

Bridge repair planned on US-83

As early as next Monday, Aug. 6, a job to repair a bridge located on U.S. 83 in Decatur County may begin.

Located approximately 3.5 miles north of the Sheridan County Line, the bridge over the Prairie Dog Creek will receive repairs under traffic control. Work on the bridge includes removing 1.5 inches of concrete, patching the bridge deck and overlaying a new deck surface.

A traffic control lighting system will halt drivers for a brief period of time, on both ends of the bridge project. The public should expect to encounter a slight delay while driving through the project; and should plan their travels accordingly.

Please use caution, pay attention to the work zone signs, and respect workers when driving through any road construction zone. Slow down

and "Give 'Em A Brake."

The Kansas Department of Transportation awarded the construction contract - totaling \$293,138 - to Wildcat Concrete Services Inc., of Topeka.

The bridge repair project is funded by T-WORKS, the Transportation program passed by the Kansas Legislature in May of 2010; and designed to create jobs, preserve highway infrastructure, and spur economic development

opportunities across the state.

Weather permitting, the bridge repair project will be complete by mid-September.

For questions concerning this project, please contact Area Two Engineer Eric Oelschlager at (785) 626-3258 or erico@ksdot.org in Atwood; or KDOT Northwest Kansas Public Affairs Manager Kristen Brands at (785) 877-3315 or kristenb@ksdot.org in Norton.

MUSEUM NEWS

The Dane G. Hansen Memorial Museum presents "Between Fear and Faith: John Steuart Curry." The Kiechel Fine Arts out of Lincoln, Neb., organized the exhibit. This exhibit opened July 6 and will run through Aug. 26. It consists of approximately 40 works with an emphasis on the forces of nature.

Born in Dunavant, John Steuart Curry trained at the Chicago Art Institute and the Academie Julian in Paris. Like many American artists who found their voice during the troubled years between World War I and World War II, Curry turned to the familiar: life in rural America. His experience growing up on a farm provided a rich source of subjects, especially animals. He was particularly interested in dramatic scenes of confrontation between predator and prey, or animals of the same species vying for dominance.

Within two years of his first wife's passing, Curry's life was again filled with hope. In June, 1934 the artist wed Kathleen Gould (1899-2001), a friend he met in Westport, Conn. His finances still on shaky ground, Curry presented his new bride with a painting, The Corn

(1933) in lieu of a wedding ring. A single corn stalk amid a verdant field of corn fills the nuptial canvas. Wavy leaves glinting with sunlight imbue the painting with a joyous character. The radiant silk of a single ear in the lower third of the image suggests the promise of a fresh start. Curry also decorated a wedding chest for Kathleen.

Our August Artist of the Month is Carol Reicheneker from Kearney, Neb. Carol has potpourri, oils, garlands and ornaments on display and for sale.

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Eveleigh

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community alive."

The candidate said one concern he has is how a potential sales tax in the city of Norton would affect the entire county because it may put merchants at a disadvantage.

"I realize that it takes money to run a city and county and sometimes there have to be taxes," he said, "but it should only be when there's no other choice."

Eveleigh also reported that he wanted to see more collaboration among county departments by cross-training county employees for multiple departments.

Most of all, Eveleigh said, he wants to make sure that the citizens of the county understand why he and other commissioners make the decisions they do, which has been lacking in the past.

In relation to state politics, Eveleigh said, he intends to keep up on current issues at

the state level and use that understanding to help Norton County.

"It's nice to be able to have a voice in Topeka for what comes down in the form of state regulations and legislation," he said. "The commissioners have more of a voice than the average citizen and I want to represent our county."

Eveleigh and his wife live in Norton and have three children and five grandchildren.

Posson

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"I've seen farms get bigger and the population get smaller," he said. "The area has improved, but we are losing business and I want to turn that around."

Along with economic development, Posson said he wants to make sure the county is represented in state government.

"We have to have our voice heard in Topeka and keep up with what is going on there," he

said. "So many regulations are changing at the state and federal levels and things are going to be more difficult on the county level. We need to be aware so we can deal with the changes."

To ensure that the county is well-represented, Posson said he is eager for the opportunity to travel to Topeka when necessary and interact with state government to advocate for Norton County.

Some of the candidate's priorities as a potential commissioner include maintaining county roads and keeping up on the equipment necessary for maintenance.

"I have no personal agenda," he said. "I just want to take care of the county."

As a second generation business owner, Posson said, his background in customer service will serve him well as a county

commissioner.

"I have been working for the public for 44 years," he said. "I understand the public and what they need and expect. People in public service should be customer-oriented. I can't make everyone happy, but I want what is best for Norton County."

Charles and his wife, Elizabeth, live in Norton. He has three children, three step-children and nine grandchildren.

Peterson

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in Decatur and Graham counties.

"I would like to combine the sheriff and police departments," Peterson said. "We have seven employees in the sheriff and six employees in the police department, which equals 13 safety officers. If we could combine the two departments and cut the budget by 50 percent, think of what we could save a year."

In addition, Peterson is advocating for keeping more spending in the county, such as on consulting fees for major projects.

"Instead of spending so much on consulting fees, we should get input from our local people and employees," he said. "We put a

lot of money in consulting fees and that's a waste of money."

As a potential commissioner, Peterson said his first priority would be to combine the sheriff and police departments, then tackle the task of keeping more money in the county instead of spending it elsewhere. Other than consulting fees, however, he declined to comment on potential ideas for how to make that happen.

Peterson said that as a future commissioner, he would be willing and eager to keep up on state and federal politics and represent the county at the state level when necessary.

