

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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Friday

April 27, 2012

Briefly

Church plans Day of Prayer service

The Church of God in Norton will honor a "National Day of Prayer" on Thursday, May 3. From 6-7 p.m., there will be an open hour of prayer for quiet reflection and prayer followed by a "National Day of Prayer" service at 7 p.m.

VA claims officer plans Norton visit

Jody Tubbs of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs will be in Norton on Tuesday, May 1 from 10:45-11:45 a.m. at the Community Center (Senior Center). She will be assisting veterans and their dependents with VA claims work. She is also available by phone each Monday, Wednesday or Friday at 785-462-3572.

Forensics team plans a forensics night

The Norton Community High School forensics team will be hosting a forensics night for the community on Tuesday, May 1 at 7 p.m. at the East Campus Auditorium. The state qualifiers will be showcased as they prepare for state on May 5.

Fund-raiser set for Saturday in Norton

A Norton County Relay For Life fund-raiser will be held Saturday at Twice Sold Treasures in downtown Norton. Team Jamboree will have Crocheted Critters available for purchase for a free-will donation from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Twice Sold Treasures with all proceeds going to Norton County Relay For Life. The critters are crocheted by Sandi Hildebrand.

Markets

Friday, April 27, 2012

Wheat\$5.90
Milo\$5.61
Soybeans\$14.01
Corn\$6.08

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Friday Night - Partly cloudy with a low of 39. Chance of rain 20 percent. Saturday - Mostly cloudy in the morning then overcast with a high of 66. Chance of rain 20 percent. Saturday Night - Partly cloudy with a chance of rain in the evening then overcast with a chance of rain. Chance of rain 30 percent. Sunday - Overcast with a chance of rain, then thunderstorms and a chance of rain in the afternoon. Chance of rain 30 percent. Sunday Night - Mostly cloudy with a chance of rain.

Kingham Report

Tuesday, April 24.....Low 26, High 98
Wednesday, April 25.....Low 52, High 85
Thursday, April 26.....Low 59, High 71
.....10 Rain

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

Prayer

Heavenly Father, transform us day by day to make us like Christ. Amen

Students learn importance of service



The Norton Junior High students got to experience what it is to give back to the community on Tuesday during Service Learning Day. (Pictured) Julian Snyder is one of a group of students who cleaned up the Station 15 area by raking up the pine needles around the outside of the building. Each group of students was supervised as they worked at the city pool, Sunshine Learning Center, in and around Elmwood park and the race track as well as at The Haven, Redeemer Lutheran Church, the Andbe Home, Whispering Pines, the Rural Fire Department, the junior high and elementary schools, the Thrift Store, Northwest Kansas Library Systems and at some residential homes. Service Learning Day is a program sponsored by the school every year to encourage volunteering and help the community.

-Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

School leaders consider possible bond election

By Carleen Bell
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After participating in a recent survey about their perceptions of the Norton Community School district, a vast majority of parents, school staff and community members have reported that they would be willing to pay higher taxes to fund renovation or new construction of school facilities.

The school district has recently partnered with the Docking Institute of Public Affairs to conduct a community survey, which was conducted earlier this spring in the form of email questionnaires and phone surveys. The e-mail surveys were sent out to anyone who had e-mail addresses on file with the district, including parents and school employees, and phone surveys were conducted to random homes throughout the community. Of the parent portion, 123 individuals responded and of teachers and staff, 99 individuals responded. For the community portion,

the sample size was 416 homes and the response rate was 63 percent.

Dr. Gary Brinker of the Docking Institute met with the Norton School Board Friday evening and Saturday morning to report on the results of the survey. According to Brinker's data, 74 percent of respondents to the phone survey indicated that they would be willing to pay increased taxes to pay for renovations or new construction of school facilities. Of the parents surveyed, 66 percent would be willing to pay increased taxes and 82 percent of school employees would be willing to pay increased taxes.

In response to the survey results, the Norton school board have identified 10 goals for the district and a tentative timeline for taking a potential bond issue to public election. The goals identified are as follows: provide early childhood education to any who request or need the service, have safe rooms at each school for storm protec-

tion, assess potential for more district administrative offices, build a needed building and/or classroom space, re-evaluate plans for facility needs and upgrades, modernize and renovate existing buildings, security upgrades for school buildings, investigate ways to collaborate with other Norton County taxing agencies, investigate endowment/alumni and other non-traditional funding sources and to educate the public about school funding.

If the school does move forward with a bond issue, the tentative timeline would be as follows:

-June 2012: Identify groups or individuals who can do a facility evalua-

tion

-July 2012: Identified groups or individuals make presentation to school board

-August 2012: Evaluation process begins

-December 2012 or earlier: Consultant reports to school board

-January/February 2013: School board selects architect to create preliminary plans

-May/June 2013: Architect presents plans and cost estimates to school board

-July/August 2013: School board considers resolution for November

(School - Continued on Page 5)

Norton's Taco Bell may be closed next year

By Carleen Bell
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Trying to avoid losing another business from the community, leaders of the local Taco Bell restaurant are asking the Norton Community to show their support in keeping the restaurant in town.

Jeannie Waters, Regional Director of Operations for Taco Bell, reported this week that that Norton's Taco Bell location on West Highway 36 is a licensee of the chain and the current license will expire in 2013. The restaurant's parent company, Yum! Brands, does not want to renew the license and keep the restaurant open.

"We're 90 percent sure that we are going to lose the restaurant," Waters said. "Corporate doesn't want to be in small town and they want us to close."

Waters also explained that if the restaurant closes, about 15 people will lose

their jobs and the city and county will be losing sales tax revenue because of the lost business.

While the final decision on whether or not to close the restaurant will be made at the corporate level, Waters is asking patrons of the restaurant to submit letters of support to keep Taco Bell open. The letters can be mailed to the corporate office, but the local restaurant is collecting letters until May 15. The letters collected at the restaurant will be mailed all together to the corporate office after the deadline.

Anyone wishing to send a letter to Yum! Brands supporting Taco Bell in Norton can send the letter of support to David Novak, President, Yum! Brands, Inc., 1441 Gardiner Lane, Louisville, KY 40213

Letters can also be taken to the Taco Bell in Norton to be mailed after May 15.

Oath of Office



With the end of their terms on April 18, two Norton City Council members were recognized last Wednesday evening for their contributions to the city before turning their seats over to newly elected members. Taking over for Jeff Otter and Toby Kuhn are Harriett Gill and Ron Briery, who also began their terms last Wednesday. The retiring council members were presented with plaques of appreciation and the new members took the oath of office for the council. (Above) Norton City Clerk Darla Ellis gives the oath of office to newly-elected city council member Ron Briery last Wednesday evening

-Telegram photo by Carleen Bell

For more photos, see page 5

Memorial pavers available

By Carleen Bell
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With a dedication ceremony tentatively set for Memorial Day weekend, organizers of the Veteran's Memorial at the Roadside Park along Highway 36 are still accepting orders for personalized pavers. If orders are received by May 1, the pavers will be finished and installed in time for the dedication ceremony.

Carol and Gary Erlenbusch, who

have been instrumental in the monument's creation, reported this week that the pavers can be purchased for \$35 and engraved as a tribute to military veterans or current military members. The pavers are 4 inches by 8 inches and can be engraved with up to three lines of text with 13 letters per line.

Anyone interested in purchasing a paver can contact Carol Erlenbusch at 877-5611.

