

# \$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

8 PAGES

Tuesday  
June 12, 2012

## Briefly

### Public meeting set for this Wednesday

The Kansas Department of Transportation will host a public meeting on Wednesday evening at the Almena Community Building at 5 p.m. The meeting will highlight the future reconstruction of Highway 383 in Norton and Phillips counties. The meeting will have an informal format with time for questions and the public may come and go throughout the meeting from 5-7 p.m.

### Congressman will host a town hall

Congressman Tim Huelskamp will hold a town hall meeting in Norton on Wednesday. He will be at the Norton Public Library from 10-11 a.m. and the public is invited to attend the meeting.

### Flag Day program is set for Thursday

First United Methodist Church in Norton will host a Stars and Stripes program on Thursday to celebrate Flag Day. The program will be on the flag with facts about our country and the flag. A memorial service will be held for church members who have passed away in the past year. The program will be at 7 p.m. with refreshments served afterward.

### Treasurer's office to be closed this week

The Norton County Treasurer's Office will be closed Wednesday through Friday for staff training.

## Markets

Tuesday, June 12, 2012

Wheat	.....\$5.87
Milo	.....\$5.41
Soybeans	.....\$13.41
Corn	.....\$6.14

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

## Weather

Tonight - Breezy and partly cloudy with isolated thunderstorms. Chance of thunderstorms 20 percent. Wednesday - Mostly sunny and breezy with highs around 90. Wednesday Night - Mostly clear with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms after midnight. Thursday - Partly sunny with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 90s. Thursday Night - Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Friday - Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Friday Night - Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Saturday - Mostly sunny with highs in the lower 90s.

## Kingham Report

Friday, June 8	.....Low 60, High 93
Saturday, June 9	.....Low 61, High 100
Sunday, June 10	.....Low 67, High 90
Monday, June 11	.....Low 55, High 96

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

## Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus Christ, help us to give you first place in all our relationships and decisions. Amen

# Relay For Life surpasses funding goal



The Norton County Relay For Life was held Friday night and into Saturday morning in downtown Norton. Event organizers report that while final fund-raising numbers aren't yet figured, as of Friday evening, the event had surpassed the fund-raising goal of \$26,000. (Top) Relay For Life featured a Survivor's Lap to honor the people who have or are battling cancer. (Above left) Relay For Life coordinators Jay and Gayle Walsh laugh together as Jay tries on a bra that had been decorated as a fund-raiser. (Above right) Members of Team Goscha walk and laugh together around the courthouse square.

For more photos, see the Friday, June 15 edition of the Telegram.

—Telegram photos by Carleen Bell

# Council vetoes getting second opinion for pool

By Carleen Bell  
cbell@nwkansas.com

Despite many objections to the current process from some members, the Norton City Council voted down a motion last Wednesday evening to get a second opinion on the current condition and potential options for the city's municipal swimming pool.

After seeing a revised potential pool design from Kevin McElyea of Aquatic Design Consultants, Inc., council member Jerry Jones expressed concern that the city is only considering one possible design for what may become the city's new pool when McElyea promised to have two different drawings from which city leaders could choose.

"I wish the city council would be as passionate about curb and gutter and water problems as they are about the pool," Jones said. "We've talked about curb and gutter for years and keep do-

ing nothing about it. It upsets me that we can only see one thing at a time that needs to get done."

Jones, who has expressed his hesitation about the pool project from the beginning of the discussion, raised a motion to meet with Tim Kloppenberg of Paradise Pool and Supplies in Manhattan to look at the pool to see if it is renovatable.

"We have been asked numerous times why we hired a guy who wants to sell us a new pool," Jones explained. "I would like to have a private individual look at our pool."

Others on the council and working with the pool project expressed concerns, however, that asking for additional drawing is undermining the work of the city's pool committee.

"I'm afraid that if we do another drawing, we are usurping the pool committee's work and making the whole process more confusing," coun-

cil member Donna Foley said.

The updated design that McElyea presented Wednesday evening comes after feedback from a public survey that was conducted this spring on the pool committee's initial design. Survey responses came from 314 individuals and just under 78 percent of survey-takers reported that they like the design presented. Of possible features, the survey responses also ranked possible features from most important to least important: zero-depth entry, water slides, diving boards, aerobics/exercise areas, lap swimming and general use areas, spray/play features and party rental areas.

Using feedback from the public and recommendations from the pool committee, McElyea's updated design does not incorporate large floatables or a floatable walk, replaces a plunge slide with an additional diving board and incorporates a toddler slide instead of a shallow water play feature.

McElyea estimated that construction costs of the updated design is \$3.52

million, which does not include any additional fees, such as architect fees or bonding fees. That figure, however, has some members of the council concerned about the overall cost and timing of the project.

"I don't feel like we are given enough time to digest and make a decision based on all the facts," said council member Jerry Moritz. "I don't like being handed something tonight and told to vote on it tonight."

Rick Ensz, the city's bond underwriter, explained that prior to the council's next meeting on June 20, he will have a breakdown of all the costs expected for the project and an idea of how much sales tax the city will need to ask for in order to build the pool as presented.

After discussion of the matter, the motion to get a second opinion on the pool was voted down with members Jerry Jones and Jerry Moritz supporting the proposal and members Harriett Gill, Donna Foley and Roberta Ryan opposing the move. Council member Ron Briery was not present to vote.

# Council passes ordinance for Public Building Commission

By Carleen Bell  
cbell@nwkansas.com

Despite some objections to the decision, the Norton City Council adopted an ordinance Wednesday evening that creates a public building commission for the city.

According to ordinance #1620, the Public Building Commission will consist of seven members to include the six city council members and the city mayor with terms on the commission to coincide with city council terms of office.

According to Rick Ensz, the city's bond underwriter for a potential pool

project, the purpose of the public building commission is so that the city can issue bonds for the project without going against the city's statutory debt limit. Because the commission cannot issue bonds or debt of any kind, the commission leases property to the city, which can issue bonds.

The council voted Wednesday evening to waive the final third reading of the ordinance and voted to adopt the ordinance to establish the commission. Council member Jerry Jones voted against the decisions and council member Ron Briery was not present to vote.

# Tour group is visiting Norton

By Carleen Bell  
cbell@nwkansas.com

Taking an opportunity to explore the area, a tour group of about 50 people will be coming through Norton this Friday to explore Norton County.

Norton Area Chamber of Commerce Director Tara Vance reports that the bank tour group is visiting Norton for about three hours and will be making several stops in town.

They will visit the industrial park, the courthouse, movie theatre, downtown businesses and the Also Ran Gallery, Elmwood Park and the Veterans Memorial, and after a bag lunch from Destination Kitchen, the group will visit Prairie Dog State Park and the Adobe House in the park.

Norton citizens Rose Garrison, Lee Ann Shearer and Charlotte Kindall will be helping conduct the tour and are asking residents to look around the community and make sure the community and citizens are as well-presented as possible for the tour group.

