

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



Tuesday

August 14, 2012

Briefly

Alkathon is set for Friday, Saturday

Valley Hope Association will hold its 45th Annual Meeting on Friday at 1 p.m. at the Catholic Parish Center. The 45th Annual Alkathon will be held at the same time on Saturday with registration at noon, the Freedom Ride at 12:30 and gathering at 1 p.m. at the parish center. This year's theme is Prairie Miracles.

School open house will be Thursday

Eisenhower Elementary Back To School Open House will be Thursday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. Students can find out who their teacher will be, tour the building, talk to the teachers and put supplies in their rooms. Refreshments will be served.

Teacher breakfast to be held Thursday

To show appreciation for school personnel and administrators, the annual Back to School for all Norton school staff will be held Thursday, Aug. 16 at 7:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall of the First United Methodist Church. The breakfast is sponsored by the United Methodist Women.

Benefit potato bar is Saturday evening

There will be a benefit to fight cancer for Shawna Engelsman at the Norton Community Center this Saturday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. A potato bar with all the fixings will be available.

Cheer camp to be held this Saturday

Little Kid's Cheer Camp will be Saturday from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the NCHS Stull Gymnasium. A Spirit Show for the public will be from 12:15 to 12:30.

Markets

Tuesday, August 14, 2012

Wheat.....	\$7.96
Milo.....	\$7.34
Soybeans.....	\$15.77
Corn.....	\$7.69

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Wednesday - Partly cloudy in the morning, then clear. High of 102. Chance of rain 20 percent. Thursday - Mostly cloudy with a high of 79. Chance of rain 20 percent.

Kingham Report

Friday, August 10.....Low 58, High 90
 Saturday, August 11.....Low 59, High 95
 Sunday, August 12.....Low 61, High 88
 .20 Rain
 Monday, August 13.....Low 51, High 86
 (Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Dear God, lead us to turn to you daily for guidance and instruction. Help us to live in ways that bring justice and dignity to others. Amen

Grass fire burns 240 acres near Almena

By Carleen Bell
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The Almena Fire Department was called to the property of Norman Kingham Sunday afternoon to fight a grassfire around the property, which missed the Kingham home by only a few hundred feet.

Almena Fire Chief Leo Graham reports that his department was called to the fire near Road D and Road E4 just after 3 p.m. on Sunday. Graham said that Norman had been welding near a barn on the property when some sparks caught the surrounding grass ablaze.

Almena fire crews responded with 13 firefighters and five trucks. With mutual aid from the Norton Rural Fire Department and the Long Island Fire Department, crews were on the scene until about 7 p.m. A little later, they were recalled to the area after a hot spot flared up and finally finished around 10 p.m.

Graham said the fire burned approximately 240 acres of pasture land and crop stubble, but a small area of corn had to be disked to contain the flames.

The fire chief said that one of the firefighters suffered minor injuries from smoke inhalation, but was treated at the scene. No buildings were destroyed in the fire.

Graham said several individuals assisted at the scene of the fire, such as farmers who brought discs and extra water to help contain the blaze.

"A lot of people showed up to help and we're grateful," Graham said. "We had a lot of helping getting the fire put out."



Crews from the Norton Rural Fire Department assisted the Almena Fire Department with a grass fire near Road D and Road E4 Sunday afternoon. Crews were on scene for several hours, then had to return to extinguish some flare ups. No buildings were lost in the fire.

—Telegram photos by Carleen Bell

County holds hearing, postpones budget decisions

By Carleen Bell
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Citing the need to consider additional expenses, the Norton County Commissioners agreed Monday morning to postpone approving a county budget for next year.

Norton City/County Economic Development Director Scott Sproul reported to the commissioners Monday morning that within a few years, the roof of the organization's incubator space will need to be replaced, which preliminary estimates say could cost \$20,000 or more. Over the next few years, Sproul said, the county should be budgeting for that expense

and be prepared for building maintenance.

In addition, the commissioners discussed the potential need to set aside money to help supplement the community public transportation program, which is a partnership with the Kansas Department of Transportation. Because revenue isn't keeping up with the expenses to run the program, the county is considering contributing money to keep the program running.

The commissioners also discussed the possibility that after a very active fire season, county fire departments may need some financial assistance to help cover expenses.

John Mapes of Mapes and Miller, the county's ac-

counting firm, reported that Norton County currently has about \$80,000 in the general fund that could be used to cover some expenses, the commissioners expressed concern that in terms of county operation, \$80,000 isn't a lot of money.

"That's really not much of a cushion," said commissioner John Miller. "We should look at republishing the budget and have a hearing later on to try to cover some of these expenses. There are some pertinent issues we need to discuss."

