

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



Friday

November 4, 2011

Briefly

Daylight saving time ends Saturday



City offices to close for Veteran's Day

The Norton City Offices will be closed Friday, Nov. 11, for Veteran's Day. Friday's recyclables route will not be picked up that day.

City to appoint committee members

The City of Norton will be making appointments to the following Boards and Committees in the near future: Housing Authority, Convention and Tourism, Planning, Library, Recreation and Airport. Anyone interested in serving on any boards or commissions may contact the City Clerk's Office at 785-877-5000 by 5 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 10. Current members whose terms will be expiring will also need to contact the Clerk's Office if they are interested in serving another term.

Eagles set to hold fund-raiser Saturday

The Fraternal Order of Eagles is holding a fund-raiser for Kansas State Aerie and Auxiliary on Saturday, Nov. 5. The president's charity is the Cotton O'Neil Cancer Center in Topeka. Dinner will be served from 5:30 to 7 p.m., casino games from 7:30 to 9 p.m., and an auction for prizes at 9 p.m.

Markets

Friday, November 4, 2011

Wheat\$6.50
Milo\$6.00
Soybeans\$11.28
Corn\$6.37

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Tonight - Partly cloudy with lows in the mid 30s. Saturday - Sunny in the morning then becoming partly sunny and windy with highs around 60. Saturday Night - Partly cloudy in the evening. Sunday - Sunny with highs in the mid 50s.

Kingham Report

Tuesday, Nov. 1Low 39, High 61
Wednesday, Nov. 2Low 32, High 38
30 Precipitation
Thursday, Nov. 3Low 20, High 46
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

We love you, dear God, because you have first loved us. Hold us close to your heart, and teach us your loving ways. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

Harvest runs into winter weather



Just ahead of a mild winter storm that brought the season's first snowfall to the area Wednesday, a farmer just south of Norton takes advantage of mild temperatures and sunshine Tuesday afternoon to harvest his corn crop.

The United States Department of Agriculture reports that as of Sunday, 93 percent of corn across the state had been harvested, thanks to above-normal temperatures and dry conditions for harvest. Northwest Kansas, however, still had 17 percent of corn unharvested.

Along with harvest, the department reports that 96 percent of winter wheat had been planted across the state. Of the crop planted, 81 percent of the crop had emerged.

-Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

County to instate new recycling rules

By Carleen Bell
cbell@nwkansas.com

In an effort to better regulate solid waste collection, Norton County will soon be implementing new regulations on garbage and recycling collection at the Norton County Landfill.

Solid Waste Supervisor Curt Archibald reported Tuesday that the city of Norton collects curbside recycling each Friday morning, but residents are not required to sort the items or use specific containers for the curbside collection.

The challenge, Archibald explained to the Norton County Commissioners Monday morning, is that residents are mixing a lot of non-recyclable waste in with the recycling products,

which makes sorting and handling the recycling difficult for landfill personnel.

To help alleviate the problem, Norton County will be implementing a new requirement that all recyclable materials set out for curbside recycling pickup be placed in transparent bags so waste collectors can distinguish between garbage bags and recycling bags. The new guideline will be implemented on Nov. 15, which coincides with National Recycling Day.

While understanding the concern over the recycling problems, Norton City Administrator Rob Lawson also raised his own concerns Monday morning at the County Commissioners meeting, citing concerns that the change in rules could create more problems for recycling collection.

For example, Lawson said, if a resident doesn't use a proper bag for recycling and sets it out on a Friday morning, the bag will sit outside until

the regular garbage collection day, as late as the following Wednesday. Neighborhood animals or high wind could cause the contents to blow around and create a mess in yards or streets in the community.

"Our garbage collectors don't tear open the bags to check the contents," Lawson said. "If they don't know, it goes into the regular garbage collection and if the bags are sitting outside for days at a time, there is the potential for a big mess."

Lawson also expressed concern that transparent bags can be difficult to find because not all local retailers carry the required bags and residents who use the curbside service may stop because the bags may not be easy to purchase.

The Norton County Commissioners discussed possible ways to make the transition as easy as possible for Norton residents, including the possibility of supplying clear bags for residents. Though the county leaders made no

decision on that possibility, Archibald agreed to contact retailers throughout the county to find out who may carry the required bags for residents to purchase. Lawson also requested that county representatives draft an official letter to the City of Norton explaining the changes and outlining the exact expectations for handling recycling collection, which Archibald agreed to do.

