

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



Tuesday
May 20, 2014

Briefly

Booster Club meets this Wednesday

The twice-monthly meeting of the Norton Blue Jay Booster Club will be held Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.

Speaking of their teams' recent sporting events 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 the meetings.

Summer reading sign-up Wednesday

"Fizz, Boom, Read" Summer Reading will be starting soon. Sign-up for summer reading begins Wednesday, May 21. Our first special program, "Jammin' with Randy," will be presented by award-winning Norton native, Randy Sauer, May 29, 10:30 a.m.

Alumni banquet set for this Saturday

The Long Island Alumni banquet and Annual Meeting will be held Saturday May 24 at 6:30 and will be held at the Long Island gymnasium.

Lenora banquet is Saturday at 11:30 a.m.

The Lenora Alumni Association banquet will be on Saturday, May 24 at the St. Hoseph Parish Center (gym) in New Almelo with registration at 11:30 a.m. and the meal at 12:30 p.m.

Markets

MAY, 2014

| | |
|---------------|---------|
| Wheat..... | \$7.19 |
| Milo..... | \$4.19 |
| Soybeans..... | \$13.84 |
| Corn..... | \$4.59 |

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-op

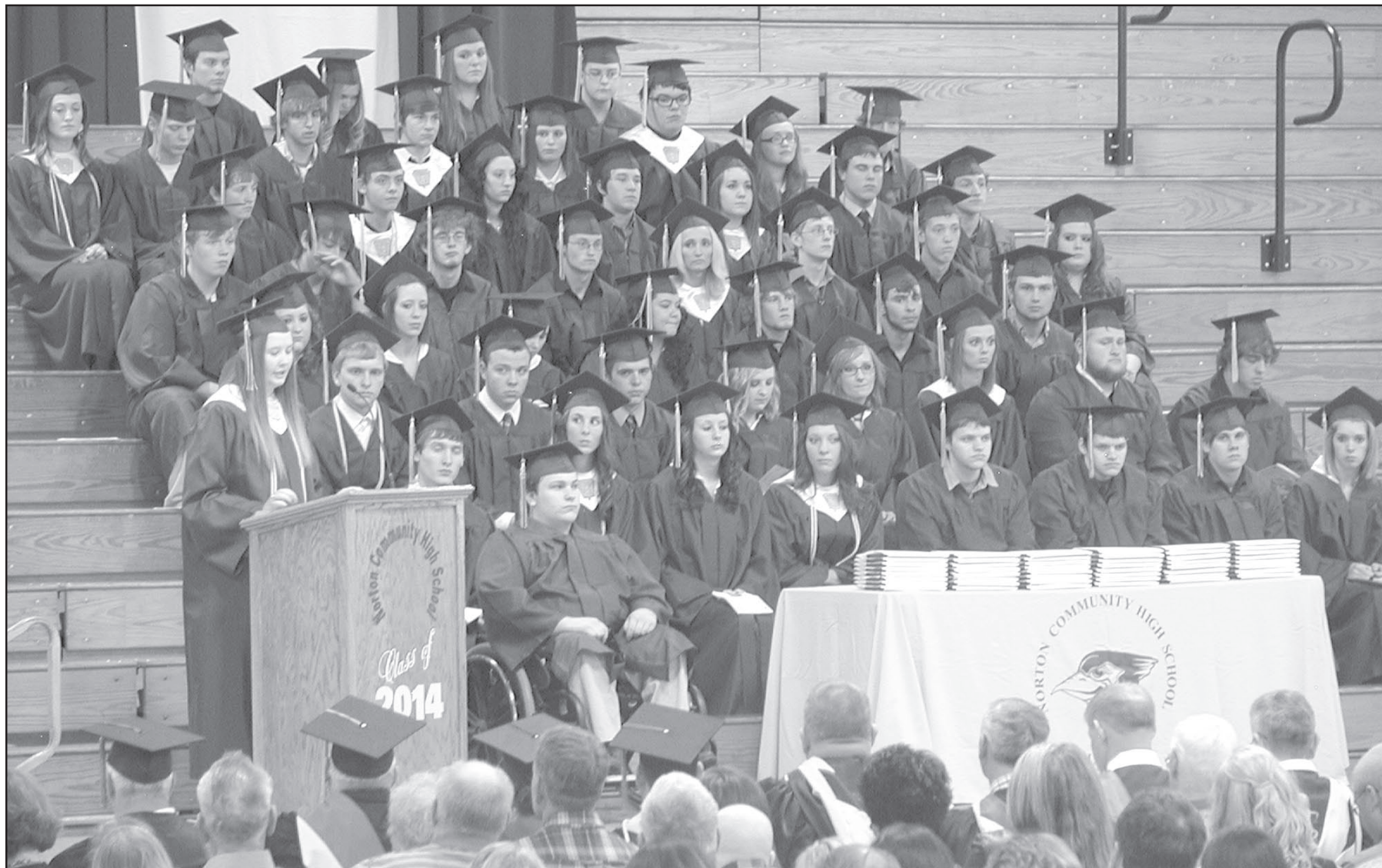
weather forecast

Wednesday - Intervals of clouds and sunshine with a high of 83. Wednesday Night - Chance of rain 80 percent. Thursday - Scattered thunderstorms with a chance of rain 50 percent and a high of 83. Thursday Night - Thunderstorms likely with a low of 61. Chance of rain 90 percent. Friday - Cloudy in the morning with a 80 percent chance of rain. Friday Night - Scattered showers and thunderstorms with a 40 percent chance of rain. Low of 61. Saturday - Partly cloudy skies during the morning hours then a 80 percent chance of rain.