"I want to bring sincerity, civility and communication back to the commission-

ers," he said. "I want to treat residents with respect."

While the candidate said he would like to see some changes in how the county operates, he also believes some things are going well for Norton County. He said the county's economic development organization is doing well at attracting citizens and promoting business development.

"Norton is very fortunate. We've got the Department of Corrections, Department of Transportation, three manufacturers and a hospital. We've got a lot going for us," he said.

Peterson is recently widowed and has two sons and five grandchildren.

Applegate

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county operates, particularly in economic terms. The county is affected locally when federal and state funding is reduced, which forces Norton County to do more with less money. And those budget concerns aren't likely to alleviate in the next four years.

"Our challenge as commissioners is how we are going to divide this 'pie' of money so that everyone gets a fair share."

As economic concerns top the list of hard choices to be made in the future, Applegate explained, many elements are tied to the financial future of the county, especially attracting businesses to the county.

"Independent retail is a thing of the past," she said. "We can't attract big box retailers and we're fortunate to have the retailers we have, so we really have to work hard to get businesses to town and keep them here."

Tied in with business development is the need for income-appropriate housing in the county.

"We can attract people to our county, but there is no place to put them," the commissioner explained.

As Norton County faces tough economic times in the future, the

commissioner said, the county also faces tough choices in the future.

"No one likes to raise a mill, but that's the tough choice," Applegate said. "I don't think we can solve our problems until we get through the tough economic times."

With the possibility of raising taxes in the near future, Applegate pointed out that the county has the lowest per-capita tax rate compared to surrounding counties. According to the Kansas Association of Counties, Applegate said, Norton County's per-capita tax rate is \$1,174.

Decatur County's is \$1,867 and Graham County's is \$3,856.

With county leaders facing difficult decisions in the coming term of office, the commissioner said, she has spent a lot of time over the past four years networking and building relationships for Norton County.

"I've spent many hours in Topeka putting together a network for northwest Kansas to have a voice at the state level," she said. "I want to keep up that network and make sure we are well-represented in Topeka. I've had 58 hours of training

from the Kansas Association of Counties and I want to continue to make sure our county has a voice."

Applegate and her husband, Stan, operate a farm in the northwest corner of Norton County. She has one daughter and three grandchildren.

Re-Elect Robert D. Wyatt Norton County Clerk

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- ★ Certified Election Officer, Help America Vote Act 2004
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NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING – CITY OF NORTON
Published in The Norton Telegram on Tuesday, July 31, 2012

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING

The governing body of City of Norton will meet on August 15, 2012 at 5:45 p.m. at 301 E. Washington Street for the purpose of hearing and answering objections of taxpayers relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of ad valorem tax. Detailed budget information is available at City Hall, 301 E. Washington St., Norton, KS and will be available at this hearing.

BUDGET SUMMARY

Proposed Budget 2013 Expenditures and Amount of 2012 Ad Valorem Tax establish the maximum limits of the 2013 budget. Estimated Tax Rate is subject to change depending on the final assessed valuation.

FUND	Prior Year Actual for 2011		Current Year Estimate for 2012		Proposed Budget Year for 2013		
	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate *	Expenditures	Actual Tax Rate *	Budget Authority for Expenditures	Amount of 2012 Ad Valorem Tax	Estimate Tax Rate *
General	1,333,281	30.412	1,570,217	36.815	1,670,105	442,896	37.371
Debt Service	65,475	5.312	63,595	4.362	69,695	51,186	4.319
Library	93,182	6.980	96,900	6.901	99,418	82,960	7.000
Employee Benefit	108,140	8.606	127,500	8.409	145,000	91,154	7.691
Industrial Development	6,260	1.000	15,000	1.002	61,241	11,851	1.000
Library Benefits	35,913	2.688	21,136	1.225	29,376	26,455	2.232
Special Highway	41,352		163,300		203,032		
Cemetery Trust	0		0		7,683		
Special Parks	2,350		10,500		26,857		
Tourism	20,338		28,000		60,000		
Fire Insurance Proceeds	7,830		10,000		15,000		
Special Health Insurance	448,960		485,500		575,148		
Airport Bond & Interest	33,598		33,148		37,021		
Northridge Bond & Interest	5,158		5,161		5,170		
Revolving Loan Fund	28,146		30,000		30,000		
Curran Cemetery Donation	0		3,000		17,313		
Improvement Fund - G.O.	361,349		1,332,464		0		
Debt Service for G.O. Bond	145,674		145,390		145,675		
Electric	3,121,611		3,573,371		4,427,158		
Water	837,785		874,710		1,397,695		
Sewer	474,950		562,282		1,165,265		
Refuse	281,182		311,499		621,485		
Non-Budgeted Funds-A	134,178						
Totals	7,586,712	54.998	9,462,673	58.714	10,809,337	706,502	59.613
Less: Transfers	317,007		353,790		268,075		
Net Expenditure	7,269,705		9,108,883		10,541,262		
Total Tax Levied	622,275		663,081		XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX		
Assessed Valuation	11,314,593		11,293,329		11,851,393		
Outstanding Indebtedness,							
January 1,	2010		2011		2012		
G.O. Bonds	752,331		3,907,502		3,787,786		
Revenue Bonds	0		0		0		
Other	7,102,511		5,073,352		4,822,287		
Lease Purchase Principal	201,837		242,031		169,087		
Total	8,056,679		9,222,885		8,779,160		

*Tax rates are expressed in mills

Darla R. Ellis
City Official Title: City Clerk

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