

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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Friday

March 25, 2011

Secretary speaks at annual meeting

By HARRIETT GILL
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Kansas Secretary of State, Kris W. Kobach, was the guest speaker at the Prairie Land Electric Cooperative annual meeting of the members on Tuesday.

Kobach spoke to the members concerning HB 2067 known as the Secure and Fair Elections Act. The bill calls for evidence of U.S. citizenship when a Kansan registers to vote, proof of identity at the time of voting, stronger penalties for voter crimes and increases resources for investigating and prosecuting election fraud.

In an interview following the meeting, bill and his reasons for supporting HB 2067.

"The bill will free up the state's county attorneys as the investigation and prosecution of voter fraud will be handled by the State Attorney General," said Kobach. "There are over 221 possible fraud cases in Kansas that have not been fully investigated concerning voter fraud. County Attorney's just do not have the time and resources."

"KWCH out of Wichita did a poll in which 78 percent of the persons polled approved the idea of providing 'id' when voting," said Kobach.

Mr. Kobach said that this concerns new registers and citizens over age 65 who can use an expired identification card. "We are not going to make our elders go out and get new identification cards."

"We will be able to compare driver's license rolls with voter rolls and catch any discrepancies. So far this year, we have seen 13 cases that need to be investigated," said Kobach.



Kris W. Kobach, Kansas Secretary of State, and an unidentified member of Prairie Land Electric Cooperative have a conversation after the adjournment of the annual membership meeting on Tuesday. Kobach gave a talk on the voter registration act, House bill HB 2067 also known as the Secure and Fair Elections Act.

- Telegram photo by Harriett Gill

Briefly

New owners for an old local business

Adventures in Eating is under new ownership. They will be closed Friday through Tuesday and re-open on Wednesday.

Rabies clinic to be held this weekend

The rabies clinic held by the City of Norton and the Norton Animal Health Center will be taking place this Friday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon at the vet clinic located at 801 W. Holme in Norton. No office visit charge.

Truck and car tags due on Thursday

The deadline for businesses or persons whose last name begins with "B" to renew automobile, light trucks, motorcycles and motorized bike tags will be Thursday in the Norton County Treasurer's Office in the Norton County Courthouse. To verify the Vin number, police number and current expiration date current proof of insurance must be brought with you. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

FFA banquet will take place Saturday

The Norton FFA Chapter Annual Banquet will be held at 6:30 p.m. Saturday at the junior high gym.

Projects completed by FFA members will be on display in the shop prior to the banquet.

Markets

Friday, March 25, 2011

Wheat	\$4.76
Milo	\$3.00
Soybeans	\$9.32
Corn	\$3.31

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Tonight - A 50 percent chance of rain after 1 a.m. Areas of fog after 1 a.m. **Saturday** - A 30 percent chance of rain, mainly before 1 p.m. Areas of fog before 10 a.m. Otherwise mostly cloudy with a high near 42. **Saturday Night** - Patchy fog after 1 a.m. Otherwise mostly cloudy with a low around 26. **Sunday** - A chance of rain and snow showers. Patchy fog before 10 a.m. Otherwise mostly cloudy with a high near 39. **Sunday Night** - A slight chance of rain and snow. Mostly cloudy with a low around 24.

Kingham Report

Tuesday, March 22Low 49, High 67
.10 Rain
Wednesday, March 23...Low 35, High 57
Thursday, March 24.....Low 16, High 48
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Thank you, Lord, for the influence of your eternal word, which stays with us always. Amen



Three candidates are running for mayor

The City of Norton will have three candidates on the ballot for mayor. Incumbent Norton Mayor David Corns is seeking another term. Sarah Durham and Ron Briery are challenging for the position. Voters will go to the polls on April 5.



David Corns

David Corns

I was born in Comanche County Okla. but my family has lived in Norton County since 1886. I moved to Norton in 1959 when my father was stationed in Korea for the second time. I attended Norton schools and graduated from Norton Community High School in 1968. I attended Fort Hays State University and Northwest Kansas Technical College. I served in the US Military and was stationed in Maryland for a while.

I served on the City Council for three and one half years and have been the City of Norton's Mayor for 12 years. I am currently on the Norton City/County Airport board and have been a member of the Library board for 12 years.

I have enjoyed being the Mayor of Norton and serving the people of Norton. I feel it is important to do your civic duty in your community and hope to continue to do so. I feel that my experience is a great advantage to the residents of Norton.

I would like to see the water treatment plant completed and the revision of the power plant to standards that will enable us to provide full time electricity to the City of Norton if the power grid from Sunflower Electric experiences problems. I want to see the city move

progressively into the second decade of the 21st Century.

