

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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8 PAGES

Tuesday
June 25, 2013

Briefly

Learning Center to hold graduation

The public is invited to attend the USD 211 Learning Center graduation exercises on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. in the East Campus Auditorium. Following the exercises there will be a reception for the graduates and their families in the USD 211 Learning Center at 126 S. State. The public is invited to attend.

Ventriloquist to entertain Thursday

Ventriloquist and illusionist Kevin Horner will be in Norton on June 27. He will present his summer show, "Can You Dig It? I Can Dig It!," at 1:30 p.m., June 27, in the Norton Recreation Commission Gym.

Fun Night set for Thursday at library

Fun Night at the Norton Public Library on Thursday, June 27 from 6:30-8 p.m., is "Water Night." Prepare to get wet! There will be water games outside and ice cream sandwiches afterward.

Junior Golf is set to start on July first

Junior golf will start on Monday, July 1 at 5:30 with golfing to begin at 6 p.m. and run to 8 p.m. Pre-registration is required so contact Tyler Rutherford at 202-0214. The course runs every Monday night through July 22.

Tag renewals are due by June 30

June 30 is the last day to purchase "H" or "I" tags. Bring current proof of insurance and for trailers you need current insurance for the vehicles that will pull the trailer. Office hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. You may now get your Kansas Parks Passports when you renew your tags for \$15.50 per vehicle.

Driver's license renewals can be done Tuesday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bring driver license and a current utility bill or current bank statement with name and address for proof of residency. CDL licenses must be renewed at Phillipsburg, Hays or Colby.

Markets

Tuesday, June 24, 2013

Wheat.....	\$6.89
Milo.....	\$6.46
Soybeans.....	\$14.44
Corn.....	\$7.03

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Wednesday - Clear with a high of 99.
Wednesday Night - Clear with a low of 68.
Thursday - Clear in the morning then partly cloudy with a high of 99.
Thursday Night - Partly cloudy in the evening then clear.
Friday - Clear in the morning then partly cloudy with a high of 97.

Prayer

Holy God, may we never lose faith in your healing power. Fill us, we pray, with your blessed hope. Amen.

Fire threatens pasture, farmland and home



According to Norton Rural Fire Department Fire Chief Steve Otter, at 3 p.m. Friday the Norton Rural Fire Department was called to a pasture fire on Road B and W2 north of Norton. The fire was contained to a pasture owned by Phillip Babcock. Seven trucks and 13 firefight-

ers responded to the scene. Approximately 80 plus acres were burnt with the cause being unknown. After containing the fire, it took almost another six hours for clean up before the firefighters returned to town.

- Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

City Council holds regular meeting

By Mike Stephens
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The Norton City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, June 19, and as mentioned in the Friday edition of The Norton Telegram, City Administrator Rob Lawson's employment contract was immediately and unanimously terminated by the council.

The City will pay Lawson severance for early termination of his contract and Lawson had to turn over all city property that night.

The council appointed City Clerk Darla Ellis as the acting City Administrator. Police Chief Pat Morel will assist Ellis as needed. All City employees will report to Ellis effective immediately.

Also, Pam Herl, presented to the council an application for funds for a 2013 Downtown Commercial Rehabilitation Grant for the property at 109 E. Main St. Herl said the grant funds requested in the application is \$187,500, with Mark Whitney committing \$62,500 in matching funds, for a total project cost of \$250,000. Herl said no funding will be required from the City.

Herl also said a public hearing is required before the application can be submitted, and that it will be held on July 17 at 5:45 p.m.

Repairs to the property will include the foundation, roof and stabilizing the walls. If funds are available, windows may be included as well, but the main goal, according to Herl, is to save as

much square footage of the building as possible.

The council proceeded to pass the following two resolutions:

The first, certified legal authority to apply for the 2013 Kansas Small Cities Community Development Block Grant program from the Kansas Department of Commerce, and authorizing the Mayor to sign and submit the application. The resolution passed with a vote of 5-1, with Jeff Urban voting no.

