

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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Friday

May 20, 2011

Briefly

Norton school year ends this Tuesday

The last day of school for the 2010-11 school year in USD 211 is Tuesday.

All Norton Schools will dismiss at 11 a.m. Buses will run at that time. There will be no breakfast or lunch served on the last day of school.

Graduation is set for Sunday

The Norton Community High School Senior Class of 2011 will hold their graduation ceremonies Sunday at 2:30 p.m. at the Stull Gymnasium.

Densmore reunion to be held May 29

The Densmore All-School Alumni Reunion will be held on Sunday, May 29 at the American Legion in Norton. Visitation will be from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. and all students that attended school at Densmore are invited at this time. The banquet will begin at 5 p.m. with a meeting to follow.

Time for E, F and Gs to renew their tags

The deadline at the Norton County Treasurer's office in the County Courthouse for tag renewal for last names and businesses beginning with "E", "F" or "G" will be May 31. You will need current proof of insurance. Office hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The treasurer's office will be closed on Monday, May 30 for the Memorial Holiday.

Driver's license renewals can be processed Tuesday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. CDL licenses must be renewed at the office in either Phillipsburg, Hays or Colby.

Kung Fu Panda II set for special show

There will be a special premier of Kung Fu Panda 2, the Kaboom of Doom at the Norton Theatre on Thursday May 26 at 9 p.m. The movie is one hour forty minutes long.

Markets

Friday, May 20, 2011

Wheat	\$8.27
Milo	\$6.52
Soybeans	\$13.12
Corn	\$7.10

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Tonight - A 30 percent chance of thunderstorms. **Saturday** - Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. **Sunday** - Mostly sunny with highs in the lower 80s.

Kingham Report

Tuesday, May 17	Low 43, High 74
Wednesday, May 18	Low 45, High 59
Thursday, May 19	Low 48, High 63

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

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to see your face daily in the faces of those we see who need love, help, and mercy. Use us as instruments of your grace. Amen.

Banquet attendees hear ex-governor speak to Chamber

By Steve Haynes
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Noting that Norton has always benefited from having a lot of state employees, former Gov. Mike Hayden said Monday, he thinks people should take time to recognize those public servants and the value of what they do.

Speaking to about 116 people at the annual banquet of the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce at the American Legion Hall, Mr. Hayden said people today seem to denigrate public employees and elected officeholders.

He noted that he'd spent 32 years in public service, as a state representative and speaker of the Kansas House, governor, assistant secretary of the interior in Washington, and most recently, secretary of the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

"I'm very proud of those years," he told the Chamber crowd as they dined on prime rib and baked potatoes, prepared by the American Legion Auxiliary and served by Prairie Dog 4-H Club members.

Special guests were Warden Jay Shelton of the Norton Correctional Facility, Prairie Dog State Park manager Toby Kuhn, other state employees and Doug Sebelius, a Norton lawyer who serves on the state Wildlife and Parks Commission. Chamber President Joel Duscher served as master of ceremonies.

The ex-governor noted that public service runs deep in his family: his dad was a city commissioner and county commissioner in Atwood when he was growing up, including time as mayor, and many relatives served on school boards.

Norton County has a high proportion of state workers, he noted, including 230 at the state prison, 55 at the Department of Transportation district headquarters, four at the state park and wildlife area, plus the National Guard detachment and the Highway Patrol office, among others.

"It's always great to be in Norton," he said. "I enjoyed representing Norton in the Legislature."

He noted that he's one of only three men from western Kansas to be elected governor.

"Unfortunately," he said, "the others are deceased."

"As the population changes (to urban areas), it's harder and harder for people in western Kansas to get elected."

So how did he do it in 1986?

He recounted talking with Bob Creighton, an Atwood lawyer who was his campaign manager for years, and Dr. Ed Flentje, a Wichita State University political science professor who had been

an advisor to former Gov. Bob Bennett, among other things.

They pointed out that there were 90 counties in the state then with populations under 10,000.

"If we carry all 90 counties, Bob said, we can't lose," Mr. Hayden recalled. "We carried 89."

In an interview before the dinner, the former governor talked about his time at Wildlife and Parks and his new job. Though he had served under three governors, he was not retained by incoming Gov. Sam Brownback after nearly nine years in office.

The two come from different wings of the state Republican party.

Someone once asked him why he'd run as a Republican, he said, and he said he told them, "Because all the Democrats in Cheyenne County could hide behind one soapweed."

