

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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Friday

May 24, 2013



Special Tribute to Our Veterans - Page 10

The Norton Telegram Office will be closed on Monday. The Monday EXTRA and Tuesday's Edition will be combined and delivered to every household on Wednesday, May 29.

Briefly

Memorial Day services being held

Norton Memorial Day services to be held Monday at 10:30 a.m. at the Norton Cemetery.

City office to be closed Monday

The Norton City Office will be closed Monday, May 27th for the Memorial Day Holiday. Monday's refuse route will be picked up Thursday, May 23rd and Thursday, May 30th (in addition to Thursday's yard waste route.)

Summer School to start on Tuesday

Norton USD 211 Summer School will start on Tuesday, May 28 with the first session running from May 28 to June 7 and the second session running from July 29 to August 9. The Kindergarten, second, fifth and sixth graders will meet from 8 a.m. to 9:55 a.m. and the first, third and fourth graders will meet from 10 a.m. to 11:55 a.m.

Public library to present music jam

Randy's Music Jam will present entertaining and interactive music for children of all ages at the Norton Public Library on Thursday, May 30 at 10:30 a.m., as part of the library's "Dig Into Reading" summer reading program.

Markets

Thursday, May 23, 2013

Wheat\$7.03
Milo\$6.40
Soybeans\$14.69
Corn\$6.93

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Friday Night - Partly cloudy with a chance of rain and fog overnight. Saturday - Partly cloudy with a chance of rain and a high of 90. Saturday Night - Partly cloudy with a 40 percent chance of rain. Sunday - Partly cloudy with a high of 90. Sunday Night - 40 percent chance of rain. Monday - High of 91.

Prayer

Dear Lord, when we face tough days, help us to remember that you have promised to bring good out of all our circumstances. Amen

School's Out!!!



Students at Eisenhower Elementary celebrated 'Fun Day' on Wednesday afternoon by playing games and just having a good time. It was clear and sunny and by the looks on the kids faces they are ready for school to be out. (Pictured from left to right) Courtland Porter, Coral

Stewart, Emily Bohl, Hannah Bailey, Tessa Hauser, Tegan Johnson, Ronna Carter, Carson Harting and Abby DuBois were all winners in this race.

-Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

County needing new vehicles

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
cynthia.haynes@nwkansas.com

New vehicles were on the agenda for the Norton County Commissioners at their meeting on Monday.

County Road and Bridge Administrator Sandy Smith told the commissioners that she had asked for bids on a new 3/4 ton truck from three companies but only received one bid.

She said she had requested a bid for Matteson in Phillipsburg and Lewis Ford-Lincoln in Hays but had not heard from them. The only bid, she received,

she said was from Money Chevrolet in Hill City. The 2013 extended-cab truck, which can run on regular or an ethanol mixture, is \$28,348, she said. The road and bridge department does have that much budgeted for the new vehicle, she added but said she wondered if it was OK to accept the bid since it was the only one she received.

"We're going to have to do something," Commissioner Charles Posson said, adding that the truck that road and bridge is replacing has more than 200,000 miles on it and is starting to have quite a few mechanical problems.

Ms. Smith said that she wants to get a new vehicle, even though it will have to be purchased outside of the county, because the road and bridge pickup gets from 500 to 750 miles a week and a new vehicle will last a lot longer than a used one.

She also told the commissioners that her department has mowed all the county cemeteries and all the roads leading to cemeteries in preparation for Memorial Day on Monday.

Sheriff Troy Thomson also was in

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Opportunity Zoning plan in Norton County

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
cynthia.haynes@nwkansas.com

Norton is leading the state in approvals for the Rural Opportunity Zone, a state program to get people to move to western Kansas. Norton City-County Economic Development head Scott Sproul told the county commissioners on Monday.

Norton already has 28 approved applications and another four are in the process, he said.

