

# Slaying suspect caught

## Norton man held for homicide

A 20-year-old Norton man was being held in the beating death Saturday of his stepfather.

Norton police officers, county sheriff's deputies and Kansas Bureau of Investigation agents worked around the clock to gather evidence against the man, who was being detained in Norton County Jail.

Jimmy D. Williams was arrested in the slaying of his stepfather, Billy H. Masden, 53, after an emergency medical call took officers to Mr. Masden's home at 111 S. Archer at 7:25 a.m. Saturday.

The ambulance crew found Mr. Masden, who had "traumatic" injuries. An autopsy was ordered by Deputy County Coroner Ruben Silan.

A press release issued by County Attorney Doug Sebelius did not say when Mr. Williams was taken into custody, or how long the body had been at the home after the attack.

Assistant County Attorney Karen Griffiths said Mr. Williams is being detained on probable cause. Officials have to get criminal charges filed against him, at least within 96 hours, she said. If Mr. Williams was taken into custody Saturday morning, that would mean that officials have until Wednesday.

Once the charges have been filed, Mr. Williams will have a first appearance, then an arraignment, a preliminary hearing and then, if the evidence is strong enough, a trial.

Mrs. Griffiths said she has been working in Norton for 19 years and has never seen or worked a homicide case.

Mr. Sebelius was out of the office Monday, but she said she didn't think he had ever worked a homicide case in Norton either. He will be prosecuting the case.

Chief of Police Lynn Menagh was called on Monday but was unable to be reached.

# Worker to be shared

The Decatur County commissioners talked with Ambulance Director Patrick Pomeroy about sharing an employee with the sheriff's office at a meeting last Tuesday.

After some discussion, they decided that the guidelines for the employee still needed to be adjusted. Mr. Pomeroy said he would like to advertise for someone who is already a certified emergency medical technician and Sheriff Ken Badsy would like someone who is already in law enforcement.

Mr. Pomeroy said he has been checking the state surplus property lists and has found 15 laptop computers. He said he would like to purchase one and so would Sheriff Badsy. The price is \$225 to \$230. The commissioners approved the purchase since both departments have the money.

Both Linda Manning and Christine Green went to the North Carolina ambulance factory last week, said Mr. Pomeroy. He said with the long weekend, he had not had a chance to visit with them, but will try to do so before the next commission meeting.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Held a 15-minute closed session for attorney/client privilege at the request of Mr. Pomeroy with the commissioners and county attorney present. There was no action taken.



**LOGAN GLAZE** refilled the old-drill with cane seed (above) during a horse farming day a mile east and mile north of town Sunday. Rex Cole of McCook rode on the drill with a friend (below) while planting the seed. A pair of Belgian horses (bottom) stopped to take a break after working hard all morning. — Herald staff photos by Kimberly Brandt

# Farmers return to old days

By **KIMBERLY BRANDT**

Men and horses joined forces Sunday morning to plant 15 acres of cane the old-fashioned way a mile east and a mile north of Oberlin.

Instead of using modern machinery with engines, teams of horses were rigged to old seed drills to plant the cane in soil which had already been worked.

Years ago, this was the way farmers in these parts worked the soil. Today, it's more of a hobby for men from Kansas and Nebraska who work the soil with horses and old machines for fun.

Bob Haag, from Indianola, was one of those in the field Sunday morning and early afternoon having some fun while getting some work done.

Mr. Haag said his horses, including his two Percherons, a 13-year-old and a 10-year-old, are a hobby for him, but he does use them for work. During the winter, he said, he rigged them up to a hayrack and fed the cows with them.

He said he also plowed about seven or eight acres this year with the team.

Mr. Haag brought three horses for the planting day and has others that stayed home.

Another from Nebraska who came up for the horse farming day was Rex Cole, from McCook.

Mr. Cole brought his 6- and 13-year-old Belgians, Babe and Jean. Mr. Cole said he came last year to the planting day, which was just west of the Oberlin Cemetery.

He said he does a few of these events with the horse teams and about half a dozen wagon trains each year. On the weekends, he uses the horses around the farm for



work. This way, he said, he can get out and enjoy nature.

Mr. Cole said he only brought the two Belgians with him on Saturday, but also has several saddle horses and two Belgian colts.

Mr. Glaze, who helped plan the day, said he owns the 15 acres of land where the men and teams were planting. He will make hay out of the forage sorghum this fall.

Last year, some of the same men and horses planted wheat which will be cut this year. He said he would like to plant wheat in the same field this year.

Mr. Glaze said some of the horses, including his two Suffolks, are a little soft and haven't been worked a lot this winter. By early afternoon, the men and horses were ready for a break. Dinner was brought out to the field while the horses cooled off.

For his family, said Mr. Glaze, horse farming is a three-generation activity. On Saturday, his sons Aden, 21, and Logan, 17, worked the team while planting. Their grandfather, Gorman Glaze from Curtis, Neb., also helped plant.

Mr. Glaze said one of the reasons he got the team of Suffolks was because he remembers that his dad worked a team like the one he owns today.

Between Mr. Glaze and his sons, he said, they own 15 to 20 horses.



Mr. Glaze said he thought the end of the day unless the group field would be planted before the ran out of seed.

# Budget talks start for county

Members of the Decatur County Extension Council and the area extension director met with the Decatur County commissioners last Tuesday about the budget for the extension service for the next year.

The county helps pay for the service, with the rest of the money to fund the service coming from state. The state gives \$16,250 per agent for the county. For the multi-county agents the state pays entirely for them.

For this year, the service requested \$73,072 from the county. Commissioners agreed to pay only \$68,000.

The service is asking for \$71,072 for the 2004 budget, including the slightest increase in salaries and wages, said Area Director Reba White.

The commissioners have 10 days to approve the request or send it back to the extension council.

The commissioners didn't make a decision, saying they will not know what the county valuation is or what the county budget will be until July 1. Until the tax valuations are known, the commissioners said, they will not know how much a given levy will raise.

The commissioners agreed to continue the extension budget as it stands, and if a cut needs to be made, it will be done later.

The council is the first of many groups who visit the commissioners this time of year about money.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Had the chance to meet Dan O'Brien, who will take over as the area extension director at the beginning of June.
- Appointed Dr. Shannon Leska to the fair board for the 1st district. The board is still looking for two more applicants.

# County Round-up

At their meeting last Tuesday morning, Decatur County commissioners:

- Talked with noxious weed director about having his phone answered by the road department instead of hiring someone to keep the weed building open three mornings a week. Story on Page 10A.
- Received a request from the Decatur County Extension Council for \$71,072 for the 2004 budget. Story above.
- Talked with the ambulance director about the guidelines for a shared employee with the sheriff's office. Story to left.

# Keno player hits jackpot

A \$1 purchase at the Red Crown Lounge won a Danbury man \$14,851, which boiled down to \$10,096 after taxes.

Gary Townsend, who works at Sappa Valley Youth Ranch, said he doesn't play Keno all of the time, but decided to play a few weeks ago.

He said he played eight out of eight numbers, which means that all of the eight have to be selected to win. All eight numbers came up, and Mr. Townsend walked away with a little over \$10,000.

Mr. Townsend said the biggest pot he has won before was \$1,000. He used the winnings to pay off a pickup and invest in stocks.

## Public Notice

Water Resource Cost Share Program Funds will become available to the Decatur County Conservation District Office. Applications for the cost share funds will be accepted from June 9 - June 20. Mark your calendar.

Some of the eligible practices are: terraces, diversions, windbreaks, water wells, pipelines, livestock pits, and grass seedings.

All conservation practices will be based on 50% cost share. Area average costs are used for the cost share practices.

Cost share will also be available for upgrading irrigation systems.

"Funding is provided by the State Conservation Commission through appropriation from the Kansas Water Plan Fund".

Applications will be taken (June 9-20) at our office located on South Hwy. 83 in Oberlin.

For additional information call (785) 475-3131, ext. 101 and ask for Diana Solko.

**Rabies Vaccine Clinic**  
**Saturday, June 7, 2003**  
**9 a.m. to 11 a.m.**  
**Selden City Office**

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**For questions, call 1-800-953-3808**



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## Advertisement for Head Start Paraprofessional/Case Manager

The Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center is accepting applications for a Thomas County Head Start Paraprofessional/Case Manager for the 2003-2004 school year. This is a 9-month, 40-hour per week position.

**Qualifications:** High School Diploma or equivalent. Experience in early childhood preferred.

**Contact Person:** Keva Scheib, Head Start Director, 785-672-3125 extension 144. To receive an application, contact Leslie Herl, Head Start Administrative Assistant, 785-672-3125 extension 145.

**Application Deadline:** Applications will be accepted until the position is filled.