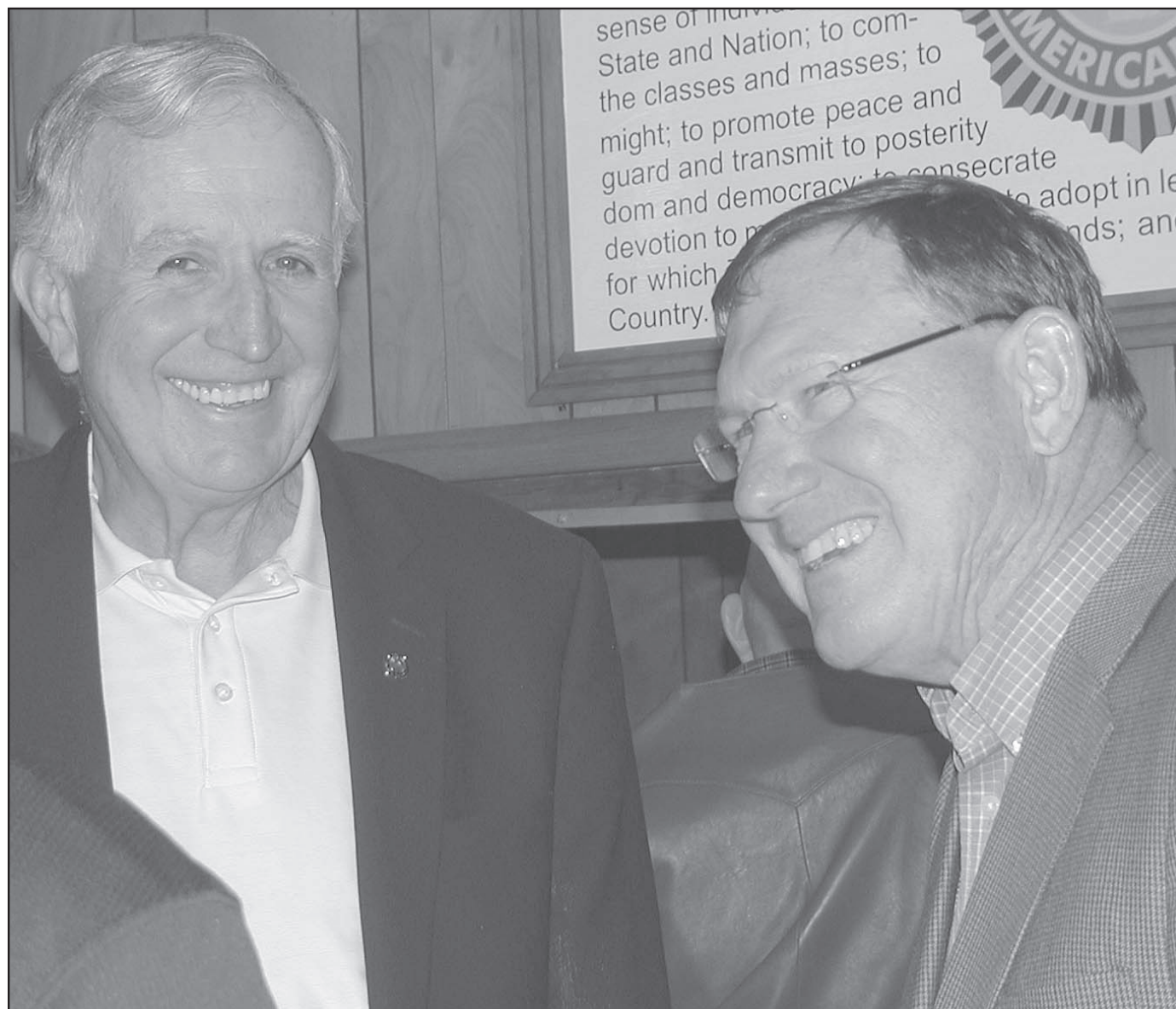
Mr. Hayden will be executive director of the Missouri River Association of

(Hayden- Continued on Page 5)



Former Kansas Governor Mike Hayden addressed the Chamber banquet attendees on Monday (above) and shared a chuckle with State Representative Ward Cassidy (below.)

- Telegram photos by Steve Haynes and Dana Paxton



County fights for health money

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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Norton County officials rallied last week to fight state budget cuts that would have taken most of the money used by county health departments.

Norton Commissioner John Miller told his fellow commissioners at their meeting on Monday that the federal government is looking to cut Homeland Security aid to states by 24 percent. In turn, the state is looking to cut its money to county health departments, which would cut services in Norton County and elsewhere.

However, he said, Norton County Health Nurse Gina Frack helped in the fight to make sure that the whole of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment cuts doesn't come out of the local health department's grant money.

Miller praised the work that Frack did to see that the rural health departments didn't come up on the short end of the stick.

"Even though everyone knew it was

coming out of county health, nobody else rallied the troops," Commissioner Carolyn Applegate asked.

"Nope. They waited all day on Monday," Miller said.

"This was not a legislative issue for us. It didn't even come on the radar until (last week)."

When he and Frack heard of the proposed cuts, he said, they started making phone calls to drum up support for the health departments.

Miller noted that the health department people expect cuts to help with the state budget but don't think it was fair to take everything out of what they get.

"It's good to see that Norton County has such a network and it can get together quickly," noted Justina Smith, an applicant for the emergency management co-ordinator job, who was at the meeting.

Applegate said that Miller puts the networks together by bringing state officials to town, giving them lunch and a tour of the prison. The prison, hospital, city and others all work together, she said.

"You stay on top," Smith said.

"They know that there are a bunch of citizens who jump into action," Applegate said of the state bureaucracy.

The commissioners then talked to Smith, who said that she had heard that Sheriff Troy Thomson is giving up the emergency management co-ordinator job and that the position will be open.

"I'm definitely interested in it," she said.

The job is only part time right now, the commissioners noted but said that they are looking to make it a full-time position next year.

Commissioner Applegate suggested that she talk to the sheriff about a part-time opening in dispatch if she is interested in full-time work.

In other business, the commissioners: • Heard that state Department of Transportation Secretary Deb Miller will be at a meeting on small airports to be held in Gove on Wednesday.

• Learned that the new election law (County- Continued on Page 5)

Poachers plead guilty

Three of the men arrested for poaching deer in Decatur County in December have pleaded guilty to reduced charges.

John Jacobs III, 53; John Jacobs IV, 30; and Joseph Jacobs, 23, of Wisconsin all pleaded guilty to one count of commercialization of wildlife, a class A misdemeanor, and one of unlawful possession of wildlife, a class C misdemeanor.

Each of the men will have to pay restitution of \$1,000 to the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, \$5,000 in fines and court costs.

The men have also had their Kansas hunting licenses suspended for three years starting from the date of the judge's journal entry. Each of the entries was filed in April in the clerk of the district court's office.

(Poach- Continued on Page 5)

