

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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Tuesday
April 15, 2014

Future Farmers of America hold banquet



During the Norton FFA Banquet on Saturday evening, the officers inducted Randy Clydesdale as the newest Honorary FFA Member. Pictured during the ceremony are, from left, Zach Esslinger, sentinel; Molly Maddy, reporter; Darcy Bainter, treasurer; Marisa Maddy, sec-

retary; Johnnye Ruder, vice president; Randy Clydesdale and Kolton Harting, president.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Briefly

Author's speaking events scheduled

Stephanie Grace Whitson, an author, speaker, historian and quilter, will be in Norton on April 16 at the First United Methodist Church speaking on "Nebraska's Sod House Homemakers and Their Quilts" at 7 p.m. and April 17 at the Norton Public Library for story time with pre-schoolers at 10:30 a.m., "Stories in Stone" at 4 p.m., and "A Writer's Eye-View of the West" at 7 p.m. All events are free to the public, come and enjoy!

U.S.D. 211 schools closed for Easter

There will be no school for USD 211 on Friday, April 18 and on Monday, April 21 due to the Easter Holiday break.

Blue Jay Boosters to meet on Wednesday

Blue Jay Boosters meeting Wednesday -front today
The regular meeting of the Norton Blue Jay Booster Club was postponed from last week due to conflicts and will be held this Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.
Speaking about early season performances by Norton athletes will be head golf coach David Stover and head track and field coach Jason Jones.
You do not have to be a member of the club to attend meetings.

Easter Egg Hunt to be held on April 19

The Norton Child Study Club will host the Annual Easter Egg Hunt again this year at the Norton County Courthouse on Saturday April 19. Pictures with the Easter Bunny can be taken from 1 to 1:30 p.m. and this is also when the scavenger hunt for 4th through 6th grade will take place. The egg hunt will start at 2 p.m. for kids infant through third grade.

Markets

APRIL 2014

Wheat.....\$6.98
Milo.....\$4.45
Soybeans.....\$13.82
Corn.....\$4.74
Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Wednesday - Partly cloudy with a low around 40. Wednesday Night - Cloudy skies with a mixture of light rain and snow overnight. Thursday - Snow during the morning with rain at times and a high of 38. Thursday Night - Cloudy skies early then becoming foggy and damp later at night with a low of 27. Friday - Sunshine along with cloudy intervals and a high of 53. Friday Night - Partly cloudy with a low of 37.

Prayer

Dear God, help us to turn to you at all times, especially when we see that we can do nothing to help ourselves. Amen

By DICK BOYD

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With another large crowd in attendance, the Norton FFA Chapter Banquet for 2013-14 was held Saturday night in the Norton junior high gymnasium.

Prior to the banquet, parents, relatives and friends enjoyed viewing the many projects in the shop which were crafted by the members.

President Kolton Harting gave the welcome, followed by the invocation by vice-president Johnnye Ruder.

Following a delicious meal of rib eye

steaks, cheesy potatoes, corn, homemade rolls and strawberry shortcake prepared by the Norton FFA Alumni and served by the Norton forensics students, the program began.

A slide show of the members in various activities was shown and was compiled by Zach Esslinger.

The parent's response was by Chris Harting. He thanked the other parents for all they have done for the FFA. All stood up and were recognized with a loud round of applause.

"FFA is a big thing in Norton," he said. "Thanks for coming tonight

and participating in our youths' lives. Thanks, too, to Mr. Beydler for all the time he puts in. The Alumni Board is also a big help. It's pretty tough out there in farming and our young people need all the help they can get in their careers."

The senior officers gave out Appreciation Awards to many of the local business people.

Recognition to Senior Awards given were: Farm Bureau, certificates to seniors who have completed three or more years in ag education, by Austin Brooks, to Bailey Ambrosier, Megan

Arehart, Darcy Bainter, Travis Cressler, Zach Esslinger, Kolton Harting, Marisa Maddy, Austin Hager, Trevor Lewis, Cristine Nelson, Garret Otter, Cole Renner, Johnnye Ruder, Keith Sander and Andrew Smith; Cargill teamed with area farmers to donate over \$4,000 to the FFA; Wild Turkey Federation, by John Ruder, \$300 to FFA; Campbell Memorial, by Glen Campbell, \$250 to Austin Hager; Alumni Scholarships, by treasurer Spencer Braun, to Austin Hager, Kolton Harting and Marisa Maddy; Lucas Maddy

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Sheriff reports to commission on 911 system

By DANA PAXTON

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Sheriff Troy Thomson met with the Norton County Commissioners on April 7 to discuss the new 911 call system.