The major issues I would like accomplished are: Water treatment plant completed; Power plant updated; Street and Alleys upgraded; Help the city stabilize financially from the major expenses we have seen the last few years.

I will continue to work with the City Council to obtain a sustainable and workable budget. The staff and City Council have done a great job these past years and I hope we do not have anymore surprise requirements from the state or federal government. I would like to see Norton progress even more into the future. Norton is a progressive town when towns around us are having trouble just maintaining themselves. I feel the citizens of Norton have the desire to move ahead and are willing to focus in on any problem that faces Norton and the surrounding community.



Ron Briery

Ron Briery

I was born and raised in Hoxie, graduating from Hoxie High School in 1962.

I moved to Norton in 1962 where I was employed by the State Highway Department. I retired from Kansas Department of Transportation after 43 years and 6 months.

I have experience with the city government as I was a City Council member for Ward 3 for nine and one half years. While on the council I served on various committees for the City; City/County Airport Board, Council Representative

to the Chamber of Commerce and City Revolving Loan Fund.

The reason I am seeking the position of Mayor is I feel it is time for a change, the city needs to conserve funds, especially in the current economic conditions. We need to get more people involved with the council. Residents need to attend the meetings and express the concerns that they have with the city. The city cannot keep the current spending trend.

I feel that with the understanding I have about how the city government operates, my leadership experience both on the City Council and with the Kansas Department of Transportation and the willingness to work with the citizens of Norton and the City Council are important qualities that I can bring to the City of Norton.

My specific goal is to cut spending and pass along the savings to the citizens of Norton.

Major issues I would like to address as Mayor are cutting the current spending and working to get our streets' curbs and gutters repaired and replaced. Making every effort to reach out to new business is a high priority. Young people need to be attracted to the town. Our utility situation needs to be solved in a way that encourages business growth.

I would address these issues by inviting and encouraging the public to attend council meetings, show up and address their concerns before the council. When the public comes to the council meetings, it is different than just meeting their council representative on the street, it has more impact.

If I am elected, I plan to forego collecting the salary that is currently paid the Mayor. I would like to encourage more residents to run for elected office.



Sarah Durham

Sarah Durham

In 2004, I landed in Norton. I came here from South Carolina looking for a job. I was hired on the spot by Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas Inc. I have been involved and am still involved in many organiza-

tions around the City of Norton. I am an instructor with Northwest Kansas Technical College, was a 2010 Census worker, a member of First United Methodist Church where I am in the vocal and hand bell choirs, was chairman for Relay for Life, American Red Cross instructor, member of American Legion Auxiliary, Eagles Auxiliary, Court Appointed Special Advocates volunteer and educational advocate.

I have experience dealing with finances as I am currently the American Legion Auxiliary treasurer and First United Methodist Church finance Chairman.

I would like to help restore pride in downtown Norton. Rebuilding the curbs and sidewalks would improve curb appeal and provide more safety. The drainage system needs to be able to clear the roads in downpours.

My experience with federal government programs and human services allow me to see things through different eyes. I feel that this would be a helpful experience to bring to the office of Mayor.

To accomplish these goals, I would work with budget ideas, discuss goals with residents and the City Council and help to resolve issues within the best of my ability.

I think outside of the box and want Norton Citizens to vote for Sarah Durham.

School gets a break from fire marshal

By STEVE HAYNES
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An agreement between the state fire marshal and legislators means Kansas school districts won't have to replace classroom doors and make other repairs designed to keep smoke from a hallway out of classrooms for up to an hour - at least not right away

The work should never have been ordered because state law exempts older buildings from having to meet updated fire codes, said Acting Fire Marshal Doug

Jorgensen. Revised citations already have been sent to about 54 Kansas schools in more than 30 districts, he said.

State Rep. Ward Cassidy of St. Francis, who had introduced a bill to exempt school districts from the repairs until the state school budget comes back to normal, said the reversal by the marshal's office is fine, but he wants to see the law changed to protect schools and businesses from this kind of inspection.

"We're in the process of reworking it to try to protect (schools) in the future," said

the freshman legislator, a Republican elected last fall.

He had nothing but praise for Mr. Jorgensen, whom he said had agreed to go back 18 months to check citations issued by his office.

From Topeka, Mr. Jorgensen said he'd ordered the review after finding that a section of state law says buildings should be inspected under the codes in effect when they were built, with some exceptions. The acting fire marshal, a retired Kansas Bureau of Investigation

agent, said inspectors had not been following that law.

"I'm not sure exactly when the fire marshal's office got off track," he said, noting that he came on board in January with the change of state administrations.

The governor, who has about 1,500 appointments to make when starting a term, hadn't found someone who meets the legal qualifications to be fire marshal, he said, including training in building inspection. He was asked to fill in, adding

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