

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



Tuesday
January 8, 2013

Youth given opportunity to hunt



Briefly

Rotary soup supper this Tuesday night

The Norton Rotary Scholarship Fund soup supper will be Tuesday from 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the Norton Community High School cafeteria.

Groundbreaking this Wednesday

Norton Estates, LLC will hold a groundbreaking ceremony on Wednesday, Jan. 9 at 1 p.m. to kickoff the construction of a new housing development in Norton. The site is located at the corner of Reagan Ave. and Crane St., and will provide housing for six families.

Soccer registration this week at library

Early registration for youth soccer will be Thursday and Friday, Jan. 10 and 11 from 5-7 p.m. at the Library Community Room.

Late registration will be Saturday, Jan. 19 from 2-4 p.m.

Flu shots are still available at clinic

Flu shots are still available. This illness peaks in January and February so it's not too late to get vaccinated. The flu vaccine is available at the Norton Medical Clinic and the Norton County Hospital.

Markets

Tuesday, January 8, 2013

Wheat\$7.51
Milo\$6.51
Soybeans\$13.38
Corn\$6.88

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Wednesday - Partly cloudy with fog early. High of 48. Wednesday Night - Partly cloudy with ice pellets and a chance of rain after midnight. Thursday - Overcast with ice pellets and a chance of snow. Friday - Overcast with a high of 55.

Kingham Report

Friday, Jan. 4.....Low 10, High 31
Saturday, Jan. 5.....Low 8, High 36
Sunday, Jan. 6.....Low 17, High 37
Monday, Jan. 7.....Low 24, High 38
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

In times of trouble, God, help us to cast our cares on you and find peace. Amen



By Dana Paxton
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A youth pheasant hunt was held on Sunday at the Prairie Dog State Park in conjunction with the Norton Longspur Pheasants Forever Chapter.

Five youth attended the event along with their supervising adult and walked through the drifts of snow at the state

park to hunt a bird. Unfortunately, there were no birds harvested in this year's hunt.

Despite the zero bag limit, everyone had a nice time. After the hunt, that started at 8 a.m. everyone was treated to a pizza feed provided to them by the Pheasants Forever Chapter. Once everyone was finished eating they were

given the chance to do some trap shooting, also sponsored by Norton Pheasants Forever.

Park manager Toby Kuhn said, "Without the Norton Longspur Pheasants Forever Chapter members support we couldn't do this; we just don't have enough staff. I think it is great that they bring out their dogs and work with the

youth."

The event takes place only once a year and only twelve youth are able to take part; the smaller numbers this year could have been due to the bitter cold.

-Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

Rates at the Norton landfill may soon increase

By Cynthia Haynes
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There was nothing on the Norton County commissioners agenda for their first meeting of the year on Friday but because the county offices were closed on Monday, Dec. 31, the date of their regular weekly meeting, they met anyway in case there was any business that needed attention.

The commissioners talked about landfill rates, which they are thinking of raising since the landfill lost money last year.

Commissioner Carolyn Applegate said that she thought the rates, at least for the construction and demolition pit, should be raised as soon as possible.

Commissioner John Miller, however, said that he wanted to look at more data. He said that he had looked at the income and expenditures for the last two years but wanted to get a six-year

view before changing rates.

The commissioners said that they would like to know how much was put into the construction and demolition pit last year from discounted projects.

Each year, the county allows five houses or properties to be demolished and the trash put in the county landfill at a reduced rate. Three are allowed from the city of Norton and two from the small towns. These are blighted properties that the cities have condemned.

Mr. Miller did note that the tree and brush pile at the landfill is being burned now that the county burn ban has been lifted.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Were reminded that the new county commissioners will be sworn in at 9 a.m. next Monday. There will be a reception for both the outgoing and incoming commissioners from 9 to 11

a.m. in the foyer outside the commission meeting room following the ceremony.

• Discussed attending the groundbreaking ceremony for the new housing complex at Reagan and Crane streets at 1 p.m. on Wednesday.

• Heard that Mr. Miller and commissioner-elect Charles Posson will be attending a town meeting in Lenora on Wednesday to talk to people about their concerns with the county.

• Heard that Mr. Posson and commissioner-elect Dr. R.A. Peterson will be attending the commissioner orientation and training classes in Topeka on Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 16-17.

