

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: nwkansas.com 10 PAGES

Tuesday
January 25, 2011

Graves Avenue hearing put on hold

By HARRIETT GILL
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The Norton City Council granted a continuance on the public hearing on the properties located at 507, 509, and 511 N. Graves. The owner, Kevin Wiltfong, requested a continuance through the office of Karen Griffiths, City Attorney. The hearing has been continued to Feb. 16 at 5:45 p.m.

Police Chief, Pat Morel, said Officer Jody Enfield is training with the new drug dog and is expected to be home the week of the 24th. He said he will have the dog at the next council meeting.

City Administrator Rob Lawson said the lease with the Northwest Kansas Library System is up this year. Leslie Bell, Director of the Northwest Kansas Library System, would like to know what changes will be made to the new contract.

“Talking Books will no longer be offered in the capacity that it is now. They will order them for people, but not keep anything in stock,” said Lawson.

Lawson said that the room that houses the Talking Books could be available for other uses, but the library district would like to keep the space if financially possible.

Lawson commended the City crews for their efforts in snow removal during the last snow storm. He said that the Public Works committee needs to meet to discuss the drainage by Holly’s Clubhouse.

The city will start picking up the recycle dumpsters that are located in Elmwood Park and the Roadside park twice a week.

“We have been overly successful in collecting recycle items in the dumpsters,” said Lawson.

Bids on the custom pumper truck for the Norton Fire Department were received. The Council approved to accept the bid from Hays Fire in the amount of \$306,123.

Donna Foley said the lowest bidder had several issues that didn’t meet the specifications; the second low bidder had unmet specifications on the cab and pump; the third low bidder didn’t submit any written specifications with the bid.

Toby Kuhn said, “I would like to have the reasons why the three lowest bids are not being accepted to be kept on file with the bid packets. I would like us to have a record.”

The council accepted his recommendation. Justina Smith said she received a letter from Steve Vance. He is looking for judges for the Forensics event that will be held in Norton on Feb. 12.

The council approved a donation to Post Prom in the amount of \$150.

An executive session was held for discussion of non-elected personnel. No action was taken as a result of the executive session.

Briefly

Spelling bee Wed. at Eisenhower

The Eisenhower school spelling bee will take place Wednesday, Jan. 26, at 2:15 p.m. Four students from each of the 4th, 5th and 6th grade classes qualified to participate. There are two alternates from each class that can fill in for any class qualifier that is unable to be present.

Veterans’ Affairs to visit Norton

Jody Tubbs of the Kansas Commission of Veterans’ Affairs will be in Norton from 10:30-11:30 at the City Office to assist Veterans and their dependents with VA claims work on Tuesday, February 1. If you are unable to contact Ms. Tubbs at that time, you may contact her in Colby any Monday, Wednesday or Friday at 785-462-3572.

Play disc golf for food drive

The Norton Disc Golf Club in conjunction with the Kansas Disc Golf Association will hold a food drive tournament with proceeds going to God’s Pantry on Saturday, February 5, no matter what the weather is doing. Cost is \$20 and there will be two rounds of singles for a payout and other prizes! Players meeting is at 9:45 in Elmwood Park. Any financial, non-perishable, or canned food items will be accepted. For more information contact Don Mordecai at 785-877-5475.

County spelling bee February 9

The county spelling bee will be at 4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 9, at East Campus. This bee will include Norton and Northern Valley students who qualified from the school bee.

Markets

Tuesday, January 25, 2011

Wheat	\$7.69
Milo.....	\$5.55
Soybeans.....	\$13.09
Corn	\$5.86

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Tonight - Flurries after midnight. Increasing clouds with a low around 18. **Wednesday** - Partly sunny with a high near 40. **Wednesday Night** - Mostly clear with a low around 22. **Thursday** - Mostly sunny with a high near 51. **Thursday Night** - Partly cloudy with a low around 24. **Friday** - Sunny with a high near 53.

