

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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Tuesday

February 21, 2012

Briefly

Casino night will be held this Friday

There will be a soup supper/casino night at the Eagles on Friday night with the supper at 5 p.m., casino games from 7:30 to 9:30 and an auction at 9:30. This is a fund-raiser for the Heart Fund.

Mary Todd Lincoln coming to Norton

Mary Lou Pennington will portray Mary Todd Lincoln at the Norton Public Library Community Room on Sunday from 2-3:30 p.m. Come enjoy a bit of history.

Send-off is planned for Blue Jay wrestlers

All fans are invited to a send-off for the Norton Community High School wrestlers who qualified for the State Tournament at 6 p.m. on Wednesday in the Wrestling Room at East Campus.

The wrestlers and coaches will leave for Hays following the send-off.

The Class 3-2-1A State Wrestling Tournament will be held on Thursday and Friday this year due to a Fort Hays scheduling conflict.

Mr. NCHS pageant to be held Sunday

Norton Community High School Mr. NCHS competition which was postponed is now set to take place this Sunday at the East Campus Auditorium beginning at 2 p.m. See who wins this year's honor of being Mr. NCHS.

Bible trivia night planned for Sunday

There will be a Bible Trivia Night held at The Rock on Sunday starting at 5 p.m. Stop in and see if any of the teams need a member for a night of great fun.

Markets

Tuesday, February 21, 2012

Wheat	\$6.33
Milo	\$5.83
Soybeans	\$11.81
Corn	\$6.23

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Wednesday - Mostly sunny and warmer. Highs in the mid 60's. Thursday - Partly sunny in the morning then becoming mostly sunny with highs in the mid 40's. Friday - Mostly sunny with highs in the mid 40's. Saturday - Sunny with highs in the lower 50's. Sunday - Mostly sunny with highs in the upper 40's.

Kingham Report

Friday, February 17Low 24, High 46
 Saturday, February 18.....Low 20, High 39
 Sunday, February 19.....Low 23, High 39
 Monday, February 20.....Low 36, High 47
 1/2 Inch Snow

(Readings taken at the Kingham farm)

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for the blessing of knowing you as a counselor, guide, and friend who loves and cares for us. Amen

School crowns champion cup-stacker

Eisenhower Elementary students highlighted their Cup Stacking unit in their physical education classes Friday morning with a Cup Stacking tournament. Friends and classmates gathered in the gym to cheer for the competitors in an exciting atmosphere.

Qualifying for the tournament were 24 students through preliminary tournaments and timed trials.

The students who qualified were: 3rd Graders - Coral Stewart, Jonah Ruder, Emily Miller and Dru Kasson. 4th Graders - Camdyn Unterseher, Alex Auker, Lexi Kats, Carlie Voss, Abby Auker and Kade Melvin. 5th Graders - Taryn Kuhn, Lea Morel, Sylence Auker, Ashley Karnopp, Sam Mulford, Reagan Musquiz and Raelynn Slipke. 6th Graders - Seth Otter, Jace Ruder, Justis Posson, Collyn Auker, Raye Kasson, Tevin Petrie and Brianna Johns.

The tournament was a single elimination competition. Top four finishers were Seth Otter, Kade Melvin, Tevin Petrie, and Jace Ruder. Tevin Petrie won the tournament with Kade Melvin as Runner-Up. Tevin won a free physical education class period for his class.

Though Seth Otter did not win the competition, he does hold the school record with a 13.58-second stacking time.

Sport Stacking with Speed Stacks is practiced in over 34,000 schools around the world. Cup Stacking works both sides of the brain at the same time, improving the participants concentration, focus and hand-eye coordination. It is also found to improve a student's sports skills as well as academic performances.



Eisenhower Elementary students held a cup-stacking competition Friday morning at the school. Competing for the honor of school champion were 24 students who qualified for the tournament through preliminary competitions. Pictured, Tevin Petrie (right), who was the overall winner of the tournament, competes against Kade Melvin in the competition.

-Telegram photo by Carleen Bell

School board accepts annual audit report

By Carleen Bell
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After reviewing a report of the district's financial information, the Norton Unified School District Board approved last Monday evening an independent audit for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. The audit was conducted by Mapes and Miller, Certified Public Accountants, to comply with standards that require public entities to undergo an audit each year.

