

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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Friday
August 24, 2012

Briefly

Smokin' in the Barn begins this evening

The Fourth Annual Smokin' In The Barn Challenge will start tonight at 7 p.m. with the cooking. The event will continue on Saturday at 6 p.m. with a meal followed by a dance at 8 p.m. The public is invited to watch and judge for people's choice.

Puppy Plunge set for this weekend

The Norton City swimming pool and the Norton Animal Health Center will host the first ever Puppy Plunge on Saturday from noon to 5 p.m. and then again on Sunday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pre-register at Norton Animal Health or show up the day of. Must provide proof that your pet is current on all vaccinations. Bring some snacks and take the plunge with your best friend.

Weight room opens to public Monday

The Norton Weight Room will be open to the community beginning Monday. It will be open on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday nights from 6:30 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. The weight room is not open on Fridays or weekends.

Youth trap shoot is Sunday in Norton

There will be a free youth trap shoot at the Norton Gun Range on Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Youth 18 and under must be signed in by an adult. Shells and blue rock will be provided while supplies last. Eye and hearing protection are required and earplugs will be provided. You may bring your own shotgun.

For information call Jean Stapel at 785-302-0777, Scott Kleinschmidt at 785-871-5045, Clint Hammond at 785-874-4724, Todd Boller at 785-871-1980, Blake Sanders at 785-874-4920 and Jim Richeson at 785-874-4716.

Markets

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Wheat.....	\$8.24
Milo.....	\$7.63
Soybeans.....	\$16.92
Corn.....	\$7.98

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Friday Night - Mostly cloudy with a chance of a thunderstorm and a chance of rain. Chance of rain 40 percent. Saturday - Overcast with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms.

Kingham Report

Tuesday, August 21.....Low 62, High 95
Wed., August 22.....Low 60, High 94
Thursday, August 23.....Low 65, High 94
35 Rain

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

Prayer

O God of forgiveness and understanding, thank you for forgiving our sins. Help us to be more generous and to give to those less fortunate. Help us remember to treat our brothers and sisters as we would treat you. Amen.

Republican Picnic held in Logan

By Dick Boyd

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The tradition continued as the 32nd annual Phillips County Old-Fashioned Republican Picnic held last Saturday at the Dane G. Hansen Memorial Plaza in Logan, attracted another very large crowd of congressmen, state legislators, other officials and supporters.

Mingling with national, state and local Republican officials, enjoying the usual fried chicken dinner with all the trimmings and listening to positive speeches by party officials made it another delightful evening for everyone.

Through the years, the picnic has drawn many Republican dignitaries. Former U.S. First District Congressman and now U.S. Senator Jerry Moran has been a regular attendee but had prior obligations.

Among the featured speakers were U.S. Senator Pat Roberts and First District Congressman Tim Huelskamp.

In addition, speakers were Senator Ralph Ostmeyer of Grinnell, State Representative Ward Cassidy of St. Francis, First District Republican Chairman Randy Duncan of Brookville, Attorney General Derek Schmidt of Independence, State Treasurer Ron Estes and State Representative candidate Travis Couture-Lovelady of Palco.

Also present and introduced were Kelly Arnold, Vice Chairman of the Kansas Republican Party, Garrett Love, State Senator; Dan Collins, State Representative; Elaine Bowers, State Representative and State Senate candidate; Larry Adams, Kansas Republican First District Treasurer; Susan Concannon, State Representative elect; Larry Powell, State Representative and Senate candidate; Peggy Mast, State Representative; Tom Arpke, State Representative and Senate candidate.

Present from the Phillips County Republican Central Committee were Rob Pinkerton, Janice Ragsdale, Kari Moore and Linda McDowell.

Other dignitaries present were Max Dibble, Phillips County Commissioner elect; Judy Rowland, Phillips County Treasurer; Bill Greving, Phillips County Commissioner elect; Paula Hofaker, District Magistrate Judge elect; Bob Keese, Phillips County Register of Deeds; Bonnie Leidig, District Magistrate Judge and husband, Riley; John Miller, Norton County Commissioner.

Celia Beymer, First Congressional District Vice-



Kari Moore, secretary of the Phillips County Republican Central Committee, sang "God Bless America" for the entertainment at the Old-Fashioned Republican Picnic. Dignitaries listening were, from left, Ralph Ostmeyer, Derek Schmidt, J.T. Plummer, Ward Cassidy, Janene Schneider, Ron Estes, Carley Miller and Travis Couture-Lovelady.

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Chairman, read a note from National Committee-woman Helen Van Etten, expressing regret that she would be unable to be present.

Rob Pinkerton and Janene Schneider were masters of ceremonies.

Rev. Tim Kraft, president of the Phillips County Ministerial Alliance, gave an invocation. Following, everyone repeated in unison the Pledge of Allegiance.

Logan Mayor Max Lowry welcomed everyone. He noted that the Old-Fashioned Republican Picnic in Logan is the longest running GOP picnic in the state.

Kari Moore added to the patriotic atmosphere with her solo, "God Bless America!"

During the program, Randy Duncan conducted a brief meeting of the Kansas Republican First District.

Emily Allen, daughter of Becky (Boyd) Allen of London, England, won a watermelon prize for traveling the farthest to attend the picnic.

