

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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Tuesday January 24, 2012

Briefly

Ag Valley to host annual meeting

Ag Valley Co-op will hold its annual Grain Market Outlook Meeting in Norton at the American Legion on Friday starting at 10:30 a.m. and running until 1 p.m. A meal will be served. Reservations must have been made prior to this past Monday.

Bob Ross classes set for Feb. 18-19

The Hansen Museum will have two certified instructors that teach Bob Ross painting classes on a regular basis. No previous experience is necessary and anyone can do it. On Saturday, Feb. 18, the class will be painting "Old Cream Cans" and on Sunday, Feb. 19, "Wheel Barrel Full of Flowers." The classes will run from 9 a.m.-noon and 1-3 p.m. both days.

Jewelry night set for Friday evening

In preparation for Valentines Day, there will be a Silpada Jewelry event held for all the area gentlemen on Friday night at the PDRA in Norton lasting from 5:30-7 p.m.

Computer store sets date for open house

To show their appreciation to their customers for their continued loyalty and support, Mortensen Computer Services is holding an Open House through Saturday to celebrate their 10-year anniversary. Refreshments will be served, drawing will be held and service rates lowered.

Band concert set for Sunday at Stull

The Norton Community High School will hold a band concert Sunday at the Stull Gymnasium. The show is set for 2:30 p.m. and all band family and friends are encouraged to attend.

Markets

Tuesday, January 24, 2012

Wheat.....	\$6.18
Milo.....	\$5.63
Soybeans.....	\$11.12
Corn.....	\$6.01

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Tonight - Mostly cloudy with scattered flurries and sprinkles in the evening. Wednesday - Sunny with highs in the mid 50s. Wednesday Night - Mostly clear with lows in the mid 20s. Thursday - Sunny with highs in the lower 50s. Thursday Night - Partly cloudy in the evening. Friday - A 20 percent chance of light rain or snow.

Kingham Report

Friday, January 20	Low 7, High 33
Saturday, January 21	Low 8, High 39
Sunday, January 22	Low 20, High 45
Monday, January 23	Low 21, High 52

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

Prayer

Dear God, help us to listen closely to your words in the Bible - and to change. Amen



Pie for Perez

When good-natured Norton Community High School principal Rudy Perez heard that the KAYS organization was raising \$100 for their Kiss The Pig contest for a donation to the United States Department of Veteran Affairs, he raised the ante by saying that if \$150 was raised he would take a pie in the face. The students raised the money and Bryan Henry, former KAY Area IV President, was chosen to do the honors as the large crowd watched between basketball games on Friday night.

-Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

School leaders seeking public opinion

By Carleen Bell
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In an effort to resume planning and gauge public opinion on facility needs, the Norton School Board and Fort Hays State University's Docking Institute will begin an opinion survey of school district patrons this spring.

Norton Superintendent Greg Mann reported last week that the survey, in the form of phone and e-mail questionnaires, will be conducted to work toward one of the district's goals of addressing facility needs and educating the community about the needs of the school district.

"Each fall, the board chooses three to five areas to work on," Mann said. "This year, the goals were long-term budget management, curriculum and student achievement, managing 'people resources', paperless board meetings and facility concerns."

The superintendent explained that facility needs have been an ongoing discussion for about seven years, and in the fall of 2007, the district put together a plan to go about addressing those needs. The intent, Mann said, was to determine whether or not the district would need to ask taxpayers to fund renovation or construction projects for district facilities.

Those plans were put on hold, however, when the nation's economy "tanked" and no decisions were made on what projects to pursue or whether or not to ask district patrons to fund potential projects.

Addressing facility needs has again become a priority for the district, however, and part of that discussion has

been the life cycle of buildings in the district. Mann explained that during the earlier planning stages, the district had two different reviews done. One review was specifically to assess compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and the other review was to assess facility usage, such as space and crowding programming in the district.

Mann reported that most of the necessary upgrades for handicapped accessibility have been addressed and, except for the east campus building, the district is up to code on accessibility.

The April 2008 study that addresses facility usage, Mann explained, outlines the life cycle of school facilities and how Norton fits into those life cycles. Essentially, buildings go through four phases of life up to 50 years old and, when a facility is phase three or later, the buildings are usually in need of costly upgrades or should be considered to be phased out of use.

