

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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Friday

May 23, 2014

Briefly

Telegram closed on Memorial Day!

The Norton Telegram will be closed on Monday for Memorial Day. The Monday Extra and the Tuesday Telegram will be combined and available for distribution on Wednesday so there will be no paper on Monday or Tuesday of next week.

Beware of parking issues at ballgames

Due to the construction of the new swimming pool, parking for part of the summer ball games at Ward Field and the T-Ball field will be problematic. The Norton Recreation Commission staff asks that everyone take this into consideration at game time and make arrangements to drop off and pick up players or walk from another location.

Alumni banquet in Long Island gym

The Long Island Alumni banquet and Annual Meeting will be held this Saturday at the Long Island gymnasium.

Lenora Alumni to meet on Saturday

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

Summer Reading has begun at library

"Fizz, Boom, Read" Summer Reading has begun. Sign-up for summer reading began Wednesday. The first special program, "Jammin' with Randy," will be presented by award-winning Norton native, Randy Sauer, Thursday, May 29, 10:30 a.m.

Markets

MAY, 2014

Wheat	\$7.07
Milo	\$4.17
Soybeans	\$14.50
Corn	\$4.57

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Saturday - Variable clouds with a 50 percent chance of rain and a high of 79. Sunday - Chance of rain 50 percent and a high of 85. Monday - Chance of rain 80 percent and a high of 75. Tuesday - Sunshine and clouds mixed with a high of 82. Tuesday Night Clear skies.

Prayer

O God, even if life at times is busy, stressful, or boring, direct our lives in such a way that we can love and enjoy you forever. Amen.

'Fun Day' at Eisenhower



Eisenhower Elementary School held its annual Fun Day on Tuesday afternoon. It's the school's end of the year celebration for students and teachers to play games and enjoy the day. There were numerous parents and high school volunteers available to help run the all day event. There were over 20 stations with games and activities to

keep the kids busy and entertained. "The staff at Eisenhower would like to thank Norton EMS, Kansasland Tire and McDonald's for their sponsorship of the event," Physical Education teacher Joan Bolt said. -Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

Swimming pool opening postponed

By MIKE STEPHENS

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The grand opening of the Norton Aquatic Center scheduled for this Sunday has been postponed after the City Council met in a special session on Monday.

At the heart of the matter is the swimming pool parking lot. The contractor, Prosser Wilbert Construction, Inc., proposed an asphalt parking lot instead of a concrete parking lot in order to meet the opening deadline, because asphalt only requires three days to cure, whereas concrete requires close to three weeks.

The city wants a concrete parking lot because it will last longer and won't require the continued maintenance like asphalt. Even though the concrete parking lot is in the city's contract, a change order is required at an additional cost not to exceed \$13,320. The additional money is required for fencing

of the parking lot area, oversight and other expenses.

The council approved Ron Briery's motion to have a concrete parking lot at the Norton Aquatic Center, and use concrete with air entrainment specifications of a minimum of four percent and a maximum of eight percent, with a cement content of a minimum of 6.8 sacks per cubic yard on the cement and a minimum of 20 percent course aggregate rock. Co-City Administrator Pat

Morel will negotiate the price on behalf of the city, not to exceed \$13,320. (The specifications were amended to 611 pounds per cubic yard by the City Council at Wednesday's meeting.)

The council's final motion was to delay the grand opening of the Norton Aquatic Center until a later date, which will be determined by the City Council at its June 4 meeting.

Whitney Building project moving forward

By MIKE STEPHENS

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Executive Director Scott Sproul updated the Economic Development Board on several issues at its May 13 meeting, including the Community Development Block Grant for the Whitney Building.

Sproul said the environmental checks are complete as well as the asbestos check. The architect is progressing with the plans and it may go to bid in a couple of months, way ahead of schedule in terms of the grant requirements, but the building continues to deteriorate.

"It's moving along nicely, it's just paper work right now," said Sproul, and added that the city has asked for assistance in locating funding for handicapped parking. Sproul said nothing is known right now but they are working through the process.

Almena held a second housing meeting on April 30, with approximately 20 people in attendance. Sproul said the community identified that it wants to add moderate to low income housing.

There are a couple of options available, perhaps intertwining the moderate to low income housing. "The median income in the community has raised considerably over the last few years," said Sproul.

Grants are due in August and "we will have to really get after it, but everything seems to be moving forward."

Also, Norton has been chosen as one of four communities to participate in the Broadband Pilot Program

by the Kansas Department of Commerce. Sproul said the program is in the preliminary stage and that they are in the process of collecting information. It would give the business community and Economic Development a dashboard of tools to work with. Many businesses, according to Sproul, operate without a website and this would help local businesses with digital web communication.

"They (Department of Commerce) will hopefully give us a good plan to adopt. They felt like we had good broadband coverage throughout most of the county, but businesses need help with using the many digital resources," said Sproul.

In other board news: -will not renew the Nex-Tech Direc-

tory government advertising tab.

-will apply for a Community Development Block Grant for the Washington Street building. Its been targeted for rehabilitation before it gets to the stage of the Whitney Building.

-the incubator space will be available June 1, and there are two potential business possibilities that could occupy the space.

-created a sub-committee to evaluate the guidelines for incubator space occupancy.

-2015 Budget Planning sub-committee met and determined there will be no increases or decreases in the budget for 2015.

\$1,000 donated to Northern Valley Future Farmers

Almena Agri Services, Inc., a Pioneer sales agency, has donated \$1,000 to Northern Valley Future Farmers of America. The agency was awarded this money by DuPont Pioneer for its dedication to customer-focused activities throughout the year.

DuPont Pioneer is the world's leading developer and supplier of advanced plant genetics, providing high-quality seeds to farmers in more than 90 countries. Pioneer provides agronomic support and services to help increase farmer productivity and profitability and strives to develop sustainable agricultural systems for people everywhere.

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Northern Valley Future Farmers of America Dalton Smith and Brianna Martin, join Kortney Cunningham as she is congratulated by Jesse Mussman of Almena Agri Services, Inc.

-Courtesy photo

