

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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10 PAGES

Friday

June 27, 2008

Norton, Kansas
Home of Daryl Olson

Briefly

School board to hold early meeting

If you want to catch the Norton School District Board of Education's next meeting, you'll have to be an early riser. The board will convene at 7 a.m. on Monday at the Alice Tweed Center. After determination of a quorum, agenda approval follows. In order, here is the rest of the agenda, which is subject to change:

- Consideration for approval of the June 9 meeting minutes.
- Consider payment of bills, payroll and transfers.
- Presentation of the 2008-09 Personnel Handbooks for consideration of adoption at the July 14 meeting:
 - A. Certified Personnel Handbooks
 - A.1 Eisenhower Elementary School
 - A.2 Junior High-Senior High
 - B. Classified Personnel Handbook.
- Executive session for the discussion of personnel.
- Personnel actions as may be required or necessary.
 - A. Resignation(s), Transfer(s), and/or Termination(s) for consideration.
 - B. Nominations(s)
- Adjourn

Farmer's Market to kick in Thursday

The Norton County Farmer's Market will be held from 7 a.m.–9 a.m. and also from 6 p.m.–8 p.m. on Thursday, July 3. The location for the market will be the main entrance to Elmwood Park, south side of the entrance row of cotton trees.

The market will be held every Thursday morning and evening until the first killing frost in the fall.

According to Keith VanSkike, Norton County Extension Director, "The Farmer's Market allows local produce growers an opportunity to offer their foods to the public. The mission of the market is to encourage private vendors the opportunity to produce and sell locally grown vegetable produce and baked goods." For more information on the Farmer's Market contact Rose Maley (877-3356) or Christina Files (202-1577).

Weather

Tonight — Mostly cloudy with a low around 59. Breezy with a north wind 15 to 20 mph decreasing to between 5 and 10 mph. **Saturday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 86. **Saturday Night** — Mostly clear with a low around 55. **Sunday** — Sunny with a high near 86. **Sunday Night** — Mostly clear with a low around 58.

Kingham report:

Tuesday Low 62, High 94
Wednesday Low 60, High 101
Thursday Low 62, High 97, .02 Rain
Friday Low 60, .10 Rain
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Dear God, show us the road that you have chosen for us, and give us the courage to walk down it. **Amen**

Taking shape



Metal artist Roger Fuller and his wife, Linda, used come-a-longs to winch into place the side panels of one of two pergolas in the new downtown park. Mr. Fuller spent the last month working on the panels in his Rawhide Ironworks shop. Mrs. Fuller designed the vine-like panels working with the Downtown Development Committee. The Fullers will complete the project by placing 2-inch by 10-inch redwood planks on edge to create the top of the pergolas.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

County refuses to pay bill

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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Norton County is refusing to pay a bill for a little over \$11,000 from a grant application writing firm because commissioners say they didn't get all the services promised.

The discussion got a little heated but never acrimonious during the county's meeting on Monday.

Juanita Brown with Blue Sky, a grant application writing service, which helped the county get a Community Development Block grant for \$283,750 thought she was going to discuss a \$500 bill for services provided by Northwest Planning and Development with the commissioners on Monday. Instead, she was told that the county was disputing Blue Sky's bill of \$11,350 or 4 percent of the total grant.

Ms. Brown noted that the commissioners had hired Blue Sky to write a grant application to try to get money for a new emergency medical building since they had not been successful in getting grants over the last few years. Most county grants have been written by Northwest Planning, she said, and the commissioners told her they wanted some new language and a fresh approach. She said Blue Sky had provided both and had gotten the grant for the county. In addition Blue Sky has gotten a grant for a fire truck for the county through another grant, she said.

Ms. Brown said that the only problem she saw was a bill for \$500 from Northwest Planning for the services of Amy Griffey to work on surveys the county needed for the federal grant.

Blue Sky had gotten the bill and she thought the commissioners should pay it but said that her company would if the commissioners didn't feel it was their responsibility.

However, the commissioners pointed out that they were being billed \$16,000 by Northwest Planning for administering the grant since apparently Ms. Brown's company couldn't do so.

Ms. Brown said that that was correct. Her company could write the grant but did not have the certification needed to submit block grants or administer them.

"We provide a grant writing service to write the grant but we can't administer the grant," Ms. Brown said.

She said that when Blue Sky takes on a grant-writing project it looks at all avenues to find the best grant for the customer. These include private, state and federal sources, she said.

Commissioner John Miller said that the county was not aware that Blue Sky could not administer the grant when they signed up.

Northwest Planning doesn't charge
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Leadership program seeks students

By TOM DREILING
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It's all about leadership. On the local level, and beyond. And those chosen to become the latest 'students' are in for a ride that will benefit them far into the future.

Word received this week is the initial phase of the 2008-09 Leadership Norton County program is ready to be launched.

Leadership Norton County is now

seeking applications for the upcoming class roster. The goal of the program is to establish a network of present and potential leaders and to give upcoming leaders an opportunity for growth and experience with the guidance and assistance of those who presently hold positions of leadership.

Nominations for the new class are due Aug. 4, applications are due Aug. 18, and the class member selections will be announced Aug. 20.

The 2008-09 class is scheduled to meet eight times, including an "Introductory Session" on Aug. 26 and concluding with a "Graduation Banquet" on March 11, 2009.

In between, class members will participate in six, fast-paced, full-day sessions which will deal with local government, health care, education, agriculture, economic development and a state government field trip to Topeka.

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It's time to say 'good-bye'

By CAROLYN PLOTTS
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Let's not say, "Good-bye." Let's just say, "See 'ya later." Blossom ("Bloss" to her many friends) Jacobus is busy packing a year's accumulation of "junk" to take back to her home in Belgium. She's trying to cram in one last trip to town or another moment with her friends before the time ticks down to her departure date on Sunday. Blossom has spent since last August living in Norton County with the Dave and Charla Sprigg family and now, it's almost over.

She questioned how she had managed to accumulate so much. "It's stuff that isn't really valuable," she said. "Except to me." Blossom said she only brought one suitcase with her but, she has already shipped four boxes home, is planning to ship a few more besides the two large suitcases she is taking on the plane.

Miss Jacobus had already graduated from high school in Belgium when she signed up with the American Field Service agency to spend a year in America. She immediately noticed some differ-

ences between the two school systems.

She said there are no competitive sports in Belgium schools, although students are required to take a physical education course each year. Band is not a school activity, either. She said if a student wanted to learn music they had to attend a special school, on their own, just for that. Blossom has played saxophone, alto and baritone, for about 10 years. So she joined the band here. She said, "Mr. Wills is a great teacher. He is very passionate about music." She said she absolutely loved pep band.

Something else she loved was football games. She said, "I didn't understand it at all, but I loved it. The excitement. The cow bells. Especially the cow bells."

School in Norton was different. Her school in Belgium only had about 110 students, so Norton almost seemed big. During her year at Norton, she wanted to take some courses that are not available in Belgium like FFA, shop, art or computer lab. However, school district requirements dictated she take more
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Scrapbooking is a thoroughly American hobby adopted by American Field Service student, Blossom Jacobus, to chronicle her year in Norton. David and Charla Sprigg were her "parents" while attending school at Norton Community High School.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts