

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

8 PAGES

Tuesday
August 9, 2011

Disc golf tourney held Sunday

The Norton Disc Golf Club, along with the Kansas Disc Golf Association, held its 17th annual Disc Golf Tournament on Sunday, Aug. 7 in Elmwood Park in Norton. There were 22 participants ranging in age from 13 up to those in their 60's. Players came from Oklahoma, as well as all over Kansas including the cities of Wichita, Moundridge, Salina, Hays, Oakley and Norton.

"The park looked great as always with fairways and walkways mowed and the pin and tee areas trimmed very nicely," said tournament organizer Don Mordecai. "The Norton Disc Golf Club would like to thank all the city workers that keep the park looking its best, even with all the rain we have had this summer."

Austin Streit of Salina got first place in the Open Division for the second year in a row, with a score of 97 for two rounds, winning \$110 cash and first place trophy for the Open Division.

Ron Convers from Blackwell, Okla. had the lowest score in the tournament with a 93, and got first place in the Masters Division, receiving \$95 and first-place trophy. Ron is a sponsored Discraft Team Member.

Other competitors from Norton included Amanda Davis, who won the Women's Division, receiving \$30 in prizes and a first-place trophy. Treva

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Treva Patterson of Norton prepares to finish a shot on the 16th hole at the Elmwood Park disc golf course Sunday morning. Patterson took home a second place prize from the tournament, which was coordinated by the Norton Disc Golf Club and the Kansas Disc Golf Association.

-Telegram photo by Carleen Bell

Briefly

New Almelo Bazaar planned for Saturday

Make plans now to attend St. Joseph's Parish Annual New Almelo Bazaar, Aug. 13, this Saturday. Don't miss the Bar-B-Qued Beef and Smoke Pork Buffet Supper with all the trimmings at 5 p.m. Along with supper, there will be a bake sale, fancy work, bingo, hamburger stand and games for young and old. Quilt auction will be held at 8 p.m. with homemade quilts. Then at 9 p.m. come dance to the music of Dustin Juenemann.

Motorcycle Races scheduled Saturday

Motorcycle Racing will be held this Saturday, Aug. 13 at Elmwood Park Speedway. NEPRA Cycle Zone Racing presents the battle of the plains round 2. There will be a half-mile flat track race. Pit gates open at 11 a.m., sign up at 2:30 p.m. and riders meeting at 4 p.m. Then at 4:30, the riders will start practicing and heats will begin at 6 p.m. Main event is scheduled to start at 7:30 p.m. For more information visit <http://www.cyclezoneraiding.com>.

Motocross races are planned for Sunday

Nebraska Cornhusker Motocross Association NCMA Points Race will be held this Sunday, Aug. 14 at the Norton MX Track, located one mile east on Highway 36 and one mile north. Practice will start at 9 a.m. Races start at 11 a.m. Gate admission is \$5. Concessions will be available. Come enjoy a day of fast paced fun!

School enrollment happening now

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

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

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

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

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

Markets

Tuesday, August 9, 2011

Wheat\$6.78
Milo\$6.05
Soybeans\$12.31
Corn\$6.79

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Tonight - Chance of thunderstorms in the evening then showers and thunderstorms after midnight. Wednesday - Mostly cloudy and cooler with thunderstorms likely in the morning.

Kingham Report

Friday, August 5.....Low 65, High 92
.90 Rain
Saturday, August 6.....Low 67, High 104
Sunday, August 7.....Low 68, High 94
Monday, August 8.....Low 64, High 88
.55 Rain

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

Prayer

Our God and guide, strengthen us and give us the hope that will enable us to overcome life's difficulties. We trust you. Amen.

Area post offices slated for possible closure

By Carleen Bell
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Included on a list of nearly 3,600 offices across the nation slated for consideration, two local United States Postal Service offices are slated for a study and possible closure in the coming months.

According to the official postal service list of possible closures, the Long Island and Norcatour post offices will be considered for closure.

Brian Sperry, regional spokesman for the postal service in Denver, explained that no post offices on the list are certain for closure, but instead, the postal services will be conducting a study and public survey to determine which offices to keep open and which to close. The potential closures are a result of decreased

revenue and decreased demand for traditional post office services because citizens are using online resources more and more.

"In the past five years, mail volume has declined 20 percent," Sperry said. "Due to the poor economy and electronic diversion for postal services, the postal service lost \$8.5 billion last year and we're projecting another \$8 billion this year."

As part of the effort to streamline postal services and reduce operating costs, the postal service will conduct a study in the communities on the list, which will include a letter to citizens in the communities and a survey to help determine how citizens use the post office branch. Though no date has been set, Sperry said citizens can expect to receive an informational and survey packet in the mail in the coming weeks.

