

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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Friday

September 14, 2012

See page 5 for the annual Highway 36 garage sale listing and map.

Fall Sports Special in today's issue



Briefly

Illusionist show is planned for Sunday

The Norton County Arts Council presents the Reza illusionist show this Sunday at the East Campus Auditorium. The show is planned for 3 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$5 for students. Admission is free for arts council members.

Trivia night set for Saturday evening

The Second Chance Homeless Pet Society will be holding their annual Trivia Night fund-raiser on Saturday at the Norton Eagles Lodge. Registration at 6 p.m. with the trivia contest running from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

36 Treasure Hunt held this weekend

The three day US 36 Treasure Hunt begins this Friday running from the Colorado line to the Missouri line. Maps can be picked up for the Norton area at the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce.

Markets

Friday, September 14, 2012

Wheat\$8.54
Milo.....\$7.19
Soybeans.....\$16.74
Corn.....\$7.59
Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Friday Night - Clear with a low of 46. Saturday - Clear with a high of 82. Saturday Night - Clear with a low of 52. Sunday - Clear with a high of 91. Breezy. Sunday Night - Overcast in the evening, then clear. Monday - High of 72.

Kingham Report

Tuesday, Sept. 11Low 62, High 97
Wednesday, Sept. 12.....Low 63, High 78
.70 Rain
Thursday, Sept. 13Low 45, High 78
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Dear holy God, take our every moment of pain and bless it with your love. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen

State leaders visit Norton on tour

By Carleen Bell
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Traveling around the state this week, on a Small Business Empowerment Tour, three state leaders stopped in Norton Tuesday morning to discuss tax policy changes that will affect small business owners across the state. Visiting the community were Commerce Secretary Pat George, Revenue Secretary Nick Jordan and Labor Secretary Karin Brownlee.

The leaders addressed a small crowd at the Sleep Inn conference room to discuss the state's Rural Opportunity Zone program and new tax policies.

Commerce Secretary George reported that 500 people have taken advantage of the state's program that provides financial incentives for people to move from out of state into Kansas counties with declining population. Norton County, George said, ranks second state-wide for the most people taking advantage of the program and moving into the county.

Revenue Secretary Jordan reported that state government has little to do with property tax policy, but income tax regulations are decided at the state level.

"We have lost about \$1.9 billion of income taxes from people leaving Kansas," Jordan said. "The people who leave go to Texas more than any other state (because of Texas' income tax rules)."

In response to the need to attract and keep citizens in the state of Kansas, Jordan said, new tax policies will collapse the top two income tax brackets and lower the third bracket.

"We've lowered the tax rate for everyone and doubled the standard deduction for individual tax returns," he said.

The revenue secretary also reported that effective Jan. 1, 2013, there will be no non-wage business income tax, which will hopefully alleviate some



(Above) Labor Secretary Karin Brownlee, Commerce Secretary Pat George and Revenue Secretary Nick Jordan discuss the effects of new tax regulations on small business across the state at their stop in Norton Tuesday morning.

—Telegram photo by Carleen Bell

of the financial burden on small business. Jordan said that 98 percent of the businesses in Kansas are 100 employees or fewer and 77 percent of businesses employ 10 or fewer.

In addition, the state has eliminated the two-year tax exemption on oil drilling for operations that produce more than 50 barrels of oil a day. The two year exemption will still be in place for operations that produce less than 50 barrels a day.

With the state sales tax slated to decrease from 6.3 percent to 5.7 percent next July, Jordan said he hoped the decrease, along with other tax changes, will help keep Kansas small businesses thriving and entice more people to move into and stay in Kansas.

Labor Secretary Brownlee reported that her department's task is primarily focused on unemployment benefits. Brownlee reported that in July, Kansas unemployment rates increased from 6.1 percent to 6.3 percent, but a lot of workers dropped out of the workforce during that time.

"That may be a sign that the stock market has turned around," Brownlee said. "We believe that older workers are starting to feel like their investments and retirement funds are back at a comfortable level and they are choosing to retire. The workforce shrunk, so there is a higher unemployment rate."

Brownlee touted the state's turnaround on job growth as a sign that the

Kansas is headed in the right direction for people looking for work.

"In July 2011, Kansas was at the bottom of job growth. We were 48th or 50th," Brownlee said. "In July 2012, we were 18th."

Overall, the state leaders reported, the new tax regulations will positively affect the Kansas economy, but emphasized that it won't be immediately clear.

"2014 is going to be a tight year," said Revenue Secretary Jordan, "but it will get better from there. We're projecting 6 to \$9 billion of new revenue for the state and we will get our first severance tax returns in mid-October, so that will be an early indication of the bottom line."

New school meal rules leaving students hungry

By Carleen Bell
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Though aimed at fighting childhood obesity and teaching healthy eating habits, the recently implemented Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act, which is changing the way schools must provide meals for students, is causing concern for parents, students, and administrators across the nation.

The school meal regulations were initially implemented last year, but the most severe changes came this year. Schools are now required to meet very specific calorie and portion sizes in school meals, along with offering specific types of foods. Additionally, some foods are very limited.

According to Ruby Cook, head cook at Eisenhower Elementary, the new regulations are mostly focused on lunch this year, but next year, breakfast will be added to the regulations. For students K-6, the school is required to offer fruits and vegetables every day and currently, at least half of the grains (like bread) served must be whole grain. By next year, all grains must be whole grain.

