

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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8 PAGES

Tuesday
May 13, 2014

Briefly

Awards program set for Wednesday

The senior scholarship and awards program will be held at Stull Gymnasium on Wednesday at 2:30 p.m.

Exhibit and concert this Thursday night

The Norton Junior High School will hold their exhibit night this Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m. Then, at 7:30 the junior high band will perform their last concert of the year in the junior high gymnasium.

Archery club's 3-D shoot set for May 18

The Norton Archery Club is having its 3-D shoot on May 18 at the northwest corner of Prairie Dog State Park. Trickle start from 9 - 10 a.m.; it is \$10 for two rounds. For more information please call 871-1615 or 877-5269.

Norton graduation set for this Sunday

Norton Community High School Commencement ceremonies will be held at Stull gymnasium on Sunday starting at 2:30 p.m.

Special city council meeting Wednesday

A special City Council meeting will be held on Wednesday at 5:45 at the City Office to consider an application to be submitted to the Kansas Department of Commerce for Small Cities Community Development Block Grant funds under the Downtown Commercial Rehabilitation category.

Markets

MAY 2014

Wheat	\$7.73
Milo	\$4.40
Soybeans	\$13.98
Corn	\$4.80

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op



Wednesday - Except for a few afternoon clouds mainly sunny with a high of 66.
Wednesday Night - A few clouds with a low near 40.
Thursday - Cloudy with a high of 64.
Thursday Night - A few clouds with a low around 40.
Friday - Partly cloudy skies with a high of 66.
Friday Night - Showers in the evening with a low of 46. Chance of rain 40 percent.
Saturday - Breaks of sun in the afternoon with a 60 percent chance of rain.

Prayer

Dear Lord Jesus, help us to fix our eyes on you and encourage one another to finish the race. Amen.

Logan High School Class of 2014



Graduation ceremonies for Logan High School's Class of 2014 were held Sunday in the high school auditorium. (Front row) Dustin J. Race Allen, Lairra Rose Andeson, Chad Ryan Becker, Cynthia Anne Bressler, Nathalia Eulogia Cruz, Alvin Lee Ebner, Tori Lynn Fringer and Michaela Rose Girard. (Back row) Logan Cyril Kiser, Timothy Marcus Ko, Kyle Glen Pakkebier, Brett Jordan Pinkerton, Clayton Pat-

rick Wade Rundle, Libby Gail Schneider, Kirsten Marie Schorer and Marci Renee Glennemeier. The class flower was red and white roses, and the class colors were red, black and silver. The class motto: Met as classmates; Grew as friends; Left as family.

-Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

Commissioners meet with hospital board

By DANA PAXTON
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Richard Miller, Ryan Stover and Von Fahrenbruch of the Norton County Hospital Board met with the commissioners last Monday to go over a proposed budget hearing and discuss their game plan.

The hospital board meets quarterly with the commissioners and it was that time of year again at the last meeting held. Hospital Chief Executive Officer, Richard Miller started by going over the actions taken by the board since the last meeting. He reported that a vacancy on the board of trustees had been filled and that at the February meeting the upper level renovation was discussed and it was decided to put off the 5.4 million dollar project for now. In lieu of the renovation they still have needs that need to be addressed such as revision of the kitchen, the physical therapy area, the cardiac rehabilitation area and chemo administration area.

Fahrenbruch said that to address the physical therapy area it is not planned to move it upstairs but space would have to be readjusted to accommodate what is needed. He also said that

chemo patients are in need of more private treatment rooms, currently, there is only room for two patients at a time. These are going to be ongoing topics until all areas can be dealt with.

Centric Migration was the next topic, Stover stated that this is a major piece of the daily schedule and it is a major investment of time and money. They tried doing this a year ago but as of the last six weeks they have the program up and running. This changed workflow and the process is slow. Doctors have found it to be difficult and do their best with what they have to do until all the bugs are worked out.

As of last week, the hospital has gone electronic so no more paper charts. This takes three months to get through and due to government mandates the way they must deliver health care has changed. If not done exactly like told the hospital can face penalties and so our hospital board is doing everything they can to avoid this.

Stover reported a \$185,000 operational loss in the last eight months, as of February, somewhat due to delays in payments but hopes to make this up on a state level. On the federal level,

there is currently a two percent Medicare reduction and there is the possibility of another one percent in October of 2014. The hospital barely qualified for disproportionate share hospital designation this last year and if it doesn't qualify this year it will have a huge impact on the hospital. Stover also reported that March was above budget and was really a good month and hopes to have broken even after all the numbers are in for April.

Miller wanted to address the issue of the cost for meals on wheels and for prisoners at the county jail. The hospital provides these meals at a reduced cost of \$3 a day for prisoners and \$2.70 for meals on wheels. After really looking at the numbers Miller knew that the income from these was not enough to cover the cost of the meals and that in the very near future those prices will have to go up. Miller reported that in 2013 they served 5,800 meals at the jail and he expects there to be as many as 4,800 this year. He also said that \$173,000 went to non reimbursable dietary costs on the Medicare cost report of which a major portion of the cost was due to inmate meals and meals on

wheels. He is looking for help and input on this issue. The hospital and the county are in a partnership and Miller wants to keep it that way.

