

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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8 PAGES



Friday
July 22, 2011

Briefly

Fun Day Horse Show planned for Saturday

Fun Day Horse Show entries check in at Norton County Equine Facility at 8 a.m. on Saturday. At 9 a.m. is the Fun Day Horse Show at the Norton County Equine Facility.

Fashion Revue set for Saturday evening

The 4-H is having a public fashion revue this Saturday at 7 p.m. in the 4-H building. Enjoy the new outfits and learn about style from these young 4-H students.

Veterans Affairs officer to visit Norton

Jody Tubbs of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs will be in Norton from 10:45 until 11:45 a.m. at the City Office to assist Veterans and their dependents with VA claims work on Tuesday, Aug. 2. If you are unable to contact Tubbs at that time, you may contact her in Colby any Monday, Wednesday or Friday at 785-462-3572.

Pre-Fair edition in today's paper

See the Pre-Fair section insert in today's Telegram. The section features photos, some show results, and a full schedule of events for the Norton County Fair. Join us in congratulating the 4-H and FFA students who have worked hard to make the fair a success.

Norton Carp Derby planned for 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.

Markets

Friday, July 22, 2011

| | |
|----------------|---------|
| Wheat | \$6.90 |
| Milo | \$6.05 |
| Soybeans | \$13.18 |
| Corn | \$6.99 |

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Tonight - Widely scattered showers or thunderstorms this evening. Saturday - A few clouds from time to time and very hot with a high of 102. Saturday Night - Thunderstorms possible. Sunday - Mix of sun and clouds with highs in the lower 90s.

Kingham Report

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------|
| Tuesday, July 19 | Low 71, High 103 |
| Wednesday, July 20 | Low 68, High 103 |
| Thursday, July 21 | Low 71, High 100 |
| Friday, July 22 | Low 55, 40 Rain |

(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Gracious God, may we ever be conscious of the blessings you have given and willingly share them with others. Amen

Power Association show held in June

The 31st annual Sunflower Pioneer Power Association show started off at 9 a.m. on Saturday, June 11.

A good number of tractors were registered early as of the start of the show. It didn't rain Friday night or Saturday morning so organizers were glad of that since the last two years were rained out of the start of the show.

The ladies had a quilt show in the house that the group moved into last year. They had 20 - 30 quilts on display with a card showing the style and who made the quilt. The association gave away a quilt in the raffle on Sunday. Vicki Wandell won the quilt.

At the parade downtown, there was about 50 tractors and many vehicles. The parade announcer this year was Dana Grammon of Logan.

Throughout the day, members demonstrated corn shucking, threshing wheat, rock crushing and the the guys kept busy sawing timber on the saw mill.

The western re-enactment group presented four shows. The kids corn tank was a popular place for kids hunting for coins in the corn.

Small engines on display were scarce this year with only eight engines.

A good crowd was on hand for the stock tractor pull. Saturday afternoon the association pulled five weight classes stock. The light weight class 0-3000 winners were A.J. Grammon, IAC Cub, first; Jr. Vander Giesen, JD 1/2 D, 2nd; Phil Lovingood, w callis, 3rd.

Also going on in the afternoon was the kids pedal pull. The winners in each age group were, 5 - 6 year olds, Gavin Sheer, first; Brook Wiltfong, 2nd; Tanner Schneider, 3rd; 7-8 years old, Branon Stauffer, first; Kevin Wiltfong,



Brook Wiltfong participates in the Sunflower Pioneer Power Show's Kiddie Pedal Pull in Alma in June. She was one of nine young people to place in the competition.

—Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

second; Tia Paxton, third; 9-10 year olds, Katelyn Skrdlant, first; Bandon Vacura, 2nd; Aiden Baird, 3rd.

Sunday was very nice weather but crowd numbers were very low. Even though numbers were low, everyone had

a good day. The parade was very good and enjoyable.

Larry Henderson and LeAnn Shearer entertained all weekend with very good music. First time ever was a garden tractor pull Sunday. Winners of the

raffle Sunday afternoon were Trager Grill - John Burd, Alma; Quilt - Vicki Wendel, Alma; Cedar Chest - Steve Callaway, Alma; Pedal Tractor - Robert Pinkerton, Logan; and the Wood Pheasant - Kale Stewart, Norton.

City narrowly agrees to move forward with study

By Carleen Bell
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After some disagreement and tie-breaker vote, the Norton City Council agreed Wednesday evening to move forward with an evaluation to decide if the city needs to construct a new city swimming pool.

Nancy Ronto of Burbach Aquatics, based in Plattville, Wis., met with the council Wednesday evening and explained the services her company provides and the advantages of choosing a company that specializes only in municipal swimming pools.

In her presentation, she explained that the company contracts work into three different phases and supervises the pool construction from beginning to end. The phases include a feasibility study, planning and engineering and finally, actual construction.