Eisenhower Elementary was constructed in the early 1960s with an addition later added to the building. The junior high building was built in the

1930s and modernized in the 1980s. The high school building was opened in the 1970s and while the east campus building is no longer used for classroom space, it was constructed in the 1950s.

"Most of our daily use buildings are over 40 years old," Mann explained. "When a building gets that old, we have to do a lot of upgrading, especially in electrical needs. The buildings were opened long before there were computers in the schools and we are continually having to think about upgrades to accommodate our electrical usage."

Now that school leaders have resumed planning for potential facility and infrastructure upgrades, the district has partnered with Fort Hays State's Docking Institute to gauge public opinion and resume planning for possible facility upgrades.

That planning, Mann said, is specifically in regards to whether or not the district should pursue bonding for possible projects and how much taxpayers might be asked to contribute.

(Schools - Continued on Page 5)

Grandstand roof to be removed at Elmwood Park

By Carleen Bell
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Citing concerns for safety of race patrons, the Norton City Council approved Wednesday evening to remove the current roof from the grandstand and seating area at the racetrack at Elmwood Park.

Norton Parks Committee Chairman Donna Foley presented the idea to the council Wednesday that the roof be removed because it is not properly secured to the support structure and could pose a safety hazard to anyone seated in the grandstands.

Though there are no current plans to replace the roof, city administrator Rob Lawson explained that the current roof is really just sheets of tin wired to support beams, a design that may collapse with a heavy load of snow or

ice. Not every council member agreed, however, that the roof should be removed without plans to replace it.

"If we can figure out how to do it, it would be easier to 'un-roof' and 're-roof' all at the same time," said council member Jerry Jones. "That seems like the easiest way."

Council members also discussed the need to look at the rest of the structure for safety concerns.

"I think we need to look at the supporting structure to see if it needs re-engineered," said council member Jeff Otter.

After some discussion on the best way to proceed, the council voted 5-1 to remove the roof with Jerry Jones opposing the move.

Arts Council to host comedy show Saturday

By Carleen Bell
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The Norton County Arts Council will host a comedy show this Saturday evening at The Rock in Norton.

Scheduled for 7 p.m., the show will feature the comedic talents of Sam Adams, winner of the 2009 Great American Comedy Festival. A former sports journalist, Adams became a comedian at age 41 and now travels around the nation performing comedy shows.

The comedy show is open to all ages

and will be a family-friendly, clean act. Arts Council representatives said that though the show is at The Rock, it is not Christian-based.

Along with the comedy show, the snack bar at The Rock will have refreshments available for purchase. The cost for admission to the show is \$5 for adults, \$1 for student and \$3 for members of other local arts councils.

For more information about Sam Adams or his comedy shows, visit www.likethebeer.com.

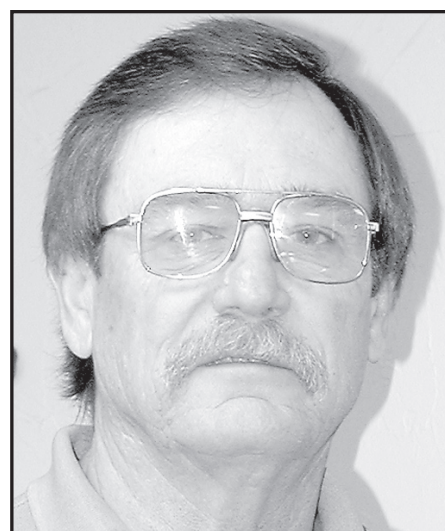
Farmers honored at conservation district dinner

The Norton American Legion hosted the 66th annual Norton County Conservation District Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner Saturday night.

The highlight of the evening was the award presentation to Leslie and Lynn Ward, the 2011 Water Quality award winner and to Donna Hale, the 2011 Windbreak award winner.

Conservation chairman Greg Otter and vice-chairman Kevin Sides were successful in their bids for re-election to board membership.

The meeting included a musical presentation by the Jay Singers, dinner, door prizes and winners of the Eisenhower Elementary School poster contest.



Les Ward



Lynn Ward



Donna Hale