

# \$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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## Friday

### April 22, 2011

#### Briefly

### Grade school off for Monday funeral

Eisenhower Elementary School will not have school on Monday, April 25, to allow staff to attend the funeral of Bill Goscha. The Norton Junior and Senior High Schools will be in session. Buses will run at their regular times. Breakfast and lunch will be served at the Junior and Senior High Schools.

### Give blood here on Wednesday

The Norton Community Blood Drive will be held, Wednesday, April 27 from noon to 6 p.m. at the National Guard Armory, 1200 N. State St. Help save a life.

### Renewal deadline approaching

The deadline to renew automobile, light truck, motorcycles and motorized bikes at the Norton County Treasurer's office will be April 30 for persons with last names that begin with "C" or "D". Must be able to verify VIN number, policy number and current expiration date with your current proof of insurance. Office hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Treasurer's office computers will be shut off at 11:30 a.m. on Friday April 22 for the Good Friday Holiday.

Drivers license renewals can be done Tuesday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bring your driver's license, social security card or something with your name on it along with a current utility bill with your name and address. CDL licenses are renewed at Phillipsburg, Hays or Colby.

### Markets

Friday, April 22, 2011

Wheat .....	\$8.17
Milo .....	\$6.37
Soybeans .....	\$12.90
Corn .....	\$6.83

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

### Weather

**Tonight** - Partly cloudy in the evening then becoming mostly cloudy. **Saturday** - Cooler and partly sunny in the morning, then mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of light rain showers in the afternoon. **Saturday Night** - Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of light rain showers after midnight. **Sunday** - Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of light rain showers. **Sunday Night** - Cloudy with a chance of light rain showers and isolated thunderstorms. **Monday** - Mostly cloudy with a chance of light rain showers.

### Kingham Report

Tuesday, April 19.....	Low 35, High 52
	.90 Rain
Wednesday, April 20.....	Low 37, High 57
	.20 Rain
Thursday, April 21 .....	Low 41, High 65
Friday, April 22.....	Low 43, .20 Rain

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

### Prayer

Dear God, thank you for loving the people of all nations. Please help us to see people as you do and to love them unconditionally. Amen

## Commission talks merging courts

By DANA PAXTON  
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The Kansas Supreme Court's Blue Ribbon Commission held a town meeting Monday at Prairie Land Electric. The job of the commission is to examine our court system and to make recommendations to the Supreme Court on how to better serve the citizens of Kansas.

Two meetings were held, one for community leaders and one for the public. The meeting was held by three commission members, Donna Elliott, clerk of the court in Graham County, Richard Flax, District Magistrate Judge out of Trego County in WaKeeney and Kim Cudney, the Chief Judge from the 12th Judicial District from Washington County.

The commission's job is to collect information, suggestions and ideas from community leaders and private citizens and take it back to the Supreme Court. They are looking for things the courts can do regionally or from a central location to improve efficiency. How the courts can put technology to use. How to be more flexible with manpower and facilities as

workloads fluctuate and any other ideas people may have.

These meetings will take place across the State of Kansas until June at which time the commission will reconvene to come up with suggestions for the court. In December the commission will take their recommendations to the Supreme Court and then in January or February the Supreme Court will take the final plan to the legislature.

Those in attendance were asked for their input and ideas. Karen Glenn, Deputy Clerk of Norton County, voiced her concerns with regionalizing the court system.

"When the judge is gone and we must fax the information to another judge we will be dealing with time issues and confusion. Each judge handles things differently," said Glenn.

Curt Archibald, Solid Waste Supervisor at the Norton County Landfill, said, "What do we have to do to keep what we have? We have a right to a fair and speedy trial but if the courts consolidate it won't happen in a timely manner."

Carolyn Applegate, a Norton County Commissioner, stated, "The judges need the element of human contact with the defendants and if court hearings are done via video the human element will be gone."

Peggy Pratt of the Juvenile Justice Authority stated that their agency already puts in 28,000 miles a month transporting youth to and from different detention facilities in Northwest Kansas. If the courts regionalize it will be just that many

more miles and the loss of the face to face with a judge if it goes to video. Mrs. Pratt went on to say, "Eastern Kansas gets more money than Western Kansas based on drop out rates and troubled youth. How are we to afford this?"

Preston Pratt, attorney stated, "Why don't bigger counties implement cost savings ideas and smaller counties keep doing what they have been doing?"

(COURTS - Continued on Page 5)

## Officer charged in rape case

The Office of the Norton County Attorney has issued a press release stating on Thursday, April 21, Ryan L. Zwegardt, age 27, of Norton, was arrested by the Norton County Sheriff's Department on two counts of alleged Rape following an investigation by the Norton County Sheriff's Department

and the Kansas Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. Zwegardt was a police officer for the Norton City Police Department. His first appearance will be before the Norton County District Magistrate Judge on Friday, April 22. Bond has been set at \$500,000.



