

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

8 PAGES

Friday

August 5, 2011

Briefly

Edmond meeting has been rescheduled

The Edmond city meeting has been rescheduled to Monday 8, at 6:30 p.m.

School enrollment days approaching

The Norton Schools will be enrolling for the 2011-12 School Year during the week of August 8.

Monday, August 8: NCHS: Seniors; 9 a.m. - Noon.

Tuesday, August 9: NCHS: Juniors; 9 a.m. - Noon. EES: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Wednesday, August 10: NCHS: Sophomores; 9 a.m. - Noon. NJHS: 8th Grade; 9 a.m. - Noon and 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Thursday, August 11: NCHS: Freshman; 9 a.m. - Noon, NJHS: 7th Grade; 9 a.m. - Noon and 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Friday, August 12: NCHS: New Students & Make-up; 9 a.m. - Noon

Fee and meal information at www.usd211.org.

Phillipsburg Rodeo coming this weekend

Rodeo week stampedes into Phillipsburg August 4-5-6 at the arena a mile north of town on Highway 183. Kansas' Biggest Rodeo kicks off at 8 p.m. each evening. The rodeo features two unique specialty acts this year. Don't forget to wear your pink Thursday and enjoy the nice barbecue. Dance and music will follow after the rodeo Friday and Saturday. For more information visit www.KansasBiggestRodeo.com, call 785-543-2448 or visit the rodeo's Facebook page.

Chess tourney is planned for Saturday

A Chess Tournament for all school-aged children of any level of expertise will be held at the Norton Public Library Community Room on Aug. 6 from 1 to 5 p.m. The tournament is free to enter and is sponsored by the Friends of the Library. Medals will be awarded. Please register for this event at the Norton Public Library or call the Library at 877-2481.

Markets

Friday, August 5, 2011

Wheat\$6.86
Milo\$6.14
Soybeans\$12.54
Corn\$7.08

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Tonight - Mostly cloudy in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Saturday - Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Saturday Night - Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Sunday - Mostly sunny with highs in the upper 80s.

Kingham Report

Tuesday, August 2.....Low 70, High 98
Wed., August 3Low 67, High 89
.....20 Rain

Thursday, August 4Low 66, High 93
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Lord, when life's circumstances challenge us, teach us to accept your direction. Help us to remember that all things can be used for good. Amen

Local author to hold book signing

By Carleen Bell
cbell@nwkansas.com

Drawing inspiration from the major aspects of her life to finish the project, Randa Vollertsen can check another item off her bucket list.

The Norton native and life-long resident has recently completed publishing a children's book and will hold a book-signing on Aug. 20 at Garden Gate to celebrate the accomplishment.

Vollertsen's book is entitled "Mimi's Mulberry Tree" and was recently published through the Xlibris Publishing.

Vollertsen grew up in Norton and after high school, she attended Kansas University where she obtained her bachelor's degree in Physical Therapy. She also obtained her Master's degree in special education from the University of New Mexico.

The plot of "Mimi's Mulberry Tree" is based on the real people and situations in Vollertsen's life, particularly her grandchildren and a very messy tree in her backyard. Two of the characters in the book are two of Vollertsen's grandchildren, Bodie and Anyston, who refer to their grandmother as "Mimi."

The local author has spent the last 30 years working as a pediatric physical therapist, an experience that inspired the content and theme of her book.

"I've worked with kids for 30 years and I wanted to write about something related to my work," she said. "Having a child with special needs is a challenge for any parent and this book is really about struggle and challenge and ability from a lot of different perspectives."

The process of getting the book published began about two years ago for Vollertsen and her illustrator,



Randa Vollertsen reads "Mimi's Mulberry Tree" to her grandson, Bodie, who serves as a character in his grandmother's recently published children's book. The two have enjoyed reading the book under the mulberry tree also featured in the book.

—Telegram photo by Carleen Bell

but the creative process extends farther back. The author explained that she had wanted to write a children's book for much of her life, but true inspiration doesn't show up on command.

"I can't just sit down and write a children's book,"

she said. "There has to be something to serve as inspiration and when that happened for this book, I sat down and wrote it one sitting. It just came out."

(Book - Continued on Page 5)

Norton City sets budget hearing date for Aug. 15

By Carleen Bell
cbell@nwkansas.com

After working extensively in committee to hammer out the details for the hearing, the Norton City Council has set a public hearing date for the city's proposed 2012 budget.

