

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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Friday
January 31, 2014

Briefly

Low cost vaccine clinic tonight

The Norton Animal Health Center, 801 W. Holme, will hold a low-cost vaccine clinic on Friday from 5-7 p.m. (No appointment necessary).

Art show to begin at Logan Museum

The Mid-Continent League Art Show begins at the Dane G. Hansen Museum in Logan, on Monday, Feb. 3.

Vocal concert will be held on Monday

Eisenhower Elementary school first and second grade will have a vocal concert on Monday night starting at 7 p.m. at the East Campus auditorium.

Scholars bowl to take place Monday

The Norton Scholars Bowl invite will take place on Monday afternoon at 4 p.m.

Rotary soup supper is set for Tuesday

The Norton Rotary Club will have a scholarship soup supper at 4 p.m. in the high school cafeteria on Tuesday evening.

County spelling bee on Wednesday

The Norton County spelling bee will be held on Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. at the Long Island schools.

Markets

Thursday, January 30, 2014

Wheat	\$5.82
Milo	\$3.94
Soybeans	\$11.94
Corn	\$4.14

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Friday Night - Cloudy with some light snow. Saturday - Partly cloudy with a high of 28. Saturday Night - A few clouds with a low near 10. Sunday - A few clouds early otherwise mostly sunny with a high of 31. Sunday Night - Mainly clear with a low of 12. Monday - Mostly cloudy with a few snow showers with a high of 32.

Prayer

Dear God, we pray your blessing on those who are sad. Comfort them, and restore in them your joy. Amen.



State Street in Norton is the future site for some possible big changes aesthetically. The Norton City/County Economic Development group is working to acquire the funding needed to make some major changes in downtown Norton so this picture could be much different in the future.

– Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

Grant sought for streetscape improvements

By MIKE STEPHENS

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Norton City/County Economic Development is working hard to get a grant submitted on behalf of the City of Norton to the Kansas Department of Transportation for phase one of the Downtown Streetscape Improvements project. According to Executive Director Scott Sproul, it is a long process that begins with the grant application to the Kansas Department of Transportation. "It's a big deal," said Sproul. The grant application deadline is Friday, Feb. 14.

The primary focus for phase one of the improvements will be on State Street from Main to Washington streets, including the intersections at State and Main streets, and State and Washington streets.

Among the many possible improvements will be new sidewalks, decorative concrete pavers, decorative street lights, trees, planters, benches, ramp access, curb and gutter, eclipse watering hydrant and ornate street and stop signs.

The proposed improvements will also address some safety concerns for pedestrians and vehicles alike. The new sidewalks and access ramps will make it safer and easier for pedestrians to get around the downtown area. The intersections will be bulbed out which will narrow the roadway slightly. By doing this, it will help reduce and control the speed of truck traffic traveling through town and will improve visibility for cars crossing State Street.

The Downtown Development Committee assisted the City with gathering information and meeting with BG Consultants to come up with the plan.

Committee president Kristine Knapp lives and works in downtown and would like to see the area become safer (from the truck traffic) and more shopper friendly.

"We hope we make it a friendly atmosphere for shopping and browsing," said Knapp. "We want to create a friendly, walking downtown atmosphere for shoppers and our destination businesses."

Sproul said that infrastructure is

a high priority in the City of Norton, and to make sure businesses have what they need to grow. Sidewalks, gutters and curbs are among the infrastructure concerns. This grant will help "continue the investment in specifically the downtown area, and provide an opportunity for growth of existing businesses and also attracting new businesses to downtown," said Sproul.

Concerns over handicap accessibility will also be addressed. Access ramps from the curb to the sidewalk will be installed at the intersections.

If the Transportation Enhancement Program grant is approved, the Department of Transportation will cover 80 percent of the costs with the city paying the other 20 percent which the City of Norton was budgeting to get accomplished.

Once approved and budgeted, the Department of Transportation will be in charge of the bidding process and supervision of the construction project itself. This will save Norton time and money because city crews won't be utilized as much.

Sproul said that even though they are

at a very preliminary point in phase one of the streetscape improvements project, there are several other phases that will grow out from phase one, and that his office plans to apply once the City Council approves future phases year after year for Transportation Enhancement Program grants.

"Unfortunately, it's a long time frame, but we've got to get it going."