The second, declared a building blighted with respect to the Kansas Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program, contingent upon the City receiving a signed copy of the Option to Purchase. Herl said she would get a signed copy and submit it to City Clerk Darla Ellis as

soon as possible.

Lastly, the council passed a motion to support the grant application for the property at 109 E. Main St., and authorized signing the original grant application forms, and to submit a letter of support for the project

In other council news:

-Lawson reported the swimming pool bids were opened on June 12. Kevin McElyea of Aquatic Designs recommends approving the low base bid of \$3,649,000 from Prosser Wilbert Construction of Lenexa, Kansas.

-accepted the low base bid of \$3,649,000 from Prosser Wilbert Construction of Lenexa, Kansas, with the following unit prices; 1) \$200 per cu-

(City Council - Continued on Page

Norton County Landfill fights the wind

By Dana Paxton
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John Miller from the Solid Waste Department met with the Norton County Commissioners on Monday to discuss a couple of topics being dealt with at the landfill.

Miller reported that since putting a wind meter at the landfill, wind speeds have been closely monitored. He stated

that in a 47 day period of time 25 of those days had wind speeds over 20 miles per hour, 22 over 30 miles per hour and four days were 57 miles per hour. With the high winds it causes a great deal of trouble in containing the waste at the landfill. "People in town don't feel the full effects of the wind but out on the hill at the landfill we feel it all. However, we have been learning

how to work with the wind better. When wind speeds reach 14 to 15 miles per hour all of the household trash must be brought back into the building or else it gets blown all over. The biggest culprits are the plastic grocery sacks. They are like mini parachutes," Miller stated.

Recycling always seems to be a topic at the landfill and this day was no different. With the sure volume of recyclables being brought in Miller reported that another inmate would be starting soon. Miller said, "The two guys we have helping us now from the prison are the best sorters ever, very organized and they are doing a great job but we do need an extra hand."

Miller asked Norton County Attorney Doug Sebelius if the recycling policy stated anything about the items having to be bagged. Mr. Sebelius said that the only thing that is stated is that recyclables can not be in a container any larger than a 55 gal barrel. Miller said, "It would make our job easier if it was all bagged."

Miller reported that they receive between six and eight tons every Friday, "That is a lot of stuff on the floor. he said. When it is bagged it is easier to move to the sorting table and the clear blue bags are the best so the contents can be seen. The job of sorting all the trash is a hard job and it is even harder when people put recyclables in black bags, who knows what may be lurking inside it? We see less white bags now but a re-occurring problem from the Almena area is that of dirty diapers being placed in the recycling bags but we are getting closer to narrowing it down as to where it is coming from."

Mr. Miller also reported that the sur-

vey was compete and overall he was very pleased. It showed that the landfill should be good until the spring of 2014 before anything had to be done. "We will build our budget with that in mind." Miller concluded.

Fresh as it gets...



The Norton Farmer's Market was held at the Veteran's Memorial Park across from Shopko for the second weekend of the season on Saturday. There were several baked goods, jellies, farm fresh eggs and some produce, which will increase as the season moves on. Robin Somers is seen here talking with customer Jonna Inman about her breads.

- Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

Norton Police catch burglar

At approximately 11:16 p.m., on the evening of June 18, the Norton Police Department and the Norton County Sheriff's Department responded to an activated alarm at the Northwest Kansas Pawn Brokers located at 112 N. Norton St.

Upon their arrival noises were heard coming from inside the store. Officers began to search for suspects.

A 21 year old white male was apprehended while trying to flee the scene on foot. Stolen property was found on his person. The individual was arrested on the charge of burglary. He is currently being held in the Norton County Jail on a \$5,000 cash bond. One juvenile female who was found in the vehicle used in the commission of the crime was also taken into custody and later released to a parent after questioning.

The case has been referred to the Norton County Attorney's Office and charges are pending at this time.

