

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

10 PAGES

Tuesday

February 16, 2010

Briefly

Sprayer calibration workshop offered

As producers continue to increase their use of pesticides, it is vital to ensure that sprayers are calibrated correctly. To address these conditions, a Sprayer Calibration Workshop will be held in Norton on Thursday at the Norton County 4-H Building. The program will run from 1:00 p.m. to about 4:00 p.m.

Bob Wold, K-State Extension Engineer, will present the program on the following topics: Nozzle type discussion and demonstration, calibration scenarios, droplet size discussion (coverage versus drift, calibration), Review of studies on efficacy and drift and new technology.

K-State Research and Extension and Twin Creeks Extension District are sponsoring this event. There is no cost but we do ask for a pre-registration to be called into the Extension Office at 785-877-5755 by Feb. 16th.

Boosters to meet this Wednesday

The Norton Blue Jay Booster Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the high school cafeteria. All fans of Norton Community high School sports are invited to attend and hear reports from head boys basketball coach Doug Reusink, head girls basketball coach Kevin Jilka and head wrestling coach Bill Johnson. You do not have to be a member of the club to attend.

MARKETS
Cash Prices-Norton
February 16, 2010

CORN \$3.24
SOYBEANS \$8.77
WHEAT \$3.94
MILO \$2.87

314 W. North Street
Norton, Kansas
785-877-5188

weather forecast

Tonight - Clear with a low around 13.
Wednesday - Increasing clouds with a high near 48. Wednesday Night - Cloudy with a low around 19. Thursday - Cloudy with a high near 38.

Kingham report:

Friday, February 12..... Low 18, High 43
Saturday, February 13 .. Low 23, High 50
Sunday, February 14 Low 14, High 29
Monday, February 15 ... Low 13, High 37
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Dear Creator God, help us resist the temptation to grumble. Teach us to speak to each other in love, especially when we disagree. In Jesus' name. Amen.



Representative John Faber talked with a Norton resident after the town hall meeting on Saturday. Faber and State Senator Ralph Ostmeyer discussed issues like state funding, education cuts and other issues to a small crowd

at Town and Country Kitchen.

—Telegram photo by Erica Bradley

Funding discussed at Town Hall meeting

By ERICA BRADLEY
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Town and Country Kitchen hosted the annual Town Hall Meeting on Saturday with Kansas State Senator Ralph Ostmeyer and Representative John Faber taking questions from residents about state finances, school funding and other issues.

Ostmeyer spoke to those in attendance about his last visit to Norton which was to tour the Norton Correctional Facility in November.

"It was my pleasure to be able to do that," he said.

Ostmeyer said both he and Senate President Steve Morris were impressed with the facility.

Education

Ostmeyer gave an overview of the Legislative Division of Post Audit review of Kansas school districts. The audit gave two scenarios: consolidate school districts that didn't meet the original consolidation requirements in the 1960s, and the second scenario was to consolidate districts with fewer than 1,600 students.

The first scenario would reduce districts to 266, and the second scenario would reduce districts to 152. There are currently 293 school districts in the state.

The audit also gave cost savings. An estimated \$15 million would be saved with the first option, which would close 230 schools. The second option would save \$129 million.

The audit recommended increasing incentives for districts to voluntarily consolidate.

In July, Lenora Elementary School will disorganize and attach to Norton Community Schools. High school and middle school students have been attending Norton Schools since 2001.

"I think what Norton has done with Lenora is great. We're on the right track, and we need to stay there. Parents want their children to have the best education possible," he said.

Ostmeyer took several questions from residents about school funding, especially dealing with consolidation. He said he does not believe school consolidation will be introduced in the Legislature.

"I assure you, we're going to do ev-

erything we can to keep our schools in western Kansas," he said.

He said the decision to consolidate should be up to individual districts.

"Let them figure it out," he said. A member of the Logan School Board attended the meeting, asking if the Legislature understands how the education finance formula works.

He said districts have to carry enough money to make their January finances, and with the state delaying payments many districts were unable to meet payroll and other expenses in December.

Faber and Ostmeyer said many in the Legislature don't understand the formula.

"I think you're exactly right," Faber (Hall - Continued on Page 5)



Tim Sprigg proposed to his girlfriend Katelyn Autry Sunday at the Norton Theatre. Sprigg had made arrangements with theatre manager Jeremy Wetter prior to the evening. —Photo courtesy Jeremy Wetter

Norton Theatre scene of Valentine's Day proposal

Valentines Day. A day set to honor those that we love. This was definitely true this past Sunday at the Norton Theatre when Tim Sprigg, son of David and Charla Sprigg of Norton, proposed to his girlfriend Katelyn Autry by using the big screen and some clever advertising at the Norton Theatre.

About a week or so ago, Tim approached Jeremy Wetter, manager of the Norton Theatre, about doing an advertisement. Not just any advertisement. A marriage proposal ad.

"I went to work immediately on this

project," said Wetter.

"I gathered up about 5-7 different Valentine's Day pictures including one photo of the couple and arranged them into a 1 minute 10 second video. Once the photos were perfect, I added some text and the love theme from the movie Titanic to really set the mood for this memorable occasion. Tim previewed it on Thursday evening and the rest was history. All I had to do was add the proposal ad to our professional ads and we were all set," Wetter said.

(Theatre - Continued on Page 5)

Downtown projects discussed at meeting

By ERICA BRADLEY
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Downtown Norton is undergoing a lot of changes with the closing of several businesses, but Norton City/County Economic Development is working on several projects to revamp the area.

The economic development board met Tuesday when they discussed the downtown changes.

Norton City/County Economic Development Director Diane Stiles said retail is changing. Merchants will have to offer more services with their retail stores.

Stiles said Russ' Jewelry is an example since he sells and repairs jewelry.

The board discussed the impact Hall's closing will have on downtown.

"Hall's closing is a huge concern. We're not at the point where we can make a big difference immediately," she said.

Stiles listed two projects currently in development, including the historic district and business incubator.

She said the historic district will bring private funding in. She expects the business incubator to have a big impact on Norton's retail industry.

"I think we should do what we can," said Curtis Eveleigh, board member.

In other economic development business:

- The board welcomed new member Aaron Herman.

- The board discussed the contract with the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce for the Moffet building, including utilities, maintenance and other expenses.

The chamber and economic development will move into the Moffet building when construction is complete.

(Meeting - Continued on Page 5)

Local school gets creative to cut back on expenses

By ERICA BRADLEY
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Cuts in education funding have forced some schools to get creative with their finances, and at Northern Valley that means shortening the school year.

Northern Valley Schools Superintendent George Griffith said the school year has been shortened by eight days. Students attend classes for an extra 15 minutes a day to make up for the shortened year.

Griffith said the shortened year will

save on salary for hourly employees and bus drivers, and it will save on utility costs.

"For this year, it knocked \$30,000 off our expenses," Griffith said.

The change was implemented at the beginning of the second semester. Northern Valley will keep the schedule next year as well.

"Longer days and shorter years aren't best for the students, but it's what we have to do," he said.