

# THE NORTON TELEGRAM



Tuesday  
July 19, 2011

## Briefly

### Carp derby to be held this Saturday

The 31st Annual Norton Carp Derby will be held this Saturday at the Prairie Dog State Park from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Weight in will be 5 - 6 p.m. Registration forms can be picked up at the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce office. For more information, call 785-877-2501.

### Wednesday night fair events planned

Activities during Wednesday fair day include the petting zoo and exotic animals at 3:30 p.m. and in the evening the porkburger special beginning at 5:30 along with a watermelon feed. The First District Senate Meet and Greet will host candidates and an informal public gathering near the basketball court at Elmwood Park. Following serving of the porkburgers and meet and greet, the Three Jacks will perform for the audience. The home-owned carnival will be in full-swing starting at 6:30 p.m. and the Ranch Rodeo will begin at 7 p.m.

### Teen Fun Night to be held Thursday

Teen Fun Night at the Norton Library will be held Thursday from 7-8:30 p.m. Enjoy the yummy theme of "The Whole World-Chocolate Night" with habitats from all over and brownies for dessert. Bring candy, cookies, and lots of chocolate to build with.

### Computer classes planned for today

The Norton Public Library will be having a computer class this evening at 7 p.m. Topics to be covered include e-mail and Facebook. The class is open to public.

### Youth sporting clay shoot is planned

Free youth sporting clays shoot will take place Sunday, July 24 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the Norton Gun Club on the south west side of Norton. This shoot is open to all youth 18 years of age and younger regardless of skill levels.

## Markets

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Wheat .....	\$7.01
Milo .....	\$6.45
Soybeans .....	\$13.33
Corn .....	\$7.32

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

## Weather

Tonight - Mostly clear skies with gusty winds. Wednesday - Very hot with a high of 103. Wednesday evening - Chance of rain 30%. Thursday - Stray thunderstorms.

## Kingham Report

Friday, July 15 .....Low 70, High 99  
.10 Rain  
Saturday, July 16 .....Low 69, High 105  
Sunday, July 17 .....Low 73, High 103  
Monday, July 18 .....Low 70, High 103  
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm  
9 miles northwest of Norton)

## Prayer

God of all being, thank you for the small joys and surprises of each day. Help us to be aware of you in the little and big moments of life. Help us to let our light shine for you. Amen.

# Vet clinic honored for heritage

By Carleen Bell  
cbell@nwkansas.com

In recognition of a long-standing presence in the community, the Norton Animal Health Center was recently recognized for being in business for more than 50 years.

Veterinarian Sarah White reported that the clinic was awarded the Heritage Veterinary Practices distinction for practicing animal medicine for at least 50 years. The award is facilitated through the American Veterinary Medical History Society.

To be eligible for the recognition, White explained, she and her husband, Aaron, who also practices animal medicine at the clinic, were required to document the details of the clinic's history, including founding, staff and the evolution of the practice.

"It was a bit difficult to track everything," White said. "We had to track down a lot of details about who the veterinarians have been over the years and how the practice has evolved."

The Norton Animal Health Center was established in 1947 as the first haul-in facility in the region. The original location was in downtown Norton near the public library, but in 1952, the clinic relocated to the west side of town on Highway 36, where it remains

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Sarah White and John Renner of the Norton Animal Health Center attend to "Ferguson" Monday morning at the clinic. The clinic was recently recognized for its presence in the community since 1947.

-Telegram photo by Carleen Bell

## Norton school board seeks new candidate

By Carleen Bell  
cbell@nwkansas.com

With an open slot left after the last school board election, officials with the Norton USD 2011 school district has begun advertising to fill a position on the district's board of education.

At the board's monthly meeting last Monday, July 11, board members elected member Scott Ellis as board president and member April Karnop as vice president. Though Board officers have been elected, the seven-member board is still left with a vacant seat because no community members sought to fill the position in the April election.

Terms for board members are for four years with an election held every two

years. Whoever is appointed to the vacant position will serve until the next election in April, 2013.

According to information from the school district, the qualifications for a board member include anyone residing in Norton's Ward Three or the cities of Clayton, Edmond or New Almelo, along with anyone residing in a rural area of the school district. Candidates must also be registered voters and may not be employed by the school district.

