

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

14 PAGES

Friday

February 17, 2012

Briefly

Norton schools are closed Wednesday

Due to the MCEL Music festival held in Norton, there will be no school on Wednesday. School resume at regular times Thursday morning.

Town hall meeting to be held Saturday

There will be a Legislative Town Hall Meeting with Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer and Rep. Ward Cassidy tomorrow at the Town and Country Kitchen starting at 9:45 a.m.

Painting class set for this weekend

The "Joy of Painting" class will be held at the Hansen Museum Community room both Saturday and Sunday starting at 9 a.m. Certified instructors, T.R. Mathews and Sandy Seamon, both of Colorado, will be there to entertain and instruct on the Bob Ross way of painting.

PALS party planned for Monday night

The Norton FFA PALS group will hold a Valentine party Monday evening at 7 p.m. at the Norton High School cafeteria. The group will make Valentine cards and partake in ice cream treats.

Band/vocal concert will be this Monday

The Norton Junior High music department will hold a band and vocal concert Monday evening at 7:30 p.m. at the Norton Junior High gymnasium.

Daffodils can be ordered by Feb. 24

To support the American Cancer Society, daffodil orders may be placed through Feb. 24 by calling Tammy Kimminau at 785-820-9423 or by e-mail at tammy.kimminau@cancer.org. For a donation of \$10, supporters will receive a bouquet of fresh daffodils in mid-March.

Markets

Friday, February 17, 2012

Wheat.....	\$6.36
Milo.....	\$5.89
Soybeans.....	\$11.81
Corn.....	\$6.29

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Saturday - Mostly sunny with highs around 40. Sunday - Mostly sunny and breezy with highs in the upper 40s. Monday - Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of light rain. Tuesday - Mostly sunny with highs in the upper 40s. Wednesday - Mostly sunny.

Kingham Report

Tuesday, February 14 ...Low 24, High 45
Wednesday, Feb. 15.....Low 28, High 40
Thursday, February 16..Low 20, High 48
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Dear Lord, help us to cast our anxieties on you that we may know your presence and your peace. Amen

Wednesday fire causes minor injuries



Norton County EMS personnel helped care for James Harper early Wednesday afternoon after Harper suffered from smoke inhalation from a fire at his home. Harper was transported to the Norton County Hospital for treatment of his injuries. Pictured (left to right) are EMS responders Magnum Shea and Pat Pomeroy, an unidentified family member of Harper, and EMS responder Nichole Hester, along with Harper on the ambulance gurney.

By Carleen Bell
cbell@nwkansas.com

A Norton man suffered minor injury late Wednesday morning when the clothes dryer caught fire in his mobile home on the east side of town.

Norton Fire Chief Mitch Jones reported that the department was called to the home of James Harper just before noon on Wednesday for a fire that had broken out in the mobile home at 411 North Archer. Harper, who was alone in the home, reported that the dryer had caught fire and after calling for help, he tried to remove the appliance.

Jones said Harper was unable to remove the dryer, but suffered from smoke inhalation and some minor scrapes and bruises.

A Norton fireman, who happened to be near the scene, was among the first to respond and carried Harper from the home to a fire truck outside. Harper was transported to the Norton County Hospital by Norton County EMS for treatment of his injuries.

The burning dryer was also carried to the yard of the home before the fire could spread. Because the appliance

-Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

(Fire - Continued on Page 5)

School board considers summer school schedule

By Carleen Bell
cbell@nwkansas.com

To help provide as much support as possible for students, the Norton School Board is considering a summer school schedule for this summer.

Eisenhower Elementary Principal Corey Roy presented a proposal to the board Monday evening for a potential schedule. Roy reported that prior to last summer, the district had run a four-week session beginning at the end of May and running through most of June, but attendance was waning on that schedule.

Last summer, the district scheduled two sessions of

two weeks each and Roy is proposing to run the same schedule again this summer.

The first session would run May 29 to June 8 and the second session would run July 30 through Aug. 10.

Currently, three Eisenhower teachers would be teaching the program. For each day of summer school, students in Kindergarten, second grade, and fifth and sixth grades would attend from 8 to 10 a.m. and students in first grade and third and fourth grade would attend from 10 a.m. to noon.

Roy reported that about 140 students have been identified as candidates for summer school, which is

in line with what the district has seen in years past. Students are identified as candidates through standardized test scores and through teacher recommendations.

Historically, Roy said, the summer school program sees a 40-50 percent participation rate, which can be expected again this year. The principal said the program is entirely voluntary for the students identified as potential participants and only need parental permission to attend.

The school board took no action on the summer school proposal, but are expected to take action to approve it at the March board meeting.

Board approves academic calendar for 2012-2013 year

By Carleen Bell
cbell@nwkansas.com

Adding several early dismissal days for the year, the Norton School Board approved Monday evening an academic calendar for the 2012-2013 school year.

At the board's January meeting, Norton Superintendent Greg Mann reported that in light of mandates and required training for teachers and administrators, the district needs to plan for time for professional development, which could include late-start or early

dismissal days for students.

To help determine the best way to accommodate the professional development, a committee consisting of eight district staff came together in early February to create a calendar.

The new calendar, approved Monday evening, consists of 177 student attendance days. The early dismissal days for professional development are as follows: Sept. 12 and 26, Oct. 3, Nov. 14, Dec. 12, 2012; Feb. 6 and 27, March 27, April 10 and 24 and May 8, 2013.

Those early dismissal days are in addition to scheduled early dismissals on Aug. 17, Aug. 31, Dec. 21, 2012 and May 23, 2013.