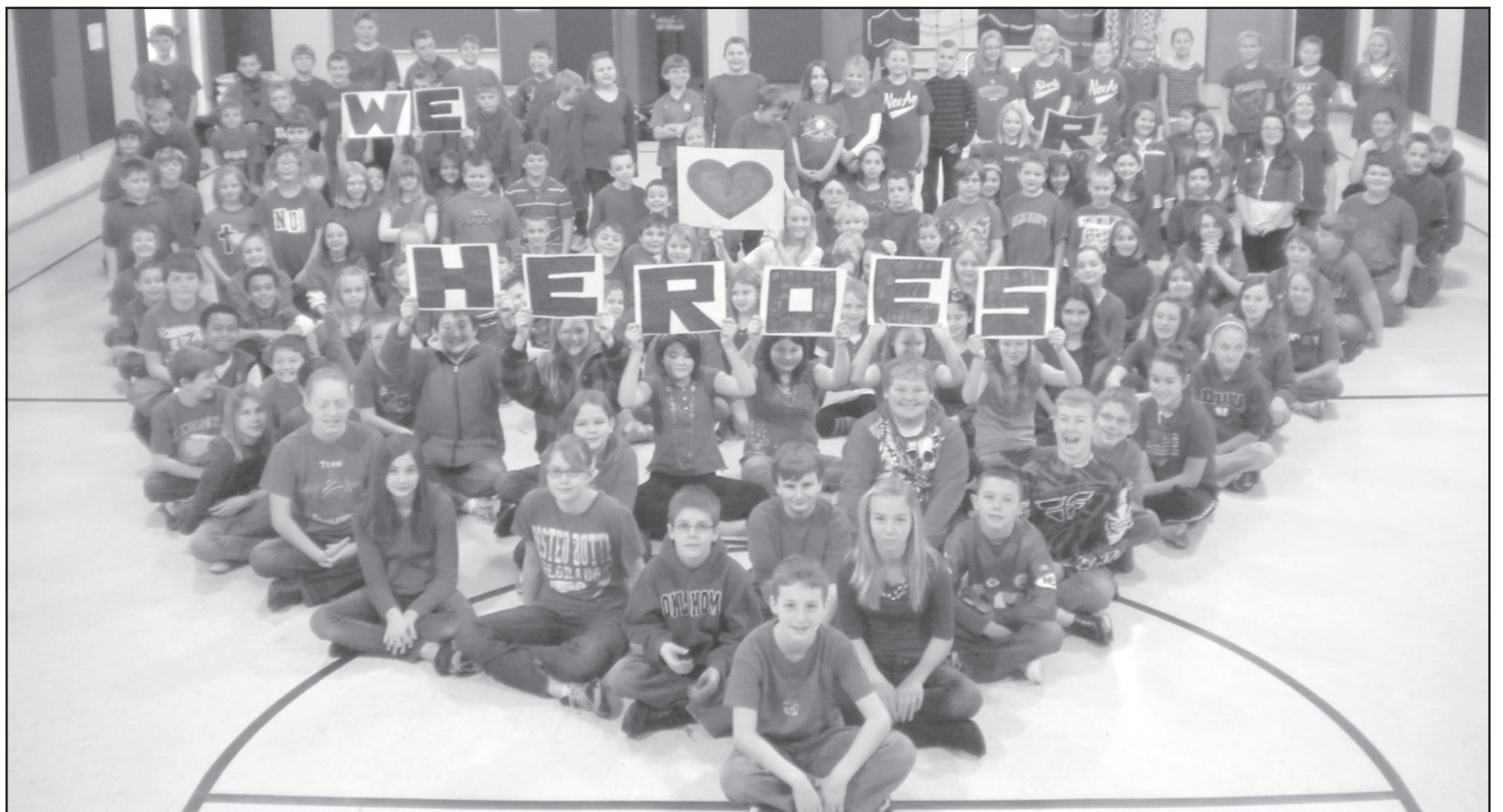
Kingham Report

Friday, January 21Low 19, High 43
Saturday, January 22.....Low 21, High 49
Sunday, January 23.....Low 11, High 37
Monday, January 24.....Low 25, High 43
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Dear Lord, remind us that our time here is limited and that knowing and pleasing you should be the work of our life. Amen.

