

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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Friday

October 25, 2013

Briefly

Hunters education class this weekend

Hunter Education, internet-assisted course, will be held on October 26, at the Prairieland Electric Building basement from 9 a.m. to noon and then from 1 to 4 p.m. will be at the Black Powder Gun Range. Internet quizzes must be completed and printed off before continuing this class. For registration call the Prairie Dog State Park office at 785-877-2953. For more information call Larry Stones 785-342-7311.

Kidz Stuff clothing consignment

My Kidz Stuff will be having a children's consignment sale at the Norton National Guard Armory today from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Dispose of drugs safely on Saturday

The Norton County Sheriff's Department is holding their Got Drugs event on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the sheriff's department. Bring in your unused or expired medications for safe disposal.

Methodist Church chicken noodles

The First United Methodist Church is holding their chicken and noodle dinner on Saturday from 5 to 7 p.m. All you can eat and carry out and delivery available.

Deadline for tag renewal near

October 31 is the last day to purchase "S" tags from the Norton County Treasurer. To verify VIN and policy numbers bring current proof of insurance for all vehicles. For trailers bring insurance for vehicle to pull trailer. Don't forget you can purchase your Kansas Parks Passports. Office hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. License renewals can be done from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. You will need to bring drivers license, current utility bill, vehicle registration or auto insurance card with your name and address for proof of residency. CDL renewals must be done at a full service office in Phillipsburg, Hays or Colby.

Markets

Thursday, October 24, 2013
Wheat.....\$7.48
Milo.....\$4.04
Soybeans.....\$12.46
Corn.....\$4.25
Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Friday Night - Clear with a low of 41. Saturday - Clear with a high of 57. Saturday Night - Clear with a low of 36. Sunday - Clear with a high of 72. Sunday Night - Partly cloudy and fog overnight. Low of 36. Monday - Partly cloudy with fog early and a high of 64. Monday Night - Overcast with fog.

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for the changing seasons and for the work of your hands that give us joy. Amen.



Dedicating works of art...



The Norton Public Library received a very generous gift of three Frederic Remington bronze statues from former Norton resident Sue Sharp in memory of her late husband Bill Sharp. A dedication ceremony was held Tuesday evening with a huge turn out from the community. Mrs. Sharp addressed the large crowd and told about the love Bill had for Norton and how it came to be that the three statues will forever make Norton their home. The Norton Area Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon cutting following the dedication and refreshments were served inside the library. This was a group effort that ended in success that will be enjoyed for years and years to come.

Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

Funds donated to improve the new pool

By Mike Stephens
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The City of Norton has received a sizable gift for the new swimming pool project. Tara Vance, on behalf of the Norton County Community Foundation, presented the City Council with a \$69,000 check at its Wednesday, Oct. 16 meeting. Vance said the funds came from the Iris Olson Estate Funds and a donation from Norman and Gloria Nelson, and is to be used specifically for the purpose of purchasing a heater for the new swimming pool. The Council expressed its gratitude and appreciation to Vance for obtaining the funds.

Also, Donna Foley reported that the pool's selection committee met and selected all of the colors for the new pool. However, the color chosen for the pool's slides are no longer available, so

the committee will have to select a new color for the two slides.

The Norton Police Department will be looking for a new officer. Chief of Police Pat Morel said he received a resignation letter from Officer Marty Rose. Morel said he will try to hire a certified officer who could handle the drug dog, but if no applicants meet the necessary requirements, he will open the position to everyone.

Other council news:
-approved the Alternate bid item #3 in the original bidding documents, for the pool heater at a cost of \$69,000.

-approved Claire Dowling's sidewalk replacement request at 344 W. Lincoln, with the City providing the labor and the property owner paying the cost of materials directly to the concrete provider.

-approved the low bid for repair of the hail damaged roofs from Roofmasters Roofing & Sheet Metal Co., Inc. in Colby, for all of the roofs which were put out for bid.

-approved using a portion of the money that was budgeted for street lights, for a comprehensive study, at a cost not to exceed \$15,000. This will be used by Economic Development to apply for various grants for street lights, curb and gutter, and the pod areas downtown.

-the Airport Board received a letter from the FAA regarding its request for reimbursement, which was approved. KDOT will reimburse 5 percent, up to a maximum of \$7,175.

