

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



Friday

March 9, 2012

New Chamber Director is named

By Carleen Bell
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Following the resignation of former director Brooke Dix, the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors has announced the hiring of a new Chamber Director.

Tara Vance of Norton will take over as director on March 19.

Vance reports that she grew up in Stockton and attended Fort Hays State University, where she graduated with a degree in Organizational Leadership.

After college, she managed a small, locally-owned retail store in Hays for about three years, an experience Vance said will help her in her new role with the Chamber.

"My retail experience will come in handy because a small business comes with different challenges than larger chains," she said. "Working there is really where I fell in love with with commerce and the concept of supporting the local economy."

Also while Hays, Vance in economic and state-level local economy.

After her re-ence, she was an Counselor for State University. Vance traveled extensively a lot of public ther experience over into a position with the Chamber of Commerce.

Vance and her husband, Steve, moved to Norton almost three years ago and since then, she has been working at Midwest Contractors in Norton.

"At my current job, I've learned a lot of business management skills and practices," she said. "I'm looking forward to using my skills to promote the Norton community through the Chamber of Com-



Tara Vance

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Norton Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors President David Davis reported that following the resignation of former Chamber Director Brooke Dix in January, the board formed a search committee for a new director. The committee consisted of the board's executive committee and others from the board, a representative from the Travel and Tourism committee, a representative from the Chamber Ambassadors and a representative from the Norton County Community Foundation.

The committee screened applicants and interviewed four individuals, but Vance came to the top of the candidate pool with her skills and qualifications."

"Tara brought so many great ideas to the interview," Davis said. "The board is excited for the future of the Chamber and the experience and energy Tara will bring. We are looking forward to working with her."



SPRING FORWARD 1-HOUR Daylight Saving Time Begins Sunday, March 11

Briefly

Eye clinic to hold a ribbon cutting

Cole Family Eyecare will hold a ribbon cutting on Thursday at 3 p.m. The public is invited to attend the reception and meet Dr. Ben Cole.

Schools to dismiss for a spring break

The Norton Community School District will not be in session all next week for Spring break. School will resume Monday, March 19 at regular time.

Voter registration ends this Tuesday

The deadline to register to vote in the April 3 city council election is Tuesday. Anyone needing to register to vote can visit the county clerk's office at the Norton County Courthouse during regular business hours. Photo identification will be required to register to vote.

After-5 meeting set for Thursday night

The Norton After-5 Club will hold a dinner and meeting on Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at Town and Country Kitchen. The cost is \$10 and reservations must be made by Tuesday. All women and their guests are invited to attend. Reservations can be made to Claire Ann Eppinger at 877-2785.

Markets

Friday, March 9, 2012

Wheat	\$6.28
Milo	\$5.81
Soybeans	\$12.53
Corn	\$6.23

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Saturday - Sunny in the morning and breezy with highs in the lower 60s. Saturday night - Mostly cloudy with a slight chance of light rain showers in the evening. Sunday - Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of light rain showers in the morning. Monday - Highs in the 70s.

Kingham Report

Tuesday, March 6Low 32, High 77
Wednesday, March 7.....Low 34, High 46
Thursday, March 8.....Low 20, High 51
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for your love and forgiveness. Teach us to honor you in our relationships with others. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

County approves camera purchase

By Carleen Bell
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To help ensure security and safety at the facility, the Norton County Commissioners agreed Monday morning to purchase security cameras to be installed at the Norton County Landfill.

Forseveralmonths,thecommissioners have been discussing the need for cameras at the facility because crews from the Norton Correctional Facility often work at the landfill. There has been concern that the inmates may find items that could potentially be used as weapons and take the potentially harmful items back to the correctional

facility.

The county solicited bids for the purchase of cameras and received a bid from CEI Security and Sound, based in Hastings, Neb. in the amount of \$7,835.55 for the equipment and installation. The amount includes four cameras, along with wiring and installation for the equipment. The cameras are to be installed in the recycling area of the landfill where inmate work crews help sort recyclables.