John Mapes of Mapes and Miller reported to the board last Monday evening that the audit was called a "single audit," which looks at compliance with fed-

eral regulations because the district receives federal funds to operate.

According to the audit report, the district ended the year with just over \$2.7 million in unspent money, an increase from \$2.5 million from the beginning of the year.

That apparent increase, Mapes said, is deceiving, however, because when the Lenora school district became a part of the Norton district, Norton took on Lenora's money. "The actual balance is a decrease of about \$62,000 because the Lenora funding is one-time money," Mapes said.

Mapes also outlined income and expenditures of the various accounts held by the school district. Though finding no major discrepancies, the audit report suggests that the school district does not have sufficient segregation of duties in financial accounting and reporting. That concern, Mapes said, cannot be fully addressed because the district does not employ enough staff to meet the recommended segregation of duties.

After reviewing the information presented, the school board approved the audit report to be filed with appropriate agencies.

Board agrees to capital improvement projects

By Carleen Bell
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Deciding on the most needed projects for the district, the Norton USD 211 School Board approved last Monday evening spending up to \$93,000 in capital improvement projects for the districts.

Earlier this year, the board began considering a list of possible capital improvement projects throughout the district. Board members were asked to prioritize the list of needs and choose three of the most important on the list.

With the consideration, the projects chosen were playground equipment, carpet replacement in the high school and a new intercom/clock system for the district.

The board approved spending up to \$25,000 on playground equipment for the district, though no decisions were made on where the equipment would be installed or what specific equipment would be purchased.

In addition, the board agreed to spend approximately \$26,000 to replace the

carpeting in the main hallways of the high school building.

Finally, a new intercom and clock system for Eisenhower Elementary and the junior/senior high school building is expected to cost \$40-\$60,000.

In addition to the specific capital improvement projects, the board agreed to consider options for improving the gymnasium floor at the junior high

school, though no decisions have been made on whether the floor should be replaced or just refinished.

Each year, the Norton school board chooses a few capital improvement projects to help keep the district facilities modern and up to date. No decisions have been made yet on how soon the projects will get underway or when they may be finished.

Council hears drainage concern

By Carleen Bell
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Citing concerns about the flow of water through the area, a Norton resident approached the Norton City Council Wednesday with concern over her neighbor's building permit and renovation project.

Brenda Mann, who lives on West Crane, approached the council to express concern over water and drainage at her residence because Holly Puga, who runs Holly's Clubhouse daycare, is building an addition on to her home, which has created a low spot where water gathers.

Norton City Administrator Rob Lawson reported that on wet days, water drains from the north side of the Mann property onto the Puga property. Citizens who are concerned with the drainage problem, Lawson said, worry that the construction project is changing the natural flow of water runoff. That is not the case, though, Lawson said, and Puga has gone through the proper permit procedures to construct the ad-

dition on to her property.

Though the city has recently agreed to conduct a drainage study around the area to address drainage problems on the north side of town, not everyone agreed that the city was doing everything it should be to solve the problem.

City council member Jerry Jones, who happens to be Puga's father, expressed his concern that the drainage study should have been conducted several years ago.

"I've tried not to say too much about this because (Holly) is my daughter, but the water starts on the city's ground at the airport," Jones said. "It's time for the city to step up and address the problem. This study should have been done five or six years ago. The city better do something or it's going to be a safety issue."

Though no decisions were made on the issue Wednesday evening, city officials agreed to check on the progress of the drainage study to try to solve the problem as soon as possible.

City to increase adoption fees for pet spay/neuter deposit

By Carleen Bell
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To better align city codes with state regulations, the Norton City Council began the process last Wednesday to increase the city's spay/neuter fee for adopted pets.

Norton City Administrator Rob Lawson reported that the city has been charging a \$25 spay/neuter fee for cats and dogs adopted from the city animal shelter. The fee is charged upon adoption, then refundable when the owners provide proof that they have had their animals spayed or neutered.

Lawson explained that the city animal shelter was recently inspected by

state officials who instructed the city to increase the fees to better reflect the actual cost of having a pet spayed or neutered.

To comply with the instructions, the city held the first reading of an ordinance to increase the fee to \$100 per adoption. While the deposit amount will increase with the ordinance change, the fee is still refundable when pet owners provide proof that their pets have been spayed or neutered.

After three readings of the proposed change, the ordinance will be published as a legal notice and after publication, the new fee amount will take effect.

