

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

10 PAGES

Friday

March 2, 2012

Briefly

Ag meeting is set for this Tuesday

Enrollment for the 2012 Direct and Counter-cyclical Program will continue through June.

Landowners enrolled in the program receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource conserving covers on environmentally sensitive land.

The Norton County Farm Services Agency Office will have an informational meeting to explain the program on March 7 in the conference room at the Norton County Office at 11506 Pinewind Drive. The meeting will begin at 1 p.m.

Sub-State hoops to be held in Norton

Northern Valley is hosting the Class 1A, Division II Sub-State Basketball Tournament and all semi-final and final girls and boys games are being held in the NCHS Stull Gym in Norton.

In the boys division, Northern Valley played Palco and Grainfield played Natoma in Thursday semi-final games.

In girls semi-final action this evening, Natoma will play Wheatland at 6 p.m. and Logan will play Palco at 7:30 p.m.

Semi-finals winners will play for the girls championship at 6 p.m. on Saturday and for the boys championship at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Library training set for March 5 and 8

Coming up in March, the Norton Public library will host audio book and e-reader workshops. George Seamon, Northwest Kansas Library System Director, and Dave Fischer, technology consultant, will provide training on using audio book and e-reader programs through the state library. Training for OneClick audio book service will be held Monday, March 5 at 5:30 p.m. Training for the 3M e-reader services will be held Thursday, March 8 at 5:30 p.m. The training at this time will only be for Nook, Sony, iPad and other readers. The training for Kindle readers will be at a later date.

Markets

Friday, March 2, 2012

Wheat\$6.50
Milo\$5.95
Soybeans\$12.23
Corn\$6.36

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Saturday - Mostly sunny with highs in the upper 40s. Sunday - Mostly sunny and not as cool. Breezy with highs around 60. Monday - Mostly clear with highs in the upper 60s. Tuesday - Mostly clear with highs in the upper 60s.

Kingham Report

Tuesday, Feb. 28Low 36, High 66
30 Rain
Wednesday, Feb. 29Low 31, High 51
Thursday, March 1Low 22, High 54
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

O God, we want to be as consistent in communicating with you as you are in communicating with us. Teach us to speak to you and listen to you throughout every day. Amen.

Relay for Life earns honors for 2011

Following a 2010-2011 Relay For Life summit in November, the American Cancer Society High Plains Division has recognized the Norton County Relay For Life chapter with three excellence awards for the 2010 relay.

Event organizers Gayle and Jay Walsh report that the awards are Five Star Relay, Exemplary Survivorship Community and a All-American Relay. Norton County was one of 23 counties

in Kansas to be awarded the Five Star designation and the award is based on core challenges for each county.

Advocacy

- Empowering individuals to help make cancer a top national priority
- Contacting legislators or other elected officials on key issues such as research funding
- Educating people about cancer issues

-Making the Relay voice heard from city hall to Washington, DC

Fight Back

- Raise awareness of and change behaviors that lead to cancer
- Share with others a menu of opportunities that fight cancer year-round
- Provide opportunities to celebrate and remember their reason to Relay year-round

Fund-raising

-Educating and empowering teams and individuals to fund-raise is an essential part to a successful Relay.

Standards

- Uphold all National Standards for Relay For Life
- Build affinity towards the American Cancer Society and Relay For Life through branding

Survivorship

- Set and achieve a progressively challenging survivor recruitment goal
- Achieve a 10 percent increase in survivors who are on Relay teams
- Implement a variety of specific activities at Relay For Life

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Celebrating service



Celebrating nearly 19 years of service to the county, Norton County leaders held a public reception Wednesday afternoon for the retirement of Brent "Topper" Cook, who is retiring from the county's Road and Bridge department. Cook is leaving the department to start his own excavating business. Pictured, Cook cuts a cake at the reception before taking time to chat with well-wishers at the party.

-Telegram photo by Carleen Bell

In his own words: Norton and the Space Race

Editor's Note: The following is a first-hand account of the experience of the Miami Herald's Metro Editor, Jay Ducassi, who moved to Norton from Cuba in 1968 with his family. Ducassi, whose father was a staff physician at the Norton State Hospital, and his family lived in Norton for nearly three years and the author relates fond memories of his experience in rural Kansas.

By Jay Ducassi
Miami Herald

If you were in elementary school in the early 1960s, it was impossible not to be captivated by the dawning space age. You'd hear about new triumphs and new firsts just about every day in school, in the newspapers and on TV.

But if you were a kid growing up in Havana, as I was, the space heroes had different names.