The commissioners voted unanimously to purchase the cameras and have them installed at the county landfill.

Northern Valley students raise \$1,741 to fight heart disease

Northern Valley students in grades 1-4 recently participated in the Jump Rope for Heart to promote cardiovascular fitness and to raise money for the American Heart Association. Event coordinators report that the students raised \$1,741

Northern Valley physical education teacher Jim Cole coordinated the event.

"Jump Rope for Heart was a great success," Cole said. "Each participant gave 100 percent. It makes sense to give heart research the number one priority since cardiovascular diseases kill more Americans than all other causes of death combined. It is also important to teach our youth about volunteerism and giving to people in need."

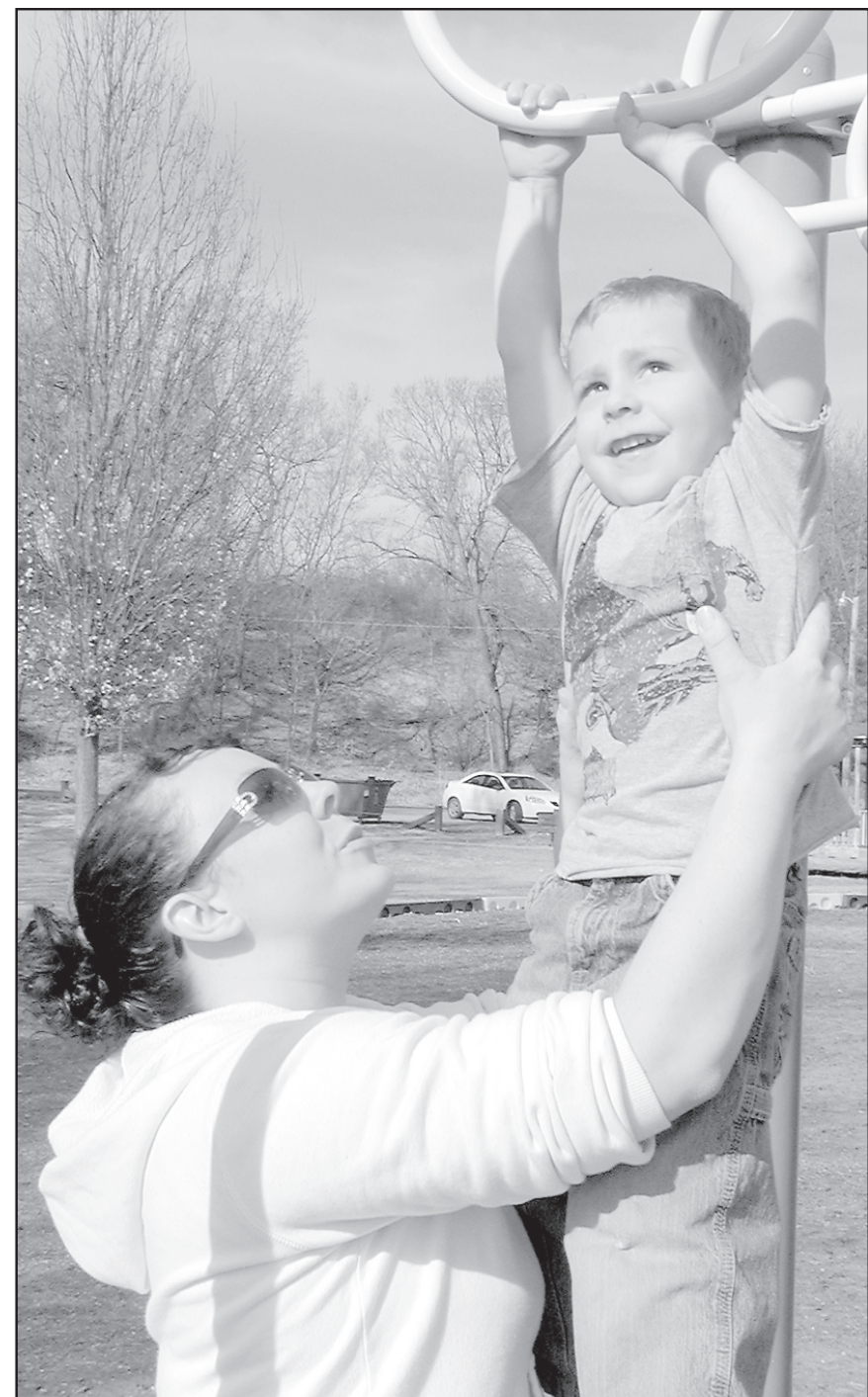
The students participating in Jump Rope for Heart send their thanks to everyone who donated to the cause. Each student will be receiving prizes depending on how much money they