Along with curbside pickup, Lawson explained, the city has in place several recycling dumpsters and regular garbage dumpsters around the community to encourage citizens to recycle and dispose of garbage properly. The dumpsters are located in the parking lot under the water tower and in Elmwood Park near the entrance to the race track.

The city has also had a problem with residents using the recycling dumpsters

(Recycling - Continued on Page 5)

4-H Achievement Night set for this Sunday evening

To help recognize the accomplishments of local 4-H members and their families throughout the year, the annual 4-H Achievement Night will be held this Sunday at the 4-H Building in Norton.

District Extension Agent Keith VanSkiel reports that beginning at 6 p.m., a carry-in dinner, sponsored by the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce and 4-H families, will be served and after the meal, a program will be held.

This year's theme is "4-H Just Be." Included in the program will be member recognition with the prestigious "I Dare You" award and Key Awards given to older 4-H members for leadership achievements.

The Norton Area Chamber of Commerce is helping co-host the event and will sponsor the annual Friend of 4-H Award given to a special individual or couple who has given long-time, meaningful leadership to the 4-H organization.

"4-H members are recognized in a variety of ways, such as judging at County Fairs and State contests, Club Days or individual club involvement, and for individual membership achievements," Van Skike said. "Individual and group recognition will include the Club promotion Award and many youth project and record book completion Awards. The Norton County 4-H Council, Achievement Night Committee and 4-H Clubs are helping with this program to show off their achievements. The club members will also be conducting a food drive as a part of their service that night."

City reports on clean-up days totals

By Carleen Bell
cbell@nwkansas.com

After the annual fall cleanup across the community, Norton officials have reported the total waste collection for the three-day event held Oct. 24-26.

Norton City Administrator Rob Lawson reported this week that over the city-wide clean-up, the city collected 28,640 pounds of construction waste and debris, and 14,660 pounds of municipal waste across the city. The municipal waste total also includes regular garbage collection over

those three days.

The total cost for the city to conduct the clean-up days was \$3,295, which does not include the fuel and labor to pick up waste on those days. Lawson said that the cost for the event is the fees the city must pay to Norton County for use of the landfill to dispose of the garbage collected.

Each fall, the city hosts a cleanup week to allow citizens to dispose of items that wouldn't ordinarily be accepted for regular garbage collection. Norton County will host a similar event next spring.

Heller Halloween festival draws large crowd

By Carleen Bell
cbell@nwkansas.com

After celebrating the 44th annual event, Norton Fire Department officials have reported that the the department served hundreds of hotdogs and other treats at the annual Heller Halloween Festival.

Norton Fire Chief Mitch Jones reported this week that that the department served about 600 hotdogs, 300 apples and 300 treat bags to the estimated 500 attendees at the festival,

held Oct. 27 in downtown Norton.

Hundreds of children and families gathered Thursday evening for a costume parade through downtown and through the Norton Fire Station for a hotdog roast. Jones reported that the event is supported through financial donations from local businesses and individuals, along with volunteer time from the Norton firefighters and their spouses.

"Without the financial support and the volunteer hours, we wouldn't

be able to do this," Jones said. "The firemen and their wives go above and beyond their responsibilities and I have nothing but good to say for all they do to help make the festival possible."

The Heller Halloween Festival originated in 1967 and was named for Don Heller, who helped establish the event for the community. It has been held every year since then for the community.

Norcatur resident earns award for news articles

A series of articles written by Carolyn Kelley-Plotts of Norcatur about the four Norton County men killed in the Vietnam War recently earned an honorable mention in the National Newspaper Association Better Newspaper Contest.

The award, in the category for Best Feature Series writing among weekly newspapers with a circulation of less than 4,500, was announced at the group's annual convention in Albuquerque, N.M. in September. The articles appeared in *The Norton Telegram* Sept. 10 to 28, 2010. The series also included a story about the Moving Wall Vietnam Memorial,

which came to Norton that month.

Nor'West Newspapers owners Steve and Cynthia Haynes submitted the articles, which had taken first place in the 2010 Kansas Press Association contest. Mrs. Haynes said the contest drew thousands of entries from newspapers across the country.

Mrs. Plotts said she was proud of the stories and glad she could help honor the memory of those fallen servicemen. She said the men's families are the ones who deserved an award for stepping forward to tell the stories of their loved ones.