Prayer

Dear God, we confess that sometimes we are wrapped up in ourselves and forget about others. Help us to open our hearts to a bigger world and a bigger love. Amen.

Class of 2014 graduation ceremony!



The Norton Community High School held its commencement exercises on Sunday. Once again the Stull gymnasium was filled to capacity as family and friends cheered on the 52 graduates that they have supported for so many years. Ashley Hildebrand is seen here with her fellow graduates as she speaks of "What is there to be proud of?", to be a Blue Jay is what everyone of the students shares in com-

mon and are proud of. The other speaker was Katelyn Engelbert who's speech was on "Oh the places you'll go." As usual the Norton High School choir sang and the high school band played before the presentation of the class and diplomas.

- Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

Another rehabilitation project considered

By MIKE STEPHENS
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The Norton City Council met in special session on Wednesday 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, and to consider approval of all necessary paperwork and agreements for the application.

The grant request is for the rehabilitation of the building located at 108 E. Washington, and to be owned by Janis Monier. When finished the building will house two businesses.

Corina Cox of Northwest Kansas

Planning and Development Commission said applications are accepted only once a year, and there is only \$1,000,000 in grant funds available, and \$250,000 is the maximum to apply for. The scope of work for the project was outlined in the hearing notice that was published, but according to Cox the budget that was published in the hearing notice was incorrect; the publication included a total project cost of \$333,335, with a grant request of \$250,000. The correct figures are: \$285,001 total project cost; \$213,750 grant funds applied for, and \$71,251 matching funds to be contributed by Monier.

The council unanimously passed

Resolution #7-2014, certifying legal authority to apply for the 2014 Kansas Small Cities Community Development Block Grant Program from the Kansas Department of Commerce, and authorizing the Mayor to sign and submit the application; and Resolution #8-2014, declaring a building blighted with respect to the Kansas Small Cities Community Development Block Grant program.

Cox said Monier will have an option to purchase the property contingent upon the grant being awarded and receiving environmental clearance. The project would have to be completed within two years. Cox said the grant application must be postmarked

by June 1 and must include all forms which must be signed by the Mayor and included in the grant application. Notification of grant awards should be made in mid-July.

The Council also approved the Agreement for Administration Consulting Services of Community Development Block Grant Funds with Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Commission in the amount of \$17,000. The contract is contingent upon Community Development Block Grant funding, and will be considered null and void if funds are not awarded.

ReNew Chic Boutique is under new local ownership

By MIKE STEPHENS
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ReNew Chic Boutique, located at 106 South State St., is under new ownership. Norton resident Hypatia Day took over business operations on May 1, from Robin Townsend and Stephanie Thompson of Holdrege and Loomis, Neb.

Townsend and Thompson started the consignment store in November 2011, and Hypatia worked for them as a part-time employee for a year and a half. Townsend and Thompson decided they wanted to open a clothing store closer to home and offered the business to Hypatia, which was an easy sell.

"I've always loved this store," she said, and added that she's received a lot of support from the community. "I have nothing but praise for Economic Development and the Chamber of Commerce. That group of people was a world of help and enthusiasm. The banking community has been fabulous. I couldn't have done it without them and they are excited as well."

The clothing line at ReNew consists of men's, women's and juniors, anything smaller is sold next door at Little Bo-tique. Renew has over 730 consignors from Norton, WaKeeney, Smith Center, Holdrege, Neb., and McCook, Neb.

The inventory is massive, according to Hypatia, and she and her two part-

time clerks, Rovella Shearer and Teslie Nickell, along with friends, Phyllis Winslow and Tina Jacobs, are working feverishly to process all the new items coming into the store daily. This includes steam cleaning the clothes before they can be put out on the floor in an attractive fashion for shoppers.

Hypatia believes her past business experience will help her business succeed.

"I've owned my own business in Tampa Bay, Fla., in the 1980's-2000. It was a business-to-business operation selling office equipment. I've been in sales all my life. I even worked at Dillard's part-time in Tampa Bay, which helps."

She moved to Norton in 2005, and worked for Nex-Tech from 2006-12 selling Yellow Page advertising. She said she was laid off and couldn't find work, so she went to school and earned her insurance license. She then opened her own business in the Chamber of Commerce's incubator space, but when the opportunity to buy ReNew came about she couldn't pass it up. She will continue to serve her current insurance customers, but won't expand the operation, which will make incubator space available.

Hypatia and Little Bo-tique owner Martina Ruiz are considering reopening the doorway that used to exist between the two stores. Both said

it would create great cross-promotion and marketing opportunities.

To help her navigate her new venture, Hypatia has an advisory team that includes the previous owners, Townsend and Thompson, her daughter, Laurie Cliff, who is the business manager at Valley Hope, and her friend Megan Hawks who is in business administration and marketing.

She's clearly committed to the success of her new enterprise, but she's also committed to her community and the revitalization of downtown Norton.

"There have been a limited number of retail clothing stores in town since Halls Clothing and Lu Jon's went out of business. Now we have four shopping opportunities in our downtown community," and added "I'm not ready to retire and I want to give back to the community."

Consignment items that don't sell are given back as well, in one form or another.

"Nothing goes to waste. If items are not sold they are returned to the consignor or donated to a worthy charitable cause."

Hypatia is excited about the future of ReNew and very appreciative of what she has.

"I am so thankful, I have my health, my kids and my grandkids."

ReNew is part of the going 'Green' process by recycling slightly used

clothing to a segment of the community who has embraced it.



Hypatia Day took over ownership of ReNew Chic Boutique on May 1. "As an owner you look at things differently. There are things that I never knew or even thought of," but "now I'm tickled to death being my own boss."

-Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