John Glenn? Never heard of him.

America and much of the rest of the world grew up celebrating the exploits of Glenn and the Mercury 7 astronauts, an elite group overflowing with what author Tom Wolfe aptly dubbed "the right stuff."

In Cuba, only the left stuff mattered.

As far as I and the rest of my classmates at the Escuela Primaria Marcelo Salado knew, the Soviets had done it all.

Yuri Gagarin was the first human to fly into space and into orbit. Valentina Tereshkova was the first woman in space, and Laika was the first dog in space. They were cosmonauts, not astronauts.

Though I was a little distracted by a mad crush on my first-grade teacher, Señorita María, I can recall hearing how socialism was bettering not only

the world, but the universe beyond. (On the first day of class, she wrote something on the blackboard for us to copy in our notebooks, the first sentence I ever wrote: "Marx y Engels nacieron en Alemania." I had no idea who Marx and Engels were, or why it mattered they were born in Germany, but if it made Señorita María happy...)

We never heard about what the Yanquis were doing, or that they were flying into space, too. (Except for the failures. When Apollo 1 caught fire on the launchpad in 1967, killing three astronauts, it was front-page news in Havana.)

The Cold War, and the Cuban government's antagonism toward anything American, meant all we heard was that our friends in the Soviet Union had conquered space.

This month's 50th anniversary of Glenn's missions brought these dim memories back to me, memories no doubt familiar to many others in South Florida who share a similar history. Glenn rocketed into space only a few hundred miles north of Havana, but it might as well have happened on another planet.

It wasn't until after I arrived in the United States in January 1968, finishing elementary school in Norton, Kan., that I heard about Glenn, Alan Shepard and the other astronauts in the American space program.

Ours was the only Cuban family in the tiny farming community, and we became minor celebrities, getting our picture in The Norton Daily Telegram for having fled Communist Cuba. The Cold War had touched little Norton.

As I began to understand English, I

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We've Got Jobs: Natoma Corporation

Editor's Note: The following is the first in a series of stories from the Norton Telegram's "We've Got Jobs" series. The monthly segment features local companies that are growing and expanding the local employee base while supporting the Norton County economy.

By Carleen Bell
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Citing another example of growth and progress, leaders of the Natoma Corporation announced this week that the company is expecting to add as many as 40 employees over the next four years, a workforce increase that amounts to almost one percent of Norton County's population.

Natoma Corporation President Gail Boller explained this week that after constructing a 30,000 square-foot addition to the manufacturing facility on the east edge of Norton last summer, the company is in the process of ordering some new equipment to expand its production. With that expansion, Boller said, the company will need to hire about 10 employees per year for the next four years to keep up with production demand.

"With about 5,000 people in the county, hiring up to 40 people is almost one percent of the population," Boller said. "That's in addition to the 58 employees we already have."

Natoma Corporation manufactures and supplies precision parts for several industries, primarily aviation/

aerospace, medical equipment and the Department of Defense. The company started in 1982 when Boller opened a manufacturing facility in Natoma, Kan. In the fall of 1983, Boller said, the company was doing some work for New Age Industrial Corporation, Inc. and Norton resident Bill Sharp visited the facility.

Seeing the potential for growth and expansion, Sharp brought the idea back to Norton County economic development leaders, who offered to help Boller re-locate his company to Norton.

In 1984, Boller said, Natoma Corporation opened in Norton with a 3,000 square-foot facility and Boller as the only employee. He soon hired another employee and the company has been steadily expanding since then. Physical additions were constructed at the facility in 1988, 1995, 2005 and most recently, the 30,000 square feet in 2010 and the company now boasts 58 employees.

Boller said that in the last year alone, the company has hired 10 new employees and expects to purchase about \$1 million in equipment each year over the next several years.

"This really is a capital-intensive company, but the growth is good for our community," Boller said. "Our products generally don't go overseas and the production numbers for any one part are generally low, so our customers aren't likely to outsource what we offer."

In regards to expanding the company's workforce, Boller said he is looking for a few main qualities in potential employees, most importantly the willingness to work hard and learn new skills. Though no prior training is required, Boller said potential employees must be high

school graduates and must be able to demonstrate good basic math skills.

"It takes about two years for a new employee to become what we consider fully trained," Boller said. "About 50 percent of our employees are Norton High School graduates and we look forward to hiring more if we can."



Natoma Corporation is looking to add up to 40 jobs over the next four years after recently completing a 30,000 square-foot addition to the facility on the east edge of Norton.

