the purpose of considering an application to be submitted to the Kansas Department of Commerce for Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Recovery Act funds. A specific project application to be discussed is the purchase of a type III modular ambulance/emergency vehicle unit for the Norton County EMS Department, to serve an area bounded by the service area of the department's Norton station (cities of Norton and Alma; Center, Harrison, Alma Townships; and portions of Highland and Solomon Townships within Norton County). The estimated total project cost is \$165,000 with the grant request for \$165,000 of the project cost. Other project proposals introduced at the hearing will be considered. Oral and written comments will be recorded and become a part of the County's CDBG Citizen Participation Plan. Reasonable accommodations will be made available to persons with disabilities. Requests should be submitted to the County Clerk's Office by June 12, 2009.

Telegram lines: 877-3361, 877-6908

PUBLIC NOTICE MAY NORTON COUNTY BILLS

Table listing various public notices and bills for Norton County, including items like 'Published in The Norton Telegram on Tuesday, June 8, 2009', 'Board of County Commissioners met in regular session...', and a list of bills with amounts and dates.

Advertisement for Norton Animal Health Center, Ltd. featuring 'MONTHLY SPECIAL' with a 55% discount on Frontline Plus flea and tick prevention for dogs. Includes contact information: Aaron R. White, DVM; Sarah Ketterl White, DVM; 801 W. Holme, Norton, KS • 877-2411; HOURS — MONDAY-FRIDAY: 8-5 SATURDAY: 9-NOON.