

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: nwkansas.com 10 PAGES

Friday

June 17, 2011

Briefly

Grains report deadline coming

The final date to report feed grains at the Farms Service Agency is Aug. 1.

Reporting can be done at the Norton County FSA Office and no appointment is necessary. The Office needs a report of acreage on all farm land, not just cropland.

Huelskamp to stop in Norton June 27

Coming off a week of seven town hall meetings in Kansas, Congressman Tim Huelskamp announced recently that included in an additional seven town hall meetings will include Norton on June 27.

Huelskamp is slated to stop at the Town and Country Kitchen on East Highway 36 at 2 p.m. "As always, constituent work weeks provide an opportunity to hear from those who sent me to Washington and expect me to represent them there," Congressman Huelskamp said. "The feedback Kansans offer me at these town hall meetings is both valuable and helpful, as their ideas and concerns help guide the issues I focus on while serving them in Congress."

In addition to town hall meetings, Congressman Huelskamp will be visiting with local employers to discuss job creation in Kansas.

Learning Center Graduation June 24

Student Learning Center is holding their graduation on June 24 at 7 p.m. at the East Campus Auditorium. The public is invited to join in the celebration.

Computer classes planned June 28

At the Norton Public Library, there will be basic computer classes for anyone interested on June 28, July 12, and July 26 from 6 - 8 p.m. Topics to be covered include: navigating the computer and internet, e-mail, and Microsoft Word. Classes are free and a computer will be supplied for the class. Come to the library or call (785) 877-2481 to register.

Markets

Friday, June 17, 2011

Wheat	\$7.08
Milo	\$6.20
Soybeans	\$12.82
Corn	\$6.81

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Tonight - Clear to partly cloudy with a stray shower or thunderstorm. Saturday - Partly cloudy with a stray thunderstorm and high in the 80's. Sunday - Isolated thunderstorms with highs in the upper 80s. Monday - Isolated thunderstorms with highs in the upper 80s.

Kingham Report

Tuesday, June 14.....Low 59, High 88
 Wednesday, June 15.....Low 51, High 96
 Thursday, June 16.....Low 59, High 87
 (Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

O God, give us brave hearts and the will to make this world more like you want it to be. Amen.

Right as Rain



Tana Breiner cools down on a hot summer day running through the sprinkler at the Little Angels Daycare on Tuesday. The little angels were giggling and smiling as they would dart across the sprinkler during the fun day at daycare! Find fun ways to stay cool as temperatures are expected remain hot over the next several days.

-Telegram photo by Brandi Diederich

Personalized pavers now available

By Carleen Bell
 cbell@nwkansas.com

As a way to honor past, present and future Veterans, a group of local volunteers are working to erect a permanent memorial in Norton, which is slated to include personalized bricks. The bricks are now available for purchase to be used in the monument construction.

Norton Veterans' Memorial Committee member Carol Erlenbusch explained that last year, a committee of volunteers came together to help bring The Moving Wall to Norton and through a series of fund-raisers and donations, raised more than enough money to bring the traveling monument to Norton. "When the wall was done, we didn't need all the money we had collected," Erlenbusch said. "We wanted to come up with a way to honor our past, present and future veterans and thought a permanent memorial would be the best way to do that."

The memorial is slated to be located in the city park across the highway from the Pamida store and is slated to be installed later this summer. It will be made of granite with the dimensions of five feet by four feet by six inches deep. The monument will include a tribute to the six major branches of the US military, including Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marines.

To help add a personal flair to the Veterans Memorial, committee members are selling personalized paving bricks with engraved letters to be installed with the monument. The 4-inch by 8-inch paver can be purchased for \$35, which is "at

(Monument - Continued on Page 5)

Board finalizes insurance purchase

By Carleen Bell
 cbell@nwkansas.com

As another casualty of a struggling economy, the Norton School District has been forced this week to take a major piece of business out of the Norton community, in the form of the district's 2011-2012 insurance policies.

Norton Superintendent Greg Mann reported to the Board of Education Monday evening that the district solicited bids for the district's insurance for the 2011-2012 year. The package includes Property and Liability, Inland Marine, Blanket Bond, Automobile, Worker Compensation and Error/Omission insurance.

The district received two bids for the package with a price difference of just under \$4,000. The first bid was from Boxler Insurance, the district's current agency,

with a total of \$85,966 and the second bid was from Insurance Planning Inc. with a total of \$82,100.

