

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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8 PAGES

Tuesday
April 10, 2012

Briefly

Hospital holding community survey

The Norton County Hospital and Norton County Health Department are collecting more information to complete a Community Health Needs Assessment report. A survey has been posted at the Norton County Hospital's website at www.ntcohosp.com and all residents are asked to respond to the survey.

Tree sale is now through April 16

The Norton County Conservation District is selling trees and shrubs through Monday, April 16. Trees will be available for pick-up on Friday, April 27. For more information, contact the Conservation District at 877-2623.

Norton prom to be held Saturday night

The Norton Community High School prom will be held Saturday evening. From 1-4 p.m. that day, the public is invited to attend an open house in the Norton Junior High Gymnasium to view the prom decorations. Promenade will be at 6:30 p.m. at the high school gymnasium and at 7 p.m., students and faculty will gather for a banquet. The guest speaker at the banquet will be Lucas Melvin. Following the banquet, students will gather at the junior high gym for a dance and at 10:15 p.m., prom royalty will be crowned.

Northern Valley prom this Saturday

Northern Valley's prom will also be held on Saturday, April 14. The evening will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the high school auditorium with a dinner for juniors and seniors. From 9 p.m. to midnight, a dance will be held for all high school students and prom royalty will also be crowned during the dance.

Markets

Tuesday, April 10, 2012

Wheat	\$6.08
Milo	\$5.90
Soybeans	\$13.43
Corn	\$6.31

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Tonight - Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of light rain showers after midnight. Wednesday - Mostly cloudy and cooler with a slight chance of light rain. Thursday - Warmer and windy with a 50 percent chance of thunderstorms.

Kingham Report

Friday, April 6.....	Low 41, High 61
Saturday, April 7.....	Low 38, High 60
Sunday, April 8.....	Low 32, High 70
Monday, April 9.....	Low 35, High 69

(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

O God, help us to accomplish what you ask of us, even though we are inexperienced and insecure. Grant us hearts and hands willing to do your work. Amen.

Annual event features 2,800 eggs



The annual Easter Egg Hunt was held Saturday at the courthouse square in Norton. The Norton Child Study Club filled about 2,800 plastic eggs with candy for children up to third grade to gather from the courthouse lawn. Along with the Child Study Club, the Norton Legion Riders helped with the event where children and parents could gather for an afternoon of fun. The day also featured an opportunity for children to pose for pictures with the Easter Bunny and for older children to participate in a scavenger hunt around town.

—Telegram photo by Carleen Bell

City forms building commission Norton council discusses possible ballot language for a sales tax vote

By Carleen Bell
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As the next step in trying to put the issue on the August election ballot, the Norton City Council agreed Wednesday evening to form a Public Building Commission as an avenue to help fund a potential new swimming pool for the city.

Rick Ensz of Cooper, Malone, McLaine, Inc., bond underwriters for the city, visited with the council on Wednesday, explaining the timeline necessary to put a potential sales tax question to a public vote by November.

Ensz reported that between now and the election, several steps would be necessary to put a sales tax on the November ballot, including the formation of a Public Building Commission, determining the type of sales tax to be used, a series of public meetings, and a resolution of intent to place the

issue on the ballot for public approval.

Representing the company that the city hired in March as bond underwriter, Ensz asked the council to direct him to draft an ordinance that would create a Public Building Commission. Ensz said that if the city issues bonds through the commission, the bonds would not go against the city's debt limit, which means the city would have the option to potentially issue bonds for other projects without exceeding the city's debt limit.

After a motion by Donna Foley to do so, the council agreed by a vote of 3-2 to form a public building commission with members of the city council serving on the commission. Jerry Jones and Jerry Moritz opposed the move and council member Jeff Otter was not present to vote.

Norton forensics up to 21 state qualifiers

The Norton Community High School forensics team has had two successful tournaments recently.

On Thursday, Mar. 29, the team traveled to Smith Center where they took first Place. The Improvised Duet Team of Alyssa Boser and Jade Braun placed first, making them new state qualifiers.

Sami Gordon also qualified for state for the first time by placing second in Informative Speaking and bringing the team total up to 21 state qualifiers.