The commissioners agreed to continue discussing the county budget at their next meeting on Monday and potentially re-work the budget.

Study: County seeing rise in percentage of college graduates

According to researchers from Mississippi State University conducting census research across the nation, Norton County has experienced a nearly 10 percent increase in adults with college degrees over the past 30 years.

According to the study, 7.8 percent of those over 25 years of age had college degrees in Norton County. By 2010, 17.3 percent of adults in the county had completed college.

The percentage of adults with college degrees in Norton County was less than the national average of 27.9 percent in 2010 and the college-educated rate was less than the Kansas average of 29.3 percent.

The number of adults in the United States with college degrees has nearly tripled since 1970, when only 10.7 percent of adults had graduated from college. But the percentage of adults with degrees in rural counties, such as Norton County, while increasing, has generally fallen behind the proportion of college-educated residents in urban counties.

The loss of young, well-educated residents, experts say, has posed a long-standing difficulty for rural communities.

"One of the problems that rural areas face is that in order to get a college

education, young people often have to leave," says Judith Stallmann, an economist at the University of Missouri. "Once you leave, that introduces you to other opportunities that you might not have seen had you not left."

That sentiment is consistent with local and state challenges, evident in the recently-enacted Rural Opportunity Zone program through the state of Kansas. The program provides financial incentives, through tax abatement and student loan forgiveness, for citizens to move from outside the state to move into Kansas counties that have experienced population loss over the past 10 year.

Norton City/County Economic Development Director Scott Sproul reported Monday that Norton County has had 11 successful candidates for the program and Sproul is encouraging county leaders to continue funding the program.

Population loss and education are challenges that every part of rural America faces, but according to the University of Mississippi study, rural America, including Norton County, is catching up with the rest of the nation.

In 1970, 7.8 percent of adults in rural counties had some education after high school, but less than a college degree.

By 2010, 27.4 percent of rural adults had attained some post high school education without earning a college diploma. That level of education was close to the national average of 28.1 percent.

In Norton County, 8.3 percent of adults had some college in 1970, rising to 36.7 percent in 2010. The Kansas average in 2010 was 31.0 percent.

Norton County had 4,479 adults (those over 25 years of age) in 1970 and 4,215 adults in 2010.

Only 10.4 percent of the adult population in Norton County had failed to graduate from high school in 2010. Nationally 15 percent of adults had not completed high school; in Kansas, the rate was 10.8 percent.

Treasure Hunt registration open

The registration deadline for the 7th annual US Highway 36 Treasure Hunt will be noon on Wednesday, Aug. 29.

The treasure hunt will be held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 14-16. This is a 400-mile treasure hunt across Kansas on Highway 36.

To be listed on the map, the US 36 Association web site, ushwy36.com, and DiscoverNorton.com, contact the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce office at 785-877-2501 or e-mail nortoncc@ruraltel.net by noon, Aug. 29.

There will be a \$5 charge to cover printing and distribution. Maps will be available in Norton at the National Guard Armory and at Water Tower Park on West Highway 36 all three days.

Maps will also be available on six different websites. Vendors must contact the landowners for space availability and cost.

Non-profit clubs and organizations can be clustered in Water Tower Park by contacting Ramona at the Norton Senior Citizen Center at 785-877-5352.

Republican Picnic is planned for Saturday at Hansen Plaza in Logan

By Dick Boyd
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The 32nd annual Old Fashioned Republican Picnic is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. this Saturday, August 18 at the Hansen Memorial Plaza in Logan.

Following the fried chicken with all the old fashioned picnic trimmings, those in attendance will hear speeches from county, state and national dignitaries.

The keynote speakers will be U.S. Senator Pat Roberts and U.S. Representative Tim Huelskamp.

Admission is \$15 for adults and \$5 for children under 18 years of age. Advance tickets are available from Mapes & Miller, CPA's; Rodgers & Associates; State Farm Insurance; First National Bank and Trust, Logan; Kari Moore, 543-6561; Janice Ragsdale, 638-2893 or Linda McDowell, 638-2346.

Puppy Plunge is set for Aug. 25-26

Wrapping up another successful swimming season, the Norton Animal Health Center and the Norton City Pool will host a Puppy Plunge Pool Party Aug. 25 and Aug. 26.

The Saturday, Aug. 25 party is planned from noon to 5 p.m. and the next day, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

The cost per dog is \$7 at the pool or \$5 with pre-registration to the Norton Animal Health Center.

Attendance is limited to two dogs for each adult and all animals are required to be current on vaccinations. No one under 18 is allowed to attend without a parent or guardian and snacks are encouraged. Drinks will be provided.

All proceeds from the pool party go to the low-cost spay and neuter clinic.

For more information or to pre-register, call the Norton Animal Health Center at 877-2411.