"The feasibility phase is broken into eight different steps," Ronto said. "The city chooses only the steps they would like to take and only pays for those steps. If the project doesn't move forward, the city doesn't spend money on unnecessary steps."

Ronto did not, however, speak directly to the needs or current condition of the Norton swimming pool, which left some city council members wondering whether or not a new pool is necessary.

"The timing seems to be bad on this (project)," said council member Jerry Moritz. "If we go ahead with this study, we're going to have to fix things. I'm not opposed to a new pool, but

I don't want to be backed into a corner. I keep feeling that the aim is to build a new pool and if that's the case, then let's put it before the people and let the public decide."

Council member Jeff Otter agreed with that sentiment, expressing a concern over money that may be spent without knowing if the project will proceed.

"It's going to cost \$4,400 just to decide if we want to move forward with this thing" he said. "If we are committed to doing this, we need to find out if there are financing options before we even do a feasibility study."

Council member Donna Foley explained, however, that the city's Parks Committee has budgeted \$10,000 for a study to determine whether or not a new swimming pool is needed and possible. Prior to the discussion and vote on the matter, Foley made a motion to solicit at least three bids for a technical evaluation of the current pool to determine if a new pool should be constructed.

In voting procedures, members Donna Foley, Roberta Ryan, and Toby Kuhn voted in favor of the study with Jeff Otter, Jerry Jones and Jerry Moritz opposing the move. Mayor David Corns cast a tie-breaker vote in favor of the study.

Corns explained that even if the city decides to move forward with a construction project, any sort of public financing will have to be put before public voters in the form of a referendum.

"I think this could be a good thing to look at," he said. "I'd like to see what our options are and see if we need to do this."

County to test emergency alert system

By Carleen Bell
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In a move that will save the county about \$6,000 every year, Norton County officials are planning to conduct a county-wide test call for the county's new emergency notification system.

County Dispatcher Brandi Keith and Sheriff Troy Thomson reported this week that for the past four years, the county has used the Code Red 911 system to notify residents of pending or current emergencies, such as floods or severe storms. County officials are able to create a pre-recorded messages and the system will automatically dial all phone numbers in the database and play the message for residents.

The new notification system, called Total Notify, is administered through Nex-Tech and will operate in a similar way, but save the county a lot of money. "The main reason we went with this

system is that our costs will decrease from \$7,500 a year to about \$1,500 a year," Thomson said. "The system is also administered locally, so we are supporting a local company."

The software changeover for Total Notify is now completed and to test the system, the county will send out test calls on Tuesday, July 26 at 6 p.m. to all residents in the system's database.

Anyone with landlines, including residential and business phones, will receive a call at 6 p.m. or up to several minutes after the initial calling begins.

Along with the test call, county officials are asking county residents to register their cell phone numbers with the system, which can be done through discovernorton.com.

"Even if residents registered their numbers with us in the past, they need to register again," Keith said. "When they register, they will need to create a

unique password that will allow them to log in and change their information at any time."

Another change that residents will see is the way the calls show up on their caller ID systems. Code Red is displayed as an 800 number, but with the new system, the alert calls will display as a local phone number.

Thomson also urged county residents to pay attention to the emergency alert systems, but to also always be prepared for potential emergencies.

"This is a secondary notification system and shouldn't be the only way people are keeping up with what's going on," he said. "Television and radio warnings are also important and shouldn't go unheeded if the phone notification doesn't come through."

The link for the Total Notify system link can be found at www.discovernorton.com.

Council sets a tentative hearing date

By Carleen Bell
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While still working on specific details in the city's Finance Committee, the Norton City Council have set a tentative date of Aug. 15 for a public hearing for the city's 2012 budget approval.

Finance committee chair Jeff Otter reported to the Council Wednesday evening that the committee is working on the city's budget for the next fiscal year, which runs from January to December. Otter explained that as they have been working on budget details, providing funding for everything they would like would demand an increase of 11 mills for city taxpayers. That increase, however, is too excessive, so the increase is expected to be closer to four mills.

Norton City Administrator Rob Lawson explained that city officials are in the process of revising the current budget to reflect actual income and expenditures, a process that is completed every six months. As that process is completed, the 2012 budget will also be hammered out.

The city is required to certify a budget by Aug. 25 and before certification, the budget must be published and a public hearing must be held. City Clerk Darla Ellis explained that the very latest a public hearing can be held is Aug. 15, but the Finance Committee needs to meet again before the hearing date is set in stone.

Tag renewal deadline approaching

The deadline for tag renewal for businesses or people with names ending in "J", "K" and "L" will be July 31. You will need to bring a current proof of insurance with you to the Norton County Treasurer's office. Office hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Driver's license renewals can be processed Tuesday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. You must bring your proof of identification and a current utility bill. CDL renewals must be processed at the full service office in Phillipsburg, Hays or Colby.