The county puts up \$40,000 and last year the state put up another \$40,000 to help relieve student loans and for business enterprises, he said. The program is for five years with the state promising to pay \$27,000 a year. However, Mr. Sproul said, he hopes to get another \$40,000 from the state because the Norton program is going so well.

In other economic development business, he said, the Ag Valley road project is in the final design stage and the economic group is helping the City of Alma with a housing assessment tool, which it can use to get housing grants and loans. This will help employers in the area because potential employees will have a place to live.

When the group gets done with that, it will start work on one for Lenora, Mr. Sproul said.

Mr. Sproul said that his group is working on several things and that the new housing units are coming along well.

Local Norton woman pleads guilty in case

Norton resident and former McDonald's employee Samantha Rojas pled guilty to forgery and five counts of theft in District Court on Monday, May 13. The forgery conviction is a level eight felony and the five counts of theft are class A misdemeanors.

Rojas was on supervised probation when these crimes were committed, according to Norton County Attorney Doug Sebelius.

Judge Preston Pratt has ordered a pre-sentence investigative report and criminal history worksheet on Rojas to determine sentencing. The judge will also take into consideration statements by the victim(s) before sentencing.

Rojas will be sentenced on June 11 at 1:30 p.m. in District Court

Concerns of council member addressed

By Mike Stephens
mstephens@nwkansas.com

At the May 15 Norton City Council meeting, council member Harriett Gill stated she had concerns regarding an article about cats and dogs in the Friday, May 10 edition of the Norton Telegram. Gill said there were several incorrect statements in the article.

The Telegram re-examined the facts of the story and found that all information was correct, however there was an

omission of cost in regards to licensing dogs with the city.

The omitted information was the costs for non-spayed or neutered dogs is \$25 and the \$5 charge stated in the article is for dogs who have been spayed or neutered.

In the article it was stated that a person is allowed three dogs, which is correct. According to City Clerk Darla Ellis at the March 20 City Council meeting Ordinance 1635 was passed.

In this ordinance, the definition of a kennel was changed. It now states that anyone with four or more dogs or cats would be considered a kennel, which is forbidden within Norton's city limits.

The Telegram stated that underground electronic fences are not acceptable. Gill's concern was that citizens would think this was law. It is not a law, it was the opinion of Norton Animal Control Officer Cory Urban.

Gill's final issue was in regards to the final paragraph of the article stating that, if a person is feeding a feral animal, that animal is considered to be their responsibility according to the state of Kansas. This was confirmed by the state of Kansas to Officer Urban.

City Administrator Rob Lawson contacted the Telegram with these concerns after the council meeting. Council member Gill did not.

In other council news: -Chief of Police Pat Morel stated that the Click-it or Ticket campaign will run from May 20 through June 2.

-City Administrator Rob Lawson reported that Cornerstone Contractors have started work on the Gower building located at 109 E. Main Street and said the City will leave the fence up to keep people out for safety reasons.

-Lawson also reported that the inmate crew has been cutting trees and removing debris from the backwash lagoons at the water plant, scraping and preparing the grandstands to be painted, replacing broken boards at the grandstand, painting and striping barricades and helping to get the cemetery ready for Memorial Day.

-Donna Foley stated the Travel and Tourism Committee discussed the Veteran's Memorial Park and changes to the kiosk. More people are using the park and playground equipment, according to Foley.

-Travel and Tourism is donating \$5,000 to the Veteran's Memorial Park

(Concerns - Continued on Page 5)

Chamber golf fun...



The Norton Area Chamber of Commerce held their Annual Golf Shoot-Out on May 17 with 24 teams entered. Linda Walter is seen here right before sinking her shot as Steve Nelson, Kyle Hahn and Ryan Stover look on. The winner of the Championship Flight was the First Security Bank & Trust team of Mike Ray, Aaron Herman, Doug Ray. The winner of the First Flight was the Natoma Corporation team of Dave Schlegel, Clint Hammond, Doug Thrailkill. The winner for Highest Score was the Studio 111 team of Kristine Knapp, Craig Knapp, and Peggy Pratt.

- Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

