

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



Tuesday

May 1, 2012

Briefly

Church plans day of prayer service

The Norton Church of God is the site for a "National Day of Prayer" sponsored by the Norton Ministerial Alliance, to be held on Thursday.

From 6-7 p.m., the church will be open to all who wish to come and pray individually.

From 7-8 p.m., all are invited to join together in a service of guided prayer, seeking God's blessing amidst the great challenges we face as a nation.

Arts Council plans a public meeting

The Norton County Arts Council will hold a public meeting Thursday evening at 7 p.m. at the Norton Community Library. The purpose of the meeting is to gather input about whether or not the Arts Council should continue as an organization. Members of the public are asked to attend the meeting with their opinions and ideas.

Booster Club will meet Wednesday

The Norton Blue Jay Booster Club will hold its twice monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 2 in the high school cafeteria. All fans of Norton Community High School sports are invited. Speaking about recent results this season will be Norton head golf coach David Stover and Norton head track coach Jason Jones.

The Booster Club will meet every first and third Wednesdays through May at the same time and location. You do not have to be a member of the club to attend the meetings.

Vocal concert set for Thursday night

The Norton Junior/Senior High vocal students will present a concert on Thursday evening. The concert is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at the East Campus Auditorium.

Markets

Tuesday, May 1, 2012

Wheat	\$5.91
Milo	\$5.78
Soybeans	\$14.05
Corn	\$6.25

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Wednesday - Mostly sunny with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the upper 80s. Thursday - Mostly sunny with highs in the mid 80s.

Kingham Report

Friday, April 27	Low 50, High 62
	1.60 Rain
Saturday, April 28	Low 41, High 68
Sunday, April 29	Low 46, High 69
Monday, April 30	Low 46, High 75

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

Prayer

Dear God, our helper, remind us often that you are with us no matter what we face and that your word holds the answers to how we can respond. Amen.

Future students explore Kindergarten



Eisenhower Elementary hosted a Kindergarten screening last Friday for students who will be entering Kindergarten in the district next year. Groups of students had the opportunity to interact with school staff and perform a variety of tasks, such as cutting, coloring and glueing that allowed the kindergarten teachers to assess a variety of skills. The students were asked to write their names, draw different pictures and play together. The skills assessments from the screenings will help school staff better understand the needs of the students.

Pictured, soon-to-be kindergarten student Tyler Maulding works with Joan Hale on Friday while Tyler writes his name.

-Telegram photo by Carleen Bell

Oberlin bank acquiring branches of First National

By Cynthia Haynes

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The Bank of Oberlin has made an offer and is asking for state and federal authorization to buy three branches of First National Bank of Goodland.

The Bank hopes to acquire the Colby, Bird City and Quinter branches of First National and has placed legal notices in *The Oberlin Herald*, *Colby Free Press*, *Goodland-Star News*, *Bird City Times* and the *Gove County Advocate* in Quinter as part of the purchase process. Publication was to begin Monday.

The Bank President Gary Walter said that the first step in the purchase was to reach an agreement with First National to buy the assets and liabilities of the three branches.

The second, he said, is to get permission from the state Banking Commissioner and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., which insures both banks.

The third step, required by law, is to publish a notice in the local newspapers of the three branches - Colby, Bird City and Quinter - and two home offices - Oberlin and Goodland - of the affected banks for four weeks.

During and after the publication period, people have a chance to comment on the sale and say if they have some problem with it, he said.

If everything goes right and there are no huge problems during the comment period, the state and federal agencies will either okay the application or ask for additional information.

Mr. Walter said he couldn't say how long the process will take but estimated 60 to 90 days if all goes

well.

"It's completely dependent on approval of the regulators," he said. "I'm hoping for the end of June."

It would be good for both banks, he noted, if the sale could go through by the end of June because banks have to provide a call report, or statement of condition, each quarter and that would be the end of June.

First National has branches in Goodland, Colby, Oberlin, St. Francis, Bird City, Quinter and Kirk, Colo.

Mr. Walter said the decision to buy just the three branches is purely a business decision and he couldn't really comment on it. Nor would he say how much The Bank has offered for the three. Both those items, he said, are covered under a confidentiality agreement signed by both banks.