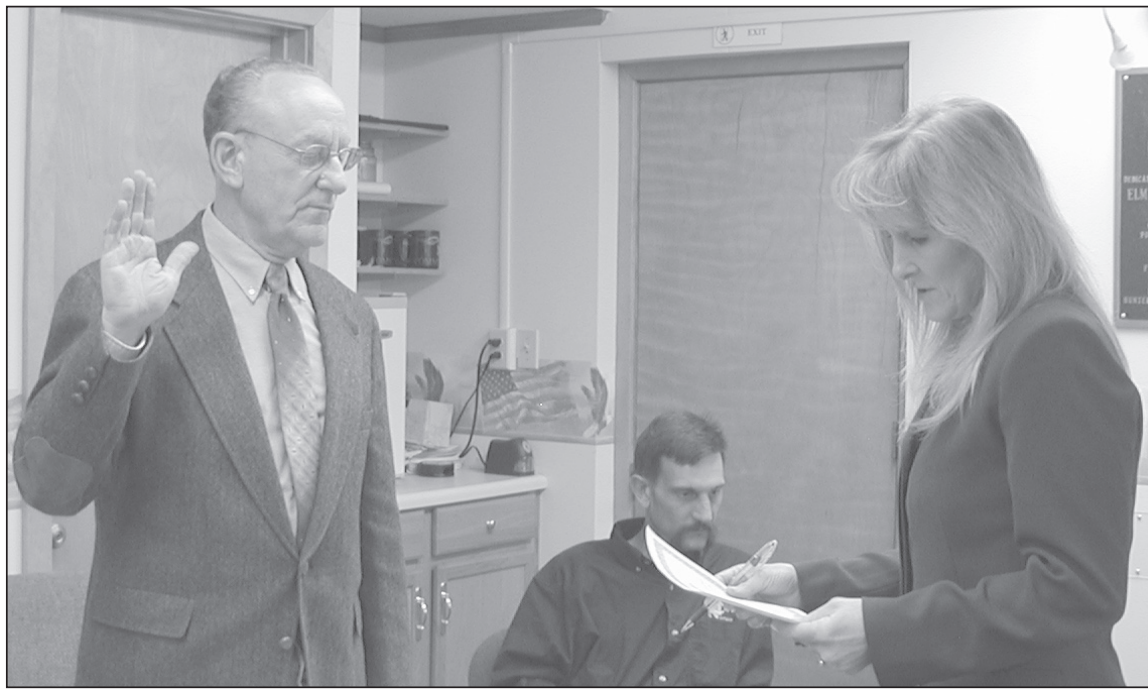
## Mayor, council sworn in Wednesday

There is a new face on the Norton City Council. Newly elected member is Jerry Moritz, Ward 3. Jerry Jones, Ward 1 (incumbent) and Roberta Ryan, Ward 2 (incumbent) won their respective races for re-election.

Pictured left to right, back row, Council President, Jeff Otter, Ward 1; Councilwoman Donna Foley, Ward 2; Councilman Toby Kuhn, Ward 3; Police Chief Pat Morel; Councilman Jerry Moritz, Ward 3; City Administrator, Rob Lawson and Councilman Jerry Jones, Ward 1. Seated left to right, City Attorney, Karen Griffiths; Mayor David Corns; City Clerk, Darla Ellis and Councilwoman, Roberta Ryan, Ward 2.

City Clerk, Darla Ellis, gave the Oath of Office to re-elected Mayor David Corns on Wednesday at the Norton City Council meeting.

- Telegram photo by Harriett Gill



## City-County Cleanup day turns into swap meet

By CYNTHIA HAYNES  
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Norton's annual city and county-wide cleanup turned up lots of junk and, in some ways, turned into a giant swap meet.

Solid Waste Supervisor Curt Archibald told the county commissioners on Monday that people were dragging stuff to the street several days before the cleanup.

Then, in many instances he said, someone else would come along and take the trash/treasure home.

"It isn't a bad deal," Archibald remarked.

Its sort of moving junk from one spot to another, he noted.

Archibald said that he had gone around Norton and seen items at the curb at several residences.

"I saw it out one day and it was gone the next," he said.

Commissioner John Miller agreed that he had also seen people collecting items from others - mostly lumber, wire and other building-items.

Miller said he didn't see anyone collecting metal but iron prices are up and he thought it might be time to look at the unused county incinerator.

The incinerator was used to burn the county's trash until it's firebox broke. At that point the county had to plan and build a new landfill.

Since then the incinerator has been sitting unused and unusable.

Miller suggested that the county might advertise for someone to buy the used incinerator noting that it has a broken firebox.

"The firebox is junk but the rest is good," he said. "We're not going to get \$1.5 million from it but there's no reason to have it sit there and get nothing out of it."

If nothing else, he said, the iron could be recovered and resold.

Commissioner Carolyn Applegate sighed over the incinerator.

"It was such a good idea when it was christened," she noted.

Archibald said that he would check with the those who built the incinerator if they can be found after all these years. They might be able to help the county find someone that could use it.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Heard from Sheriff Troy Thomson that the jail was full.
- Suggesting adding the painting of

Santa's house and the other courthouse decorations to work the inmate crew might do.

• Decided to advertise for people to join the economic development board. The commissioners will appoint for that job at their first meeting in May. Applications need to be in to the county clerk's office by Thursday, April 28, so they can be checked by the commissioners. Applications are available at the clerk's office or the economic development office.

• Talked to Economic Development Director Scott Sproul about what his office is doing to help the county's growth.

• Noted that there will be no meeting on Monday. The next commission meeting will be at end-of-the-month one on Friday, April 29.

