

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

10 PAGES

Tuesday
June 10, 2014

Briefly

Hamburger feed for fireworks display

The Norton Area Chamber of Commerce will hold a fireworks barbecue fundraiser on Thursday at the Shopko parking lot on Highway 36 from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. and from 5-7 p.m. Hamburgers, chips and drinks will be served. Free will donation. All proceeds will go to the Fourth of July fireworks show.

Car races scheduled for Saturday night

The Norton Elmwood Park Speedway will be having a race on Saturday, hot laps at 6 p.m. and the race at 7 p.m. The classes that will be running are URSS sprint car, IMCA stock car, IMCA northern sport mod and cruiser.

Two programs for students at library

On Thursday, the Norton Public Library will host "Pop Rockets," presented by Teresa Schulze, Eisenhower Elementary School science teacher. Two programs are scheduled, at 10:30 a.m. the presentation will be geared toward preschool through 1st graders and the 2 p.m. presentation is for 2nd through 6th graders. Come join the Fizz, Boom Fun!!

Fun Night for Teens is set for Thursday

Fun Night for Teens will be held Thursday, from 6:30-8 p.m. at the library, featuring a "Cup Stacking Night" with Joan Bolt. Seventh through 12th graders are invited to test their skills. First place will win a prize! A schedule of all the summer programs is available at the library and on the website: www.nortonpubliclibrary.org

weather forecast

Weather

Wednesday - Mostly sunny in the morning then a 40 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. Highs in the upper 80s. Thursday - Partly cloudy and not as warm with a high in the upper 70s. Friday - Partly cloudy and breezy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Highs in the lower 80s.

Markets

JUNE 2014

Wheat	\$6.89
Milo	\$4.08
Soybeans	\$13.93
Corn	\$4.48

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Prayer

Eternal God, thank you for opportunities to serve our neighbors. Help us to spread your love and your words to the people we meet this day. Amen.

Cancer survivors fight back!



The 2014 Relay For Life of Norton County was held at the Norton Courthouse Square on Friday. The event began with pizza and snacks for survivors and caregivers, followed by a survivors picture on the bleachers. The opening ceremony included a flag presentation by the American Legion and the National Anthem was performed by Jeremy Wetter. Besides a survivor and caregiver lap, four teams participated in the Relay; the A-Team, Church of God, Nex-Tech and the

Roaring Lions Team. Relay Chairman Lee Russell said the teams are a viable part of the event. "We would like to thank everyone for their support. There are a lot of people involved and we can't thank the city enough, the businesses, sponsors and all the volunteers," said Russell. "This was a total community effort."

-Courtesy photo

Pool tentatively set to open Monday

By MIKE STEPHENS
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The grand opening of the Norton Aquatic Center has been tentatively scheduled for June 16. The City Council decided at its Wednesday meeting that the opening of the new swimming pool would be contingent upon the pool designer, Kevin McElyea, of Aquatic Design, performing a walk-through inspection of the pool on Tuesday with a city representative, with only a short list of deficiencies to be fixed without interrupting the operation of the pool or staff. The Council also wants the cement work in the main parking lot to be 95 percent complete. Council member Gary Lacy pointed out that a motion had originally been made to have free admission on May 25 and 26, and that the free days should be postponed until a later date and the Council agreed.

Council member Roberta Ryan made a motion to open the Aquatic Center on Sunday, June 8, but the motion died for lack of a second.

A couple of Norton residents addressed the Council about issues with the new swimming pool project.

Jerry Moritz expressed his concerns about the speaker system at the pool. He said that several times in the past week the stereo was blaring and he could hear it from his house a block away, and that the noise ordinance should be enforced. Moritz also said there have been a number of vehicles going down his street with loud mufflers and stereos playing, and that the area should be patrolled more frequently with the new pool opening soon.

Leon Stromer said besides the sound system being too loud that the lights on

the north and south side of the building and the security lights on the slide are very bright. He suggested the pool employees park away from the entrance, so customers can park closer. He questioned how long the wood posts around the water slides will last, and asked if there will be a sidewalk around the outside of the pool, and what kind of inventory control will there be for the concession stand. Stromer also said he was told two of the pumps flooded when a pipe broke and asked what type of warranty they have. Mayor Corns said there is a one year labor warranty and 15 year pump warranty, that will be in writing. Stromer also said something needs to be done in the area south of the tennis court where the drainage ditch goes through. He asked if a cement ditch could be put in so it drains better.

Mayor Corns showed the Council a sample punch card for concessions from the WaKeeney Water Park and said he would like to see something similar used at the Norton Aquatic Center. Ryan said she would show it to Jill Lively, pool manager, and get her input on the punch card.

In a 3-2 vote, the Council decided, effective July 1, city employees will no longer be allowed to drive city vehicles home. The police department will be exempt. Council member Ron Briery said he had received numerous complaints about city employees driving city vehicles home and that the Finance Committee discussed what the employees pay to take the vehicles home and what it costs the City to provide these vehicles. Council member Jeff Urban said he too had heard numerous

complaints on the matter, but felt the Public Works and Electric Distribution supervisors should be exempt in case of water leaks and power outages. Lacy said the matter should be discussed with the supervisors first. The motion to prohibit supervisors from driving city vehicles home passed by one vote, with Briery, Urban and Chriss McDiff voting yes, and Lacy and Ryan voting no.

Larry Nelson from New Age Industrial, told the Council that the manufacturing plant is getting a 350 ton, 800 amp air conditioning unit, which will be installed and running in August. He said the air conditioner will run from June through September and will use a large amount of electricity. He asked how the electric rates are structured and what discounts, if any, are offered to higher electrical users. The Council referred Nelson to the Utility Committee.

