

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



Tuesday
July 22, 2014

Briefly

Reservoir removed from advisory list

Sebelius Reservoir has been removed from the blue-green algae advisory list by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. The beach is now open and all activities have resumed as normal, according to Toby Kuhn, park manager.

Car races Saturday at Elmwood Park

The Norton Elmwood Park Speedway will be having a race on July 26 during the fair, hot laps at 6 p.m. and the race at 7 p.m. The classes that will be running are URSS sprint car, IMCA stock car, IMCA northern sport mod and cruiser.

Carnival will open Tuesday evening

The Norton Home Owned Carnival on the Fairgrounds will open up on Tuesday evening from 6:30-11:30 p.m.

Porkburger Special this Wednesday

There will be a Porkburger Special and Watermelon Feed at Elmwood Park on Wednesday from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Political meet and greet on Wednesday

There will be a meet and greet with local and state political candidates at Elmwood Park during the Porkburger Special and Watermelon Feed, sponsored by Norton County Republican Central Committee and Norton Farm Bureau.



Tuesday night: Mostly clear with a 20% chance of evening thunderstorms. Lows in the lower 70's with a NE wind 10-20 with gusts up to 30 mph. **Wednesday:** Sunny with highs in the lower 90's with an east wind 10-15. **Wednesday night:** Partly cloudy with lows in the upper 60's. **Thursday:** Mostly sunny, highs in the mid 90's. **Thursday night:** Partly cloudy with lows in the lower 70's. **Friday:** Sunny with highs in the upper 90's.

Markets

JUNE, 2014

Wheat.....	\$5.79
Milo.....	\$3.24
Soybeans.....	\$11.70
Corn.....	\$3.61

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Prayer

Dear God in heaven, thank you for working all things for good in our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



'Blockstop Summer Tour' Rocks!



The community of Norton was treated to a Blockstop Christian concert on Saturday night in front of The Rock. Chye, a band out of Kearney performing for the Todd Becker Foundation, put on quite the concert after a free barbecue. Along with the great music was a special message from Keith Becker about putting a stop to the lies and knowing the truth. He gave a testimonial of how Jesus Christ

saved him and how he can save all of us if we are willing to let his will be done in our lives. The concert was sponsored by the Norton Christian Church, Almema Congregational Church, Norton Church of God, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Living Hope Fellowship, Cornerstone Church, the Norton Ministerial Alliance and many other generous donors.

Hospital executive to retire after 43 years

By MIKE STEPHENS

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After 43 years at Norton County Hospital, Rich Miller, chief executive officer, has decided to call it a career, and will retire in late November. He's been at his current position for the past 34 years. Miller's career at the hospital began in August 1971 as assistant administrator, a position he held for nine years, until he was appointed chief executive officer in October 1980.

"I've appreciated the opportunity to be involved in healthcare and so appreciative the board gave me a chance, and to be able to do it in my hometown," Miller said.

Miller admitted he will miss going to work but said the hospital is in good shape and financially stable.

"We've been successful because we took guarded risks. In the last 12 years we've completed three major hospital projects, and a fourth project was renovating the doctors building clinic for the nursing program."



Rich Miller's career at Norton County Hospital began in 1971 as assistant administrator. He's been the chief executive officer for the past 34 years.

—Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

Interviews, resolutions and discussion at meeting

By DANA PAXTON

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Interviews, resolutions and discussion all took place at last week's commissioners meeting.

Due to a reporter being unable to attend last week's meeting, this story is based on the unofficial minutes provided to the paper.

The Norton County Commissioners interviewed another applicant for the Noxious Weed position. This completed the interview process. The commissioners will make a final decision on this appointment very soon.

The next item on the agenda was that of Resolution 2014-11, the appointment of Kathleen Conrad to the position of the Norton County Emergency Management Coordinator. Commissioner R.A. Peterson motioned to accept the resolution and it was seconded by Charles Posson. The motion was passed with all voting yes.

John Miller of the Norton County Solid Waste Department visited with the commissioners about a meeting he attended in Garden City and to inform them that there was an inspection at

the landfill last week. After being there most of the day, no violations were noted.

Due to reporter error it stated in the paper that the new 911 calling system was up and running. This is not so, so Sheriff Troy Thomson came in to let the commissioners know this. He reported that a new firm has been contracted but not complete as of yet. Thomson told commissioners that the current system being used was contacted and that he was informed that to keep the system up and running as is for the next two months would cost \$5,000. The main concern with this is with no support system is the location of a 911 call. It is still operational with no concern except for the locator option. It was agreed that \$5,000 was way too much so other avenues are being looked at.

Thomson also let the commissioners know that according to Ag Valley, the property at Reager is being sold in a few weeks, therefore losing the Reager Repeater. Thomson gave options that the county may need to review in order to get a new repeater location found.

This was a partnership with Norton City/County Economic Development

Miller also said the hospital is proud of its long-standing relationship with Colby Community College, having been a part of its nursing program for 40 years.

"I'm proud of what we've done here and it's because of our great staff and board, and we have a very supportive community."

Miller said the hospital needed new leadership and the time was right for the change.

"I thought the hospital needed a new face. A younger face."

Ryan Stover, chief operating and financial officer, will be the new face of Norton County Hospital come December.

"Ryan has been with us for eight years. We talked early in his career and he expressed interest in the position. Two years ago, I shared with the board that I was thinking about retiring and that I would give them a one-year notice. Ryan is ready and the transition will go smoothly," Miller said.

The highlight of his career was

receiving the Charles A. Billings Award in recognition of distinguished service presented by the Kansas Hospital Association, but he gives all the credit to the 135 hospital employees.

And even though he's retiring, Miller said he intends to keep busy.

"Tammy and I are going to stay in Norton. I've kept my involvement in the family farm that my son Aaron operates, and I want to help him more."

Miller and his wife Tammy have three children: Michelle of Hays, Todd of Kansas City and Aaron of Norton.

He graduated from Norton Community High School in 1963, was a proud member of the 1962 State Wrestling Championship team, and a varsity member of the 1963 team and placed fourth individually at the State Tournament.

"Our wrestling program is as strong now and it was strong back then. I try to go to as many matches as I can and

(Retire - Continued on Page 5)

An eye for photography



On Saturday afternoon, open class Photography judging took place at the 4-H Building. (Pictured) Doug Brush, photography judge, and Staci Breiner, open class photography supervisor, sort through some pictures. There are numerous photos on display with their ribbons.

—Telegram photo by Mike Stephens