

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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Friday
April 1, 2011

Vote Tuesday Polls open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Briefly

Arts group to hold annual meeting

The Norton County Arts Council will be holding its annual meeting Tuesday at 7 p.m. in the basement of Norton City Hall.

Economic board to meet on Tuesday

Norton Economic Development Board meeting for April will be held on Tuesday, at 5:30 p.m. at the Norton County Economic Development Office.

Veterans help available Tuesday

Jody Tubbs of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs will be in Norton from 10:45 until 11:45 a.m. at the City Office to assist Veterans and their dependents with VA claims work on Tuesday. If you are unable to contact Ms. Tubbs at that time, you may contact her in Colby any Monday, Wednesday or Friday at 785-462-3572.

Hospital plans wellness program

The Norton County Hospital and Doctors Clinic will hold a Free Wellness Program on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in the basement of Prairie Land Electric. Dr. Martin Griffey, D.O., Internal medicine will be there to discuss controlling diabetes for life. To reserve your place, or for more information, please call the Doctors Clinic at 785-877-3305 or 1-800-436-4101.

Yellow Ribbon rally set for Sunday

The Norton Christian Church will be holding a "Yellow Ribbon Rally" this Sunday at 8 a.m. and 10:40 a.m. in honor of our veterans. Come hear Dr. Cecil Todd speak. For more information call 785-877-5217.

Markets

Friday, April 1, 2011

Wheat	\$7.76
Milo	\$6.34
Soybeans	\$13.12
Corn	\$6.76

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Tonight - Partly cloudy with a low around 37. **Saturday** - Mostly sunny with a high near 76. **Saturday Night** - Partly cloudy with a low around 48. **Sunday** - A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. **Sunday Night** - Chance of rain.

Kingham Report

Tuesday, March 29Low 28, High 42
.10 Rain
Wednesday, March 30...Low 31, High 53
.50 Rain
Thursday, March 31.....Low 31, High 62
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Dear Lord, fill us with your love and peace so those we meet will want to know you because of what they see in us. Amen



By HARRIETT GILL
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Election Day is Tuesday, April 5. Polls will open at 7 a.m. and remain open until 7 p.m. Up for election are Norton City positions for Mayor and City Council. School Districts 211 and 212 will elect School Board Members.

Candidates for Mayor are David Corns, incumbent, Ron Briery and Sarah Durham. Ward I candidate is Jerry Jones running unopposed; Ward II candidate is Roberta Ryan who is also running unopposed; Ward III sees the only contested race for City Council, Justina Smith,

Norton incumbents run unopposed

The Norton City Council election will see two incumbents running unopposed. Jerry Jones, was appointed by the Mayor and Council in February to fill the council vacancy in Ward I.

The vacancy was created when Kim McRoberts resigned. Roberta Ryan, Ward III, was appointed in 2009 to fill a vacant seat.

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incumbent, and Jerry Mortiz.

Norton Community Schools Unified District No. 211, District 1, has five candidates running for the two open positions, April Karnopp, and Steven L. Berry are seeking re-election, Joseph D. Durham,

Bill Unterseher and Rick Green are challenging for the positions. Chris Harting, incumbent, is running unopposed for the At-Large position. There were no filers for the open District 2 position. This will be determined by write in votes.

Northern Valley Unified School District No. 212 candidates are: Doyle Baird for District 1; Christopher L. Schemper and Christopher B. Rogers, both incumbents, for District 2; Bradley T. Hopkins and Glenn Brands, candidates for At-Large.

Polling places for Wards I, II, and III will be at the Norton American Legion. Rural in the Norton County Courthouse lobby and American Legion.

Voters in Norton County 212 School District 1 and At-Large in Alma and Grant Townships and the part of Harrison Township that is No. 212 School District will vote at the Alma Irrigation

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School board looks over fire safety

By HARRIETT GILL
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The State Fire Marshall's report was addressed at the regular March 21 meeting of the Board of Education. Superintendent Greg Mann told the Board that some compliance issues will be reviewed, but it is necessary to make the changes to the chemistry room and install the smoke alarm above the junior/senior high fire alarm panel.

Mann reported the fuel costs are up quite a bit from this time last year and Nex-Tech wants to wait to sign the papers for the phone system replacement until it is certain the system will qualify for e-rate. He also said the state assessment results are at or above AYP requirements and the Kansas State Department of Education assessment monitor was here March 30.

