



Friday

March 8, 2013



Briefly

## Navy concert canceled tonight

Due to the government sequester, the United States Navy Band out of Washington D.C., the Sea Chanters chorus had to cancel their performance for tonight at East Campus Auditorium.

## Your last chance to buy cookies

The Girl Scouts will be selling cookies this weekend at First Stop on both Saturday and Sunday and at Shopko on Sunday. This is your last chance to buy cookies

## Daylight saving starts on Sunday

It's time to spring forward. Daylight Saving Time returns at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 10. Set your clock ahead one hour.

## Weather spotter class to be Monday

The National Weather Service (NWS) in Goodland and Norton County Emergency Management invite you to attend a Storm Spotter Class in Norton. This year's training will be held Monday, March 11th at 6:30 p.m. at the Prairie Land Electric Co-op downstairs conference room (1101 W Hwy 36).

## 4-H clubs to hold event on Tuesday

The Annual 4-H Club presentation event will take place on Tuesday at the Norton Junior High School. Registration at 5:30 p.m. and activities start at 6 p.m. and should be ended by 7:30 p.m.

## Markets

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Wheat.....\$6.79  
Milo.....\$6.62  
Soybeans.....\$14.24  
Corn.....\$7.06  
Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

## Weather

Friday Night - Overcast with a chance of thunderstorms. Chance of rain 50 percent. Saturday - Partly cloudy with thunderstorms. Chance of rain 60 percent. Saturday Night - Mostly cloudy with snow. Chance of snow 70 percent with accumulations up to 1 inch possible. Sunday - A 20 percent chance of snow.

## Prayer

Dear Lord of the universe, we ask that in the midst of our tragedies you will be present with us and comfort us. Sustain us also as we help others. Amen.

## Never too young to learn...



Stephanie Kramer's Early Child Development class held an Ag Awareness Day on Wednesday at Eisenhower Elementary School. Students learned how food goes from the farm to the table and puppets of farm animals were used to read stories. The puppet center is very

popular with the kids. (Pictured front row, left to right) Evan Wooley, Marley Ritch, Jacob Miller, Lucas Rushton and Trinity Graham. (Back row) Noah Melvin, Cadence Greeson, Landen Ediger, Dominic Vahling and Ashalyne Tallent.

—Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

# County commissioners look at options

By Cynthia Haynes

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John Webster, who works for JD Motor Graders, talked to the Norton County Commissioners on Monday on the advantages of purchasing John Deere motor graders for the Road and Bridge Department.

The county is looking at trading in four 1992 Caterpillar graders and getting three new or used graders to upgrade the county equipment and hopefully save some money on maintenance costs.

The graders, he suggested the county might be best able to use, come with a six year, 6,000-hour full machine war-

ranty, he said.

John Deere is also offering a financing program at 2.75 percent interest. Mr. Webster said he wasn't sure how long the company would hold that price. When told the the Caterpillar bid was good for another two weeks, he said he was sure he could match that timeframe.

The new machines that John Deere make now are heavier built, he said, than they were when the county purchased the old graders.

He gave the commissioners a list of cities and counties in Kansas which own and use John Deere graders. He suggested that the commissioners and

road and bridge supervisors contact some of them to see how they like the way the machines operate. Gove County is about the closest entity to purchase John Deere graders recently, he said.

The biggest thing that John Deere offers, however, he restated, is service and dependability.

"Anybody can sell the machine," he said/ "But, if you don't have the service to back it up, it's a moot point."

The commissioners said that they would have to think about and discuss the purchase, which will amount to something just under \$400,000, whether they choose to go with Caterpillar or John Deere.

Road Foreman Floyd Richard told the commissioners that both companies are willing to provide machines for the crew to try.

Mr. Webster asked if the county was sure that it was going to purchase some new machines.

"As far as we know, we're going to do something," Commission Chairman Richard Thompson said.

Mr. Richard said that he also has a bid from Volvo, but it was at the Road and Bridge office but he would bring it in to the commissioners.

In the meantime, he said, he would see about getting the demo graders and have the crew try them out.

"Check 'em out and see which one you like the best," Mr. Thompson said.

"I told them to try them and keep an open mind," Mr. Richard said since the Caterpillar machines only come with a joy stick and the John Deere a regular steering wheel.

The joy stick is different, he said, but he has had some county workers say that they like them better.

The commissioners discussed about how long they thought the transmissions on the various machines should last and what kind of fuel consumption they could expect.

"That all varies on the guy who's running it," Mr. Richard said.

"The operator makes a lot of difference no matter what you're running,

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## The walking dead

The Norton Community High School Students Against Destructive Decisions, under the sponsorship of Chance McKinney, put on a demonstration Wednesday to make the students more aware of the magnitude of deaths due to alcohol related deaths.

Every thirty-three minutes the Grim Reaper would take the life of a student throughout the day. At 9 a.m. - Jesika Smith was the first victim then at 9:33 - Rheanon Baker, 10:06 - Cody O'Hare, 10:39 - Molly Scott, 11:12 - Connor Griffey, 11:45 - Ri-

ley Hager, 12:51 - Cristine Nelson, 1:24 - Mariah Dawley, 1:57 - Peyton Renner, 2:30 - Kolton Harting and at 3:03 - DJ Nickell was the last student to have been killed.

Seeing the faces of those who died painted white, no one was allowed to speak to them, they were gone. This Grim Reaper Day is an annual event at the high school. Instead of just giving students numbers they are able to put faces and bodies with the statistics which has a greater effect on everyone involved.



Grim Reaper Day participants Kolton Harting, Cody O'Hare and Jesika Smith stand in front of the Grim Reaper, Kaitlyn Engelbert, who took their lives as a Students Against Destructive Decisions event as Alexis Hartwell, another who played the Reaper, looks on.

— Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

# Prairie Dog State Park Open House Saturday

On Saturday, March 9, the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism will host a free entrance day and open houses at all state parks. Visitors also will have the opportunity to enjoy a variety of events at most parks.

During the open houses, park users can take advantage of low off-season camping permit prices. March 31 is the last day annual camping permits are priced at off-season discounts. On April 1, the prices increase to their regular prime-season levels. Visitors can purchase annual camping permits and make cabin or campsite reservations during the open houses, as well. For pricing information and to purchase permits online, go to the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism website, [ksoutdoors.com](http://ksoutdoors.com). For online permit purchases, click the License/Permits icon. For campsite and cabin reservations, click the Reservations icon.

Kansas motor vehicle owners can now buy an annual park vehicle permit as part of their vehicle registration

process. The permit – called a Kansas State Parks Passport – will cost \$15.00 (county treasurers can elect to add a \$.50 service fee). This lower-price, non-transferable permit will be available only during the vehicle registration process at a motor vehicle registration office, through the online vehicle registration site ([www.kswebtags.org](http://www.kswebtags.org)), or when registering by mail. The Kansas State Parks Passport will expire when the vehicle registration expires a year later.

Park entry is free on March 9, but persons who would like to buy an annual park permit before they register their vehicles can do so at any KDWPT office, Kansas license vendor or through the KDWPT website, and then request a pro-rated refund for the difference in cost after purchasing their Kansas State Parks Passport.

Prairie Dog State Park hours:  
Open house office hours: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Cabin tours 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Adobe tours 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