Thomson reported that they are moving ahead with the new 911 call system and this system was going to be \$2,500 cheaper than the last one. The new system will do texts, emails, voice, Twitter and Facebook and can have multiple administrators that can put stuff on it. Other agencies that can use it would be Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, the Ministerial Alliance, schools and teachers, any non-profit groups and the City of Norton to name a few. It was decided

to offer this free to the other groups but based on usage, they may be charged next year in order to help fund it.

In other sheriff news Thomson reported that jail numbers have really been fluctuating and that after a long investigation believes that they arrested a major supplier for the area the week prior. "It took a lot of man hours to do it but it was a good thing," Thomson said.

Thomson reported that the new dispatcher Damon Boss was doing great and has completed about 90 percent of the computer upgrades and started on his own last week. The other new staff member Joy Sorrell is also doing well but still in training.

In other commissioners news:

Right after the sheriff spoke a Norton County citizen came to see the commissioners, Adam Zerr. He was requesting that the county please not grade big clumps in the ditch on his property east of Norton. He told the commissioners how he had worked very hard to build a grass waterway to help with run off and when they last graded the road filled it with large clumps of debris. Road and Bridge Department head, Floyd Richards was called in to join the meeting at this point. My Zerr was told he would get some millings put back on that area and the grader operator would be talked to about this.

Lastly Gil Otter spoke with the com-

missioners about the ceiling at the 4-H building. He got ahold of a contractor and received a low bid under \$16,000 to replace the ceiling. Otter said they only need \$7884 but he didn't have the money to do it in the fund. Otter did not want it taken out of the capital outlay. Commissioner Peterson asked if the ceiling could wait until next year so it could be budgeted in but Otter was hoping to do it sooner. Norton County Clerk Robert Wyatt said that they would have to look at the money available and asked if they could address the topic again at the 4-17 meeting. It was agreed to discuss it then.

Emergency Management position a top priority

By DANA PAXTON

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Gina Frack from the Norton County Health Department and Jane Wyatt from the Norton County Emergency Medical Services stopped in briefly to discuss two things at the April 7 Norton County Commissioners meeting. The open Emergency Management position and the tobacco free policy.

Frack stated that when the commissioners decide to fill the Emergency Management position she hopes that they will keep in mind that it is a key in the process of getting grant funds for the county and goes hand in hand with the health department. Wyatt suggested that the next person would need to have experience and be able to attend the Local Emergency Planning Committee meetings in order to share information and to attend Incident Command System training. "I am here to point out how important the position is, Sheriff Troy Thomson doesn't have the time to do it as well as his other duties so whom ever is hired has a big job on their hands," Frack said. Commissioner R.A. Peterson asked if the county was taking applications for the position yet since former Emergency Management

officer Justina Smith had resigned and was not fired. He was informed that no the advertising had not started yet but would be soon by Robert Wyatt.

Mrs. Wyatt said that she had been covering the calls and emails coming into Smith's phone and there is a lot of stuff that must be done and kept up on. The next meeting for emergency management will be on May 13 and more will be decided at that time.

The second topic Frack covered was the tobacco free policy. She has been busy writing it up and submitted it but after the state reviewed it they found some things needed to be more specific. Two things were addressed, the use of E-Cigarettes and that there is conflicting information about where and when tobacco can be used. Frack said the Tobacco Free Coalition working on it is made up of non-elected personnel and only give suggestions and recommendations to the counties. Commissioner Charles Posson didn't like the use of a coalition. By the end of the meeting it was decided that Mrs. Frack would leave the policy as is currently written and said if the commissioners wanted revisions to let her know.

Northern Valley Prom



The theme for Northern Valley High School's Prom was "Under the Sea." (Front row) DaKota Hilburn was voted Princess and Kristen Leibhart was the Queen. (Back row) Aaron Pinzenscham was Prince and Ian Vincent was voted King.

-Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