Mayor Corns received Council approval of his appointment of Mike Posson for the at-large position on the City/County Economic Development Board. The position has a two year term that expires in May of 2016.

Council member Jerry Jones reminded everyone that June 16 is 'Ride Your Motorcycle to Work Day.' He also said that the t-ball field at Eisenhower Elementary is unsatisfactory, and that the games need to be moved back to the t-ball field at Pool Park.

In other council news:
-the city sales tax receipts collected in April of 2014 totaled \$22,085.30, the city pool sales tax receipts totaled \$33,127.95, and the county sales tax receipts totaled \$16,168.70, for a total

of \$71,381.95. The 2014 year to date sales tax receipts total \$334,972.31.

-accepted the Police K-9 agreement for agencies outside of Norton County that would like to use the drug dog.

-waived the formal first reading of Ordinance #1659, requiring the registration and licensure of scrap metal dealers, establishing an application process and registration fee; and providing for the suspension or revocation of the registration.

-will allow the intersections around the Courthouse Square to be blocked off for the Norton Car Show on July 12.

-the City will be enforcing its ordinance which specifies that trash containers cannot exceed 35 gallons. Door hangers have been left at houses which are using containers larger than 35 gallons, and trash will not be picked up in the future if the larger containers are used.

-Norton Homestore is requesting assistance with the curb and sidewalk on the east side of their property near the State St. intersection. The Public Works Committee will discuss the matter.

-changed the holiday trash pickup schedule, so whenever there is a city-observed holiday, the trash will be picked up the next business day.

-the Finance Committee discussed the windows and lights at the Recreation Center. These items will be discussed further.

-will allow the Norton Trails group to sponsor a mud volleyball event inside the racetrack at Elmwood Park on July 4.

-will require the Norton Trails group

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Prairie Dog State Park hosts OK Kids Day

By DANA PAXTON
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The 14th annual OK Kids Day was held at Prairie Dog State Park on Saturday with 208 children participating, which was slightly down from last year's 230. Overall, it was another successful event held at the State Park.

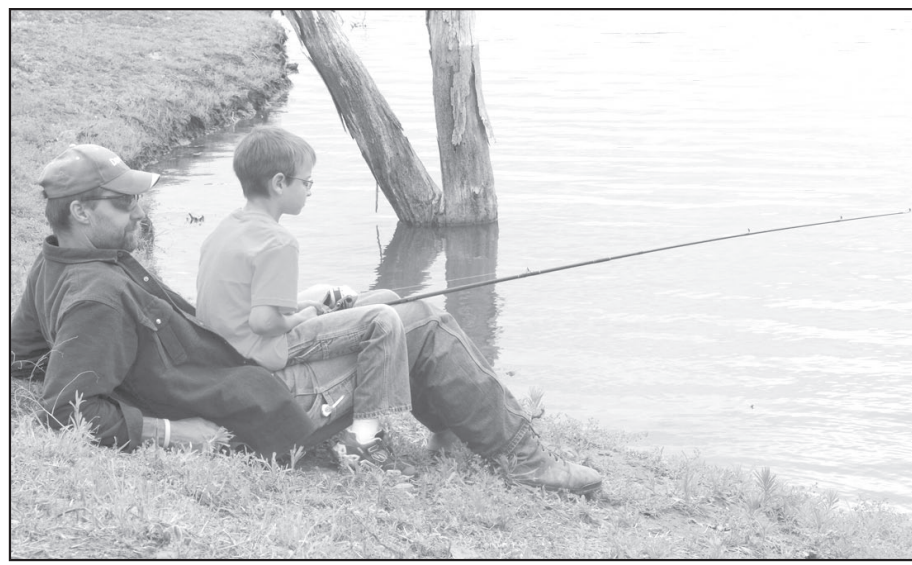
The morning started with an 8 a.m. registration and then those attending were off to enjoy a day of fun. Lunch was served to everyone at 11 a.m. and then everyone was back to enjoying the activities even though the morning started out a bit chilly. The day's events wrapped up at 2 p.m. where four bikes donated by the Norton Correctional Facility World of Wheels program were given away with many other great prizes.

The youth and their parents were once again treated to many activities throughout the park. Events offered were a shooting simulator, a jet ski simulator, a K-9 demonstration, a trap

shoot, archery shooting of 3-D targets, a mountain man demonstration where anyone could try their hand at throwing a hatchet, a fishing clinic, demonstrations on soil and streams by the Twin Creeks Extension Office, the Norton Longspur Chapter of Pheasants Forever pellet gun range and the Norton Prairie Dog Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation's BB Gun range, Sternberg Museum displays of reptiles and fossils, a tour of the emergency and national guard vehicles and a bald eagle and raptor presentation put on by Operation Wildlife.

This year's sponsors included the Norton Pheasants Forever Longspur Chapter, the Norton Archery Club, Kansas Wildscape, Kansas State Troopers Foundation, Norton Travel and Tourism Committee, End Zone Sports and Office Supply, Larry and Mary Smith Family Memorial, Jamboree Foods and Prairie Land Electric.

(OK Kids - Continued on Page 5)



Lance and son Gavin Braun take in a relaxing afternoon at the Prairie Dog State Park OK Kids Day. Several fish were caught during the fishing clinic held during the day and the Braun boys gave it a good try. With numbers slightly down compared to last year's event it was still a great success and enjoyed by all in attendance.

-Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