Boxler Insurance is located in Norton and Insurance Planning Inc. is based in Hays. Though legally bound to award the business to the lowest bidder, not everyone on the Board wished to take that course of action. "My big concern is that I would like for us to do business in the district if we can," said Board member Steve Berry. "That's one concern I have and I don't like the idea of going out of town to do business."

From the information submitted from the different agencies, the difference in cost stems from the cost of the Worker's Compensation Insurance, by far the most expensive piece of the entire package.

Agent Jon Boxler of Boxler Insurance, quoting \$54,690 for that piece, explained that historically,

compensation claims have been expensive in Norton and the quote is based on a formula that helps determine the risk to the insurance company. John Solida of Insurance Planning Inc, quoting a price of \$48,644 for the Worker's Comp, agreed that administrative costs for Worker's Compensation insurance is very expensive for companies and agencies and the cost to carry that type of insurance tends to be higher than other forms of insurance.

After some discussion over whether or not the district could purchase only selected portions of the insurance package from both companies, which Solida declined to do, the Board voted unanimously to purchase the insurance from Insurance Planning Inc.

County considers state program options

By Carleen Bell
 cbell@nwkansas.com

The Norton County Board of Commissioners discussed and considered Monday morning a possible financial incentive to get new residents to move to Norton.

Norton Economic Development Director Scott Sproul explained that the state program, known as Rural Opportunity Zone, is comprised of the 50 counties, including Norton County, in Kansas that have lost more than 10 percent of their population since the last census. Issued by Governor Sam Brownback, the program is slated to take affect July 1.

Through the Rural Opportunity Zone, people who move into Kansas from out of state are eligible for tax rebates if they meet certain criteria. The most major piece of the requirements includes a stipulation that the new residents must not have had more than \$10,000 worth of income from within Kansas.

If new residents meet the criteria, the incentive comes in the form of tax rebates where the citizens pay their taxes as usual, but are issued a state refund for what they pay.

A second part of the Rural Opportunity Zone legislation is an opportunity for counties to encourage population growth through a student loan repayment

program. Sproul explained that counties can opt to pay a portion of student loans for students or graduates who move into the county from out of state. The state has set aside \$1.3 million for the program and will match financial contributions from eligible counties. Three of the 50 eligible counties have already opted out of participation.

Though the Rural Opportunity Zone legislation is slated to take affect in only a few weeks, Sproul said the details and regulations are not finalized yet. "The program is administered through the Kansas Department of Commerce and we (the counties) haven't gotten all the information yet," he said. "It might be a good tool for recruitment, but the state is still working on all the rules and regulations."

If Norton County leaders decide to participate in the program, the County is locked in to participate for 10 years, but some of the details can be modified annually. While the Board of Commissioners took no action on the matter Monday, leaders have until December to opt into or out of the program. "If it becomes successful, we can increase the funding or decrease it as necessary," Sproul said. "I'm hoping the county opts in, but we have some time to decide."

Zweygardt is again denied bond reduction

A former Norton Police officer has for the second time been denied a bond reduction on several charges related to a sexual assault he allegedly committed this spring.

Ryan L. Zweygardt was arrested April 21 on two counts of alleged sexual assault and is being held in the Graham County Jail on the original charges and three additional charges.

At a preliminary hearing on Monday, June 13, Retired Senior Judge Jack Burr denied Zweygardt's second request for a reduced bond and house arrest placement and ordered the defendant to remain in Graham County Jail.

The next hearing on the matter is scheduled for July 7 at 10 a.m. in Norton County Court.

Class of 2011 scores high

By Carleen Bell
 cbell@nwkansas.com

With the latest report of scholarship and financial aid information on the class of 2011, Norton Community High School officials have reported this week that nearly 50 percent of this year's graduating students scored above state average on the nationally administered ACT test.

In his report to the Board of Education Monday evening, Norton Community High School Guidance Counselor Shane Miller explained that the state-wide average for the nationally administered college entrance exam is a composite score off 22 and 29 of this year's graduates scored at or above the state average. "With 50 percent of our students scoring

above state average, it's a great indication of how well they are doing," Miller said. "The Senior class just did outstanding."

Along with test scores, Miller provided information about the types and amounts of financial aid Norton graduates are receiving for post-secondary education. According to the data presented to the Board, this year's Norton graduates are receiving more than \$241,000 in local, regional, national and institution scholarships for post-secondary education.

Miller said he gathered information from all of the Board of Regents institutions in the state of Kansas and the for the cost of tuition per semester, the most

(Grads- Continued on Page 5)