Other individuals placing at Smith Center were Rhees Carlson - 1st Poetry, Kurt Douglas - 1st Serious Solo, Hannah Pollock - 1st Informative, Morgan Farber/Neysa Carlson - 1st

Duet, Neysa Carlson - 1st Humorous Solo, Eric Becker - 2nd Oration/3rd Extemporaneous Speaking, Mariah Farber - 3rd Serious Solo/5th Prose, Hannah Goss - 3rd Poetry, Connor Griffey - 3rd Prose, Zach Combs - 4th Oration, Cody O'Hare/Leif Carlson - 5th Duet, Ty Burns - 6th Humorous Solo, Kristen Burge/Steve Cummings - 6th Duet, Leif Carlson - 6th Extemporaneous Speaking.

On Saturday, Mar. 31, the team traveled to Colby. With many of the forensics team members attending Regional Band and Vocal, a small, but mighty team captured second place for Norton Community High School.

Jade Braun, Ashley Hildebrand and Cody O'Hare all qualified for state with new events bringing the team total up to 24 state events. Individual placers at the Colby Forensics tournament were Jade Braun - 1st Prose, Ashley Hildebrand - 1st Oration, Cody O'Hare - 2nd Informative, Jordan Hartwell - 4th Prose, Shauna Gibson - 4th Serious Solo, Wyatt Wentz - 5th Extemporaneous, Lucas Engel/Jordan Hartwell - 6th Duet.

The Norton forensics team will round out their regular season at Osborne on Thursday and Phillipsburg on April 19.

City to host a public forum for pool project

By Carleen Bell
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To help gather public input on the matter, the city of Norton will host a public meeting next Tuesday, April 17

to discuss the possible replacement of the city's public swimming pool. The meeting is planned for 6 p.m. at the East Campus Auditorium.

On hand at the meeting will be

Kevin McElyea of Aquatic Design Consultants, Inc., who has been working with the city to design what could be a new pool for the city. Also at the meeting will be Rick Ensz of Cooper, Malone, McClaine, Inc., the city's bond underwriter.

McElyea and Ensz will explain the process of potentially building a new pool and what impact it may have on sales tax. A sales tax to fund the project would have to go to public vote, so the representatives will discuss what kind of tax may be necessary.

The meeting will also allow for questions from the public about the potential project.

More information about the pool project is available at www.nortonpool.com.

Norton council discusses possible ballot language for a sales tax vote

By Carleen Bell
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After discussion and some disagreement on the matter, the Norton City Council agreed Wednesday evening that a sales tax request likely to be placed on a November ballot for public approval will not include a sunset provision.

That decision means that if the tax passes public approval to fund a new swimming pool for the city, the tax will continue indefinitely.

Rick Ensz, representative from Cooper, Malone, McLaine, Inc., the city's bonding underwriter, reported Wednesday evening that if the city institutes a special sales tax to fund pool construction, the tax must continue for at least 20 years, but beyond that is the council's decision. A future council can choose to remove the tax after the 20 years.

While the ultimate decision was to continue the tax indefinitely, some council members spoke up in favor of including a sunset provision that would eliminate the tax after 20 years.

"People are already complaining about taxes and I don't want to bind a future council to the sales tax," said council member Jerry Moritz.

Other members, however, asserted that the sunset provision might put unnecessary pressure on a future city council, especially in the continuing needs to operate and maintain a new pool.

"I like that we are future thinking and not putting pressure on a future council to fund the pool," said council member Roberta Ryan. "I think it is better not to have a sunset on the tax."

In the end, the council agreed to provide Ensz with guidance to draft language to be included on the November ballot for the sales tax proposal with no sunset provision on the tax.

The decision was made with Jerry Jones and Jerry Moritz opposing the move and council member Jeff Otter was not present to vote.

Relay fund-raiser set for Saturday

As a fund-raiser for Norton County Relay For Life, team Jamboree will host a "Baking for Boobies" bake sale on Saturday.

The sale is planned for 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Jamboree Foods. Available for sale will be cookies, cakes, brownies, rice krispie treats and more "tasty treats for ta-tas."

Relay For Life of Norton County will be held on June 8-9 at the Courthouse 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 Relay For Life of Norton County call Jay or Gayle Walsh at 785-669-7002.