In Goodland, Dwane Timm, president of First National Bank, said that he could not comment on whether any of the other branches were for sale or not. A deal to sell the entire operation to a Colorado firm fell through last year.

While the approval process is going forward, Mr. Walter said, The Bank's people are working to make sure the information systems between the two can work together. This could take quite a bit of time, money and manpower, he noted, since computer and software systems of two businesses are seldom compatible.

However, he noted, The Bank officials are optimistic that the sale will happen and want to be as ready as possible to make an easy switch over.

Customers of the affected branches shouldn't worry, he said.

"The only thing people will notice is a name change on their checks and the sign on the building," he said.

The Bank will buy back any checks that still say First National from the customers in those branches that change, he said. That's just one of the liabilities that The Bank will assume along with things like contracts for postage machines.

Mr. Walter noted that it will be 10 years in May since The Bank bought the Colby, Norcatour and Oberlin branches of Gold Bank. At that time, he said, people didn't notice much change and they won't again.

In fact, Gold Bank had just purchased the assets of Farmers National Bank in Oberlin and Norcatour not long before, so those customers had a change of banks twice in just a few years.

The Bank today has branches in Oberlin, Jennings, Norcatour, Oakley, Colby, Winona, Selden, Atwood, Herndon and Norton. With the addition of the three branches, it will have 10 full-service branches because the Colby locations would be counted as one and two part-time branches - Norcatour and Herndon - have no loan officers on site.

As a bonus, Mr. Walter said, The Bank customers will be getting more electronic banking services, although it may take six months to a year to get them put into full effect.

Commissioners lift the burn ban

By Carleen Bell

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Following some rainy weather in the area over the past several days, the Norton County Commissioners agreed Monday morning to lift a county-wide burn ban.

The ban was originally implemented on March 12 because exceptionally dry conditions made open burning, such as burning off fields, very dangerous. With the ban, anyone who wanted to conduct open burning outside the city of Norton was required to obtain a permit from local fire department officials. With the ban now lifted, though, the permit is no longer required.

Even though the county-wide burn ban is no longer in effect, any burn regulations within city limits of towns in the community still apply to open burning. In addition, the county-wide ban will be reinstated if weather and environmental conditions make burning unreasonably dangerous.

Regardless of conditions, anyone who would like to conduct a burn is asked to contact their local fire departments prior to the burn so fire crews can respond appropriately if the fire grows out of control.

School sports physicals set for Wednesday

To help prepare students for athletic participation next year, Norton physicians will be providing sports physicals for Norton and Northern Valley middle school and high school students on Wednesday.

The physicals will begin at 9 a.m. with the following schedule:
9 a.m.-Norton Grade 6
9:20 a.m.-Northern Valley
9:35 a.m.-Norton Grade 11
10 a.m.-Norton Grades 9 and 10

10:30 a.m.-Norton Grades 7 and 8
Any students who need a physical will need a signed consent form with them on Wednesday and female athletes are asked to wear stretchy shorts to the physical appointments.

Relay For Life team schedules a fund-raiser

Raising money for the American Cancer Society, "The Brave Ones" Relay For Life team will hold a disc golf tournament fundraiser on Saturday, May 19.

The tournament will be held at Elmwood Park, beginning with a players meeting at 9:45 a.m. Tee-off will be at 10 a.m.

The tournament will be one round of play in the amateur division and prizes include discs, movie passes, treat bags and other gifts.

The cost to participate is \$15 per person and 100 percent

of the proceeds go to support the Norton County Relay For Life. For more information about the tournament, contact Don Mordecai at 877-5475.

Relay For Life of Norton County will be held on 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 about Relay For Life of Norton County call Jay or Gayle Walsh at 785-669-7002.

Northern Valley graduation is this Sunday

By Carleen Bell

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Celebrating the end of another school year and launching into a new chapter of their lives, 17 students will graduate from Northern Valley High School next Sunday afternoon. The graduation ceremony is planned for 2 p.m. on Sun-

day, May 6 at the big gym in Almena. The ceremony will feature a speech from the class of 2012's valedictorian and graduates will receive their diplomas at the ceremony.

The last day of school for Northern Valley seniors will be this Friday and for the rest of the school, the last day will be Friday, May 11.

