

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

12 PAGES

Tuesday

August 11, 2009

Norton, Kansas
Home of Anthony Knoll

Briefly

Summer Reading program nears end

At 10:30 a.m. Thursday, we are ending our Summer Reading Program with a fun Dr. Seuss movie and popcorn. "We invite patrons of all ages to come and celebrate what was a great summer!" said Kathy McConney, Children's Librarian.

Inside

Tangles & Knots (Liza Deines)

Page 2

Correctional Facility honorees

Page 3

Oops! Carolyn forgot ingredient

Page 4

New Norton Teachers

Pages 6-7



Norton Solid Waste Supervisor Curt Archibald watched recycling materials being dumped from a truck at the Norton County Landfill. Mr. Archibald said recycling in Norton County has shown a six percent increase. He

said recycling comes in from the communities of Norton, Alma and also Lenora.

—Telegram photo by Erica Bradley

Tipping fees down, but recycling up in county

By ERICA BRADLEY
erabradley@nwkansas.com

Municipal solid waste funds are down across Kansas, but in Norton County recyclables are up which will help to offset the budget at the solid waste plant.

Norton Solid Waste Supervisor Curt Archibald told the county commission during their Aug. 3 meeting that tipping fees are down by seven percent, but recycling is up by six.

In an interview after the meeting, Mr. Archibald told The Telegram that tipping fees fund the bureau of waste management. Tipping fees are what is collected when someone gets rid of trash.

Solid waste's budget could be affected since waste is decreasing.

"We're fee based right now. We'll watch our expenses and hope it doesn't affect us too much," he said.

Mr. Archibald said the state gets \$1 per ton of trash that is dumped into the landfill.

He said there is less trash going into the landfill, which is good because the landfill will not fill up as fast.

Mr. Archibald said the decrease in waste will be offset by the increase in recycling.

"We're still getting about the same amount in," he said.

In other commission business:

County Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom Brannan told the commission the motor graders are still running, despite the last round of storms. The commission discussed the conditions of roads due to the storms.

Mr. Brannan also reported that two truck drivers, Joe Wray and Steve Thompson, were moved to mower tractors. He said the priority is mowing at this time.

He also reported on the cost of material for the Ag-Valley project east of Norton. The site is being updated with a new entrance for trucks. Mr. Brannan estimated that it would cost \$2,751.20 for materi-

als. The commission asked that labor be included in the estimate.

The commission discussed a request from MBM Motorsports for funding to help establish a guard rail fence so the pit area can be moved off the track. The fence would be to protect vehicles and the pits. The commission did not make a final decision.

Rob Mahoney, Haake Financial Group and insurance consultant for Norton County, was in to discuss county employee benefits for the 2010 year. Mr. Mahoney discussed the employee wellness program and suggested putting together (County - Continued on Page 5)

Northern Valley buildings undergo some repairs

By ERICA BRADLEY
erabradley@nwkansas.com

Northern Valley Schools are working on updating their facilities in order to create a better learning environment for its students. Northern Valley High School was built in the 1920's, and while upgrades have been done over the years, it is still in need of repair.

Superintendent George Griffith said he is starting some work now. Over the summer staff worked on re-painting walls.

He said last year two grants were received to update playground equipment,

which was dilapidated.

Last year, Mr. Griffith said he had \$95,000 set aside to replace the gymnasium floor in the high school. Due to budget problems, Mr. Griffith decided not to replace the floor last year, which allowed him to move the money into the 2009/10 budget.

Mr. Griffith said the floor would be replaced in 2010.

The superintendent said he is looking into as many grants as possible so he can make improvements to the buildings.

He said any funding would come from

grants and low-interest loans.

For now, upgrades are done on an as-needed basis.

He said the roofs were replaced last year, totaling \$175,000, and the boiler and furnace in the high school need to be replaced.

Mr. Griffith said the pipes probably need to be replaced as well.

Mr. Griffith said money has been put aside to do those repairs.

"We're probably better off with financial reserves than we have been in the last 10 years," he said.

"The goal the school board has, and I support, is to make Northern Valley a facility that will be here for a long time," he said.

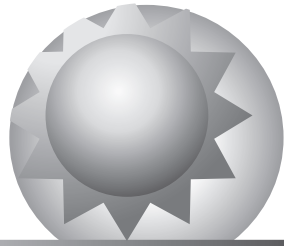
All schools are suffering budget cuts this year due to the economy.

Mr. Griffith said this year's budget is almost what last year's was due to increased enrollment.

"We will start this year at about what we started last year. It has been very beneficial," he said.

(Buildings - Continued on Page 5)

weather forecast



SUNNY

Tonight - Partly cloudy with a low around 63. Wednesday - Mostly sunny with a high near 94. Wednesday Night - Partly cloudy with a low around 65. Thursday - Mostly sunny with a high near 95. Breezy with a south wind between 10 and 20 mph. Thursday Night - Mostly clear with a low around 65. Friday - Sunny with a high near 93. Friday Night - A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.

Kingham report:

Friday, August 7 Low 65, High 100
Saturday, August 8 Low 71, High 88
Sunday, August 9 Low 68, High 86
Monday, August 10 Low 59, High 87
10 Precipitation

(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Thank you, God, for providing what we need. Help us to be so in tune with the Holy spirit that we never overlook your gifts of love and guidance. Amen

That time again



Trudy Stockham and Alyssa Thomson registered high school students for the Kansas Association for Youth on Monday. Registration for seniors was held from 9:00 a.m. until noon and will continue all week with juniors registering today and sophomores and freshmen registering later in the week.

—Telegram photo by Erica Bradley

Recent storm had effect on park's Christmas event

By ERICA BRADLEY
erabradley@nwkansas.com

Prairie Dog State Park held its 6th annual Prairie Dog Christmas at Sebelius Reservoir Saturday evening with four campsites participating. It is believed the severe hail storm on July 31 kept most campers away.

Deena Wente and Patty Rowh participated in judging the contest. Mrs. Wente said most left the lake after their campers were damaged in the storm.

Toby Kuhn, park ranger, said many of the regulars were out looking for new campers to replace the ones that were damaged on July 31.

Mrs. Wente said the judges looked for a unique campsite, something different.

Mrs. Rowh agreed, saying she was looking for a display that would put you in the Christmas spirit.

This year, first place went to Charles and Vickie Taylor, Oberlin. Their display was titled *Santa Claus and the Christmas Cowboys*.

Second place went to Jay and Julia Daffer, Norton.

Kirk and Tammy Girard, Prairie View, received third place, and Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Boxler received fourth.

Mrs. Taylor said she and her husband camp at the lake all the time. They were there for two days this trip.

She said they have participated for the last five years.

"This is a lot of fun," she said. Mr. and Mrs. Daffer said they have been camping for more than 25 years. They camp at one of the long-term sites at the lake and have been here since April.

They said they have participated for the last five years.

Mr. Daffer said his camper was not at the lake during the hail storm. They had taken it off the campground to buy a new one.

"We enjoy this. It's a lot of fun," Mrs. Daffer said.

Mrs. Wente said there were several people who drove through the campsite to view the displays. She said the weather was much warmer than in previous years.

(Park - Continued on Page 5)