Following the speeches, Kari Moore led the crowd in singing of the Kansas song, "Home on the Range."

U.S. Senator Pat Roberts

In his speech, U.S. Senator Pat Roberts had harsh criticism for the current federal administration.

"We must not let the opposition get away with what they are planning for Medicare," he said. "It will be broken unless we save it. We're going to have a great debate on all the federal regulations. We have federal regulations affecting every phase of our lives. This must stop."

Congressman Tim Huelskamp

"The people in Washington don't understand small town life," said Huelskamp. "I come home every weekend to get away. Some of us understand and I feel we can make a difference."

"Your government is borrowing \$4 billion every day. Our debt is up to \$16 trillion and we just can't handle that amount."

State Senator Ralph Ostmeyer

Senator Ralph Ostmeyer spoke highly of Kansas Governor Sam Brownback.

"We elected a new Governor two years ago and he has fought tooth and nail to get things done in

(Picnic - Continued on Page 5)

Citizens speak up against potential hog facility

By Carleen Bell

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Drawing criticism from many area citizens, a hearing was held Wednesday evening to determine whether or not Terry Nelson of Almena should be granted a water pollution control permit for a potential swine facility near Calvert.

Conducted by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the public hearing drew a large crowd of concerned citizens. Several citizens presented oral testimony at the hearing about their concerns about the proposed project. Of particular interest was water quality and how waste from the proposed facility might affect groundwater for surrounding homes.

John Arford, who lives four miles west of Almena, reported that the proposed site is located within the alluvial valley of Prairie Dog Creek, which, Arford said, is a designated sensitive groundwater area.

"The bottom of the (waste) lagoon is supposed to be 10 feet above static groundwater level," Arford said. "I watched the digging machine come

up from the bottom of the lagoon covered in mud, so that has to be close to groundwater."

In addition, Arford raised questions about whether the Norton County Commissioners, when deciding whether or not to request a reduced separation distance from habitable structures, were swayed by "political corruption and favoritism."

Roger Stutterheim also expressed concern by reading a letter from Luanna Killman, who lives on Road E7. According to the letter, the Killman water well is less than 20 feet deep and their neighbor's well is only 15 feet to groundwater.

"We don't want to lose the best water in the valley," the letter stated. "Please deny the permit."

Along with water quality, citizens also raised concerns about the legality of the permit application process and whether Nelson had followed proper application and permit procedures for the project.

Joyce Quinn said that she would like to see several pieces of documentation that are required to accompany the per-

mit application and Quinn expressed doubt that the proper documentation was in place. In addition, Quinn said, the original application was for a three-stage lagoon system, which has now been changed to a two-stage lagoon.

Melinda Kindall, who farms one mile southwest of the proposed facility, reported that she was especially concerned about how waste from the facility would be distributed as fertilizer on fields surrounding her home and her home's water source. She said her home is 680 feet from effluent application and the required separation distance is 1,000 feet.

In response to some of the concerns brought forth at the meeting, Nelson addressed the crowd and invited everyone to visit the proposed facility, which is under construction.

"We've had 10 different requests for water level determination at the bottom of the lagoon," Nelson said. "We can do that. Please sign up if you want to be

there when we dig that hole."

Nelson also reported that the plans were changed to a two-stage lagoon system because the Kansas Department of Health and Environment required the first lagoon to be much bigger than originally planned. Because one lagoon was enlarged, the third lagoon was eliminated. Additionally, Nelson said, effluent can be distributed within 1,000 feet of a habitable structure if it is incorporated into the soil within 24 hours, which Nelson asserted would not be a problem.

Kansas Department of Health and Environment officials conducting the hearing reported that the audio recording of the hearing will be transcribed and department staff will prepare recommendations for the department secretary. The secretary will then make a decision on the water pollution control permit and whether or not Nelson will be able to move forward with the project as planned.

Road work begins on K-383

A road construction project to repave a section of K-383 Highway in Norton County is expected to begin today, according to the Kansas Department of Transportation.

The project begins at the Decatur/Norton county line and continues northeast to the U.S. 36 junction. The scope includes placing an ultra-thin bonded asphalt surfacing along 13.5 miles of the roadway.

"This pavement process includes a fast application of asphalt surfacing," explains Construction Engineer Jim

Riener, of the Phillipsburg office.

"The process allows for minimal traffic delays," Riener said. "And the ultra-thin bonded asphalt surfacing process places a thin lift of course hot mix asphalt over an existing surface, providing effective preservation."

Flagger and a pilot car operation will guide one-lane traffic through the work zone during daylight hours. Delays of 15 minutes or less will be expected through the construction time frame.

Weather permitting, work should be complete by early September.

Fireworks postponed to 2013

With very little moisture and no drought relief in sight, the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce announced this week that the fireworks for 2012, originally scheduled for the July 4 holiday, have been cancelled and will not be rescheduled for this year.

Chamber Director Tarah Vance reported that the technicians in charge of the display think the fireworks will keep until next year's July 4 holiday and can be used then.

The fireworks display was supposed to be held at Prairie Dog State Park on July 4, but extremely dry conditions caused community leaders to postpone the show to avoid fire danger.

