

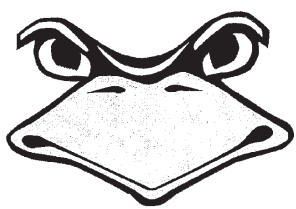
\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: nwkansas.com 12 PAGES

Tuesday

February 25, 2014



Congratulations to the State Wrestling Qualifiers, Pages 5, 6, 7, 8

Briefly

Junior high to hold concert tonight

The Norton Junior High band and vocal students will hold a concert tonight at 7 p.m. in the junior high gymnasium.

After hours event set for Wednesday

The Norton Area Chamber of Commerce reminds everyone of the After Hours event taking place on Wednesday starting at 5 p.m. at the Norton Nex-Tech office.

USD 211 has no school Wednesday

There will be no school at USD 211 Eisenhower Elementary on Wednesday due to parent-teacher conferences. There will also be no school for the junior and senior high students due to the MCEL Music Festival.

Veterans get help with their claims

Jody Tubbs of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs will be in Norton from 10:45 until 11:45 a.m., at the Norton County Library to assist veterans and their dependents with VA claims work on Tuesday, March 4. 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.

Markets

FEBRUARY, 2014

Wheat\$6.52
Milo\$4.16
Soybeans\$13.04
Corn\$4.31

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Wednesday - Mainly sunny with a high of 45. Wednesday Night - Mostly clear with a low of 18. Thursday - Partly cloudy with a high of 36. Thursday Night - Partly cloudy skies early then becoming overcast with a low of 17. Friday - Snow flurries with a high of 31. Friday Night - Snow flurries with a low of 12.

Prayer

Dear God, help us to find our security in you. Teach us to avoid jealousy and to stand firm in your unflinching love. Amen.

Retirement celebration...



A large crowd was in attendance for the Retirement Reception at the Smoky Hill Country Club in Hays on Thursday for Larry Sevier, CEO of Rural Telephone/Nex-Tech. Larry is shown ready to cut his retirement cake as, from left, Jimmy Todd, new CEO; Larry's wife, Peggy and Jim Harries, Rural Telephone board president, observe. Larry is

retiring after 28 years at Rural Telephone where he was the driving force behind growth from 25 employees to over 400 today. "The main thing that makes me feel good is the number of good people we've been able to employ. We just get out of their way and let them do their job!" said Larry.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Norton library asks city for help

By Mike Stephens
mstephens@nwkansas.com

The Norton Public Library Board submitted a letter to the City Council asking for a one mill increase for the year 2015. The Library is currently receiving seven mills and the last time the mill levy was increased was in 2010. The Board said it had to cut its submitted budget for 2014 by \$2,900, which was mostly from the book budget. However, the Library did receive

a donation that will help sustain the library materials budget line, but the Board said it can't count on donations every year.

In its letter, the Board said the Library has been getting used a lot in the past year. In 2013, over 50,000 books, DVD's, videos and books on CD were checked out. The library has 11 computers for patrons and they were used 5,772 times last year. It is open 52 hours a week and is operated by one

full-time employee, four part-time employees, three employees who work three to 15 hours a week and volunteers. The Board also pointed out the many special programs the Library offers as well, and that providing all these services to the community will stretch its 2014 budget to the limit.

The council will vote on the requested mill increase after the formal third reading at its March 19 meeting, but did waive the formal first reading

of Charter Ordinance #14, repealing Charter Ordinance #13, and levying an annual tax for the purposes of maintaining the Norton Public Library at a rate not to exceed eight mills.

The July 4th fireworks event that has taken place at Prairie Dog State Park for many years may be in jeopardy, according to Chamber of Commerce Director Tara Vance. She said Prairie

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Sheriff asks to lease new equipment

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
cynthia.haynes@nwkansas.com

The voice recorder used for 911 emergency calls in the dispatch office has died.

Sheriff Troy Thomson told the county commissioners at the meeting on February 17, that the recorder needs a new hard drive and a mother board.

Basically, he said, it would cost \$9,000 to fix it and it just isn't worth that.

The company that the county deals with on the recorder has given it a loaner, he said.

A new machine, that wouldn't probably work with the new 911 system the state is planning to install, would cost \$15,000. A machine that should work with the new system would be \$24,000.

Sheriff Thomson said that he is loath to spend that type of money when it is possible that the county won't need the machine in the future.

But probably for the next year, he said, he needs a machine and he spoke to the salesman, who thought he could lease one to Norton County for \$3,000 a year.

This, the sheriff said, would be a bet-

ter deal and there is enough money in his 911 budget to cover that.

"It'll give us a year to see where 911 will go," he told the commissioners.

The sheriff said that the state's 911 Council, which is made up of law enforcement officers, and people from the governor's and adjutant gener-

(Sheriff - Continued on Page 5)

Inmates create works of art

By MIKE STEPHENS
mstephens@nwkansas.com

The Norton Correctional Facility has established a unique program for its inmates, quilt-making. The idea came from an inmate who was transferred to Norton from the Stockton Correctional Facility.

Laundry manager Elaine Schukman and laundry supervisor Sandy Brown created the program in 2008, because they thought it would be a great way to teach the inmates a skill and keep them occupied, rather than standing around. "I wanted something for them to do," said Schukman.

Deputy Warden Joel Hrabe has been very supportive of the quilting program, according to Schukman, and purchased their first sewing machine off the internet to get the program started. "Next to no money goes into it," said Schukman. "We use discarded clothing from inmates and then we started asking the public for donations."

Last year, the inmates at the Facility made 300 quilts, countless book bags and aprons for the inmates who work

in the kitchen, according to Schukman. The prison donates the quilts to the Orphan Grain Train, or anyone in need. "If we can give back to the public in a positive way, we do it," said public information officer Terry Petrie.

Schukman said most of the inmates that participate in the quilting program have no previous experience and had never sat in front of a sewing machine before. There are usually six to eight inmates involved in the quilting program, according to Schukman. "We teach them simple to complex quilt-making," said Schukman. "It teaches them a skill, how to hem pants or repair clothes." Added Petrie, "We want to make sure the inmates become productive citizens and I would like to see the quilting program grow."

Unfortunately, their equipment is old and breaking down. Schukman said the program is in need of new sewing machines, updated equipment and clothing donations. The prison can't sell the quilts the inmates make to raise funds because it creates an accounting issue,

(Inmates - Continued on Page 5)



The Norton Correctional Facility has established a quilt-making program for inmates. (Pictured) Terry Petrie, public information officer and Kollean Stewart, administrative assistant, display one of the prisoner-made quilts. Last year, inmates in the program made 300 quilts that were donated to charity and those in need.

-Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

