I suppose as a person gets older, it's almost a given that you tend to compare what was then as to what it is now. When I contrast how items were packaged then and look at how they are packaged now, well, it is no wonder we are running out of resources, our landfills are overflowing and we are paying more for petroleum from which we manufacture plastic, plastic and more plastic.

When I was growing up in the forties and fifties, most items in a store were not pre-packaged. You picked up the item, took it up to the counter, paid for it and the clerk would put it in a bag. You took the item home, took it out of the bag and put it to use. Simple.

Now, practically every item in a store is in some kind of sealed plastic casing, which in turn is stapled or more likely, sealed onto a piece of cardboard or onto another piece of plastic. It is my opinion that 50-75 percent of the cost of the item is in packaging. When you get it home, it takes half a tool box of tools and 30-45 minutes to release the item so you can use it. Fort Knox should be so impregnable!!!

In grocery stores back in the nineteen forties and fifties, you had canned and bottled items and candy came in plastic bags. Penny candy (in our grocery) was in containers in a small glass fronted case. If a child had a nickel (which was rare), the clerk would get a small brown bag and patiently wait as the child made their choice. That involved the child asking how much he could get for a penny of each kind of candy and their decisions being carefully made

# Then vs. Now June Prout

so they got the most for that precious nickel.

Cookies came in bulk. They came in square boxes that fit into a framework that had glass tops that fit over each box.

There were six or eight varieties of cookies in the display and all sold for the same price per pound. A person would tell the clerk which ones they wanted and how many and the clerk would put them into a brown paper bag and weigh them to determine price.

Now, each variety of cookie comes packaged separately in its own plastic bag, inside of which, the cookies are neatly contained on a corrugated plastic tray, which is further divided in sections with maybe four or five cookies per section. If you want a variety, you have to buy each one separately. That means you have three or four times the packaging to put into the landfill as none of this plastic is recyclable. Methinks we are buying a lot of packaging for cookie prices.

In the meat section, meat was placed in a glass fronted refrigerator case in trays. If you wanted a pound of hamburger for instance, the butcher would take a heavy metal paddle and a tissue paper and dig out a quantity of hamburger, put it on the paper and weigh it. He would then wrap it up in white 'butcher

paper', tie it with string and write the price on the paper with a wax pencil.

Look at the meat section now. The meat is all pre-packaged on a Styrofoam tray with a pad underneath the meat to catch any stray blood. This in turn is wrapped in clear plastic with a price tag that gives a lot of information we never seemed to need before. We end up with a lot of package material made from non-biodegradable plastic that makes its way to the landfill.

Jelly came in glasses that had floral patterns painted on them. Once the jelly was gone, the glasses were used as drinking glasses. When chip dips first came out, they were in small Pyrex glass containers with a pliable plastic lid so they could be used again. Why don't the big companies go back to this kind of packaging? It can't possibly cost more than what they are doing now.

When you got home with your groceries, your overall packaging consisted of cans and glass bottles which were often reused. You may have had a couple of smaller brown bags that were usually used to pack the kids school lunches in. The large bag the groceries were packed in was reused in several ways before it was thrown away.

By the way, the butcher wasn't the only one in the grocery who tied things shut with string. It was also used at the main counter to tie other things that had to be wrapped. Where else do you think the moms of that day got those carefully saved balls of string in their kitchen drawers?

(June Prout is a Norton resident.)

#### Train

(Continued from Page 1)

lawns within the city of Norton when seven cars derailed. Several hundred feet of track were also damaged.

bids, but only one contractor —

• The board discussed their

strategic planning meeting and

scheduled it for Sept. 3 at 5:30 p.m.

• The board discussed joining

the Northwest Kansas Renew- public.

at 113 N. Norton, suite B.

development.

from Hays — submitted a bid.

The Telegram will have a detailed report of this second accident for its readers in Tuesday's issue.

collaborative, and it will cost \$500

benefits to Norton County due

to the possibility of renewable

energy plants coming to the area.

The next Norton City/County

All meetings are open to the

p.m. at 113 N. Norton, suite B.

She said there are numerous

### Meeting

(Continued from Page 1) development program.

Mr. Shelton said the state deter-

mines what programs will be cut. He said the state is having them prepare two budgets for the 2011 year; one for a regular operating budget and another one for a reduced budget.

Mr. Shelton said they are always asked to prepare two budgets.

The legislature will debate the

2011 budget in 2010.

The board discussed the prison closing, saying it would affect

every taxpayer.

Jobs would be lost and land values would go down, among

values would go down, among other problems.

Mrs. Stiles told The Telegram

Mrs. Stiles told The Telegram that closing the facility would mean losing 159 jobs.

"This is one project that affects everyone in the county. We have to do something to keep it here," she said.

She said a lot of people may leave Norton which would affect the school system, the hospital and banks that will be stuck with mortgagees.

In other economic development business:

• Mrs. Stiles updated the board on the progress of the Moffet building. She said the money to fix the damage from the wreck has been secured.

#### Board

(Continued from Page 1) to hear a speaker.

• The budget hearing was held. An estimated \$5,910,676 will be budgeted for the general fund, and an estimated 675 students are expected. The board made a motion to pass the budget. Vote taken, motion passed.

• Lucas Melvin presented information for the summer conditioning program. He said the program was open to students in the seventh through 12th grade. He said he was proud of the students who attended. Mr. Melvin said the purpose of the program, which started June 1, was injury prevention.

There will be a special meeting of the board for the purpose of setting goals for the upcoming year on Aug. 26 at 6:00 p.m.

Call us: 877-3361

## Sports practices

begin

Practices for the four fall sports at Norton Community High School will begin on Monday.

Football equipment shock out.

