

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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Friday
May 6, 2014

Briefly

Booster Club to meet Wednesday

The next meeting of the Norton Blue Jay Booster Club will be held this Wednesday in the high school cafeteria, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Speaking to fans about recent competition by their athletes will be head track and field coach Jason Jones and head golf coach David Stover.

You do not need to be a member of the club to attend the meetings.

Second half taxes are due May 10

The second half of the 2013 taxes are due by May 10, 2014. Don't forget to bring or send in the payments stubs from your tax statements. For more information call the Norton County Treasurer's office at 785-877-5795.

ACT deadline is set for Friday

A reminder for students wanting to take the ACT test. The registration deadline for the June 14 ACT test is this Friday.

Schools dismissed early on Wednesday

USD 211 will have MTSS on Wednesday, so school will be dismissed at 1 p.m. with buses running regular routes.

Kindness Unites is Thursday night

Norton Community High School will hold the Senior Kindness Unites Us program at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday night at the East Campus auditorium.

Markets

MAY, 2014

Wheat.....	\$7.92
Milo.....	\$4.47
Soybeans.....	\$13.92
Corn.....	\$4.87

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Wednesday - Partly cloudy with a high of 87. Wednesday Night - Some clouds with an overnight low of 52. Thursday - Partly cloudy skies with a high of 66. Thursday Night - A few clouds with a low of 43. Friday - Partly cloudy skies with a high of 74. Friday Night - Chance of rain 30 percent.

Prayer

Dear God, help us always to keep our eyes and hearts open to the blessings you send us every day. Amen.

Northern Valley's Class of 2014



Northern Valley High school held their commencement ceremonies on Sunday for 12 graduates. From left are; Jordan Schuyler Baird, Hunter Bradley Chandler, Beatriz Adriana De La Fuente, Emmy Marie-Nicole Fringer, Brooke Justine Hammond, DaKota Donn Bliss Hilburn, Kolton Tanner Hilburn, Kristen LeAnn Leibhart, Aaron Wayne Pinzenscham, Mike Leroy Siard, Alex William Stevens and Ian Thomas

Vincent. Richard L. Trail, a retired Airforce Lt. Col., was the featured speaker. Ian Vincent was recognized for being the class Salutatorian and Hunter Chandler was recognized for being the class Valedictorian. The class motto is "If we cannot find the road to success, we will make one."

— Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

Sheriff requests new equipment

By DANA PAXTON
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Sheriff Troy Thomson met with the Norton County Commissioners at the end of the month meeting last Wednesday to discuss the topic of new equipment for the department.

Thomson reported that the new Code Red or 911 call system should be up and running as of Saturday. This system is replacing the old one. Citizens of Norton County will have to go to a website and enter their information so that in the event of an emergency when they call in their name, location and phone number will come up. This will also allow the department to send out urgent messages to the public via

phone. Thomson said, "This is only an extra warning system so don't stop watching the television or listening to the radio to get additional information." He also said that as soon as the system is up and running information will be printed in the paper so people will know what to do.

Along with the new call system the sheriff said that he is wanting to purchase some new rifles for his deputies. He is looking at replacing the current mini 14's with 223 AR's. They are cheaper and he can get one for a left handed shooter which is needed for one deputy. The rifles eject a spent shell casing very rapidly and if a left hander shoots a right handed rifle he would get

hit in the face with the empty shell casing. "I want all of my officers to have the same caliber of gun and be better able to protect themselves in dangerous situations," Thomson said.

Thomson has had four bids turned in so far and is waiting on one more. All the bids are from local gun dealers. End Zone turned in a bid of \$650, S & S Gunworks' bid was \$675, Ron Briery's bid was \$603 and Norman Olliff's bid was \$979. Thomson is still waiting on a bid from Vern's Gun Room.