Miller said they have been at 2.5 mills for three years now which generates \$120,000 a year but that may have to go up; the board will discuss the raising of the meal price and it will be fair by raising both the county meal price as well as the meals on wheels price. Miller said, "In the past our financial situation was more positive and we could support these meal programs to a large degree but with Medicare reductions it becomes more difficult."

Commissioner R.A. Peterson said that the commissioners would have to look at it because it will be based on property evaluation whether or not the number of mills can go up or not.

On a final note, Richard Miller reported to the commissioners that he plans to retire in November of this year. "Ryan Stover will be the new CEO and I know he will do a great job." Miller said.

The Closet is one of Norton's newest retail options

MIKE STEPHENS
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The Closet, at the corner of State and Main streets, opened its doors for business on April 10, and fulfilled owner Kim Mortensen's 38 year old dream. Besides fulfilling a dream, The Closet fills a need of the city for more retail stores in downtown, according to a recent market study conducted by Norton County Economic Development.

Mortensen said she wanted to give local and visiting shoppers an additional retail choice without competing against existing businesses.

"I wanted to find a niche that others didn't have. I wanted to enhance the retail options for men and women, and complement the other retail stores we currently have."

The Closet is a women's fashion boutique with 90 percent of its inventory new items and only 10 percent consignment, mainly jewelry, handbags and shoes. The women's clothing line has skirts, blouses, dresses, pants, shorts, and formal wear.

Mortensen said she is "considering stepping into the world of wedding dresses because there is no place for brides to try on and purchase locally for the big day."

There are new items arriving weekly, according to Mortensen, and the spring

and summer clothes will be available through June, and will be replaced by the fall fashions in July.

"If you walk in my store you can walk out with an entire new outfit."

The Closet has a limited line of men's clothing that includes shorts, shirts and shoes, but said she is building the men's inventory as well.

There have been opportunities in the past for Mortensen to open her own business but she said the timing or circumstances were never quite right, until now. With the support and encouragement of her husband Shawn, and the financial backing of First State Bank, she, "took a leap of Faith" and opened The Closet's doors.

"First State Bank gave me the opportunity to start my own store," said Mortensen. "I think they're happy so far. We want Norton to grow and they are advocates for small businesses and we all need a chance."

Getting a new business off the ground is not easy but Mortensen said she doesn't mind the 12 to 16 hour days, because she loves entrepreneurship and hard work. She said to have a successful business she believes it requires working more than 40 hours a week.

Mortensen said the experience has been both "exciting and scary" but

"Dad always said you've gotta take risks."

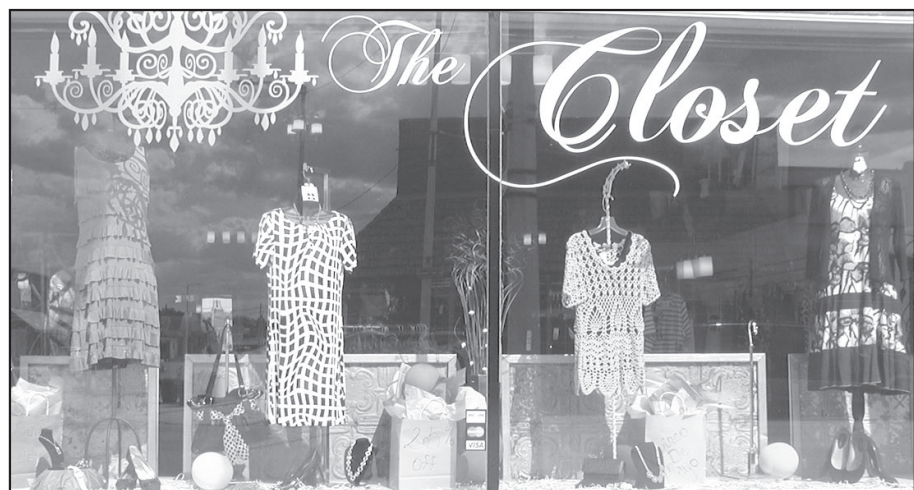
She also has plenty of help with her mom, Rose Garrison, at her side, and said "I couldn't have done it without my mom, she is my right-hand man."

Mortensen said she is committed to seeing business opportunities grow in Norton and wants The Closet to become a retail store destination for shoppers by "keeping prices low to moderate," ro-

tating stock and having sales.

"I want people to stop here to shop." The Closet's hours of operation are from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m. on Thursdays, and on Saturdays from 9 a.m. until the last customer leaves.

"Norton has shown just wonderful support. I consider it more fun than work."



The Closet, a women's fashion boutique, is one of downtown Norton's newest retail shops with a large inventory of clothes, from casual to formal wear. There are plenty of accessories as well, including jewelry, handbags and shoes.

-Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

