

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



Tuesday
May 15, 2012

Briefly

Edmond classes will hold reunions

The Edmond classes of 1951 and 1952 will be holding a reunion on May 26 at the Norton Community Center with refreshments at 4 p.m. and a meal at 6:30 p.m. Reservations can be sent to Sandra Anderson at 304 Van Horn, Apt. 3 Almena, Kansas.

Yard class set for Thursday evening

A Kansas Healthy Yards program will be held Thursday, May 17 at 6 p.m. at the Norton County 4-H Building in Norton. The class will be taught by Chris Petty, Graham County Extension agent, and will teach techniques for well-maintained, healthy yards. At least five participants are needed for the class to be held and RSVP is due by noon on Thursday to the Twin Creeks Extension office at 877-5755.

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 16 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.

Students to host school science fair

The 4th and 6th Grade students will be hosting a science fair on Friday at Eisenhower Elementary. The public is invited to come and view the science projects after 2:30 p.m. that day in the school cafeteria.

Softball registration deadline is Friday

The Norton adult co-ed softball season begins June 3 and registration deadline is Friday. The cost to enter is \$150 per team. Anyone who would like to participate can contact Bart Brooks at 785-871-0860.

Markets

Tuesday, May 15, 2012

Wheat	\$5.61
Milo	\$5.35
Soybeans	\$13.15
Corn	\$6.05

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Wednesday - Sunny and breezy with highs in the mid 80s. Thursday - Breezy and partly sunny with a 30 percent chance of thunderstorms. Friday - Sunny with highs in the upper 80s. Saturday - Mostly sunny with a 30 percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the mid 80s.

Kingham Report

Friday, May 11	Low 49, High 69
Saturday, May 12	Low 39, High 64
Sunday, May 13	Low 45, High 76
Monday, May 14	Low 41, High 91

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

Prayer

O God, help us to love and respect one another as your children. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Logan High School awards 10 diplomas



(Top) The Logan High School senior class of 2012 celebrated their graduation Sunday. Pictured, the class of 10 students are (front, left to right) Tracy Archer, Alethea Bennett, Kacee Braun, Paige Buss, Caley Greving, (back, left to right) Hannah Pinkerton, Kari Prater, Kaylene Reese, Beverley Sammons and Samantha Tien. The graduating class included two Valedictorians, who were Hannah Pinkerton (above, left) and Kaylene Reese (above, right).

—Telegram photos by Dana Paxton

For another photo, see page 5

State department approves waiver for swine facility

By Carleen Bell
cbell@nwkansas.com

Amidst public outcry against the potential decision and a letter of support from the Norton County Commissioners, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment has conditionally approved a waiver to allow a Norton County businessman to build a livestock finishing facility at a reduced separation distance from a habitable structure.

According to a letter from the department to Terry Nelson of Calvert Swine, dated May 9, that though Nelson's initial request to build a finishing facility less than 4,000 feet from a habitable structure was denied, support from the commissioners had led to a conditional approval of the request, contingent on the following:

"The facility footprint shall not en-

croach closer than 3,000 feet to the habitable structure title in the name of Harry E. Fritz Trust located at . . . 9040 Road E8, Almena . . . (and) the facility footprint shall not encroach any closer than 4,000 feet to any other existing habitable structure."

"The facility must utilize a multi-cell waste management system that includes design and operation requirements for the inclusion of biological loading and operation. Additional measures to reduce odors may be necessary if odor levels are found to be excessive. Pending approval of plans submitted on your behalf, the construction shall be in accordance with the approved plans. Any deviation from these conditions must be approved by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment prior to implementing the change."

"As outlined in the KLA request, a

shelter belt must be installed. Updated plans must be submitted to indicate the location of the proposed shelter belt. The updated plans shall also include the species of the trees that will be used. Please keep in mind that deep rooted vegetation shall be a minimum of 100 feet away from the earthen retention structures. A plan for establishing and maintaining the shelter belt must also be included with the plans."

"Approval of this separation distance reduction request does not constitute plan approval. Plan approval is a separate and distinct subject matter with which you must also comply. Construction on any facility should not occur until the plan is approved by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment."

According to Nelson, he intends to build a finishing facility on Road E8 just east of Calvert. The facility will have capacity for 9,300 head of swine. Because a house, though unoccupied, is within 4,000 feet of the proposed facility, Nelson requested a reduction of separation distance for the house, which was initially denied.

The state department reported, however, that the request would be recon-

sidered with a letter of support from the county commissioners, which the county leaders agreed to provide. That decision, however, was met with opposition from residents living near the proposed facility, citing concerns over environmental impact and odor from the facility.

Nelson emphasized, however, that regardless of whether the state allows him to build the proposed facility, he does intend to expand. The question is whether the expansion will be one large facility or three or four smaller facilities. Nelson said that the larger site would include a three-stage lagoon system and more environmental regulations than the smaller facilities, which would use only single-stage lagoons and carry far fewer regulations and permitting rules.

The Norton County Commissioners reviewed the letter of approval Monday morning, but made it clear that the request for separation distance is for a house that is unoccupied.

"Just to be clear, the waiver is for a property that is uninhabited," iterated commissioner Carolyn Applegate. "The distance is still 4,000 feet for any other habitable structure."

Post offices get reprieve from possible closure or consolidation

By Carleen Bell
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Following a study into the matter, the United States Postal service announced last week that it will not close any of the 134 post offices in Kansas that were being considered for closure or consolidation.

According to information from Sen. Jerry Moran's office, the postal service, instead of closing the rural post office, the service will adjust hours of operation to match customer use at post offices across the country, resulting in an estimated savings of half a billion dollars annually. Decisions on new service hours will be based on community

preferences and needs.

The postal services is considering options including allowing local businesses to sell stamps and other postal services outside of post office hours. Even with reduced hours, access to retail lobbies and post office boxes will remain unchanged and Saturday delivery will not be affected.

Among the Kansas post offices considered for closure were the Long Island and Norcatur locations. To determine whether or not offices should be closed or consolidated, the service conducted a study that included customer input and financial impact analysis.

Norton graduation is Sunday

By Carleen Bell
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Celebrating the accomplishments of the class of 2012, the Norton Community High School will host a graduation ceremony on Sunday.

The ceremony is planned for 2:30 p.m. at the Stull Gymnasium. The class of 2012 consists of 45 graduates and the class motto is "So many roads we have crossed, so many hills we have climbed, so many dreams yet to conquer."

The graduation ceremony will feature remarks from two students who are chosen by a vote of school faculty. Awarding diplomas will be Norton district Superintendent Mr. Greg Mann.

