

# \$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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10 PAGES

**Friday**

**March 16, 2012**

*Briefly*

## Legion birthday set for this Saturday

On Saturday, the Norton American Legion will hold a lamb fry and ham dinner from 6-8 p.m. with a dance to follow from 8-midnight with music provided by The Three Jacks. This is a Bud Night to celebrate the Legion's birthday.

## Rec Center to host racquetball tourney

The Norton Recreation Commission will hold a racquetball tournament this Saturday at the Norton Rec Center.

## Soup supper to be held Saturday night

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

## Toy show planned for this Saturday

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

## Flower shops will hold fund-raisers

Garden Gate Florals, Etc. and Norton Flowers, Gifts and Greenhouse will sell \$2 roses and \$1 carnations on Thursday, with all proceeds going to the Relay For Life of Norton County.

## BB Gun Team is headed for state

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

Friday, March 16, 2012

Wheat .....	\$6.50
Milo .....	\$6.10
Soybeans .....	\$12.73
Corn .....	\$6.51

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

## Weather

Saturday - Sunny and breezy with highs in the mid 80s. Sunday - Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Monday - Cooler and partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Tuesday - Partly cloudy with highs around 60.

## Kingham Report

Tuesday, March 13 .....Low 33, High 79  
 Wednesday, March 14...Low 36, High 77  
 Thursday, March 15.....Low 44, High 77  
 (Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

## Prayer

Dear God, thank you for sheltering us. Help us remember to reach for your hand in troubling times. Amen



## Summer is here already?

A taste of spring weather brings out a taste of summer. Althea Paxton (far left) and Gracie Temmel set up a lemonade stand Tuesday in Norton in hopes of helping citizens cool off in the unusually warm weather. Even with dead grass and bare trees, these two young entrepreneurs found it warm enough to wear bathing suits in mid-March. The duo earned enough money to divide between them and save for a cool treat when the weather really gets hot. Forecasters are predicting near-record temperatures through the weekend and rain and cooler temperatures early next week.

-Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

# School approves summer school schedule

By Carleen Bell  
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After hearing a proposal for a program schedule in February, the Norton School Board approved Monday evening a schedule for this year's summer school program at Eisenhower Elementary.

The summer school program is designed to help provide as much academic support as possible for students by giving them the opportunity to attend school longer than the usual academic year.

Eisenhower Elementary Principal Corey Roy reported in February 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 asked the school board to run the same schedule again this summer.

With Monday evening's board approval, the first session will run May 29 to June 8 and the second session will run July 30 through Aug. 10.

Three Eisenhower teachers will be teaching the program. For each day of summer school, students in Kindergarten, second grade, and fifth and sixth grades will attend from 8 to 10 a.m. and students in first grade and third and fourth grade will 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 they only need parental permission to attend.

# Board considers housing options

By Carleen Bell  
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Citing concerns over the lack of affordable and available housing in the community, the Norton City/County Economic Development Board of Directors discussed Tuesday evening the potential need to conduct a housing study and explore options for developing housing spaces in Norton.

Economic Development Director Scott Sproul reported that the organization has been looking into possible funding solutions to help development quality housing in the community, which is of more urgent concern because the Colby Community College's

Norton Campus may be teaching as many as 50 students at any given time, many of which will need to find suitable housing.

Sproul reported that many housing development programs are restricted only to the development of low income housing, which isn't necessarily what the Norton area needs. The community conducted a housing study in 1999, but the board discussed the possibility of conducting a new study and agreed to offer an internship to help with the study.

Sproul explained that he was approached by Carolyn Popp, the former director of the Hill City Chamber of

Commerce, who would like to learn more about housing and economic development. Popp is requesting to "shadow" Norton's economic development and help with potential housing development in the community. She is not requesting any type of financial reimbursement, but only the opportunity to expand her knowledge base about economic development.

The Economic Development board agreed Tuesday evening to offer Popp an internship to help with the process and to continue to look for options to develop affordable and available housing in the community.

# School agrees to refinish gym floor at junior high

By Carleen Bell  
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To help address maintenance concerns for the facility, the Norton School Board approved Monday evening spending just under \$14,000 to refurbish the gymnasium floor at the Norton Junior High as part of the district's capital outlay projects for the year.

Norton Superintendent Greg Mann discussed a proposal Monday evening from VonLintel Refinishing and Flooring, Inc., based in Hays, to sand and refinish the floor, along with repairing a 5-foot by 10-foot section of the floor and subfloor, replacing two brass volleyball plates and cutting out a section of wood along the perimeter of the gym to allow for expansion in wet, humid weather.

The overall costs for the elements of the work proposal is \$13,603, but the cost may increase based on how much work is required on the subfloor of the gym.

Overall, the work will include sanding and refinishing the existing the floor, repairing and replacing a damaged portion of the floor, replacing the volleyball plates, and cutting out a section along the perimeter, along with re-painting lines on the refinished floor.

"I think this is probably the best option for the floor," Mann said. "Our last termite treatment on the floor lasted 20 years and we are expecting to get at least as long out of the recent termite treatment, so this floor has a lot of life left in it."

The board agreed unanimously to accept the proposal and have the gymnasium floor refinished and repaired.

# Junior high schedule may be changing

By Carleen Bell  
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Trying to accommodate time for professional development and staff training, the Norton School Board is considering revising the daily schedule for the Norton Junior High for next year.

Norton Superintendent Greg Mann reported Monday evening that the proposed revisions would move the building's activity period from the afternoon to the morning and lengthen the period by about 10 minutes. As a result, each of the other class periods would be shortened by about one minute.

"The way the proposed schedule looks right now, there would be no conflicts with scheduling," Mann explained. "There would be a one-minute overlap between the high school and junior high passing periods once per day, though."

Mann explained that the biggest advantage to changing the junior high schedule would be allowing the school to begin serving lunch to the junior high students earlier in the day, which will likely cut down on discipline and behavior problems in the building because students won't be waiting so long between breakfast and lunch.

The superintendent also explained that enrollment at the junior high is expected to be lower than normal next year with only about 80 students attending. With those numbers, the junior high building may have some extra space available that can be used for classrooms to teach high school classes.

While no decisions were made on the revised schedule Monday evening, the Board agreed to consider the proposal and members are expected to make a decision on the matter at their April meeting.

# Two highway projects get underway this week

Today two highway projects on K-25 in Logan and Thomas Counties are underway, utilizing a state detour.

The first project is to reconstruct approximately 11 miles of K-25 from Russell Springs to U.S.40 in Logan County. That section of roadway is now closed to traffic during the construction period.

The official state detour will take

travelers onto K-96, U.S. 83, and Interstate 70.

A bridge replacement project on K-25 Highway in Thomas County also began this week. It will utilize the same detour.

While the bridgework is underway, K-25 will be closed from I-70 south approximately three miles.

Weather permitting, both projects

will be complete by the first part of July. At that time, the closed sections of K-25 will re-open to normal traffic and the detour will be discontinued.

For more information regarding this project or any other project, please contact District Three Engineer Jeff Stewart or District Three Public Affairs Manager Kristen Brands at (785) 877-3315 in Norton.

