

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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Friday

March 28, 2014

Briefly

Basketball tonight at the Stull Gym

The Harlem Ambassadors vs. the Northwest Kansas Jubilee Jammers basketball game will be held tonight at 7 p.m. in the Stull Gymnasium. Tickets: Age 5-11 \$5, 12 and up \$10, kids 4 and under are free.

Chess club set to meet on Monday

Chess Club will meet on Monday, from 4-5 p.m., at the Norton Public Library. An after-school snack will be provided. Come join the fun!

Monday movie night at the library

The next "Monday at the Movies" will be on March 31 at 1:30 p.m. in the Norton Public Library community room. The featured movie is "A Dog Year," starring Jeff Bridges. Refreshments will be served.

Veterans get help with their claims

Jody Tubbs of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs will be at the Norton County Library to assist Veterans and their dependents with VA claims work from 10:45 until 11:45 on Tuesday, April 1. If you are unable to contact Ms. Tubbs at that time you may contact her any Monday, Wednesday or Friday at 785-462-3572.

Bridge group to meet Wednesday

Bridge will be held at the Norton Public Library on Wednesday, April 2, from 2-4 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Scout sign up set for next Friday

Scouts signup night for kindergarten through fourth grade will be held on Friday, April 4 in the Methodist Church Fellowship Hall at 7 pm.

Markets

MARCH 2014

Wheat	\$7.30
Milo	\$4.37
Soybeans	\$13.54
Corn	\$4.57

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Saturday - Sunshine with a high of 71. Saturday Night - Clear skies with a few passing clouds. Sunday - Cloudy skies with a high near 80. Sunday Night - Cloudy early with partial clearing expected late and a low of 47. Monday - Partly cloudy and windy with a high of 51. Monday Night - Partly to mostly cloudy with a low of 30. Tuesday - Cloudy with a high of 49.

Prayer

Dear Lord, give us the faith to keep trusting you, even when the way ahead seems hopeless. Amen

Achievements honored...



The National Honor Society, Norton Chapter, held its 2014 induction ceremony at Stull Gymnasium on Wednesday. There were four inductees for this year. (From left to right) Neysa Carlson, junior, Ste-

phen Cummings, junior, Morgan Farber, junior, and Charles Whitney, junior.

—Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

Fund named for former Norton native

By DANA PAXTON
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The Kansas Rural Communities Foundation based out of Wamego, Kansas has announced a new endowed fund, named for a Norton native, that will help towns in northwestern Kansas get professional assistance as they plan improvements in water and other utilities.

This should help towns secure federal, state or private money.

The fund is named in honor of William M. Kirk, former state director of the Farmers Home Administration and later the Rural Development Administration for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Mr. Kirk was born in Norton

and spent a lifetime dedicated to the development of northwest Kansas and rural Kansas as a whole. Kirk passed away in February of this year leaving behind quite the legacy.

"William M. Kirk had a passion and dedication toward the continued development and improvement of rural communities and a particular love for Northwest Kansas," said Glenn Brunkow, executive director of the foundation. "His lifetime of service will continue on through the endowment of (this) fund and all of the work it will do for rural communities." Kirk already knew to be true; rural communities must have quality critical utilities and essential services to maintain or

increase population and to thrive and prosper.

Bill cared deeply about and dedicated a large portion of his life to, his wife, Stephanie A. Kirk, along with his two adult sons, William N. and Philip M. Kirk. Together, they worked with the Kansas Rural Communities Foundation to establish "The William M. Kirk Rural Development Fund".

The purpose of the fund is to encourage, solicit, receive, and use charitable contributions and the income derived from the investment of gifts made in support of current and emerging needs of Kansas rural communities and related purposes including the distribution of funds to provide financial assistance

to rural communities of Northwestern Kansas for the engagement of professional assistance to assist with the procurement of federal, state and private sector funds for the acquisition of new or improved facilities for providing water and other critical utilities, with preference being given to projects to be located in Decatur County or Norton County.

The foundation is a tax-exempt agency working with towns in rural Kansas. For information, go to www.thekrcf.org. Or to donate go to www.thekrcf.org/donate.

New 'place' will be home for current residents

The following story about a new group home in Norton appeared in the Hays Daily News, written by Randy Gonzales:

"Our Place" will be their place for a half-dozen people served by Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas in Norton.

The group home on Grant Street shared by six individuals had been outgrown, and a new home was purchased at 1113 Eisenhower – coincidentally adjacent to the existing home here. The other house on Grant has been in use

since the late 1980s.

Construction continues to renovate the new house to fit the residents' needs. The new home, to be called "Our Place," is expected to be completed in the spring.

"The needs of people from the 1980s has changed," said President Jerry Michaud. "As people age, that accessibility and those issues are paramount, which really is the motivation behind 'Our Place.'"

The new "intermediate care facility" will have six ground-floor bedrooms,

one for each individual, an outdoor patio, as well as a basement which, among other things, can be used as a storm shelter.

The agency borrowed money to purchase the new home.

"We're doing it because we must, to meet the needs of folks," Michaud said. "It is expensive. It is going to be a several-hundred-thousand-dollar project."

It is undecided what will be done with the current house once the move has been made.

Michaud said he is excited about the project.

"The excitement really is for the folks there," he said.

Steve Keil, director of development for the agency, also is excited about what the project means for the people they serve.

"It's just going to be nice for them to have their own bedroom on one level," he said. "Being right next to the other home will be nice."

"It'll be a nice home that anybody would be proud to live in."

Commissioners approve servers, signs and hours

By MIKE STEPHENS
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The Norton County commissioners approved a bid for \$7,098 from Mortensen Computers for a new server that will be housed in the courthouse.

The current server was purchased used and has been in use for several years, officials said. In the past couple weeks, technicians have been called several times to re-boot computers due to down time and failure of the system.

Floyd Richards and Becky Wilson with the road department discussed bids for new road and traffic signs. New federal regulations require that

the county replace its old road signs with signs that meet new federal guidelines. The idea is to ensure that traffic control devices and signs are uniform across the county.

Four bids were presented, with the lowest bid from National Sign Co. for \$12.87 per sign. The old signs will start being replaced by May 1. The board approved the bid, and Richards said he would like to replace the signs in stages. Signs where roads intersect with state highways would be done first, which will take a total of 238 signs at a cost of \$3,063, he said.

The citywide-countywide clean up week has been set for April 21-23, according to John Miller, landfill man-

ager

Commissioners discussed holding a public hearing for the five-year solid waste plan and set it for their meeting Monday, April 7. Miller reported that Bobcat of Hastings, Neb., has delivered the new skid-steer loader.

Miller also said that the department is almost out of the orange hazardous-material bags used for disposal of batteries at the landfill, but he is having difficulty finding a source. One supplier gave a quote of \$2,200 for 20,000 bags. Miller and the commission agreed he should look for a less-expensive source.

County Attorney Doug Sebelius discussed an opportunity to refinance the

bonds used to finance the ambulance building. Mark Detter with Central States Marketing has asked to meet with the commission next Monday to discuss the benefits and options with refinancing.

Floyd Richards also discussed with the Commission about returning to a four day work week, as was done last summer. The commissioners approved the request and said that they felt the first of May would be the best time to start the four day work week, because the daylight would be better. The Road Department's four day work week will be from May 5 through Aug. 29, 2014.