The following is an estimated time line:

- Feb. 14, 2014 - grant application due date
- Summer 2014 - grant awarded
- August 2014 - BG Consultants, Inc. will initiate preliminary design
- November 2014 - preliminary plans will be submitted to KDOT for review
- December 2014 - KDOT field checks project
- January 2015 - office check plans are submitted to KDOT
- February 2015 - final plans and construction documents are submitted to KDOT
- April 2015 - KDOT bids the project
- May 2015 through December 2015 - awarded contractor builds the project.

Airport funding announced

The Norton City/County Airport has received a \$22,500 grant from the Kansas Airport Improvement Program. The money will be used to light a tower that's on private property but penetrates the approach slope.

In coordination with Federal Aviation Administration flight procedures, it was determined that a private radio tower was penetrating the approach slope to Runway 34, which made this runway unavailable at night.

The Airport worked with the tower owner to resolve the tower obstruction problem with a light. The grant will pay 90 percent of the costs and the other 10 percent or \$2,500 will be split between the city and county. It hasn't been determined who will pay the electricity costs for the light.

Twenty-seven projects were selected to receive funding to enhance safety and service at public-use airports in the state through the Kansas Airport Improvement Program.

The Kansas Department of Transportation's Division of Aviation, which manages the program, received 95 applications for projects totaling more than \$35 million. Recognizing the needs of continued investment in aviation infrastructure, the 2010 Kansas Legislature passed the T-WORKS Transportation Program, and gave the Kansas Airport Improvement Program (KAIP) a funding level of \$5 million a year.

"Each year the project selection pro-

cess becomes more competitive," said Jesse R. Romo, KDOT Director of Aviation. "The projects selected have a great geographic spread across the state and continue to preserve our airport system to a level that's beneficial to the communities."

Under guidelines of the program, project sponsors are required to pay a minimum of 10 percent of the total project costs, up to a maximum of 50 percent based on project category.

The following is a list of the FY 2015 airport improvement projects and the funding requested:

- Western Kansas**
- Dodge City** – Maintain airfield pavements, \$9,000
- Hoxie** – Design reconstruction of runway, \$175,750
- Hutchinson** – Reconstruct ramp areas, \$78,138
- Osborne** – Repair and Overlay Runway, \$825,390
- Leoti** – Repair and overlay runways and ramp, \$612,000
- Lincoln** – Design new runway, \$123,500
- Montezuma** – Reconstruct taxiway section, \$170,910
- Norton** – Tower obstruction mitigation, \$22,500
- Pratt** – Repair and seal taxiways, \$162,090
- Syracuse** – Overlay and remark runway and taxi lane, \$646,785
- Tribune** – Repair and mark runway, taxiway and ramp, \$234,567

We are looking for the next Sweetheart couple

By DANA PAXTON

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The Norton Telegram is once again holding the Norton County Sweetheart Couple contest. Only official ballots from the newspaper will be accepted and they can be found in last Tuesday's paper along with today's, Monday's and Tuesday's of next week.

It is very simple, cut out the ballot, fill in who you think should be this year's Norton County Sweetheart Couple and drop it off at any of the 12 sponsors in the valentines bag provided or mail it to the paper. All nominees must be 21 years or older and married Norton County residents. Entries must be received by mail no later than Friday, February 7. On the seventh all the ballots will be picked up and one nomination for each couple will be put in a bag and one drawn out. This couple, by the luck of the draw, will be our winners receiving great gifts from this year's sponsors.

The sponsors have really outdone themselves this year. Bodyworx is

giving a couples massage and sauna, Pfonz' Grill, a \$50 gift certificate, Studio One 11, a special gift, Downtown Car Wash, a free car wash, The Razor's Edge also has a special gift, Town and Country Kitchen is giving a \$20 meal for two, Sander Furniture has a special gift, Garden Gate Florals Etc. is giving a half dozen roses, Kowpoke Supply has a \$25 gift certificate for the couple, The Norton Theatre has two movie tickets, popcorn and two pops for the winners, Fit To Go has a one month membership for both, Russ' Jewelry and Repair has a \$50 gift certificate waiting and then Las Canteras is offering two meals and two nonalcoholic drinks. Since the Telegram is hosting this contest we are also offering the couple a one year subscription to the paper.

Last year's winners were Nathan and Sara Johns of Almena and they were so excited; so get busy, fill out your ballots and return them to a sponsor or the Telegram and help us make this Valentine's Day one to remember for one very special Norton County couple.

