

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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Friday Council holds public hearing

March 11, 2011

By HARRIETT GILL
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The public hearing that had been postponed twice since the original date of Jan. 19, was again on the agenda at the regular meeting of the Norton City Council on Wednesday, March 2.

Mayor Corns called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and reminded the council that the public hearing was scheduled for 5:45 p.m.

Mayor Corns reported that the city sales tax receipts collected in Feb. of 2011 totaled \$21,066.58 and the county sales tax receipts totaled \$14,511.07 for a total of \$35,577.65.

Karen Griffiths said she had made the changes to the contract with the Norton County Amusement Association and will send it to them for their approval.

Chief of Police, Pat Morel, said that Police Officer Gabe Walz graduated from the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Academy in Hutchinson on Friday, March 4 and is ready for duty.

Jeff Otter reported that the Finance committee had met with Leslie Bell, who represented the Northwest Kansas Library System regarding the lease that is coming up and the future uses of the Talking Books area. The Police Chief has shown interest in the use of the space for the police department.

Mary Boller, Talking Books Director, attended the council meeting and told the council that the cartridges and cassettes that are currently kept at the library will be shipped to Emporia, but the local patrons will be maintained.

The Finance Committee also discussed including money in next year's budget for clean-up and demolition projects. The county only allows five demolitions at the landfill each year at a reduced rate and this includes all of the cities in Norton County.

The Norton County Horse Council requested the council add the dates of May 7 and 8 for a roping clinic. The request



North Graves properties that were the subject of the Public Hearing that was held in front of the Norton City Council on March 2.

-Telegram photo by Harriett Gill

was approved.

Advertising for the swimming pool personnel was approved. Positions that are open are pool manager and swimming pool help to include lifeguards.

Justina Smith reported on a Sustainable Energy webinar that she participated in. She said that there will be another free webinar on March 23 on Wind Feasibility.

A Cereal Malt Beverage license for consumption on the premises at 110 S. State Street for Gerald Coffman, doing business as, "Pit Stop" was approved.

A motion to pay bills was approved.

Mayor Corns declared a 3 minute recess until 5:45 p.m. for the scheduled Public Hearing.

The Council meeting was called into session at 5:45 p.m. for the purpose of a public hearing with Kevin Wiltfong,

regarding the Notice and Order issued for properties located at 507, 509, and 511 N. Graves. The hearing was originally set for Jan. 19 but was continued to Feb. 16 and then continued again to March 2 at the request of the property owner.

Karen Griffiths stated she is the legal counsel representing the City for the hearing. Information was received from Kevin Wiltfong that he was unable to attend and a statement was received from him for purposes of the hearing, and was delivered by Dan Walter at 4:42 p.m. on March 2.

Jeff Wolf, City Code Inspector, stated that this process started on Oct. 6, 2010, when he obtained an Administrative Search Warrant to go onto the property. Wolf said he went onto the properties on Oct. 7, 2010, to take pictures and docu-

ment the violations. He presented a slide show as evidence that the property is in violation of the International Property Maintenance Code as well as Sections 4-501, 8-202, 8-308 and 8-401 of the Norton City Code. Wolf described the areas of concern and stated which section of the code each concern violated. He presented evidence and pictures of the properties on the date of the hearing, March 2, showing the council the current state of the properties.

Karen Griffiths asked if the weeds continue to be in violation. Wolf said the weeds in front of the house were mowed after notice was issued, but other weeds are still there. Vegetation had not been removed from the garden which included

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Briefly

Daylight saving starts this Sunday

Almost time to "spring forward". DAY-LIGHT SAVINGS TIME starts at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 13.

Economic board meeting changed

Due to weather, the Norton City/County Economic Development regular board meeting will be rescheduled for Tuesday, March 15 at the Economic Development office, 113 N. Norton.

Freshmen welcome coming up March 24

An orientation session for parents of eighth graders (freshmen next year) will be held in the Music room of the Norton Junior/Senior High School on Thursday, March 24, at 7 p.m. Counselor Shane Miller will host the meeting which will cover such items as the New Kansas Board of Regents Qualified Admissions requirements, the enrollment process, school policies and expectations.

Free pancake feed at Senior Center

Norton County Farm Bureau will be sponsoring a free pancake and sausage feed this Sunday at the Norton Senior Citizen Center from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. This is being held to kick off Ag and funding assistance provided by Kansas Foundation for Ag in the classroom.

Legion to host Vice Commander

The Norton American Legion Post #63 will host National Vice Commander Russell Henry of Sulphur, Louisiana, on his three day tour of Kansas with a reception on Tuesday, March 15, from 4:15 to 5:00 p.m. During his tour the National Vice Commander Henry will visit 17 American Legion Posts while in the State.

A Korean War Air Force veteran, Russell James Henry has been a member of Post 179 in Sulphur, LA, for 33 years. He has served as post and department commander, and has held national positions on the Foreign Relations Commission and the Merchant Marine Committee. The public is invited to attend the reception.

Markets

Friday, March 11, 2011

Wheat	\$7.01
Milo	\$5.79
Soybeans	\$12.59
Corn	\$6.18

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Tonight - Partly cloudy with a low around 27. **Saturday** - Partly sunny with a high near 53. **Saturday Night** - Mostly cloudy with a low around 23.

Kingham Report

Tuesday, March 8Low 13, High 36
5" Snow
Wednesday, March 9.....Low 12, High 43
Thursday, March 10.....Low 25, High 62
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Living Christ, dwell with us on our journey of faith, and never let us take you for granted. Amen



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Farm the best and conserve the rest. During the promotion for Norton County producers to sign up for the Conservation Reserve Program, County Executive Director Carl Warner gave a quick, yet in depth overview of this year's CRP program details.

- Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

Conservation Reserve Program meeting held Wednesday

By DANA PAXTON
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The USDA Farm Service Agency held an informational meeting yesterday to discuss general sign up for the Conservation Reserve Program or CRP in Norton County. The meeting was attended by a dozen people and led by the new County Executive Director Carl Warner.

The Conservation Reserve Program sign up starts March 14 and ends April 15 so producers interested in submitting an offer must do so in that time. This meeting gave producers an overview of the program which has the goal of conserving resources, controlling soil erosion, improving water and air quality as well as developing wildlife habitat.

When participating in the CRP program the contract duration is between 10 to 15 years. In the state of Kansas a total of 34

million acres can be put to CRP ground, down from years past.

If a producer is interested in this program they must submit an offer to the local Farm Service Agency and then, after an evaluation of the land being offered, a point system will determine who will be accepted.

Existing CRP participants with contracts that will expire on September 30 may also submit offers. "There are currently 54 contracts in Norton County," Mr. Warner stated. There are five practices producers can sign up for depending on what type of conservation they chose to practice.

Those eligible must have owned and operated the land for at least 12 months prior to sign-up period. Eligible land must be cropland that is planted or considered planted to an agricultural commodity four

of six crop years from 2002-2007 and be physically and legally capable of being planted to raise crops again.

Additional cropland requirements are that the land must have a weighted average erosion index of eight or higher, be expiring CRP acreage or be located in a national or state CRP conservation priority area.

In return for putting the land to long-term CRP use the producer receives payments which are in the form of annual rental payments, including certain incentive payments and cost-sharing assistance.

The Farm Service Agency bases rental rates on the relative productivity of the soils within each county and the average dryland cash rent or cash-rent equivalent. Amount of rent will be determined by the county office and producer working

together prior to enrollment.

Cost-share assistance is provided by the Farm Service Agency not to exceed 50 percent of the cost to establish approved practices.

The CRP offers will be ranked by the Farm Service Agency according to the Environmental Benefits Index. This is done by collecting data based on land location, soil quality and the selected conservation practice. Each eligible offer is ranked and compared to select who will be accepted.

Producers may consult with local Farm Service Agencies and NRCS staff on how to maximize the Environmental Benefits Index points and increase their likelihood that their offer will be accepted.

For more information on CRP, contact your local Farm Service Agency.

Norton Scholars Bowl team placed fifth at State

By DICK BOYD

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Norton Community High School's Scholars' Bowl team enjoyed an outstanding season this year, culminating in placing runner-up at Regional Scholars' Bowl, held at Thomas More Prep-Marian in Hays, thereby securing NCHS a spot at State Scholars' Bowl at Rock Creek High School in St. George.

Coach Nancy Sebelius was thrilled that the team qualified for the State Scholars' Bowl and succeeded in breaking into the final rounds. The team went on to place fifth at the State competition.

Members of the Regional and State Scholars' Bowl team were: captain Melinda Becker, Eric Becker, Rhees Carlson, Leif Carlson and Matt Carlton.

Sebelius enthusiastically said of her team, "I am so very proud of this team! Not only are they all exceptionally

bright and knowledgeable but they also exemplify great team work. What a joy and a privilege it has been to work with these students!"

The following NCHS students contributed to the team's successful season by competing in various scholars' bowl tournaments: seniors Melinda Becker, Matt Carlton, Kyra Fulton, Jade Braun, Epiphany Grubbs and Diedre Kramer; juniors Eric Becker, Rhees Carlson, Brae Bigge, Mariah Farber, Alexis Henson and Mitch Shelton; sophomores Juliana Miller and Wyatt Wentz and freshmen Leif Carlson, Cody O'Hare and Landon Slipke.

Other competition results for Norton include: placing first at Norton's Scholars' Bowl, first in the Ellis Scholars' Bowl, first in Logan's Scholars' Bowl, first at Atwood's Scholars' Bowl and runner-up at Colby and Oberlin.