

# \$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: [nwkansas.com](http://nwkansas.com)

8 PAGES

**Tuesday**  
July 3, 2012

## Students harvest Eisenhower wheat



By Carleen Bell  
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After planting the crop last September, students of Eisenhower Elementary spent Saturday morning harvesting a plot of wheat at the school for the second year of the Little Red Hen Project. About 25 students and 20 adults showed up to help harvest the wheat, which will be threshed for the students to use to make wheat-based products like pretzel dough.

Sponsored by Norton County Farm Bureau, the purpose of the Little Red Hen Project is to help students be aware of the importance of agriculture in Kansas and how agriculture affects the source of many of the foods they consume on a daily basis.

For the harvest day, Norton Community High School FFA member Rhett Blecha brought his tractor and small sickle mower to the wheat plot to cut the wheat and the volunteers were treated to lunch after harvest was finished.

Pictured, Eisenhower students (left to right) Hadley Hauser, Tessa Hauser, Greyson Tanner and Devon Bowen help gather the wheat after it was mowed.

—Telegram photo by Carleen Bell



We are now on Facebook!

The Norton Telegram office will be closed Wednesday in observance of the July 4 holiday. The office will re-open Thursday morning at 8 a.m. and newspaper publication/delivery will not be affected.

### School needs new, changed addresses

The Norton Community School district is requesting addresses from families who have moved since the end of the 2011-2012 school year or who are new to the school district this summer. Anyone with a new address should contact the district at 877-3386 or by email to [cglennemeier@usd211.org](mailto:cglennemeier@usd211.org). The information can also be faxed to 877-2030.

Enrollment packets are scheduled to be sent out during the week of July 16, so all new addresses need to be on file before that week.

### City office closed for July 4 holiday

The Norton City Office will be closed Wednesday. Wednesday's refuse route will be picked up on Monday, July 2 and Monday, July 9 in addition to Monday's refuse route.

### City of Jennings bans all fireworks

Because of extremely dry conditions, the city of Jennings has banned fireworks by order of the mayor. This is in addition to the county-wide fireworks ban.

### Markets

Tuesday, July 3, 2012

Wheat.....	\$7.19
Milo.....	\$6.36
Soybeans.....	\$14.22
Corn.....	\$6.81

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

### Weather

Tonight - Mostly clear with lows in the lower 70s. Wednesday - Sunny with highs around 102. Thursday - Sunny with highs around 102. Friday - Sunny with highs around 101. Saturday - Partly cloudy with highs around 100.

### Kingham Report

Friday, June 29.....	Low 71, High 109
Saturday, June 30.....	Low 71, High 104
Sunday, July 1.....	Low 63, High 100
Monday, July 2.....	Low 70, High 105

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

### Prayer

Loving God, thank you for accepting and loving us just as we are. Help us to grow more and more like Christ. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## Fireworks display postponed at state park

By Carleen Bell  
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Following a meeting with local public officials on the matter Monday afternoon, the public fireworks display scheduled for Wednesday night at Prairie Dog State Park has been postponed indefinitely due to extreme drought and fire danger from the fireworks.

Prairie Dog State Park Manager Toby Kuhn reported Monday afternoon that representatives from the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce, Norton County Sheriff, Norton County Emergency Management, Norton Rural Fire Department, Prairie Dog State Park and

the pyrotechnicians scheduled to put on the show met Monday to determine if the fireworks show is still safe.

"It was the consensus of local officials that we should postpone the show in the interest of public safety," Kuhn said. "No date has been set to hold the show, but we are hoping to go ahead with it as soon as possible."

Though the fireworks have been postponed, the July 4 holiday will still be filled with activities for families throughout the day at the state park.

The day will kick off at 9 a.m. with a 5K Fun-Run. Anyone who pre-registers for the 5K will get a free t-shirt.

The entry fee is \$10 per person and

pre-registration forms are available at the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce office, at [www.discovernorton.com](http://www.discovernorton.com) or via the chamber's Facebook page.

The 5K is open to youth, adults, pets, walkers, runners, strollers, rollerblades and bicycles. Proceeds from the 5K will benefit the Norton Theatre.

At 11 a.m., games will be available with prizes and fun for youth of all ages.

From 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and 5-7 p.m., hamburger meals will be served and Tim Anthony and The Animals will perform at 7:30 p.m.

The concert is sponsored by KQNK

and Septic Tech.

A watermelon feed is planned for 8 p.m. and at 8:30 p.m., a flag ceremony will be held.

"We hope everyone still joins us at the park for the activities throughout the day," Kuhn said. "There is still plenty to do and we will still celebrate July 4 at the lake, even without the fireworks."

## Improvements coming to Highway 36

• *Geometric Improvement project is slated for completion in 2014*

As construction crews have been making repairs to sections of Highway 36 through Norton, the Kansas Department of Transportation is outlining the repair projects and explaining why the repairs are necessary.

District Three Engineer Jeff Stewart reports that a construction project just last fall repaired a portion of the highway through Norton, but the project was only a temporary fix for deeper structural problems.

"At that time, contractors performed a milling process followed by an overlay of new asphalt material," Stewart explained. "That action was included as part of (the department's) annual preservation program."

Prior to the overlay project, the portion of roadway was in very poor condition and was deeply rutted and cracked, which presented challenges for motorists on the road. While the overlay has helped, it was not intended to be a permanent solution.

"What now exists are problems arising well below the driving surface into the sub-grade or sub-soil of the roadway," Stewart said. "To address the soil issues, our maintenance forces are cutting out large sections, removing the deteriorating pavement and placing new material in those distressed sections."

The crews will continue to perform the repairs as needed and the public can expect minor delays from the department's flagging operations.

Stewart urged all motorists to be aware of any construction or repair area and use caution when driving through construction zones.

Stewart also reported that in 2014, a construction project will completely replace the current asphalt on Highway 36 from the junction of Highway 283 west to Jones Avenue.

Through the department's Geometric Improvement program, the city of Norton applied for and was awarded a project to replace that section with concrete, including all new curb and guttering.

"Kudos to Norton's city manager and city council for taking advantage of this cost-share program," Stewart said.

Through the Geometric Improvement program, the Kansas Department of Transportation funds a majority of the costs of the projects, based on the city's population.

In Norton's case, the state is contributing \$750,000 of the estimated total \$816,500 cost for construction. The city of Norton will pay the remaining balance.

The city has applied for a second Geometric Improvement project to extend new pavement from Jones to Brown Avenue, but it is currently unknown whether or not the application will be approved.

"The future of the Geometric Improvement program will depend on funding," Stewart said. "I hope it remains a viable option that helps assist local governments make necessary infrastructure improvements."

## City Fire Department responds to small grass fire in Norton

By Carleen Bell  
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The cause of the blaze is still unknown after a small grass fire in Norton late Sunday night.

Norton Fire Chief Mitch Jones reports that fire crews were called to 410 E. Washington Street, the home of Joyce Garrison, just after 11 p.m. Sunday night for a report of a fire. In an alleyway behind that home, grass had caught fire behind a garage. Crews were able to extinguish the blaze within a few short minutes and the garage, being a metal building, was not damaged. Only a small patch of grass and weeds were burned in the blaze.

Jones said the blaze could have been sparked from a discarded cigarette or something like a shard of glass that was heated by the sun throughout the day.

Responding to the scene were three fire trucks and 15 firefighters. Crews were on scene for about 30 minutes making sure the fire was completely extinguished.

(Right) Norton fire fighters spray a stream of water on the grass and weeds at the fire site to make sure the flames are extinguished.

—Telegram photo by Carleen Bell



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