Jumping rope to cure heart disease



The Norton Eisenhower Elementary third through sixth grade students will be taking part in the Jump Rope For Heart program starting Monday, January 31. All of the students that will be taking part in Jump Rope For Heart are pictured here in the Eisenhower gymnasium.



Colt Dunaway and Nathan Overlease hunt for pheasants at the Prairie Dog State Park on Saturday during the Youth Hunt sponsored by the park and Norton Longspur Pheasants Forever Chapter.

-Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

Young hunters gather at Prairie Dog State Park

Eleven young hunters took part in the Prairie Dog State Park Youth Hunt on Saturday. The annual hunt is part of the Kansas Hunter Recruitment and Retention program “Pass it on” and is held in cooperation with the Norton Longspur Pheasants Forever Chapter. “This is the only time during the year that hunting is allowed on the North side of the park,” said Toby Kuhn, Prairie Dog State Park manager.

For the hunt, each of the young hunters was required to have an adult accompany them and wear blaze orange.

The group of youngsters walked in

a straight horizontal line through the brush, hoping to flush birds and give the hunters a chance to shoot. The area that was covered is on the north side of the state park.

“Even though we saw lots of birds and the kids did get off shots, none were harvested,” said Kuhn.

Kuhn said, “Pheasants Forever is a really good partner with this event as they supplied additional volunteers, all of the food and drinks, bird dogs, blue rock, throwers and shells.”

A trap shoot and a pizza party followed the day’s hunting.

County debates Almena demolitions

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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Norton County normally gives one-half off on disposal of building demolition material for five structures each year.

This year, three out of five have already been taken.

Last Monday, Solid Waste Supervisor Curt Archibald and Camille Cox talked to the county commissioners about a building Cox is tearing down in Almena.

One house had already been taken down, Archibald said adding that it needed to be torn down. The half-price cost for disposal at the landfill would be \$910 if the commissioners agreed, he said.

Cox said that there are a couple of other properties on Main Street in Almena that need to come down. One is the old Sprague building, she said, which has no floor.

Commissioner John Miller asked if the building had been cleaned out. Cox said that since it has no floor everything is in the basement but cleaning has been going on for some time. Cox asked if the county would help with the cleanup by absorbing some of the disposal fees.

“They do need it,” Archibald said referring to the demolition of the old properties.

County may spray state’s weeds

If the state accepts the contract, it will pay Norton County \$30 an hour for machinery and another \$30 an hour per person to spray weeds along highways this year.

Norton County Noxious Weed Superintendent told the county commissioners at the meeting on Monday that he had

submitted the annual spray contract to the Kansas Department of Transportation for approval.

If OKed by the state, Norton County will take care of weeds along U.S. 36, highways 283 and 383, K-9 and a couple of smaller spurs, he said.

Since the county usually only helps with five properties a year, the commissioners said they were a little worried about using three of them so early in the year but didn’t know of any others that might need this kind of help.

The City of Norton is having hearings on some property, Miller noted, but no one else has asked the county for any help with disposal costs, yet.

The commissioners did agree to allowing the half price for the building already torn down in Almena.

Then on Monday, Mr. Archibald came in to say that the other two buildings had been torn down and the cost was just under \$1,000. He said that the buildings really had needed to be demolished and the commissioners agreed with him.

In other business, the commissioners: • Were told by Archibald that the county needs to document what is buried in each cell at the landfill on one document and file it with the register of deeds, according to the state.

• Agreed to pay dues for 2011 for – the League of Municipalities, \$1238; the Northwest Local Environmental Protection group, \$1,692; the Kansas Association of Counties, \$1,310; and the National Association of Counties, \$400.

