

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: nwkansas.com 10 PAGES

Friday

May 10, 2013

Briefly

Track and field fun day on Saturday

The Youth Track and Field Fun Day will be held Saturday at the Norton Travis Football Field with field events starting at 9 a.m. and running events at 10:45 a.m. This is for pre-registered five to 13 year olds.

Free program hosted by Red Hat gals

The Crimson Cuties Red Hat Club of Norton would like to invite you to attend a screening of the film "Lost Nation: The Ioway."

Everyone is invited to attend the free program on May 11, 2013, at 1:30 p.m., in the Prairie Land basement. For more information contact Rosalie Schulze at 877-2084.

Logan graduation set for Sunday

The Logan Eighth Grade Graduation Exercises will take place on Sunday, May 12 at 2 p.m. followed by the Senior High graduation exercises at 4 p.m. Both will take place in the Logan School Auditorium.

Vocal concert set for this Monday

The Norton junior and senior high vocal students will be holding a concert on Monday at 7:30 p.m. at East Campus Auditorium.

Exhibit night set for Tuesday night

The Norton High School will hold Exhibit and Band Concert night Tuesday night with exhibit night starting at 6 p.m. throughout the art room cafeteria and hallways and the concert beginning at 8 p.m. at the Stull gymnasium.

Hall of Fame for Huskies teachers

The Northern Valley schools will be holding an event on Tuesday at 4 p.m. at the gymnasium to honor their teachers being inducted into the Northern Valley Teachers Hall of Fame.

Markets

Thursday, May 9, 2013

| | |
|---------------|---------|
| Wheat..... | \$7.33 |
| Milo..... | \$6.34 |
| Soybeans..... | \$14.15 |
| Corn..... | \$6.83 |

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Saturday - Partly cloudy with a high of 66. Saturday Night - Partly cloudy with a chance of a thunderstorm and rain after midnight. Fog overnight with a low of 43. Sunday - Partly cloudy with a chance of rain. High of 63. Sunday Night - Partly cloudy with fog overnight. Monday - Clear with a high of 86.

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for your loving-kindness that draws us to you. Amen.

Play it loud...



Eisenhower Elementary's fifth and sixth graders held their Spring Band Concert on Monday at the East Campus gymnasium. The fifth graders played 'Bingo Variations' and 'Slip and Slide.' The sixth graders played 'School Spirit,' 'Sesame Street Theme' and 'Labyrinth'. The fifth and sixth graders closed the concert for family and friends with a joint performance of "Rattlesnake!" and 'El Marinero.'

-Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

County will not do automatic check deposit

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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It's not practical for the county to do automatic deposit for paychecks and bills, County Clerk Robert Wyatt told the Norton County commissioners during their meeting on Monday.

County Health Nurse Gina Frack had asked if it was possible for paychecks and other checks to be sent out earlier than 3 p.m. on the last business day of the month due to the problem of banks closing and of an earlier mail schedule.

Ms. Frack said that because mail needs to be to the post office so much sooner now, it takes a lot longer to send out both bills and checks.

Commissioner Charles Posson said that the commissioners had looked at the possibility but they couldn't do it for just one department and there is resistance from employees in other departments to getting their checks elec-

tronically.

"I think if would be a good idea if we could get everyone on board," Mr. Posson said.

"It isn't legal, however, Mr. Wyatt, to force people to get their checks electronically even though that's how all social security payments are made now."

You'd be surprised, Mr. Wyatt said, at the number of people without a bank account and those who bank anywhere from 100 to 300 miles from Norton County. In order to make electronic payments reasonable for the county, he said, you would want to deal with just a few financial institutions.

The problem with getting the checks earlier than 3 p.m., he said, is that they are not always approved by the commissioners.

He said, however, that he would be happy to send out a blast e-mail to all county departments as soon as the

checks have been signed and approved so that they could be picked up as soon as possible.

"As soon as they're done, we can release them," he told the commissioners and Ms. Frack.

Commissioner Posson asked if the payroll checks could be done first, but was told that since very few paychecks are mailed, it really doesn't make any difference.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Heard that Mr. Wyatt would be a little late getting to his mandatory training in Manhattan due to the death of his friend and business partner Don McMullen.

- Appointed John Miller as a voting delegate and Mr. Posson as an alternate to the Solomon Valley E-Waste board.

