

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



Tuesday

July 2, 2013

Prison celebrates a hundred years



By Mike Stephens
mstephens@nwkansas.com

The Norton County Museum Board recently announced that the original buildings at Norton Correctional Facility are celebrating a 100th anniversary. But 100 years ago, it was not a prison, it was a state sanatorium for the treatment of tuberculosis, explained Museum Board President Larry Donahey.

In 1911, the Kansas Legislature appropriated \$50,000 to purchase a site and building, plus operating expenses for two years, but the money was not available until July, 1913.

Originally, the town of Newton, Kansas was being considered as the site for the new sanatorium but once Norton made its offer to the State it didn't take long for the site committee to accept. This was the beginning of Norton State Tubercular Sanatorium.

In 1913, the Kansas Legislature enacted a law to create a sanatorium for tuberculosis treatment in Kansas with

the stipulation that, to be considered as a site, the selected location must donate 160 acres of land. Several local citizens each agreed to buy an acre of land, totaling 160 acres, and the Norton proposal was chosen by the State. The Board of Control purchased an additional 80 acres for a total of 240 acres.

The State Tuberculosis Sanatorium was located in 1913. Norton people subscribed \$7,200 and purchased the site. Several towns tried hard to secure the institution, but Norton won because of the ideal location, climate, and abundance of exceptionally pure drinking water. The altitude is 2,260 feet and there are on average 300 sunny days in the year.

Clean up and excavation of the property began in 1913. There were buildings on the site that had to be moved, old wells to fill, and new wells to be dug. Stones from the site were used for foundations. The house on the site was used as the superintendent's home.

In 1914, construction contracts were let for a boiler house, laundry room, dining room and kitchen. Also, Pavilion I, which was used to house the first patients.

The first cornerstone of Norton's State Tuberculosis Sanatorium was laid on June 14, 1914. The headline from the Monday, June 15, 1914 Norton Daily Telegram read, "Twice the number of people expected attended cornerstone ceremony" - "Estimated crowd at 3,500" - "Nearly 200 automobiles, 400 buggies and carriages and two train loads of excursionists there."

Governor Hodges and the State architect, C. H. Chandler, who was also Grand Master, were at the dedication. The corner stone bears the inscription, "In the health of the people lies the strength of the nation."

The grounds boasted a living pavilion, boiler house, laundry, kitchen, dining room and a 20-acre garden spot when the first 16 patients arrived Feb.

8, 1915.

The staff worked long 14 hour days and only got one-half day off each week. Every other week, they would get a day off.

On the farm, they had cattle, horses, chickens and hogs, which were used to feed the patients. The farm was done away with in the early 1950's. Also, in the early 1950's, all the wooden framed pavilions were removed.

In 1928, the institution employed 80-90 staff and averaged 135 patients daily. The sanatorium grew to accommodate 405 patients and 250 employees.

The need for tuberculosis hospitals declined by the early 1960's while housing needs for Kansas' mentally challenged was on the rise. Vacant buildings at the sanatorium were renovated and became the new home for mentally challenged residents, the first arrived in July 1963. By 1967 only 35 tuberculosis patients remained. The sanatorium

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Celebrate a SAFE & HAPPY JULY 4TH!



Briefly

Events planned at lake for the fourth

Fourth of July activities at Prairie Dog State Park start at 7 a.m. on Thursday with the 5-K run, then the kite flying at 10 a.m., a BBQ from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and then at 7 p.m. the concert followed by the watermelon feed at 8 p.m., flag ceremony at 8:30 p.m. and the fireworks display at dusk, weather permitting.

Business to hold appreciation days

The Norton Chiropractic Center will be holding its annual patient appreciation days July 1-3 with a BBQ lunch served on July 3 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Drawings and giveaways.

State sales tax increased yesterday

The State of Kansas sales tax decreased from 6.3% to 6.15% effective yesterday. This makes the sales tax in the City of Norton 8.15%. Please don't forget to make any necessary changes on your sales!

Methodist church will have camp

The First United Methodist Church of Norton will be holding their "Operation Overboard, Dare To Go Deep With God" vacation bible school July 10-12. Fun and prizes start at 5:30 p.m. and run until 8 p.m. each night.

Markets

Monday, July 1, 2013

Wheat.....	\$6.60
Milo.....	\$6.23
Soybeans.....	\$14.93
Corn.....	\$6.67

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Wednesday - Partly cloudy with a high of 84. Wednesday Night - Partly cloudy in the evening then clear with a low of 57. Thursday - Clear in the morning then partly cloudy with a high of 86. Winds from the south at 10 to 15 mph. Thursday Night - Clear with a low of 64. Friday - Clear with a high of 93.

Prayer

Dear Lord, we give thanks that you hear our prayers - whenever and wherever we offer them. Amen.

Fire restrictions for rural areas

By DANA PAXTON
dpaxton@nwkansas.com

The Norton County Commissioners held their last meeting for the month of June on Friday with fireworks as the topic of discussion. Both city and rural fire chiefs, Mitch Jones and Steve Otter, were in attendance along with Prairie Dog State Park Officer Toby Kuhn, Norton Area Chamber Of Commerce Director Tara Vance, Sheriff Troy Thomson and pyrotechnician Larry Nelson.

