

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



Tuesday
December 31, 2013

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

Briefly

Telegram closed for New Year's Day

The Norton Telegram will be closed on New Year's Day in observance of the holiday.

City of Norton is closed Wednesday

The Norton City offices will be closed on Wednesday, January 1 for the New Year's holiday.

Landfill now open on Saturdays

The Norton County Landfill will now be open from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturdays to better accommodate our customers.

Veterans get help with their claims

Jody Tubbs of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs will be in Norton from 10:45 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. at the Norton Public Library to assist Veterans and their dependents with VA claims on Tuesday, January 7. If you are unable to contact Ms. Tubbs at that time, you may contact her in Colby any Monday, Wednesday or Friday at 785-462-3572.

City offers safe ride on New Year's Eve

The "safe ride home" program for Norton residents will be available on New Year's Eve for a one-way safe ride home from local establishments only.

Norton library to offer movie time

The Norton Public Library will host "Movie Morning" at the Thursday preschool story time.

Markets

Monday, December 30, 2013

Wheat	\$6.11
Milo	\$3.86
Soybeans	\$12.49
Corn	\$4.06

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Wednesday - Light snow during the morning will taper to scattered snow showers during the afternoon. High of 34. Chance of snow 40 percent. Snow accumulations less than one inch. Thursday - Mainly sunny with a high of 36. Friday - Mainly sunny with a high of 48.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, this holiday season, draw near to those who are lonely and fill them with your kindness. In our Savior's name. Amen.



The Norton Community High School Wrestling Team is pictured in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays on Saturday, Feb. 23 following their Class 3-2-1A State Championship! They are, from left, front row: Cody Ellis, Ethan Ross, Caysean Campbell, John Risewick, Branson Addington; back row: Assistant Coach Doug Ray, Manager Lindsay Addington, Assistant Coach Tony Fiscus, Manager Austin Hager, Jared Bohl, Lucas Engel, Alec Hager, Kolton Harting, Jared Tallent, Assistant Coach Shane Miller, Head Coach Bill Johnson, Manager Jordyn Gosselin.

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- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

The top stories for Norton County 2013

BY MIKE STEPHENS

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The year 2013 has come to a close and it's time to look forward to the New Year, but before we do let's take a look back at some of the top news stories that grabbed headlines in 2013.

Now, individual opinion may vary on all the top news stories on the list, but there is little argument about the top news story of the year.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

For the third time in four years and, for the sixth time under coach Bill Johnson, the Norton Community High School wrestling team were the state champions!

Coach Johnson's wrestlers were on a mission and, at the completion of competition in the Class 3-2-1A State Wrestling Tournament in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays on Saturday, Feb.

23, their mission was accomplished!

The Bluejays qualified nine wrestlers for the state championship in winning the regional championship the week before and all contributed to the state title, with eight earning state medals.

Norton had one champion, senior 132 pounder John Risewick.

Placing runner-up were junior Alec Hager, 126 and sophomore Caysean Campbell, 106.

Fourth place finishers were junior Branson Addington, 120; senior Cody Ellis, 145 and senior Lucas Engel, 220.

Ethan Ross, 113 pound junior, placed fifth and Jared Tallent, 138 pound sophomore, finished sixth.

Senior Jared Bohl also competed at 152 pounds and won one match.

"Wrestling so well at regionals and then coming back with an outstanding state performance was very satisfying," said coach Johnson, whose Bluejays teams have now won as many state championships as legendary former Bluejays wrestling mentor J.R. "Jake" Durham.

REMINGTON STATUES

Another huge event for Norton County this past year was the receiving of three life size Frederic Remington statues which were donated to the Norton Public Library by former Norton resident, Sue Sharp.

It all started in early 2013 and then in March the three horses, Wicked Pony, The Mountain Man and Bronco Buster made their trip from Brownsville Texas to Norton thanks to Mick Miller and Dave Gilenbach. A lot of work needed to be done to prepare them for placement. First, they were re-furbished by Rawhide Iron Works then the city of Norton worked on building the platforms and working on the sprinklers and lighting systems. Landscaping came next, done by David Brehmer and his wife Sarah. To dress them up even more beautiful plaques were donated and added. Lastly the dedication which took place on October 22.

Sue Sharp was here for the dedication and gave them to the library in memory of her late husband Bill Sharp. A man who loved Norton so very much. Many thanks were given out to the city and everyone who had a hand in getting them here and ready. They now grace the lawn of the Norton Public Library, another "Fantastic" addition to our little town, as Bill Sharp would have said.

SWIMMING POOL PROJECT

The Norton Swimming Pool project continued to grab headlines in 2013. In February, the City Council and the Public Building Commission adopted resolutions which authorized the issuance of City of Norton, Public Building Commission revenue bonds, in the

amount of \$4,535,000 for the purpose of paying the costs of constructing a new swimming pool facility in the City of Norton.

A ground breaking ceremony took place on Friday, Aug. 30 with several city leaders in attendance.

Demolition of the old swimming facility began on Thursday, Aug. 22. Construction on the new facility is well underway. Most of the work, however, isn't visible from ground level, but foundations have been poured.

POSTAL CHANGES

The price of a U.S. postage stamp is expected to increase from 46 cents to 49 cents in January of 2014. The U.S. postal system made changes in 2013 as well.

In March, the U.S. Postal Service changed the outgoing mailing process for the 676 zip codes.

The mail goes to Salina to be processed then the mail travels to Wichita to be sorted, then put back on a truck to maintain overnight delivery, according to Brian Sperry, regional spokesperson for the service in Denver.

The 676 zip code area includes Norton, Decatur, Osborne, Graham, Russell, Ellis, Smith, Trego and Rooks counties.

In an effort to stem billions of dollars in losses, the Postal Service said it would close more than 100 processing facilities by July and consolidate 146 more.

"Last year the postal system lost \$15.9 billion and since post offices are not funded by the tax payer there had to be some adjustments made in order to keep it affordable," Sperry said.

"We need to adapt to a new reality. In the last five years single piece first class mailings have gone down 37 percent and will continue to decline due to online and digital communications. However, there has been a 14 percent increase in packages due to online purchasing."

The processing changes will save about \$1.2 billion a year, according to Sperry.

LYONS HOUSE

Interior restoration to the historic Lyons House began early this year after the Norton County Commission Foundation acquired the funding. Approval by the Kansas State Historical Preservation Office was also received.

There were two steps left in the preservation process for the Lyons House, which was built in 1888.

First was the interior, which involved restoring 50 percent of the wood floors, all the doors, the stairs, banister and all the trim, as well as insulating the

(Year end- Continued on Page 5)



Three Frederic Remington Statues were donated to the Norton Public Library this year and the dedication ceremony was held on October 22. It took many different people and numerous hours to prepare for dedication. Bill Sharp loved Norton with all of his heart and his wife Sue knew this so she donated them to the library in memory of Bill.

- Telegram photo by Dana Paxton



Construction on the new swimming pool facility is well underway. Most of the work, however, isn't visible from ground level, but foundations have been poured. Demolition of the old facility began on Thursday, Aug. 22, and a ground breaking ceremony took place on Friday, Aug. 30.

- Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

Wishing Everyone a Safe and Happy New Year!

JANUARY 1 THROUGH MARCH 31 -- BUY A HALF PAGE FOR HALF PRICE!
YOU MIGHT JUST WANT TO DO IT IN THE ADVOCATE TOO!!

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