In addition, all milk must be fat free or low fat and among other rules, the meal must be void of any trans fat.

The school is required to serve a full cup of vegetables and a half cup of fruit every day at lunch, along with only one cup of meat and one ounce of bread.

Cook said the students at Eisenhower Elementary are required to take the food that is served and as a result, the cafeteria has seen a dramatic increase in food waste.

Moreover, the students are complaining that they aren't getting enough of the foods that will help keep hunger at bay throughout the school day.

Council agrees to lift burn ban in city

By Carleen Bell
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While the decision will affect very little change on city rules, the Norton City Council agreed Wednesday morning to lift the burn ban that has been in place since the beginning of July.

City Council member Jerry Jones brought a resolution before the council at the Sept. 5 meeting that would lift the burn ban. Council member Jerry Moritz reported that the resolution was drafted on the recommendation of Norton City Fire Chief Mitch Jones.

Council member Donna Foley expressed her concern, however, of ongoing drought conditions.

"We are still in a persistent drought and need nine inches of rain to get out of it," Foley said. "Could wind cause a fire from outdoor stoves?"

City Attorney Karen Griffiths explained that the ban was originally instated to prevent fireworks around the July 4 holiday, but lifting the ban won't over-rule city burning rules.

After some discussion, the council agreed to lift the ban with Donna Foley opposing the move.

Meal pattern	Breakfast meal pattern			Lunch meal pattern		
	Grades K-5 ^a	Grades 6-8 ^a	Grades 9-12 ^a	Grades K-5	Grades 6-8	Grades 9-12
	Amount of food ^b per week (minimum per day)					
Fruits (cups) ^{c,d}	5 (1) ^e	5 (1) ^e	5 (1) ^e	2½ (½)	2½ (½)	5 (1)
Vegetables (cups) ^{c,d}	0	0	0	3¾ (¾)	3¾ (¾)	5 (1)
Dark green ^f	0	½	0	½	½	½
Red/Orange ^f	0	0	0	¾	¾	1¼
Beans/Peas (Legumes) ^f	0	0	0	½	½	½
Starchy ^f	0	0	0	½	½	½
Other ^{f,g}	0	0	0	½	½	¾
Additional Veg to Reach Total ^h	0	0	0	1	1	1½
Grains (oz eq) ⁱ	7-10 (1) ^j	8-10 (1) ^j	9-10 (1) ^j	8-9 (1)	8-10 (1)	10-12 (2)
Meats/Meat Alternates (oz eq)	0 ^k	0 ^k	0 ^k	8-10 (1)	9-10 (1)	10-12 (2)
Fluid milk (cups) ^l	5 (1)	5 (1)	5 (1)	5 (1)	5 (1)	5 (1)
Other Specifications: Daily Amount Based on the Average for a 5-Day Week						
Min-max calories (kcal) ^{m,n}	350-500	400-550	450-600	550-650	600-700	750-850
Saturated fat % of total calories ^{n,o}	< 10	< 10	< 10	< 10	< 10	< 10
Sodium (mg) ^{n,p}	≤ 430	≤ 470	≤ 500	≤ 640	≤ 710	≤ 740
Trans fat ^q	Nutrition label or manufacturer specifications must indicate zero grams of trans fat per serving.					

"Protein and bread curb hunger a lot more than fruits and vegetables," Cook said, "so students get more fruits and vegetables, but it still isn't enough. They are hungry. A cup of vegetables is overwhelming for a kindergarten student, even if they like what they are getting, so we are seeing a lot more food go into the trash."

Food service personnel at the Norton Junior High and High School are expressing similar concerns over the new requirements.

Mary Byler, head cook for the junior high and high school, reported that when her students dump their trays after lunch, she hears a lot of comments like "Thanks, Michelle Obama."

The new requirements, Byler said, require the school to plan meals according to components instead of serving size and the components must add up to specific ranges by the end of each week. The very specific planning has meant much more work and training for food service staff.

"We have to keep labels from the manufacturers and report those labels to the state," Byler said. "We're putting in a lot more planning time and a lot more paperwork."

The reduced grain and protein offerings have

left middle school and high school students asking for additional portions of food. Byler said the middle school students are able to take leftovers from breakfast and the high school students are able to take leftovers from lunch.

By offering limited second portions, the school is able to provide a little more food without exceeding daily and weekly limits on calories and food types.

Along with hunger and food waste, school administrators are expressing concern over the implications of the new meal regulations, especially for athletes who require higher calorie intake.

Norton superintendent Greg Mann said he is also concerned about the financial implications of the new rules. For the meals served in August, he said, the cost was running about 12 percent higher than at the same time last year.

A recent school meal price increase for Norton will help alleviate some of the problem, Mann said, but the increased prices aren't going to keep up with the costs of serving meals.

That problem will only be compounded during the winter months when fresh produce is in shorter supply and more expensive.

The superintendent said that because many students aren't getting enough to eat during the day, school leaders are encouraging students to bring their own food to school and more kids than ever are choosing to do that.

"I'm always opposed to 'one size fits all' solutions," the superintendent said. "There is an obesity problem and some kids do need better eating habits and better nutritional education, but I don't think school lunches caused this problem and school lunches won't solve it."