- Learned from Ms. Frack that at least one commissioner should try to attend a board of health training ses-

sion in Colby on July 18. All three commissioners said that they would try to attend.

- Re-appointed Curtis E. Eveleigh to the Norton County Economic Development Board. He was the only person to apply for the position.

- Were told by Commissioner Peterson that he was told that County Road B needs gravel by a constituent last week. Road Foreman Floyd Richard said that the material is already there, just needs to be worked in.

- Held a 10-minute closed session with County Emergency Medical Services Director Jane Wyatt and County Attorney Doug Sebelius to discuss problem which needed patient confidentiality.

- Talked with Mrs. Wyatt about the problem of getting trained volunteers to help on the ambulances both in Norton and in the other towns in the county.

Commissioners get updated on Options program

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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Options Domestic and Sexual Violence Services out of Hays and Colby helped 472 victims in 2012, 452 in 2011 and 172 as of April 26 of this year.

Dennis Becking, an advocate with the service, visited with the Norton County commissioners on Monday and told them about the services Options provides and the cost.

In 2012, he said, there were nine victims of domestic violence from Norton County and five of sexual assault helped by the group. In 2011, Norton

County had 11 domestic violence and seven sexual assault victims served.

Last year, Norton County donated \$541.80 to help Options but nothing in 2011 and 2010.

While Mr. Becking didn't specifically ask for any money to help pay for the services his group provides, he did explain why it costs \$552.20 a day to run the shelter and another \$525.06 a day to cover the crisis line it provides.

Both are staffed at all times, he said, and during the day there are usually three people to answer the crisis line. At night, when there is less staff, one

person handles the incoming calls.

You are always speaking to a real person when you call the line, he said, never a machine. However, at night when only one person is on duty, it might take a few minutes to help people if they are already on the phone with someone else.

When asked about call volume, Mr. Becking said that he can take 15 to 20 calls a day, when he works the phones.

While Options does not offer medical services, he said, the group can meet victims at the hospital and take them to the shelter. And sometimes, when a

person in an outlying area like Norton needs immediate shelter, they can be put up at a secure hotel for a night.

The victims' shelter has constant security and so does all the phone lines there, which costs extra, he said. One big expense, he said, is liability insurance.

The group has a full-time staff of 10 to 12 people but is always looking for someone to help on the weekends to relieve the regular workers.

Overpopulation of cats is huge problem for Norton

By Dana Paxton
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For those of you who attend city council meetings or listen to what the

recent city council candidates were saying you already know that we have a big problem in Norton with feral cats running wild and their numbers are increasing daily. The City's animal

control officer Cory Urban and Norton Animal Health Center veterinarian technician Rose Mary Vannatta were interviewed so that we could bring this topic of concern to the attention of everyone and hopefully do something about it.

Some may ask what is a feral cat? A feral cat is a free running cat with no home. They have not been spayed or neutered and reek havoc in our community, bringing diseases like rabies, toxoplasmosis distemper, feline leukemia and plague to humans and other non-vaccinated domesticated animals. They are also very destructive when they dig and urinate in flower beds, gardens and sand boxes not to mention on patio furniture, walls, etc. Another issue is the cats are predators, they are killing the birds, rabbits and squirrels in town. It is the nature of the beast.

When asked about how many feral cats we have in Norton, Urban gave a conservative estimate of 3,000-4,000. On average Mr. Urban picks up around 100 feral cats a year. That doesn't put much of a dent into the problem. The

state mandates how these unclaimed animals must be euthanized. Up until now a gas chamber was used but recently it has changed and they must be put down by lethal injection which costs a lot of money. To have it done at the veterinarian clinic will run \$50. Not only does it cost a lot of money to do this but man power as well. The animals are wild, not wanting to be handled so it is not an easy task to euthanize a wild cat, they must first be sedated which is a chore in itself.

"We have a very serious problem in town and lots of complaints about cats fighting at night, kittens being found and the problem of cats digging and urinating on personal property. It is a control problem we ourselves have created and it affects both pet owners and non-pet owners," Urban stated. He also said the this problem exists all over, shelters are full and rescues are hard to find.

Vannatta said this of Mr. Urban, "Cory does such a great job to find other opportunities for the animals like



The Norton Animal Health Center along with the Norton Animal Shelter face the ever growing problem of feline over population in the city of Norton. They hope to educate the citizens of Norton on how bad the situation currently is and what can be done to protect their own pets.

- Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

(Cats - Continued on Page 5)

