

# THE NORTON TELEGRAM



## Tuesday

### March 13, 2012

### Briefly

#### Baseball meeting set for Wednesday

A K-18 baseball meeting will be held at Ryan Field on Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. The meeting is open to students 15 and under who will not be 16 before Aug. 1. For more information, contact Rick Green at 877-3804.

#### Eye clinic to host a ribbon cutting

Cole Family Eye Care will hold a ribbon cutting and open house on Thursday from 3 to 6 p.m. Everyone is invited to join the celebration.

#### Legion will host dance and fish fry

The Norton American Legion will hold a fish fry and dance on Saturday from 6-8 p.m. to celebrate the Legion's birthday.

#### Soup supper set for Saturday evening

A soup supper will be held from 5-7 p.m. at the Norton Community Center (Senior Center) on Saturday.

#### Farm toy show will be held Saturday

The tri-state Farm Toy and Collectibles show will be held Saturday at the Armory in Norton from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

#### BB Gun team to compete in Alma

The Norton County Rotary BB Gun team will be in Alma, Kansas this Saturday to compete in the Kansas State BB Gun Championships. This will be the 47th time a Norton team has attended the state shoot. Norton has won the state shoot 38 times.

### Markets

Tuesday, March 13, 2012

Wheat .....	\$6.45
Milo .....	\$6.06
Soybeans .....	\$12.51
Corn .....	\$6.48

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

### Weather

Wednesday - Sunny with highs in the lower 80s. Thursday - Sunny with highs around 80. Friday - Mostly clear with highs in the lower 80s. Saturday - Mostly clear with highs in the lower 80s. Sunday - Mostly clear with highs in the lower 80s.

### Kingham Report

Friday, March 9 .....Low 26, High 64  
Saturday, March 10.....Low 28, High 69  
Sunday, March 11 .....Low 41, High 49  
Monday, March 12.....Low 33, High 76  
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

### Prayer

Dear God, help us to understand and accept that while bad things happen to good people, your love for us is constant. Amen

## Students raise \$611 for Relay For Life

Students of the Norton Junior High KAY Club held a fund-raiser last week to raise money for the American Cancer Society's Norton County Relay For Life.

Students and staff volunteered to have their heads shaved off if the fund-raiser reached funding goals. With the students raising more than \$600, five students were shaved, along with two teachers. The students were Mike Kasson, Kade Unterseher, Ward Hayes, Chandler Sumner, and Layton Miller. The teachers were Ben Gordon and Chance McKinney.

The club hosted a "Wig Out" day on Friday where students were encouraged to wear funny wigs and "ornaments" in support of people fighting cancer.

The Norton County Relay For Life will be held June 8 - 9 at the Court House Square in downtown Norton. This year's theme is "Camping For a Cure." Anyone wishing to join a team or to have a team in this year's Relay can contact Sandy Brown at 785-202-0204 or for information on Relay For Life of Norton County call Jay or Gayle Walsh at 785-669-7002. More information is also available at [www.relayforlife.org/nortoncountyks](http://www.relayforlife.org/nortoncountyks) or on Facebook by searching Relay For Life of Norton County.

(Pictured) Chandler Sumner (left), an eighth grader at Norton Junior High School, gets his head shaved by his mother, Caren Carter, owner and operator of The Razor's Edge.

-Telegram photo by Mike Stephens



## Federal benefits to become electronic

A March 1, 2013 deadline has been set for all federal benefit recipients to receive their benefits electronically because the paper checks will no longer be issued after that date.

According to information from United States Treasurer Rosie Rios, the move will help save \$1 billion over the next 10 years. Currently, about 90 percent of the Social Security and Supplemental Security Income benefits across the nation are made electronically. That percentage is higher in Kansas, however, with 93.4 percent paid out electronically. In Norton County, the percentage is 92.3.

The Treasury Department published a final rule in December 2010 to gradually phase out paper checks for federal benefit payments. Since May 1, all people newly applying for federal benefits, including Social Security, Supplemental Security Income, Veterans Affairs, Railroad Retirement Board, Office of Personnel Management benefits and other non-tax payments, have had to choose direct deposit or the Direct Express Debit MasterCard card at the time they sign up for their benefits. March 1, 2013 is the final deadline by which all remaining federal benefit check recipients must receive their money electronically.