Ed Witt submitted the high bid of \$150 for the band saw. The Board voted to accept his bid.

The audit findings for the 2009-2010 school year was presented by John Mapes. The Board voted to accept the financial audit and to instruct the auditor to make the necessary filings as required by the Statute.

The Parents as Teachers program through NCKSEC for the 2011-2012 school year was approved if the local cost does not exceed \$9,000.

A fee of \$75 per student for the USD 211 summer driver's education program was approved. A fee of \$125 will be charged for students who live out of the (School - Continued on Page 5)

School gets bids for bus

By HARRIETT GILL
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A regular route bus and the spare, or "back up bus," have recently had mechanical problems. As a result of these mechanical problems and the lack of another, suitable, spare bus, Superintendent Greg Mann contacted used bus dealers "in the area" on Monday morning to see what was available for purchase and then sent out requests for bids on Monday afternoon to three dealers of used buses; American Bus Sales, Master's Transportation and National Bus Sales.

The bid specifications sent out called for a 47 passenger diesel powered bus with an automatic transmission and fewer than 30,000 miles.

A special meeting of the USD 211 Board of Education was called for noon on Tuesday, to present the board with the results of the bids.

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Local Norton County farmer, Kevin Sides, takes time to thank Monsanto representative, Jessica Caylor, after she presented him with a check for \$2500.

- Telegram Photo by Dana Paxton

Farmer wins \$2,500 for center

By HARRIETT GILL
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From August through December, farmers in Norton County had the opportunity to sign up for a program called America's Farmers Grow Communities.

Kevin Sides of Alma applied on-line and was selected as a winner in America's Farmers Grow Communities program, which gives farmers the opportunity to win \$2,500 for their favorite local non-profit organizations. Sides had designated the Alma Community Center to receive the award in Norton County.

Jessica Caylor, Territory Sales manager

for Asgrow Dekalb out of Smith Center, presented Kevin Sides a \$2,500 check in front of the Alma Community Center and Library building site. Kevin's wife Joy and daughter Delaney, Kevin's parents, Dale and Shirley Sides, Twila Ingram, Camille Cox, and Glenn Brands, from Alma State Bank were among those present at the award ceremony.

The Alma Community Center and Library building will be completed in August and will house Alma's City Offices, a kitchen, the library and have meeting rooms.

"Our goal is to get dollars out to the rural communities and rural America."

said Caylor.

To be eligible, the County must have 30,000 acres of corn and soybeans planted. The individual farmer must be 21 years of age and farm at least 250 acres.

America's Farmers Grow Communities is part of a broad commitment by the Monsanto Fund to highlight the important contributions farmers make every day to our society by helping them grow their local communities. To date, more than 60,000 farmers participated in the program, which is designed to benefit non-profit groups such as agriculture youth, schools and other civic organizations.

County told 'burn ban' is not legal

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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Norton County commissioners looked at a burn ban for the county after several "controlled" fires got out of hand.

During their meeting last Monday, the commissioners discussed passing a resolution similar to one written up for Graham County, which has also had problems with controlled burns getting out of control.

The commissioners were concerned because several fires, which had been set to burn off pastures and such, have gotten out of hand and the rural fire departments have had to be called in to get

them put out.

Last week, commissioners said, firemen were called out at 1:30 p.m. to fight a grass fire that got out of control. Some of the men didn't get home until 9:30 p.m.

Commissioner John Miller said there have been three or four similar instances in the last three to four weeks and the firemen are getting tired of it.

However, the resolution from Graham County is unconstitutional, Norton County Attorney Doug Sebelius told the commissioners.

The biggest problem with it, he said, is that while it sets a minimum penalty for fires that get out of control there is no maximum.

The state fire marshal's rules, he said, permits crop and pasture management.

This basically means, the state and county can't have a blanket no-burn policy, except in cases of extreme conditions such as high winds or very dry periods.

The person doing the burning doesn't even have to ask permission, Sebelius said. The prevailing norm is notification. In Norton County that usually means notifying the sheriff's office, which is also the dispatch, which notifies the rural fire departments.

The fires must be constantly supervised, of course, he said, and this is only

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