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

Football equipment check-out was Wednesday and twice-a-day practices will begin at 6:15 a.m. at the practice field on Monday. The second practice of the day will begin at 4 p.m.

Practice for girls tennis will begin at 4 p.m. on Monday on the courts in the Swimming Pool Park and will be the same time Monday

Cross country practices will begin at 4:15 p.m. each day Monday through Friday.

Twice-a-day volleyball practices will be in the NCHS Stull Gymnasium from 6 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. and 3:45 p.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday of next week and from 3:45 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. beginning Monday, Aug. 24.

# Get ready to cheer your favorite fall sports teams to victory!

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF KANSAS COUNTY OF NORTON
TREASURER'S QUARTERLY REPORT AS OF JULY 31, 2009

Rea Deeds Tech Fund

Published in The Norton Telegram on Friday, August 14, 2009 (1T)

COLINITY FUNDS BUDGETED	FUND DALANCE
COUNTY FUNDS BUDGETED	
Road & Bridge	
Special Bridge	
Ambulance	
Andbe Home	
Appraiser's Cost	
Bridge Bond	14.00
Community College	26.706.50
County Health	
Economic Development	
Election	700,471,70
Employee Benefits	
Extension Council	
Fair Building	
4-H Maintenance	
Historical Preservation	
Hospital Maintenance	
Mental Health	
Mental Retardation	
Noxious Weed	
Noxious Weed Deficiency	
Senior Citizens	
Soil Conservation	249.10
Airports	
Solid Waste	
Landfill Closure	
Special Liability	
Bridge Construction #2	
Special Machinery & Equip	
Co. Health Capital Outlay	
Ambulance Capital Outlay	
Noxious Weed Capital Out	
Clayton Cemetery	
Edmond Cemetery	
E 911 Fund	
911 Tax	
KELLING FUND	107.000
Bridge Construction 2004	
Grant 4 Parental Modeling	
HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT	32,397.04-
COLINTY FLINDS NON BLIDGETED	ELIND BALANCE

HEALTH REIMBURSEMENT	32,397.04-
COUNTY FUNDS NON-BUDGETED	
Co Treas Capital Outlay	
Co Clerk Capital Outlay	15,679.26
Dist Court Capital Outlay	9,247.78
Reg of Deeds Cap Outlay	14,109.20
Sheriff Capital Outlay	3,280.31
Appraiser Capital Outlay	
Election Capital Outlay	
Solid Waste Cap Outlay	
Special Drug & Alcohol	11,764.38
Spec Parks & Recreation	7,471.16
Spec Prosecutors Trust	
DISTRICT CORONER	1,400.00-
Economic Dev Cap Outlay	43,830.18
EMS Memorial Fund	
Auto Fund	
Special Auto	
•	•

REVENUE FUNDSFUND BALANCE	
Long and Short	
,	
Credit Card	
Hansen Grant Fund	
Wireless 911 Grant 61,512.96-	
4-H BUILDING CAP OUTLAY 9,592.00	
DATA PROCESSNG CAP OUT77,350.52	
Northwest BT Region 2,540.95	
Worthless Check Admin Fee	
Special Law Enforcement	
Co Attorney Diversion	
Co Attorney Training	
Alcohol & Drug Test Fund 1,009.15	
Attorney Fund Cap Outlay	
Strays Sold by Sheriff	
Unclaimed Monies	
Heritage Trust Fees	
Heg beeds reciti und	

20 412 82

EVENUE FUNDSFUND BALANCE
urrent Tax
ehicle Tax130,584.38
√ Tax
ehicle Rent Excise Tax180.34
edemptions Real Estate
dvance Tax
scrow Account
ompensation Sales Tax23,035.11
ITY FUNDSFUND BALANCE

Clayton City General	
TRUSTEE FUND	FUND BALANCE
Court Trustee - State	2,316.27
Court Trustee - Local	57,987.30
Case Management	58,141.52
Juvenile Just Authority	42,472.45
Juvenile Director	2,061.21
Parent Training	2,571.00
Family Education	9,796.00
Community Mobilization	22,704.00
JISP	57,717.47
Diversion	
Juvenile Intake	27,984.68
Judicial Capital Outlay	24,534.00
Thinking For A Change	3.129.50

STATE OF KANSAS COUNTY OF NORTON
I do solemnly swear the above statement is complete, true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief, so help me God

Cynthia J. Linner, County Treasurer

Subscribed and sworn before me this 31st day of July, 2009

Robert D. Wyatt, County Clerk

# Closing the Distance

She said local contractors were able Energy Collaborative. Mrs. contacted and asked to submit Stiles said 18 counties are in the

The public is welcome to at- Vote taken, motion passed.

• Mrs. Stiles updated the board Economic Development Board

on the new web site for economic meeting will be held Sept. 8 at 5:30

to join.



**Dr. Gary Benton** Cardiovascular



**Dr. Jeffery Curtis**Interventional
Cardiologist



**Dr. Christine Fisher**Interventional
Cardiologist



Dr. Richard Rigmaiden Interventional Cardiologist



**Dr. Babar Al**i Interventional Cardiologist

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Care.

DeBakey Heart Institute regularly brings specialists in heart surgery and cardiovascular diagnosis and treatment to a location near you. Because your health is important to us, we travel so you won't have to.

The Cardiac Clinic in your area is located at:

Norton County Hospital - Norton Dr. Christine Fisher Dr. Richard Rigmaiden

For information about dates and times, call Toll Free 1-888-625-4699, or ask your primary care physician.

DeBakey Heart Institute at Hays Medical Center is a state-of-the art regional cardiac diagnosis and treatment center which works closely with referring physicians to meet the needs of a region where heart disease is twice the national average.

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