According to the new calendar, the

first day of student attendance for the 2012-2013 year will be Aug. 17 and the last day of student attendance will be May 23.

City council considers potential pool funding

By Carleen Bell
cbell@nwkansas.com

In the next step of planning for a potential construction project, the Norton City Council has begun considering funding options for the potential construction of a new city swimming pool.

Rick Ensz of Cooper, Malone, McClaine, Inc. met with the city council Wednesday evening to propose that the city hire his company to underwrite potential bonds for the project. As a finance company, Ensz said, he would help the city determine the best type of financing for the potential project and help the city take the matter to a public vote if necessary.

The council agreed earlier this year to form a committee to recommend a design for a potential new pool. The committee has been working with Kevin McElyea of Aquatic Design Consultants, Inc. to create a potential design to make a recommendation on a design.

Norton City Administrator Rob Lawson reported that along with a potential design, the committee has been discussing possible funding methods for the pool and the consensus right now is that a city-wide sales tax is the best way to proceed. A sales tax would have to go to a public vote and the current

goal is to have the issue on this November's election ballot.

According to McElyea, Lawson said, the total cost of designing and building a new swimming pool is approximately \$3.8 million, which includes the cost of engineering, construction and bonding fees.

Ensz reported Wednesday evening that if the city chooses to use his company's services, he would work side by side with Aquatic Design Consultants to make the pool project a reality.

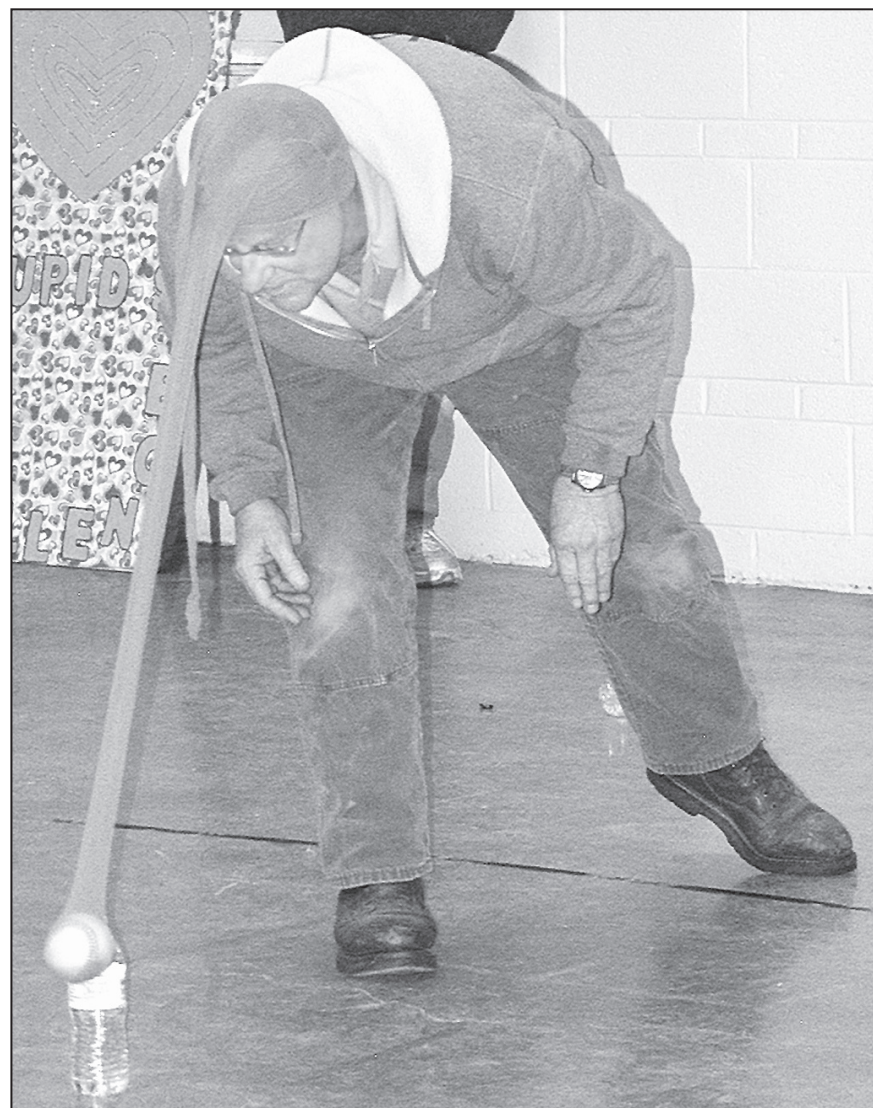
"With Kevin's budget and design, the next step is to determine if that budget is realistic and how to finance the project," Ensz said. "The city would need to decide what type of bond to issue and that decision needs to be made early in the process."

Though Ensz urged the city to hire his company or another bonding firm as soon as possible, city council members expressed some concerns over the timing of his proposal. Council member Jerry Moritz said that he felt like deciding to issue bonds before a design or exact cost is determined seems like backward logic.

"The figure we have is \$3.8 million and that's all we have so far," Moritz said. "We don't have detailed plans, so

(City - Continued on Page 5)

Getting hosed



Norton Mayor David Corns helped entertain a crowd Monday evening by participating in KQNQ's "Minute to Win It" contest at the Norton County 4-H building. One of the winners of the radio station's contest, the mayor had to wear a pair of ladies' panty hose on his head and knock down eight water bottles with a baseball hanging from the stockings without using his hands. Corns successfully completed the task and moved on to the next round of competition.

-Telegram photo by Carleen Bell



8 0 4 8 7 9 1 9 9 6 8 7