

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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Friday

January 14, 2011

Briefly

4-H Food Show planned for Sunday

The Norton County 4-H Food Show will be held this Sunday at the 4-H Building in Norton. Entries can be made at 2 p.m., judging from 2:30 p.m. to 3:45 p.m. and exhibits will be open to the public from 4 to 4:30 p.m.

County schools out on Monday

Monday there will be no school for Norton Community Schools or Northern Valley Schools. This is an In-service day. School for both districts will resume at the regular time on Tuesday.

Fungicide meeting planned for Jan. 26

K-State Research and Extension office will hold a Crop Fungicide Meeting at the Lenora Library on Wednesday, Jan. 26 at 1:30 p.m. Topics included are wheat, corn, soybeans and sunflowers. RSVP by Monday Jan. 24 by calling 785-421-3411 or 785-877-5755. It will be hosted by the Graham County Extension and Twin Creeks Extension District of Norton and Decatur Counties. Snacks will be provided.

Spelling bees set for schools

The Junior High spelling bee will be Monday, Jan. 24, from 1:38 p.m. to 1:58 p.m..

The Eisenhower school spelling bee will take place Wednesday, Jan. 26, at 2:15 p.m. Four students from each of the fourth, fifth and sixth-grade classes qualified to participate. There are two alternates from each class that can fill in for any class qualifier that is unable to be present.

The county spelling bee will be at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 9, at East Campus. This bee will include Norton and Northern Valley students who qualified from the school bee.

Markets

Friday, January 14, 2011

| | |
|----------------|---------|
| Wheat | \$7.29 |
| Milo | \$5.42 |
| Soybeans | \$13.21 |
| Corn | \$5.73 |

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Tonight - Mostly cloudy with a low around 23. **Saturday** - Partly sunny with a high near 35. **Saturday Night** - Mostly cloudy with a low around 22. **Sunday** - Mostly cloudy with a high near 37. **Sunday Night** - Mostly cloudy with a low around 33. **Monday** - A slight chance of rain and snow before noon.

Kingham Report

Tuesday, January 11..... Low -8, High 13
Wed., January 12 Low -10, High 12
Thursday, January 13.....Low 2, High 41
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for what we have. Keep us ever aware of those who have needs we can meet. Amen



A Fireman's view of the inside of the "Burn Trailer" at the Fire School that was in Norton on Saturday and Sunday. -Telegram photow by Harriett Gill

Firemen train for emergencies

By HARRIETT GILL
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A siren goes off in the night. Volunteer firemen fumble in the dark for their clothes and rush out the door. When the fire station is reached, a disciplined routine occurs as they slip into their gear. Gear is always ready for them, boots are inside the overalls so they can be stepped into while pulling up the trousers, on go the coats, protective face coverings, helmets, gloves, grab essential equipment and hurry to the trucks. All of this must happen in a few minutes; fire waits for no one.

Local firemen also respond to calls that involve vehicle accidents, hazardous spills, and other life threatening or community threatening situations.

These men are neighbors, fathers, sons and friends. They have full time employment in other areas of the community. Communities seldom think of the training and dedication they devote to this volunteer duty. An example of the intensive training was on display in Norton last weekend.

The Kansas State Fire Fighters Association hosted by Norton Rural Fire Department had a Regional Fire School. Area fire departments participating were



Norton Rural Fire Chief, Steve Otter, checks the gear of a fireman before he enters the "Burn Trailer" at Saturday's Fire School.

Norton Rural, Norton City, Almena, Norcatur, Jennings and Logan.

The Norton Community Schools provided a classroom atmosphere at Eisenhower Elementary. Classroom studies included: Fire Attack (Initial Company Tactics), Oil Tank Battery Fires, Propane Safety and lessons that

had been learned.

The west side of the parking lot at the Norton Rural Fire Station had simulated vehicle accidents. Cars were on their tops, vehicles were under other vehicles, pickups were crashed into the sides of

(Training - Continued on Page 3)

Computer software causes some rebate delay

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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Some participants in the Neighborhood Revitalization Program will have to wait a little longer than they had planned to get a rebate from the county.

Norton County Treasurer Cynthia Linner told the county commissioners on

Monday that she had a problem with the rebates since some people pay all their taxes in December but most only pay half at the end of the year and then pay the other half in May.

The county's computer software, she said, doesn't allow for selection of both options and if she tries to give rebates

now, the results could be quite a mess.

Linner asked the commissioners to wait until June, when all the taxes are in, to do the rebates. That way the accounting system can properly deal with them.

The commissioners agree that one rebate a year would be the best system and that each participant that paid in full

County workers get raise

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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Norton County workers will see a little more in the pay envelopes and a little more in their mileage reimbursement this year.

At Monday's meeting, the county commissioners authorized a 1.5 percent cost-of-living pay increase for full-time county employees.

Commissioners also changed the mileage reimbursement rate for those using their own vehicles for county business from 50 cents a mile to 51 cents to conform with the Internal Revenue Service rate.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Named the First State Bank of Norton, First Security Bank and Trust of Norton and Lenora, The Bank of Norton and the Almena State Bank of Norton and Almena as official depositories for 2011.

- Designated *The Norton Telegram* as the official county newspaper for public notices.

- Authorized a tax abatement of \$241.60 due to a clerical error as the property value was posted incorrectly.

- Adopted resolutions to OK amending the bylaws for the Kansas Workers Risk Cooperative for Counties and a standard document on the accounting rules for annual financial statements.

- Signed a lease-purchase agreement for a 2008 John Deere 650J dozer, that they had agreed to purchase earlier in the month.

- Heard that Sheriff Troy Thomson will be gone for a week this month and that during that time his job as head of county emergency preparedness will be covered by Aden Schillig.

- Heard from Solid Waste Supervisor Curt Archibald that he has been visiting with BG Consultants on closing the landfill construction phase. The only question, he said, is a 5 percent retainage to see if the grass seeding is satisfactory.

Sheriff hopes to save cash on system

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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Norton Sheriff Troy Thomson has found a cheaper alternative to a system, the office has been using to call several people at one time.

Called a reverse 911 system, the program allows the sheriff's office to notify people throughout the county or in any one section of a problem or difficulty. It can be used to warn of bad weather or an emergency or to ask people to be on the lookout for a lost child or adult. Basically, it's used to notify people so they can help themselves or others when a problem arises.

This last year, the sheriff told the Norton County commissioners on Monday, the county used 10,000 minutes of the system they have, which is called Code Red. While the system is useful and beneficial, he said, it's also costly to the tune of \$7,500 last year.

The sheriff said that Nex-Tech has a similar program called Total Notify.

(Sheriff - Continued on Page 5)