The Treasury Department's Go Direct public education campaign is helping people understand what they need to do to get their money electronically.

The Treasury Department will include information in all check recipients' March 2012 payments, reminding them to switch ahead of the deadline and offering them information about their electronic payment options. Additionally, the Go Direct campaign is now working with more than 1,800 partner organizations throughout the country to spread the message, developing a new series of public service announcements and providing other supportive materials such as an instructional video about how to make the switch online or

over-the-phone and about how electronic payments work.

Federal benefit recipients can switch to electronic payments online at [www.GoDirect.org](http://www.GoDirect.org) or through the U.S. Treasury Electronic Payment Solution Center toll-free at 1-800-333-1795. Check recipients should have the following information on hand when making the switch to an electronic payment option, including the Direct Express® card:

- Social Security number or claim number
- 12-digit federal benefit check number
- Amount of most recent federal benefit check

If signing up for direct deposit to an existing financial institution account, individuals will also need:

- Financial institution's routing transit number - often available on a personal check
- Account number and type (checking or saving)

The new direct deposit rule will eliminate several problems for people receiving benefits. The system eliminate the risk of stolen checks, help protect people from financial crime and provide them more control over their money.

Direct deposit and the Direct Express cards give people immediate access to their funds from virtually anywhere.

Problems with electronic payments are fewer and easier to track and resolve than problems with mailed checks.

No bank account is required to sign up for the card Direct Express card. There is no credit check or minimum balance requirement.

Most services are free, such as purchases at retail locations; cash back with purchases; optional notification of deposits to the card by phone, email or text message; and optional low balance alert when the account balance falls below a certain level.

Federal benefit money is deposited to a Direct Express® card account each month on the cardholder's payment day.

## Norton forensics wins MCL league tourney in Hill City

The Norton high school forensics team is nearing the halfway point of the 2012 season and has had great success so far. The team has competed in six tournaments and has fared well at all of them, including a league Championship Title for the second year in a row. The first half of the season has had the team placing at the following tournaments: Hill City - 1st place, Dighton - 2nd place, Hays High - 3rd place, Ellis - 4th place, MCL at Hill City - 1st place, and Oakley - 3rd place.

Overall, the team has qualified 18 events for the State Championship tournament held in Wichita in May. Forensics competitions are unique in that students are allowed to qualify for the State Competition throughout the year at most tournaments. Typically, a student who places first or second in the competition qualifies for the state tournament. Each school is limited in the number of events that can compete at state to 16.

"NCHS has the unique problem of having too many events qualified for state," said team sponsor Steve Vance.

(Forensics - Continued on Page 5)

## Commissioners institute county-wide burn ban until further notice

By Carleen Bell  
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Because of very dry conditions across the region, the Norton County Commissioners approved Monday morning a resolution banning open burning in the county until further notice.

According to the National Weather Service office in Goodland, the counties of Northwest Kansas are under a "red flag" warning, which means dry and windy conditions bring a high risk of accidental fires, especially in grassy areas.

To help prevent grass fires and controlled burns getting out of control, the county resolution states that "all outdoor open burning, discharge of fireworks and field burn-off activities are prohibited unless a written burning or discharge permit is issued by one of the Norton County fire chiefs."

While the burn ban is in effect, anyone in the county wishing to hold a controlled burn must contact the local fire department to request a permit.

The resolution became effective on Monday and will remain in effect until further notice.

In addition to the county-wide ban on open burning, the city of Norton has in effect city codes that regulate open burning within the city limits. According to city code, open burning within the city limits is prohibited with the exception of cooking and ceremonial purposes. The open burning ban applies to garbage and trash and solid waste, along with any material that will release harmful gasses into the air.

In addition, the code asserts that it is unlawful for anyone to cause or create or allow any condition that is likely to cause the outbreak or spreading of fire. Any situation that would cause the start or spread of a fire is considered a fire hazard.

Anyone violating the city code is subject to a fine of up to \$100 and imprisonment up to 30 days.



The Norton Fire Department was dispatched to 308 W. Main St. on Friday, March 9 to put out a small fire. The resident was burning yard waste, which is illegal within the city limits.

-Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