Thankfully our sheriff's department has never had to use deadly force on a human but in events like the one that just recently took place in Oberlin he wants to be prepared. He said, "I am

the Devil's advocate, after incidents like in Oberlin and Plainville the officers had no cover and no means by which to reach out and touch someone, I don't want to see that happen here. The main reason behind buying these guns is so that my guys know I've given them everything they need to get them home at night."

If the department was to get these new weapons it would come out of the officer equipment fund and there is enough to cover the total cost. After receiving the final bid, a decision will be made.

Clean up brings in 98 tons at landfill

By DANA PAXTON
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Last Wednesday, Kirk Foley from the Norton County Solid Waste Department reported to the commissioners on the city and county wide clean up in Norton County two weeks ago.

There were 90 loads taken to the landfill by individuals, 41 loads of construction and debris came from the City of Norton, 14 loads from Almena and 6

loads from Lenora. There were also 29 loads of grass, 25 loads of trees and 12 loads of city trees. A total of 98.12 tons were taken in which was a lost revenue of \$4,494.30 to the department.

The twice a year clean up is a great thing for Norton County, people keep their property cleaned up and things are disposed of properly this way instead of dumping unsafe materials in places they shouldn't be.

Commissioner R.A. Peterson asked Foley what he thought of the recent grinder demonstration that took place at the landfill. The county is checking into purchasing a grinder so they had one brought in two weeks ago to see if it might be a good thing for our landfill. Foley, along with all the commissioners, voiced being very impressed. Foley said that he believed that it reduced the waste by 60 to 70 percent. By get-

ting a grinder it would extend the life of the debris pits a great deal as there would be a better compaction rate of the waste. Foley said, "We could also grind up trees and sell for compost which would also help the landfill." No decision has been made on if the county will purchase a grinder yet or not.

Commissioners to discuss tobacco policy

By DANA PAXTON
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Gina Frack of the Norton County Health Department met with the commissioners at last week's meeting to discuss the tobacco policy in a meeting of department heads.

Frack was requesting that the commissioners set up a meeting of all the county department heads to get their input on the county tobacco policies. This proved to be difficult as the com-

missioners each have very busy schedules but finally it was agreed to hold a meeting on Tuesday, May 20 at 7 p.m. County Clerk Robert Wyatt will be notifying each department head of this meeting.

After Frack left the meeting the minutes from the last meeting were accepted by all and passed.

Next in to see the commissioners was Norton County Treasurer Cynthia Linner. She reported that taxes taken

in were down from the same time last year; the reason was unknown.

She then reported to the commissioners that the State of Kansas owns the computers in her office and are going to be doing a PC Refresh or, in other words, will send out new computers. She also reported that the county has the option to purchase the three PCs that will be replaced at the very reasonable price of \$150 each. The three extra computers could be used by any of

the departments and each one of them could be upgraded. Linner said she was told by Mortensen Computer Service's owner, Shaun Mortensen, that it would be a good idea to do that. The commissioners agreed that having spare computers available would be a great idea so it was unanimously agreed upon that the county would go ahead and purchase the computers.

County employee to retire after 20 years of service

By DANA PAXTON
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Reggie Beckman of the Norton County Noxious Weed Department met with commissioners last Wednesday to inform them of his retirement.

Beckman plans to retire at the end of July. He has been a Norton County employee for twenty years and has fi-

nally reached retirement age. The commissioners expressed their deep gratitude for Reggie's great service to the community and stated that he would be greatly missed and very hard to replace. No replacement has been found yet but the process will have to start soon.

Beckman said that there is still a lot

that needs to be done with the replacement. This is because when he leaves he will be taking a ton of knowledge with him, knowledge that took twenty years to compile. Beckman said, "This job is a learning process, I am still learning." It was decided to meet again on May 19 to discuss what will need to be done to carry on after he leaves.

Beckman has worked twenty years to try to keep spraying cost as cheap as possible for the county and area farmers. He reported that the wind had slowed down the process but hopes to start spraying the roadside this week and wasn't too concerned because it goes pretty quickly.