-City Attorney Karen Griffiths met with the Airport Board and reviewed its bylaws.

-City Attorney Griffiths attended the League of Municipalities' meeting for City Attorneys.

-waived the formal third reading of Ordinance #1647.

-adopted Ordinance #1647, restricting parking and authorizing two handicap spaces at the 100 block of E. Lincoln St., for the Norton County Museum.

-waived the formal second reading of Ordinance #1648, authorizing stop signs at the intersection of Crane and Kennedy streets, because of the new Ryan Addition project.

-waived the formal first reading of Ordinance #1649, amending the emergency snow routes within the City of Norton to include all of Reagan Ave.

-accepted the formal first reading of (Funds - Continued on Page 5)

Ridding the city of Norton of old structures

By Cynthia Haynes
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Firemen have been practicing their craft on a house owned by Jason Dial but now that structure is pretty much ready for the dump and Mr. Dial is looking for help.

Norton City Code Enforcement Officer Jeff Wolfe and Mr. Dial appeared last week before the Norton County commissioners asking for help in disposing of the 25-foot by 25-foot structure.

Mr. Wolfe said that the Norton city and several rural fire departments have used the structure at 505 W. Main for training and now it's time to take it down and dispose of the remains.

Mr. Wolfe asked if the county would be willing to help with that disposal by waiving the landfill fees for the disposal. He said that he had talked to county Solid Waste Supervisor John Miller who estimated that there would be about 20 tons of waste and that would cost around \$900 in fees. Mr. Wolfe said that he was hoping that the City of Norton is donating equipment and time to take the structure down and truck the waste to the landfill.

While the structure could be burned down, he said, that requires everything including wall board to be removed

from the structure and lots of state permits. It's easier, he said, to just tear it down.

At that time, the commissioners were sympathetic but unsure as to whether they could help since both City Clerk Robert Wyatt and County Attorney Doug Sebelius were not able to be at the meeting at that time.

The county has a policy of waiving or lowering the landfill fees for several structures a year to allow its cities to improve their appearance by disposing of old buildings. Several of those are reserved for the City of Norton.

"I hate to say yes without all the facts," Commissioner R.A. Peterson told the men.

Commissioner Charles Posson reminded the men that it isn't simply a case of taking down the old structure.

"You realize there are conditions," he said. "You have to build a new structure there."

Mr. Dial said that was no problem.

Mr. Wolfe said that the agreement to help Mr. Dial had been oral but he felt bound by it and would do his best to help fulfill the promises made to him.

Last Monday, Mr. Wyatt and Mr. Sebelius were both present at the meeting.

Mr. Wyatt said that the county has

two programs for old structures. He thought that Mr. Dial would qualify for the one where the county gives reduced landfill fees to five houses a year - three of them are reserved for the City of Norton and two for the small communities. Mr. Wyatt said that there is one left for Norton.

"He would be entitled under that program to a 50 percent reduction," Mr. Wyatt said.

The commissioners agreed and voted to waive half the landfill fees for the structure.

Norton County has two programs to help people dispose of old, abandoned or dilapidated property.

In one popular program for the cities, the county allows a 50 percent reduction of fees for three structures in the City of Norton, one in Alma and one in Lenora. This is done year by year and the city picks the house.

In the other, the abatement depends on what is put back on the site.

If the property owner invests \$10,000 to \$25,000 to rebuild, the abatement is 25 percent. At \$25,000 to \$70,000 it goes up to 50 percent. If a landowner is willing to invest more than \$75,000,

the county is willing to forgive the landfill expense.

However, the rebuilding has to be done within one year to qualify. They can also apply for a six month extension on this.

Telegram to carry new sports insert

A new feature, *Athlon Sports* magazine, made its debut in this week's edition of *The Norton Telegram*. It will run monthly afterwards.

The magazine gives an inside view of all major sports. The magazine is currently running its "Inside Sunday" edition, providing highlights from the National Football League games and previews for upcoming games.

Athlon will publish its "Women's College Basketball Season Preview" edition on Wednesday, Nov. 8. The same firm now owns *American Profile*, which appears weekly in *The Telegram*, the cooking magazine *Relish*, and *Spy*, for seniors, both of which run monthly.

Feel like you are "Missing" out on local community news?

Let us keep you informed with all the

latest news in our Tuesday and Friday editions of

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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