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THE NORTON TELEGRAM

WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

12 PAGES

Friday
April 25, 2008

Norton, Kansas
Home of Laurena Klotz

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Briefly

'C' and 'D' tag deadline nears

Wednesday, April 30 is the deadline to renew automobile, light truck, motorcycle or motorized bike tags if your last name or business name begins with 'C' or 'D'. When renewing your vehicles, remember to include your current proof of insurance for all vehicles. The County Treasurer's office needs to verify the VIN number, policy number and current expiration date. Computers are shut off at 4:30 p.m. daily for balancing.

As a reminder, the office can only renew regular driver's licenses and issue ID cards. Our hours are Tuesday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Effective Jan. 1, 2006 all CDL licenses have to be renewed at a full service office: Phillipsburg, Hays and Colby.

Second half of 2007 taxes are due by May 10. Since that is a Saturday, the office will extend the date to the 12. To ensure proper credit to your taxes bring or send your payment stubs.

If you have questions, please cal the office at (785) 877-5795.

Grade school to entertain Monday

The public is invited to attend the Northern Valley kindergarten through sixth grade band and vocal concert at 7 p.m. Monday in the high school auditorium at Almena.

Fund raiser invite issued at Norcatur

Any group or organization wishing to set up a fund raiser in Norcatur during the annual city-wide garage sale is welcome. The event is set for 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Saturday, May 10. For locations, call Twila Forbes, 693-4230 or Sherrie Regal, 720-838-0430. Spaces cost $5 each.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Partly cloudy with a low around 33. **Saturday** — A slight chance of showers with thunderstorms also possible after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy with a high near 58.

Kingham report:

Tuesday ..... Low 31, High 71
Wednesday ..... Low 41, High 72
.05 Rain, Some Hail
Thursday ..... Low 52, High 76
Friday ..... Low 38, .20 Rain
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for being close to us through all changes in life. We thank you for your faithfulness.
Amen

What's their line?

Lady line dancers from WaKeeney and Collyer entertained Norton Andbe Home volunteers who were honored at a tea party Wednesday afternoon. They were well received.
— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

AP report of no concern locally

By TOM DREILING
tom.d@nwkansas.com

An Associated Press report appearing in Thursday papers and on radio and television newscasts had some Norton residents concerned. The report dealt with uranium in water in nine Kansas communities, including Norton.

Rob Lawson, Norton city administrator, said in a telephone interview Thursday The Associated Press report was nothing new to the people out here. "We've been dealing with this matter for several years," he said. The city distributes a letter quarterly to water users as a caution and to update them as to what the uranium levels show.

Mr. Lawson said the new water plant construction is 90 percent complete and the next phase of the project will deal with water wells. "It's just a matter of time (for solving this issue)," he said.

The other named sites are Atwood, Oberlin, Clay Center, Gaylord, Morganville, Lakin, Rooks County Rural Water District 1 and a water supply in a Garden City subdivision.

Andbe Home seeks assistance

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
c.haynes@nwkansas.com

The Andbe Home is making needed repairs and is looking for the money to pay for both present and future items.

Home Administrator Nancy McGinnis and directors Ruth Burd and Dwight Heikes talked to the Norton County Commissioners on Monday about getting some help next year to help pay for repairs the facility needs to stay open in the future.

Ms. McGinnis told the commissioners that the home is trying to make repairs required by state regulators to the facility's floor, walls, handrails, counter tops, closet doors, wood surfaces and heating units. Some of the repairs, she said, are required immediately and some will be needed to pass future inspections.

The state inspectors visited the facility in January, she said, and found deficiencies related to the building but not quality of care. Because of the problems, mostly with maintenance, the state said it would not pay for Medicare patients admitted after Feb.4, she said.

The home, which now has 54 residents, has taken in three Medicare patients since then, she said. Of those, one is in hospice and one died. However, the facility has lost $10,000 as of the end of March because of this.

Ms. Burd said that she hates to see people turned away because they will go elsewhere, which could be hard for them, their families and the Andbe Home. However, she said, the facility cannot afford to take any more Medicare patients until the ban is lifted, which she thinks it will be when the state rechecks the facility.

Repairs are being made as fast as possible and plans have been made for regular maintenance so that the problems will not reoccur. However, so far, the state has not come back to re-inspect.

The home has requested a grant from the Hansen Foundation to make some of the repairs but some things could not be put in the request and some the facility is looking for help elsewhere, Ms. McGinnis said, adding that she hopes the commissioners can put the home in the 2009

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Telegram begins push for color

By TOM DREILING
tom.d@nwkansas.com

As a newspaper, we have mentioned on a couple of occasions that "if you color the back we'll color the front." Simply put, if a business places a processed color ad on the back page, size negotiable, we will put colored photos on the front page.

And as a bonus, we will also mention on the front page who provided the color. That mention will be made in a space above the Briefly column.

Because *The Telegram* has a processed color ad on the back page today we have our first opportunity to put our new program in place.

Some primary activity reported

By TOM DREILING
tom.d@nwkansas.com

It's never too early.

In this case, it's never too early to file if you have plans to put your name on the ballot for the Tuesday, Aug. 5 primary election.

The deadline to make it official is Tuesday, June 10 at noon.

A call to the office of Norton County Clerk Robert Wyatt shows two people have filed so far for Norton County commission seats.

John Miller, the incumbent, filed from County Commission District 3.

Carolyn Applegate filed from County Commission District 2.

Other offices up for election include, in addition to county commissioner districts 2 and 3:

- County Clerk
- County Treasurer
- County Register of Deeds
- County Attorney
- County Sheriff

Three area filings have taken place on the state level. They are:

- Sen. Ralph Ostmeyer, Republican incumbent, Grinnell, Senate District 40.

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Fun in the sun?

This hard-working team of Norton eighth graders raked the hillside by Travis Field as their assignment for Service Learning Day. They are, from left to right, Shylo Paxton, Bryan Henry and Kylie Nuzum.
— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts