

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

10 PAGES

Friday
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Norton, Kansas
Home of Lona Houghton

Briefly

Norton, Lenora to vote Tuesday

Norton and Lenora city general elections will be held Tuesday, April 1. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

On the ballot in Norton are:
Ward 1 — Jerry Jones and Jeff Otter.

Ward 2 — Donna Foley and Charlotte Stephenson.

Ward 3 — Toby Kuhn and Wally Burton.

Norton voters will cast their ballots at the American Legion building.

On the ballot at Lenora are:
Phil Rule, Larry Shepard and Deborah Anderson.

Voting will take place at the Lenora Community Building.

County job fair scheduled today

The Norton County Job Fair will be held from 4 to 8 p.m., today at the Norton Junior High School gymnasium. If you need a job or have a job to offer, the Job Fair can bring you together. Participating businesses, to date are: Natoma Corporation, Norton Correctional Facility, Norton County Hospital, Norton Valley Hope, Andbe Home, Relive, Brooke Corporation, Unified School District 211 Learning Center, Kansas Works, North Central Kansas Technical College, Miltech Machine Corporation and Northwest Kansas Technical College.

The event is sponsored by Norton County Economic Development.

How does your car feel about you? Page 4

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — A 20 percent chance of showers after 1 a.m. **Saturday** — Mostly cloudy with a high near 61. **Saturday Night** — A 30 percent chance of showers, mainly after 4 a.m. **Sunday** — A 20 percent chance of showers before 1 p.m.

Kingham report:

Tuesday Low 37, High 61
Wednesday Low 30, High 66
Thursday Low 37, High 48, .02 rain
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Loving God, calm our concerns when we encounter an opportunity to render help to those in need. Help us always to be willing to show your love, kindness, and compassion to others.

Amen

Cleanup top priority for next week

By TOM DREILING
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It's almost like getting ready for a family reunion.

The weeds are pulled, the bushes trimmed, grass mowed, trash (if any) picked up.

As hosts, you want the place to look its best.

The City of Norton and Norton County, will embark on a similar project on March 31, April 1 and 2. It's the annual cleanup and it has been highly publicized to attract as much attention, and hopefully participation, as possible.

There are always conditions tied with such a vast undertaking. So, with the project kicking in on Monday, *The Telegram* will again go over the rules.

Norton County

Businesses and commercial excluded.

Bring your tree limbs, appliances, construction debris to the Norton County Solid Waste facility at the east edge of Norton. All items need to be disposed of in the proper location.

For your convenience, keep all items separated according to the following:

- Construction Demo File — furniture, siding, windows, carpet.
- Metal Pile — appliances, metal.
- Tree Pile — trees, branches.
- Compost Pile — grass, leaves, yard waste.

There will be a charge for tires and appliances not accompanied by a certificate saying freon has been removed.

Norton City

This is a free service. City trucks will make special trash pickup on March 31, April 1-2. All items **must** be out at the curb by 8 a.m. on your regular route day. No items will be picked up in the alley, and all items must be put out at the curb in front of your residence.

All types of trash will be picked up on your regular trash route day **except** yard waste, tires and household hazardous waste. Yard waste will be picked up on your regular yard waste route day and must be in a solid container. There will be a \$10 charge per item for appliances with freon. Tree limbs must be cut no longer than 8 feet in length. Fireplace ash must be in plastic bags. The maximum limits the city will pick up at each residence is one load of household items and one load of tree limbs. Normal household trash will be picked up in the usual manner.

Trash must be separated, i.e., tree limbs from metals, etc., because they are disposed of in different locations at the landfill. Mattresses and furniture need to be separate from other trash. Hazardous waste, such as paint, motor oil, batteries, pesticides, poisons, caustic chemicals, etc., **will not** be picked up and should be

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Spring takes firemen in all directions

The Norton Rural Fire Department has been very busy for two weeks this spring. On March 6, 10 men and five trucks responded three miles east, one north and a 1/4 mile east to property owned by Whitney Farms to extinguish trees, pasture and an old out building.

Cause of the fire is undetermined. Fire crews were on the scene for approximately an hour.

On March 11, nine rural firemen responded eight miles south and a mile east to a fire on Warren Harting's ground. About 10 acres of grass and 25 acres of corn stalks were burned when sparks from a welder started the dry grass ablaze.

Firemen controlled the fire within two hours of being called.

On March 12, the Norton Rural Fire Department was called for mutual aid to help Decatur County with a fire a mile west and a mile north of Clayton.

Then on March 13, the Norton Rural Fire Department was called nine miles north and four miles east of Norton to assist Almena with a pasture grass and

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Getting ready!



These two wrestlers, Cole Amlong, left, and James Sturgill, practiced some of the skills they learned in Kids Wrestling this year. Riley Hager, watching in the background, is one of the 21 team members competing in the state tournament this weekend in Topeka. See complete story on page 10.

-Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Tax base loss likely next year

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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Norton County will probably lose some tax base next year because the county's agricultural use values have fallen almost \$1.5 million.

County Appraiser Alan Hale told commissioners on Monday that the drop in ag values may require them to look at raising taxes or cutting services.

Every county out here is experiencing the same problem on ag land, he said. In Norton County's case it is about 3 to 4

percent of the county's \$40 million assessment.

However, to offset that, the county's valuation on residential and commercial has gone up a bit, he said. And the figures of personal property, oil and gas revenue and utility values won't be available until June and an increase in those could help offset the drop in agriculture.

Still commissioners decided to start warning the department heads that there may be more belt tightening next year.

In other business, the commissioners:

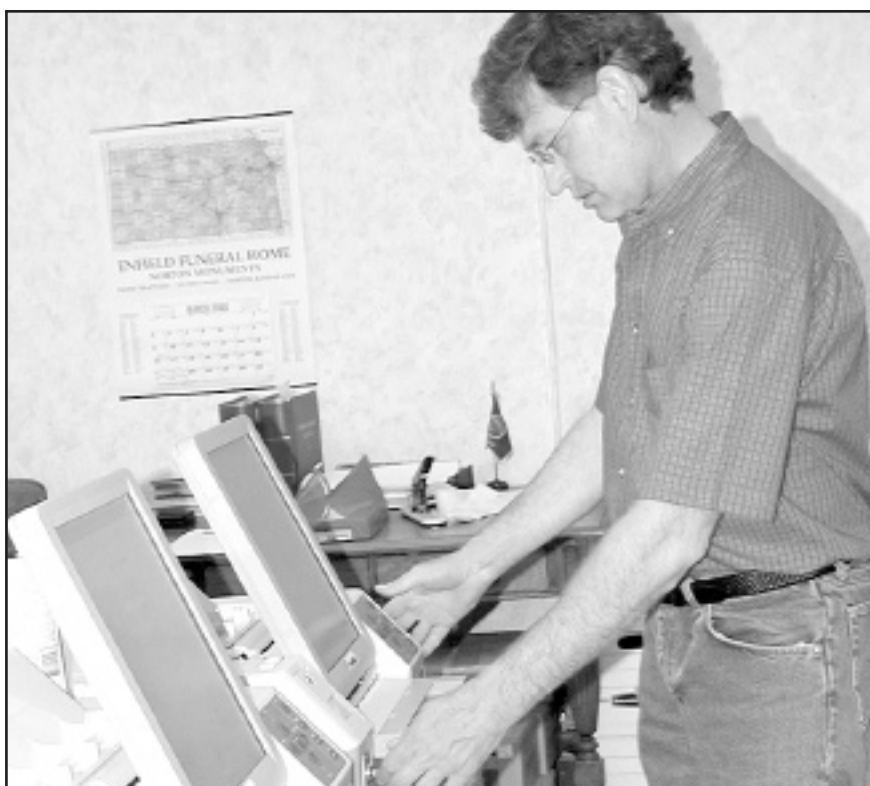
- Heard from Commissioner Leroy Lang that the hospital board wants to take over the present emergency medical services building but that he said the county planned to use the building for storage.

- Held a 10-minute closed meeting with the county attorney using attorney-client privilege to exclude everyone but the commissioners and attorney Doug Sebelius.

- Heard from Solid Waste Supervisor Curt Archibald that the county would be

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Vote check



Norton County Clerk Robert Wyatt checked and double-checked the county's five automated voting machines Thursday. They will be used in Tuesday's city elections in Norton and Lenora. Story page 3.

-Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Best wheat so far located near state line

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
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As the weather warms up, fields of wheat seem to be greener and greener every day, leaving a lush covering over the ground, although, depending on the part of the county, some of the fields aren't so lush.

Stands of wheat, said Brian Olson, regional agronomist with Kansas State University Research and Extension, seem to be better near the Nebraska border than those farther south.

Some of the wheat seems to have just come up, leaving erratic stands in the south of Decatur and Norton counties, he said.

There isn't as much moisture compared to what the area had received last year to this time, said Mr. Olson. The winter just didn't bring as much snow or precipitation as came last year.

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