raised. The first grade class collected the most money with \$716. First grader Lucas Kenny was the school's top money raiser with \$254. Third grader Ava Schemper was second place, collecting \$174, followed by first grader Foster Brands with \$150.

According to information from the American Cancer Society, Jump Rope for Heart events have been held for more than 30 years. In that time, the society has been able to work with healthcare providers to reduce the number of heart disease related deaths by 25 percent.

Students in schools all around the nation participate in Jump Rope for Heart events each year and raise money to support the American Heart Association's mission to prevent heart disease related deaths. The students raise thousands of dollars for the cause by participating in an activity that also promotes cardiovascular health and physical fitness.

To the sun



The spring time weather that came on Monday and Tuesday brought families out to play at Norton's Elmwood Park. Pictured, Devaney Wells makes sure her son ,Phillip, doesn't slip as he attempts to cross the monkey bars at the park. Spring fever has hit and people are ready to be out and enjoy it. Though the weather later in the week, forecasters are predicting warm and sunny weather for the beginning of next week.

- Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

City agrees to hire bond company to explore possible pool financing

By Carleen Bell
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After lengthy discussion on the matter, the Norton City Council narrowly agreed Wednesday evening to enlist the services of a bond underwriting company to help determine financing options for what could become a new swimming pool for the city.

By a vote of 3-2, the council agreed to hire the services of Cooper, Malone, McLaine, Inc. to determine funding options for the city and possibly underwrite bonds for a possible pool project.

Rick Ensz, representing the company, visited with the city council on Feb. 15 and presented a proposal for the city to hire his company.

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.

Ensz reported at the Feb. 15 council meeting 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.

At the Feb. 15 meeting, the council agreed to take the decision back to the city's finance committee for discussion. Ensz visited with the council again on Wednesday to answer questions and address concerns raised about the future pool project.

Though Ensz asserted that the design and engineering on a pool cannot be completed without exploring financing options, council members expressed many concerns over the timing of trying to finance a project before the project is designed, especially if tax payers will be asked to foot the bill.

"On a \$4 million pool, the payback is actually more like \$6 million with interest," said council member Jerry Mortitz. "When I go to the public, I want them to know exactly what it's going to cost in tax dollars. We can't go to the public and say it's going to cost \$3.8 million when it really could cost about \$7 million.

Ensz asserted, however, that questions like that reinforce the importance of hiring an underwriter to explore financing options. McElyea, also at the meeting, agreed with that assessment, citing the need for a "sanity check" on financing such a project.

"Financing and design are two different tracts, but

intertwined," McElyea said. "The design the pool committee comes up with may not be what the public wants and the next step is to get public input and see if the designs we come up with are still within the sanity range for financing."

Council member Jerry Jones also expressed concern over the timing of hiring a bond underwriter for a project that isn't designed yet, reflecting that only three weeks had passed since Ensz last visited with the council.

"What has happened in three weeks that has made us need to hire someone?" Jones asked. "I still don't understand what is our big hurry. I realize we need a new pool, but I want one we can afford. I'm still not convinced we've got all the answers we need."

The council ultimately agreed to hire Cooper, Malone, McLaine, Inc. to explore possible financing options and as part of the agreement, no fees will be paid to the company unless and when the city actually issues bonds for a pool project. The 3-2 decision was made with Jerry Jones and Jerry Moritz opposing the move. Council member Jeff Otter was not present to vote.

