

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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10 PAGES



Tuesday

September 8, 2009

Norton, Kansas
Home of Bill Beale

Briefly

VA benefits meeting time corrected

American Legion Post 63 will host a meeting for all veterans and their families who want to learn more about their earned VA benefits, on Tuesday, Sept. 22 from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. This time is a correction to the time listed in last week's newspaper. Veterans, or their family members, who have specific questions about VA benefits are urged to attend. The Norton Legion Post Home is located on north US 283. The meeting is part of the Legion's annual American Legion Veterans Affairs Tour when state and district officers visit each of the more than 325 American Legion Posts in Kansas. If you need additional information, please call Charles M. Yunker, American Legion Headquarters (785) 232-9315.

Booster Club to meet at stadium

The regular weekly meeting of the Norton Blue Jay Booster Club will be held as a work session beginning at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday at Travis Field. Fans are asked to assist with painting of the Blue Jay beak on the field along with other lettering.

If time allows following the work session, everyone is invited to the high school building where Norton head football coach Lucas Melvin will show the film of Norton's win on Friday over Phillipsburg.

Library notation

Darlene McEwen will be at the Norton Public Library to share the history behind the Friendship Quilt raffled off at the library's 100th Birthday Celebration in June. She will be at the Library on Sept. 22, at 7 p.m. to share the stories of friendship and fun.



Tonight - Mostly cloudy with areas of fog after midnight. Thursday - Partly sunny in the morning then becoming mostly sunny.



Thursday night - Partly cloudy with patchy fog after midnight. Friday - Partly sunny with a 50 percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the upper 70s. Friday night - Mostly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of thunderstorms. Saturday - Partly sunny.

Kingham report:

Friday, Sept. 4 Low 60, High 74
Saturday, Sept. 5 Low 55, High 78
Sunday, Sept. 6 Low 53, High 80
Monday, Sept. 7 Low 61, High 89
.....10 Precipitation

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

Prayer

Loving God, thank you for your strength that gets us through each day. We are grateful for our families, our friends, and our faith. Amen.

A matter of failing to yield



A three vehicle collision occurred Friday at 3:12 p.m. at the Highway 36/283 junction in Norton. Mia Burton's vehicle was turning south on Highway 283. The accident report said she failed to yield to Joshua Hawks' vehicle. Mr. Hawks, in turn, hit Ms. Burton's car causing her to crash into Don McMullen's Ford. Fortunately, there were no injuries reported.

—Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

Plan looks at city's pros and cons

'Strategic plan a good start,' economic director says

By ERICA BRADLEY
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Norton City/County Economic Development is in the process of developing their goals for the next five years. An initial meeting was held last Thursday, and a group of 25 people discussed the goals for Norton County.

Diane Stiles, economic development director, said several local business leaders attended the meeting. Dan Steffen, Kansas Department of Commerce, facilitated the meeting, discussing strengths, weaknesses, threats, opportunities and goals. There were 37 strengths, 16 weaknesses and seven threats listed.

Strengths included goals, medical, leadership, five banks, schools, the library, two community foundations, the senior center, the youth center, civic organizations, the railroad, arts council, dining, lodging, local shopping, festivals, the museum, downtown restoration,

outdoor recreation, the National Guard Armory, churches as well as numerous local businesses.

Weaknesses included lack of developable areas for business development, lack of desirable housing, declining population, no new car dealers, utility rate hikes, lack of public transportation, the appearance of the downtown area among other things.

Threats included the possibility of losing the Norton Correctional Facility, loss of retail sales from shoppers leaving town, not having a vision for the future or understanding of development benefits and several other things.

Priorities included improving housing, creating a business incubator, incorporate youth into economic development opportunities, improving promotion and marketing of Norton County strengths and education.

The group's goals were housing for the

workforce, starting a business incubator, youth involvement, better promotion of Norton County strengths, community center for Almena, increasing recycling efforts by focusing on electronics, cleaning up rundown areas, forming a revitalization foundation and working with business owners to provide lodging.

Mrs. Stiles said the strategic planning session was only a start, the goals for economic development will be talked about at board meetings for the next few months.

"We definitely want to have this complete by December 2009," she said.

Mrs. Stiles said she would like community members to provide feedback.

"We're always accepting input. They're always welcome to attend board meetings," she said.

Mrs. Stiles said the strategic plan is a good start. "We have a rough draft to work on," she said.

Program looking for nominees

The Kansas Bankers Soil Conservation Awards Program that annually recognizes individuals will be held again this year, according to Keith P. VanSkiel, Norton County Extension director.

"We look forward to public nominations for the awards," he said.

This program is sponsored by the agriculture committee of the Kansas Bankers Association, local banks and the government agencies that cooperate with the district conservation office. "We are asking for nominations to be submitted by Sept. 18 to either the local extension office or district conservation office," he said.

"The purpose of this program is to stimulate a greater interest in the conservation (Awards - Continued on Page 5)

Ag Valley Co-op expanding east of town

By ERICA BRADLEY
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Ag Valley Co-op is expanding their facilities in Norton by putting in scales and pads two miles east of Norton.

Delbert Harvey, location manager, said the site will be the fourth site in Norton where grain can be dumped. He said the new site is needed because the existing sites cannot handle the amount of grain

that is anticipated.

He said last year 1,045,000 bushels were dumped at the Norton sites.

"The projection this year is to have 1.6 million bushels of corn," he said, which the new site would also be accepting.

Mr. Harvey said the good rains have provided tremendous crops.

"There will not be near enough room to dump everything in town," he said.

Mr. Harvey estimated that it would keep 3,200 to 3,500 trucks from coming into Norton.

Doug Anderson, Scales, Scales and Service foreman, said the steel and concrete will be done in a couple of days, but the scales will not be ready for another three weeks. Scales, Scales and Service is out of Omaha.

Mr. Harvey said the project will be

completed in time for fall harvest. He estimated harvest would begin around the end of September.

He said five or six part time employees will be hired for the new facility.

"We're still looking for some part timers," he said. "Thanks again to our farm producers, our excellent Ag Valley employees and the main Edison branch for making it all possible," he said.



The new Ag Valley site is currently under construction two miles east of town, on Highway 36 and Road E2. The new site will house scales and pads and is expected to be completed by the end of September.

—Telegram photo by Erica Bradley