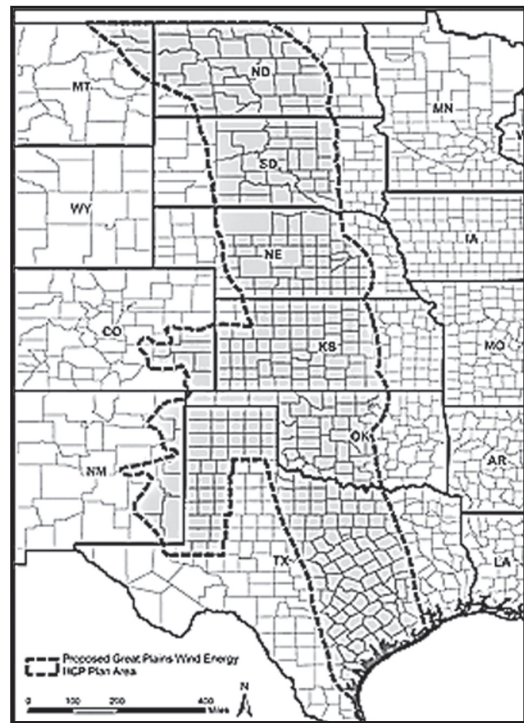
The public hearing has been set for Monday, Aug. 15 at 5:30 p.m. at the Norton City Council Chambers.

Finance committee chair Jeff Otter reported to the Council in July that the committee is working on the city's budget proposal for the next fiscal year, which runs from January to December. Otter explained that as they have been work-

ing on budget details, providing funding for everything they would like would demand an increase of 11 mills for city taxpayers. That increase, however, is too excessive, so the proposed increase is expected to be closer to four mills. A mill is defined as 1/1000th of assessed property tax value in the city.

The city is required to certify a budget by Aug. 25 and, before certification, the proposed budget must be published and a public hearing must be held. All Norton citizens are encouraged to attend the budget hearing to address questions and any possible concerns over the proposed budget.

Public comment is sought on energy study



As part of a new initiative to develop wind energy projects across the nation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has begun an environmental impact study across a 200-mile corridor extending from the Canadian to Mexican border through the central part of the United States. Included in the study area is Norton County and most of western Kansas.

The study is part of Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar's "Smart from the Start" initiative to evaluate the environmental impact of wind energy development along the study area.

As part of the study, several public meetings are planned for August and September. The nearest meeting to Norton will be held in Kearney, Neb. on Tuesday, Aug. 30 from 6-8 p.m. at the Holiday Inn on Second Avenue. A meeting is also planned in Great Bend on Wednesday, Aug. 31

Residents who live in the study area are encouraged to attend a public meeting to ask questions and raise concerns about possible wind energy development. Topics to be covered include risks to wildlife and overall environmental impact from possible development. More information can be obtained from Laila Lienesch at 505-248-6494.

Familiar face becomes Northern Valley leader

By Carleen Bell
cbell@nwkansas.com

The Northern Valley school district will see a familiar face in a new position with the start of a new school year.

Marvin Gebhard was recently named PreK-8 Principal for the district after serving as one year as a teacher for Northern Valley High School.

Originally from Long Island, Gebhard attended Colby Community College and transferred to Fort Hays State University where he earned his Bachelor's Degree in education with a social studies endorsement.

After college, Gebhard began teaching in Healy, where he taught 7th-12th grade social studies, along with coaching and serving as athletic director.

Trying to raise two young children, however, he and his wife, Jill, wanted to get back home to live and work. Jill is also a teacher in the Northern Valley district.

"We got to a point where we wanted to move closer to home," he said. "When we moved, I was just planning to help with the family business, but I started missing education and became a teacher at Northern Valley High School."



Marvin Gebhard

He taught social studies and family/consumer sciences for one year and when the opening for the Principal position opened up, Gebhard said, he knew he wanted to

take the next step in his career. As the new Principal, he is now pursuing a Master's Degree to become better qualified for the position.

Norton has new postmaster

By Carleen Bell
cbell@nwkansas.com

After not filling the position for over a year, the Norton Post Office welcomed in July a new postmaster in the office.

Larry Donahey joined the post office just over two weeks ago and now supervises the operations of the office.

Originally from Logan, Donahey began working for the United States Postal Service about 20 years ago. He began as a clerk in the Norton Post Office, then moved up to postmaster at Hill City, where he served for about eight years.

Prior to joining the postal service, Donahey said, he had pursued a variety of careers, but the postal service was a welcome change.

"I worked at the Norton state hospital for about 17 years and worked at the pris-

on for awhile," he said. "I was ready to try something else and when the opportunity came up, I was ready to take it."

The postal services hadn't been hiring for about a year and and half, Donahey said, but when the position of postmaster came open, he went through the selection process and was hired to fill the spot.

As postmaster, Donahey is responsible for supervising the delivery routes for mail out of the Norton post office, along with supervising the general operations of the facility.

He and his wife, Marilyn, live in Norton. The couple has a son who also lives in Norton and daughter who lives in Salina.

"I am glad to be back in Norton and look forward to working with our Norton customers," Donahey said.



Larry Donahey

