

# \$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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8 PAGES

## Friday

### March 30, 2012

### Briefly

#### Norton school will dismiss early April 5

The Norton Schools will have an early 2:45 p.m. dismissal for grades 9-12 on Thursday, April 5 due to the Norton Invitational track meet. Buses will run at the normal time. Kindergarten through 8th grade will be dismissed at the normal time.

#### Easter cantata will be held this Sunday

Under the direction of Belinda Thalheim, the cantata "Oh What a Savior" will be performed on Sunday, at 7 p.m. at the Luctor Christian Reformed Church, four miles north of Prairie View. The public is invited to attend.

#### Schools dismissed for an Easter break

The Norton school calendar was changed this fall and the Norton Schools will not be in session on Friday, April 6 or on Monday, April 9 due to the Easter holiday.

#### VA claims officer visiting on Tuesday

Jody Tubbs of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs will be in Norton on Tuesday from 10:45-11:45 a.m. at the Community Center (Senior Center). Tubbs will assist veterans and their dependents with VA claims work. Anyone unable to visit her at that time can contact her in Colby any Monday, Wednesday or Friday at 785-462-3572.

#### Treasurer's Office to be closed April 5

The Norton County Treasurer's Office will be closed on Thursday, April 5 from 8-9 a.m. for statewide training.

### Markets

Friday, March 30, 2012

Wheat .....\$5.98  
Milo .....\$5.45  
Soybeans .....\$12.58  
Corn .....\$5.86  
Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

### Weather

Saturday - Sunny with highs in the upper 80s. Sunday - Sunny with highs in the upper 80s. South winds 10 to 20 mph. Monday - Mostly sunny and much cooler and breezy. Highs in the mid 60s with a 20 percent chance of light rain showers. Tuesday - Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Wednesday - Mostly clear with lows in the lower 40s and highs in the lower 70s.

### Kingham Report

Tuesday, March 27 .....Low 45, High 73  
Wednesday, March 28.....Low 39, High 73  
Thursday, March 29.....Low 50, High 71  
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

### Prayer

Beloved God, we want to share your gifts and your teaching with other people. So fill us with your love that we eagerly help others in your name. Amen.

## Prairie Land holds annual meeting



Stuart Lowry, President and Chief Executive Officer of Sunflower Electric, was featured speaker of Prairie Land Electric's annual meeting on Tuesday in Norton. Lowry discussed a variety of issues affecting the company, namely potential regulations that could increase costs for power customers.

-Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

By Carleen Bell  
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Prairie Land Electric Cooperative held its 2012 annual meeting Tuesday afternoon in Norton, highlighting some of the projects of the company over the past year.

The meeting featured a report from Allan Miller, Prairie Land's Chief Executive Officer. Miller provided his report on the company's financial operations over the past year, including financial information. According to Prairie Land's financial report, the company holds just under \$100 million in assets and about \$57 million in long-term debt. A portion of that debt, however, has been refinanced and will save the company more than \$2 million over the life of the debt.

Miller also reported that in 2007, the company hit its lowest equity at 17 percent, but equity is steadily climbing and is currently at about 23 percent equity.

The company's leader also discussed how company revenue is used. Miller said that 62 percent of user-generated revenue goes to power generation and distribution and the remainder is used for other operations. That percentage could increase, though, if the Environmental Protection Agency enacts some pending laws on power companies.

The featured speaker at the annual meeting was Stuart Lowry, President and Chief Executive Officer of Sunflower Electric. Lowry also discussed regulations that may soon effect power companies, especially in regards to the company's attempt to expand coal-powered generation. Currently, Lowry said, electrical power comes from 42 percent coal, 48 percent natural gas and 10 percent wind energy. By the end of 2012, the company is expecting to be operating three different wind energy farms in the state, totaling 229 megawatts of power.

Along with reports, the annual meeting featured a free lunch for cooperative members and customers and door prize drawings.

#### Norton farmer makes donation for Eisenhower learning program



Chris Tanner

Thanks to one local farmer and America's Farmers Grow Communities program, students at Eisenhower Elementary will be able learn first-hand where their food originates by making pretzels after harvesting the wheat.

Grow Communities, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund, gives farmers the opportunity to win \$2,500 for their favorite local non-profit organizations.

Chris Tanner was the winning farmer in Norton County. He saw the need to educate more children on sustainable food sources and directed the donation to Agriculture in the Classroom.

"I chose Ag in the Classroom to receive this donation because it helps educate our youth about where their food comes from and how it's a safe, sustainable food source," Tanner said.

"I want the kids to take the message home to mom and dad that agriculture is a good industry so the parents can help farmers get their voices heard."

The organization will use the \$2,500 to enhance the Little Red Hen Project at Eisenhower Elementary. The Little Red Hen Project gives students the opportunity to plant wheat, monitor its growth and moisture, harvest, grind it into flour and make pretzels.

"This donation will be useful for ag education programs as well as leadership development for FFA members and 4-H junior leaders who assist with the programs," said Patsy Maddy, community leader.

In a ceremony held on Sunday at the Community Center (Senior Center), Tanner got the chance to present Ag in the Classroom with the \$2,500 donation.

## Infant death under investigation

By Carleen Bell  
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Norton County officials are investigating the death of an infant that occurred Tuesday afternoon south of Norton.

Norton County Sheriff Troy Thomson reports that officers were called to an address at Road E3 and Road U just after 1 p.m. Tuesday after a report of an infant that had passed away. Thomson said the victim was a baby boy, about four months old, but the names of the child or the parents were

not released pending an investigation into the death.

The sheriff explained that as part of the investigation, the Norton County Coroner requested an autopsy to be performed, which could take 30 days or more. While an official cause of death won't be issued until after the autopsy, Thomson said the death is believed to be accidental at this time.

Responding to the scene on Tuesday were Norton EMS, the Norton County coroner and the Norton Sheriff's Department.

## Elvis tribute show coming to Norton

By Carleen Bell  
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Bringing back a very popular show for the community, the Norton County Arts Council will host "Joseph Hall's Elvis Rock 'n' Remember Tribute" show on Sunday, April 15.

The show will be held at 3 p.m. at the East Campus auditorium and advance tickets are now available. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students.

Tickets can be obtained at the First State Bank in Norton or by calling 785-877-5611. No reserve seats will be issued. Arts Council representatives emphasized that while advance tickets are not required, everyone without advance tickets are not guaranteed admittance the day of the show and everyone is encouraged to purchase tickets in advance.

The Elvis tribute show will feature

Joseph Hall, who began performing as Elvis in 2006 and has been performing full-time since 2007. Now he performs in Branson, Mo. and has "re-invented" his show since his appearance in Norton two years ago.

The new show will be more like Hall's Branson show with added elements and songs.

## Norton forensics team takes first place

On March 10, while other students were heading off on spring break, the Norton Community High School forensics team was headed to the Hoisington Tournament. The tournament turned out to be a great way to start spring break as the team placed first out of 20 schools in attendance. Those individuals placing for Norton were Mariah Farber, 2nd-Prose; Jared Shelton, 2nd-Serious Solo; Eric Becker, 3rd-Extemporaneous Speaking; Skylar Davis, 3rd-Prose; Hannah Goss, 4th-Poetry; Wyatt Wentz, 6th-Extemporaneous Speaking; Ashley Hildebrand/Skylar Davis, 6th-Duet; Hannah Pollock, 6th-Informative Speaking.

At the tournament, Mariah Farber qualified for state in

her Prose bringing the team's total of state qualifiers up to 19. Jared Shelton and Skylar Davis qualified again for state. Other students attending and helping the team to the first place trophy were Morgan Farber in Duet; Neysa Carlson in Duet and Humorous Solo; Shauna Gibson in Serious Solo; Bri Karnopp in Serious Solo; Ty Burns in Humorous Solo; Tyler Kuhn in Improvised Duet Acting; Noah Johnson in Improvised Duet Acting; and Zach Combs in Oration.

The team traveled to Smith Center on Thursday and Colby on Saturday. The tournament set for Monday in Oberlin has been cancelled and will not be rescheduled.

## Windbreak funding assistance is now available

The Kansas Forest Service is ready to help rural landowners qualify for funding to plant windbreaks (shelterbelts) around their farmstead/headquarters that would reduce energy consumption. The buildings must be heated to qualify.

Funding would be provided to eligible producers through the On-Farm Energy Initiative, which is funded through Environmental Quality Incentives Program. The application periods for fiscal year 2012 funds end March 30 and June 1. The program is administered by the United States Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service.

To apply, landowners must sched-

ule an appointment with the office at their local United States Department of Agriculture Service Center. To qualify, applicants also must prepare a tree planting plan and must document the energy savings their farmstead/headquarters will realize from the proposed windbreak/shelterbelt. A district forester can be scheduled to help develop the plan.

The On-Farm Energy Initiative provides financial assistance to cover the majority of cost to purchase and plant trees and shrub seedlings. Payment rates may vary from \$1.49 per bare-root seedling to \$2.57 per container-grown seedling and up to \$5.57 for balled seedlings greater than 18 inch-

es. The initiative does not cover other costs typically associated with establishing windbreaks such as weed or grass control.

If an interested landowner happens to miss the 2012 deadlines, NRCS accepts the On-Farm Energy Initiative applications year-round. If NRCS receives an application after this year's On-Farm Energy Initiative cut-off dates, it will simply be available for next year's funds.

Local contact information is available by accessing the Web at [www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov) or <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=KS> or by calling the Kansas State Office at 785-823-4500.