To start the meeting, a fare ban was instated for Norton County effective Friday, June 28. Resolution 2013-06 states that where Norton County is currently suffering from drought conditions, which greatly increase the risk of range fires and other emergencies and whereas any outdoor burning or

the discharge of fireworks, whether or not controlled, greatly increase the risk of dangerous and potentially harmful fires it is resolved that Norton County, Kansas is declared to be in a state of extreme fire emergency, and all outdoor open burning, discharge of fireworks and "field burn'off" activities are prohibited unless a written burning or discharge permit is issued by one of the Norton County fire chiefs. The ban will be in effect until further notice. The knowing and willful violation of this ban shall constitute a Class A Misdemeanor, and any person convicted of such violation shall be punished as provided by law.

It was also mentioned that at 1 p.m. Friday there was to be a city council meeting to determine a ban on fireworks in the city limits of Norton. Details of this can be seen in the city council story.

Rural Fire Chief Steve Otter was pleased to hear of the county wide burn ban and said, "I am glad this is being put into place now due to harvest being in full swing. We have already had two fires and the main problem was dealing with the smoke, it makes it hard to get to the fire."

Toby Kuhn then addressed the commissioners to let them know that the Bureau or Reclamation had banned all fireworks at Prairie Dog State Park. Due to this he had submitted a form for a special event permit to the Bureau to allow the public fireworks display but had yet to get a reply from them. In order to still offer a public display at the lake Kuhn was looking at other sites to set the fireworks off from. He questioned who owned the upper dam road

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City council issues burn ban

By Mike Stephens
mstephens@nwkansas.com

Following a special meeting on Friday afternoon, the Norton City Council issued a burn ban to take effect immediately for the City of Norton. The burn ban prohibits open and recreational burning, and includes the physical shooting or firing of fireworks that are aerial or shoot over 10 feet in the air.

Outdoor grilling is allowed, but grillers are urged to use extreme caution, and have readily available, the means to put out any fire.

The Kansas State Fire Marshal has warned of the fire hazards associated with extreme heat and dry conditions across the state, therefore the city-wide burn ban will remain in effect until further notice.

Hospital discusses finances

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
cynthia.haynes@nwkansas.com

The Norton County Hospital is working hard to stay in the black while struggling with a decline in in-patient stays, increased expenses and state and federal cutbacks.

Last Monday, Hospital Administrator Rich Miller, Chief Financial Officer Ryan Stover and several hospital board members called on the Norton County commissioners to give them the facilities 2014 budget and discuss the problems facing the hospital.

The hospital runs its fiscal year from July 1 to June 30, Mr. Miller explained to the commissioners. Therefore, the 2014 budget actually starts on July 1, 2013.

This year the hospital has a projected patient revenue of \$15.293 million. In 2014, it is budgeted for \$15.775 million. However, revenue adjustments (decreases in payments from insurance,

Medicaid, Medicare and bad debt) are expected to decrease that figure by \$4.458 million this year and \$4.804 in 2014.

Then take out operating expenses of \$11.050 million this year and a projected \$11.342 next year and the budget is projected to go from a \$231,341 in the black in 2013 to \$35,777 in the hole for 2014.

Mr. Stover went over the budget with the commissioners noting that 10 months of 2013 (July through April) were used to figure the 2013 statistics.

He said there has been a trend to less patient in-hospital days but increased services such as laboratory and physical therapy, which have increased for 15 to 22 percent.

Government cutbacks including the Affordable Health Car Act, the 2 percent sequestration of Medicare pay-

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Chamber to host events on the 4th of July

By DANA PAXTON
dpaxton@nwkansas.com

The Norton Area Chamber of Commerce has several events planned at the Prairie Dog State Park for the July 4th celebration.

The day's activities starts off with a 5-K Fun Run. Registration will be at 6:15 a.m. on the hill above the beach and the run will start at 7 a.m. Over 150 people have entered already. With pre-registration each person will get a free t-shirt. Forms can be picked up at the Chamber office, at discovernorton.com or facebook.com/nortonchamberofcommerce. Kids, adults, pets, walkers, runners, strollers, roller blades and bikes are welcome. There will be a medal for the top male and female runners and for the kids run winners.

At 10 a.m. bring out your kites and enter the flying contest, sponsored by the Bill Sharp Memorial Fund. Then at 11 a.m. and running until 1 p.m. there will be a BBQ lunch located near the Prairie Dog campground area.

The evening holds more events for everyone to enjoy. At 7 p.m. come enjoy a concert by Anthony and the Animals sponsored by KQNK and at 8 p.m. Jamboree Foods is once again sponsoring the watermelon feed. To round out the evening before the fireworks display, at 8:30 p.m., there will be a flag ceremony.

As for the fireworks display, if allowed to have them this year they will begin at dusk as always. Park permits are required to enter the park for the day so get your permit, bring your lawn chair, a cooler of cold drinks, some food to munch on and a celebratory attitude for a great day of fun sponsored by the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce, Jaboree Foods, KQNK, The Bill Sharp Memorial Fund and the Prairie Dog State Park.

