

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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Friday

July 24, 2009

Norton, Kansas

Home of Raymond D. Wait

Briefly

Another storm rattles county

Rainfall in Norton County from Wednesday evening's storm totaled anywhere from 1/2 inch to 2 1/4 inches. The most rain fell several miles north of Norton where the wind-rain-hail seemed focused before heading south. Winds were reported upwards of 60 miles per hour, with higher gusts. Electricity was off for a while in Norton.

Poll results to be tallied next week

The Moffet Station straw poll turned out to be more than The Telegram staff could have imagined. A slow start suddenly turned into a vocal fist fight and it wasn't long and our straw poll box in the office was overflowing, our telephones were ringing off the hook and the email load was growing. "We will count the 'votes' this coming week and hopefully have a report for you in next Friday's paper," said Publisher Tom Dreiling. "Straw polls are important, they gauge the pulse of the community. How this one will turn out is anybody's guess. We are as anxious as you to learn the result," he said. For all practical purposes, the straw poll is now officially over.

Friends of Library schedule meeting

The Friends of the Library will hold a meeting in the Norton Public Library Community Room on Monday at 5:00 p.m. The meeting is open to the public.

weather forecast



RAIN

Tonight - A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Saturday - A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 1 p.m. Saturday Night - Partly cloudy with a low around 60. Sunday - A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Sunday Night - A 30 percent chance of showers.

Kingham report:

Tuesday, July 21 Low 61, High 89
 Wednesday, July 22 Low 56, High 93
 .70 Precipitation
 Thursday, July 23..... Low 58, High 88
 (Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Show us, O God, how to live in your light, even in the dark places. Amen

'Here we are, judge!'



Keeping her eye on the judge as she shows her pig in the Open Class Showing and Fitting category at the Norton County Fair Tuesday evening was cute little Kenya Goss, age 3. She is enrolled as a Clover Bud in the Busy Beavers 4-H Club. Kenya received a blue ribbon, usable award and premium money for her efforts.

- Telegram photo by Vicki Henderson

Harvest pace slowed by rains

By ERICA BRADLEY
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Wheat harvest is nearing an end, despite heavy rain in the last few weeks and again Wednesday night.

Delbert Harvey, Ag Valley Co-op location manager, said 98 percent has been cut, but the rains have slowed the pace.

"The rain has been wonderful for the fall crops, but it has delayed the wheat harvest," Mr. Harvey said. "We'll be at it for 30 days," he said.

Harvest was originally supposed to take two weeks.

The rain has caused a decrease in test weight. Mr. Harvey said weights were averaging 62 pounds per bushel before the heavy rain. Now they are averaging

57-58 pounds.

"Every rain takes weight down a little more," he said. Mr. Harvey said an estimated 1.4 million bushels have been harvested in Norton so far.

He said they have loaded 200 rail cars.

Heavy rain and hail has damaged crops in other areas, but Norton has not sustained that kind of damage.

"Every rain builds the fall crops," Mr. Harvey said.

"Wheat harvest at Ag Valley is a three-way road. We appreciate the customers, Ag Valley and Ag Valley employees. Ag Valley appreciates the business and its hard-working employees," Mr. Harvey said.

Jennings salutes WWII vets

By Marjorie Hartzog
 Special to The Telegram

The City of Jennings hosted a tribute to World War II Veterans on July 19 at the former Opera House/Masonic Hall with over 150 people in attendance. The event was organized by the Jennings Historic Building Preservation Committee and held to help raise money to restore the Opera House. The Royal Neighbors of America, Lodge 1893, Norcat, co-sponsored the event and provided matching funds of \$1,000, making the total amount of contributions received

in excess of \$2,000.

A large collection of WW II memorabilia was displayed by John McDermott including a complete surgical suite and an Army "mule" with flags from all branches of service. The Norton National Guard presented a Hummer and a wrecker for display and the Czech museum displayed items of the museum from the WWII era. Many individuals also displayed personal WWII items including an Army uniform complete with underwear and overcoat

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Recycling catching on throughout county

By ERICA BRADLEY
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Norton County participates in a thriving recycling program at the Norton County Landfill where paper, aluminum cans, tin cans and plastic is stored until it is shipped.

Curt Archibald, Norton County solid waste supervisor, said the landfill opened in 1994, and the recycling program has been going since.

He said 175 tons, or 350,000 pounds, of recycling have been brought in since January.

Recycling is picked up weekly in Norton. Lenora and Almena pick theirs up on Tuesdays.

Mr. Archibald said recycling is only picked up at residences in Norton, but in Lenora business and residential products are picked up.

"I think people are more conscious of recycling. Lenora does a good job recycling and Norton is improving," Mr. Archibald said.

He said people can put their recyclables in clear or blue bags on their curb, or they can pick up a barrel from the city.

He said the city purchased the barrels, and they are free to the public if they go to the city building and request one.

Recyclables do not have to be separated. Solid waste employs three workers, and two inmates from the Norton Correctional Facility come daily to help sort.

Kirk Foley and Terry Laughlin work with Mr. Archibald at the landfill.

Recyclables are divided into several categories including plastic, paper and cans. There are three different types of plastic including bottles, milk cartons and heavier plastic like bleach containers.

Mr. Archibald said everything has to be rinsed out, which keeps bugs and mice away.

Mr. Archibald said recycling is slowly increasing in Norton.

"It helps the environment and saves air space in our landfill. It's the smart thing to do," he said.

He said waste doesn't deteriorate when it is covered.

"A garbologist would be able to tell what we had for dinner 100 years from now," he said.

He said hot dogs and buns have been pulled out of other landfills, nearly intact.

Mr. Archibald said F & F Iron and Metal takes the aluminum cans and sells them. The tin cans and plastic are taken to Denver.



Curt Archibald poured recyclables onto the conveyor belt at Norton Solid Waste. Recycling products have to be sorted before they can be shipped out of Norton. Paper, aluminum, tin and three different kinds of plastic come into the center from Norton County.

-Telegram photo by Erica Bradley

Budget spells trouble

By ERICA BRADLEY
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A decrease in state funding will have a big impact on Norton County's 2009/10 budget, commissioners noted at their recent meeting. The new budget proposal will be smaller than last year's and will necessitate cuts in various departments.

The proposal is still under construction.

"Everyone's budget got reduced. Departments will have to make it up. Most of them will take it out of their operating budgets," Robert Wyatt, county clerk said.

He said there is a countywide hiring freeze.

Carolyn Applegate, county commissioner, said the county will cut things that are not essential.

"We're down to the bare bones," she said.

She said the budget is still being worked on.

"All of our departments have done a

great job in keeping their expenses down. The state money is not coming back," she said.

Mrs. Applegate said the county will not raise taxes this year. The commissioner's goal is to leave the tax collections the same without raising property tax.

"This year we're going to get by," Mrs. Applegate said.

The county's budget will be published in August, Mrs. Applegate said.

In other commission business:

- Jeff Bridges and Mark Dettler of De-Waay Financial were present to discuss a resolution about possibly creating a Norton County Public Building Commission. The county commission would be housed in the building. The commission will study the possibility of the building at a later time.

- Ruth Lofgreen delivered her letter of resignation to the commission from the Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas board. She said she will continue

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