Anyone interested in applying for the position, which will be filled by appointment in August, is asked to submit a letter of interest on or before Aug. 3. Letters should be addressed to Superintendent Greg Mann.

## Norton native hopes to open business in town

By Carleen Bell  
cbell@nwkansas.com

A Norton native and business owner announced recently that he has requested a land survey to develop a property to bring his Christmas Decorations and Gifts store and warehouse to the area.

Neal Willmeth, a former Norton resident and graduate of Norton High School, is the interested person

According to information from the Houston, Texas-based business, the company has hired BEB and Associates, of Norton, to conduct a land survey at 15124 Lincoln Road in preparation for the preparation of the two-acre site. The company is planning to relocate its office

warehouse to Norton.

Planned for the site is a 10,000 square feet warehouse and 1,200 feet of office space is expected to be constructed on the site, as well.

Though the purchase is not yet complete, land preparation is expected to begin this fall with construction slated to begin next spring.

After the construction is complete, the company's Christmas inventory and products will be transported from Houston, Texas to Norton.

Willmeth said the relocation will bring up to 10 new employment opportunities to Norton during the holiday season.



Tom Miller of the Western Nebraska Bass Tournament Trail committee weighs bass Saturday afternoon at the Sebelius Reservoir. The tournament drew anglers and boaters from all over the region for the two-day event.

-Telegram photo by Carleen Bell

## Bass tournament draws 36 boats to Prairie Dog Park

The Western Nebraska Bass Tournament Trail held over the weekend drew 36 boats and up to 69 anglers to the Prairie Dog State Park/Sebelius Reservoir on Saturday and Sunday.

Organizer Matt Vollmar reported that on the first day, 20 boats and 38 anglers were entered and 60 bass weighed in with a total of just under 145 pounds. The average fish weight was 2.41 pounds.

The top five winners for Saturday were

1-Joe Patterson and Ken Banks; 2-Tom Miller and Grant Pavelka; 3-Monte Wagner and Dave Willis; 4-Luis Nolda and Willie Roberts; and 5-Dennis Nichols and Dan Jankovits.

The second day drew 16 boats and 31 anglers, some of which may have entered the first day, as well. Weighing in were 65 bass for a total of just under 156 pounds

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## County Commissioners delay decision to close rural road

By Carleen Bell  
cbell@nwkansas.com

After a series of meetings with landowners affected by the decision, the Norton County Commissioners agreed Monday morning to delay their decision to close a portion of Road DD extending from W1 one half mile west.

The commissioners were originally intending to close the portion of roadway in question because it has become overgrown with weeds and trees and holds standing water, making it difficult or sometimes impossible to navigate.

The decision to close the road, however, was tabled when landowners who would like to use the road to access their farm ground asked that instead, the road be cleared off and properly maintained.

After a public hearing on June 30, the commissioners postponed making any decisions on the matter until county officials could gather information about the potential costs of clearing out the area and classify the road as minimum maintenance.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Sandy Smith reported Monday morning that the estimated cost of bringing the road to minimum maintenance classification is expected to cost just under \$19,000, a conservative estimate.

The scope of the project would include returning the section of road to 24 feet in width with a 60-foot right-of-way. Loads of dirt would need to be hauled in to build up the road bed, along with the installa-

tion of culverts to divert water.

The projected time frame is a minimum of three to four weeks, but completion time is contingent upon available staff and equipment to work on the project.

Four landowners with an interest in the project attended Monday's public hearing, and as in the past, objected to the potential decision to close the road all together. They also questioned why the road hasn't been properly maintained for about four decades.

"Overgrowth on the road has been multiplying the problem since the early 70's," said Larry Kleweno. "This hasn't been a five year deal. It's been a problem for a long time."

Though the commissioners agreed in the end to keep the road open and to bring the road up to minimum maintenance level, each made it clear that the project wouldn't jump to the top of the county's priority list.

"Every county is having the same discussion about roads and money," Commissioner John Miller explained. "We are running out of money and this road isn't something we are going to fix today. We are going to put in on a planning basis, but we aren't going to ignore the problem."

After much discussion and consultation with County Attorney Doug Sebelius, the commissioners voted unanimously against closing the road, with a resolution to follow at a later date to classify the road as minimum maintenance.