• Were told that commissioner Richard Thompson had attended the Kansas State-Oregon football game in Phoenix and was still on his way back from Arizona.

• Noted that only two counties in western Kansas have a full-time emer-

gency preparedness director. Trego and Ellis counties (WaKeeney and Hays) have full-time people. The other counties in the area, said County Clerk Robert Wyatt, have a shared person or a part-time position.

• Heard from Commissioner Carolyn Applegate that the county is only 10 months away from playing host to the governor and a bunch of dignitaries and celebrities at the annual Kansas Ring-neck Classic. Lots of things need to be organized, she noted, in order for the event to come off well.

Sheriff updates commissioners

By Cynthia Haynes
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Norton County Sheriff Troy Thomson told the county commissioners at their meeting on Friday that he had seven prisoners in the jail recently.

He said that things were a little topsy turvy because four of the prisoners were women and the jail is not set up for that many female inmates. There is normally only one cell with two beds for women, he said.

Because the men and women inmates must be kept separately, the jail was reconfigured during that time.

While on Friday, the jail still had seven prisoners, he said, there are more men now than women and things are back to normal.

It seems that everyone in the county is burning, he said. His office has received dozens of calls in the last three days. He thought there were about 30 calls on Thursday alone. The county had been under a burn ban for several months but the commissioners lifted the ban at their last meeting after the area had a good snowfall.

Sheriff Thomson said that he is looking for a new pickup. He noted that it will be a pretty basic truck, not the \$40,000 jobs you see in some counties.

The old Ford will go to the Almena Fire Department if it is wanted, he said. The last truck the sheriff got rid of was taken by the Lenora Fire Department. In exchange, the department paid for the equipment installation in the new sheriff's vehicle.

Senator heads up an unexpected office

By Kevin Bottrell
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Sen. Ralph Ostmeier, fresh from his landslide victory in November, will be heading up a committee when the Kansas Senate gavels back into session on Monday, Jan. 14, but not the one he had planned on.

Ostmeier, the Grinnell Republican who represents the 40th District, had been in line to continue his chairmanship of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, but doing so would have left a vacant chairmanship on the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee.

"We couldn't find anyone to chair except freshmen," he said. "There were not a lot of options."

There are 12 new senators this year and four have no prior legislative experience. Ostmeier had served on Federal and State Affairs for years and agreed to take over as chairman.

The committee handles social policy, which can mean anything from liquor laws to immigration to inner-city housing.

"It's interesting and controversial at times," Ostmeier said. "You name it, it can be talked about."

The committee meets every day it can, he said, and often schedules extra time. Ostmeier will also serve on the Agriculture, Natural Resources and Education Committees. He had served on the Education Committee his first four years of being a senator, but dropped off it several years ago.

"It's been a battle in the past to make sure rural schools are taken care of," he said. "It got frustrating and we weren't getting anywhere."

He asked to be put back on this session as there is a new committee chair, Sen. Steve Abrams and other new members. Ostmeier said having all the new faces isn't necessarily a bad thing since most of them are former House members with plenty of experience.

"They'll fit right in and do a good job," he said.

Abrams had been a candidate for Senate President. Ostmeier supported eventual winner Susan Wagle in her bid for the presidency, and said that when he agreed to take the chairmanship he asked her for two things. The first was to have Sen. Jay Emler, a political opponent of Wagle's, as his vice chair, and the second was to keep the staff that the former committee chair had.

"I didn't want to break new people in," he said.

Ostmeier got both requests granted, and even got a bigger office to house the larger staff. He said he also asked the Organization, Calendar and Rules Committee to keep the session to the 90 days that the state statutes provide for and not to have time scheduled to work bills during the veto session.

Ostmeier said he hopes to continue streamlining the process. The average bill, he said, once it is printed, goes through the Legislative Research Department, goes to committee and gets all the way to the governor for signature or veto, it can cost as much as \$2,500. About 700 to 800 bills are created every session, and only 300 or so are passed.

"Some don't see the light of day," he said. "So let's not introduce them."

Ostmeier said the public doesn't want the Legislature to waste time and money, so it shouldn't introduce bills it knows have no chance of passing.

"We have to be humble and govern right," he said. "We've been given a chance to govern, so we can't be grandstanding or we will not get a thing done."