Along with the informational packets, Sperry said, the postal service will hold public meetings in the communities in question to determine whether or not the post office locations should be closed.

"The locations chosen

for the study were locations with lowest sales and foot traffic and less than two hours per day of workload," Sperry said.

If the postal service decides to close specific locations, the citizens of the community will be served through rural mail carriers and what Sperry called a "Village Post Office."

The village post office is a postal service location that is run through an independent location, such as a grocery store or a community center. The village post office would still offer the same services like packaging, shipping and stamps, but would not be staffed by the postal service.

For the postal service employees who staff the offices considered for closure, the most prevalent question is what will happen to their jobs if their offices are closed, a question that Sperry was unable to fully answer.

"The impact (on jobs) isn't fully known at this time," he said. "We will work with unions and employee associations to minimize the losses, but we don't know yet what the full impact will be."

Officials with the Norcatour and Long Island post offices were unable to comment on the possible closures or the effect on their communities, but directed questions to the post office media relations department. Norcatour officials confirmed, however, that three employees are staffed in the Norcatour office.

Child was injured at Norton swimming pool

By Carleen Bell
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In the first incident of its kind in at least six years, a local child was injured Thursday afternoon at the Norton swimming pool after he hit his head on the edge of the pool.

Norton pool manager Ashley Smith Maybon reported that a 10-year-old boy was injured at the pool, but she declined to comment on the extent of the boy's injuries or the exact nature of the incident.

"I can say that he was injured badly enough that we needed to call an ambulance," she said. "He was transported to the Norton County Hospital for his injuries."

Smith Maybon reported that in the six years she has worked at the pool, Thursday's incident is the first time that pool staff have needed to call in emergency response personnel, partly because of the protocol that pool officials have in place for patron behavior.

"Our lifeguards are all Red Cross certified and they did their jobs fantastically," she said. "We use preventative techniques in place to keep incidents from happening and we don't let our patrons behave in a way that could lead to them getting injured. Because of those rules, we don't have a lot of injuries."

City approves water plant contract

By Carleen Bell
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The Norton City Council awarded a contract Wednesday evening for the completion of the second phase of improvements at the city's water system/wastewater treatment facility. The contract was awarded to Walter-Morgan Construction of Manhattan.

After receiving and reviewing bids in July for the project, the city council awarded the bid to Walter-Morgan, with a base bid of \$1,576,000. According to

Chris Miller of Miller and Associates the bid leaves just under \$40,000 for contingency funds in case the project overruns the estimated budget.

The latest water distribution facility renovation is the final phase of a 15-year project to bring the plant into compliance with state environmental regulations. The final phase will include tying up loose ends from the first two phases of the project, including a service elevator replacement, fiberglass covers over the

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Norton school board approves 2011-2012 budget, mill levy

By Carleen Bell
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After a public hearing on the matter, the Norton School Board approved Monday evening a final budget for the 2011-2012 fiscal year, a move that includes a two-mill tax increase for the district.

Norton Superintendent Greg Mann explained that the budget represents a tax-asking increase of just over two mills from last year, but last year represented a five-mill decrease from the previous year. A mill represents 1/1000th of assessed property tax value in the school district.

Mann attributed the need to increase the district's tax asking to ever-decreasing state aid to schools across the state.

"The entire increase is a result of state aid on the local option budget being at 83 percent of the calculated amount," Mann said. "We aren't getting the entire amount of that, so overall, we are getting about 52 percent of our state aid. The state didn't allocate more aid."

While the budget asks for a tax levy increase, Mann reported that the dollar amount generated in the budget will remain consistent for the third consecu-

tive year. That stability is attributed to the district's enrollment increase with the addition of Lenora students onto the Norton attendance rosters.

With the budget now official, the school will generate a mill levy of 42.187. Mann reported that 100 percent of the school's general fund budget is used for personnel and insurance costs for the district and all other costs, such as supplies and operating costs, are funded through the local option budget.

As an example of how the mill levy will affect property taxes, a residential property with a fair market value of \$100,000 is assessed on a value of \$80,000. With those values, the total tax for 2011, the district's levy totals \$415 and the 2012 proposed levy would increase the total to \$439, or 2.4 cents per \$1,000 of fair market value.

The same equation holds true for farmland and business properties, but with higher valuations. For farmland with fair market value of \$100,000, the proposed levy would increase taxes from \$1,203 to \$1,266 and for business properties, taxes would increase from \$1,002 to \$1,055.

