

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM

WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

10 PAGES

Friday

June 5, 2009

Norton, Kansas
Home of Jeannie Beck

Briefly

Wheat tour near

K-State Research and Extension and Norton County Extension, along with Tim Schulze will host the annual Wheat Tour on Monday at 7 p.m.

The plot is located four miles west of Norton on U.S. Hwy. 36 to Hwy. 261 at the Prairie Dog State Park Road. Travel south less than 1/4 mile. The plot is located on the west side of Hwy. 261.

Brian Olson, Northwest Kansas Research and Extension Agronomist will help explain the varieties that are included on the tour this year. Dan O'Brien, KSU Ag Economist will evaluate the wheat markets.

Wheat signs are up in front of the plots that are able to be viewed. The public is invited.

Flag burning set

Flag Day, June 14, the Norton Legion will conduct a flag retirement or flag burning ceremony from 5:30 until 7 p.m. on the south lawn of the Post Home. Persons who have flags that are torn, faded, or damaged to the point that they are no longer serviceable may bring them to have them burned. The Legion has a collection of unserviceable flags that people have brought to have properly retired which is by burning. Although the Legion does dispose of unserviceable flags from time to time, this will be the first open retirement of flags. Legion commander Jake Durham invites the public to the ceremony and to a covered dish salad and or dessert dinner following the ceremony.

Meals on Wheels

The Knights of Columbus will wrap up delivery of Meals on Wheels on Sunday. Starting Monday, June 8 through June 14, the Norton Lions Club will take over. The contact person is Jon Boxler 877-5128.

weather forecast



RAIN

Tonight - Showers and thunderstorms likely, mainly before 1 a.m. Some of the storms could be severe. Mostly cloudy with a low around 61. Saturday - A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Mostly cloudy with a high near 89. Saturday Night - A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Sunday - A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, help us always to offer welcome to those we meet. Help us hold open for them the door to fellowship with you. Amen.



Children and parents were looking forward to the weekly Story Hour as they walked under the 100th Birthday Celebration sign and into the

Norton Public Library on Thursday morning.

- Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Veteran employees keep library going

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the final of three articles about the history of the Norton Public Library which have appeared in *The Telegram*. A Birthday Celebration recognizing the 100th anniversary of the library will be held at the library beginning at 2 p.m. on Thursday, June 11. (It was on June 11, 1909 that the library first opened in Norton. (Information for this article is taken from stories previously published in *The Norton Daily Telegram*).

Norton Public Library 1909 — 2009 Part 3

Rita Shelton held the position of librarian for eight years, from 1975 to 1983. When she retired, her assistant and children's librarian, Kay LeBeau, was hired to be the new library director. Kay continued in that position for 26 years and has seen many changes during that time. A retirement party honoring Kay for a total of 34 years of service to the library was held in February and she officially retired in April, 2009.

Mary Luehrs, who had held the position of children's librarian for 22 years, became library director this year when Kay LeBeau retired.

That Norton was a community of readers was clearly evident by the following facts. In 1984, the Norton Library had a total circulation of 85,467 as compared to the Colby Library with 48,072 and the Phillipsburg Library with 41,859. The Norton Library staff wanted to add more books and services but was limited because of a lack of space and storage.

About 1985, at the suggestion of the city council, Norton Library Board President Chuck Kohfeld appointed a committee to study the long range needs of the library.

As a city library with a fixed budget and no money set aside for future improvements, the committee felt that in the future some major capital improvements would be necessary if the library was to maintain high standards. The steps at the entrance of the library were an obstacle for the handicapped and elderly. Norton was fast becoming a community with senior citizens in the majority.

The committee suggested the formation of a non-profit foundation to encourage endowments for the continued growth

of the library.

The Norton Public Library Foundation was established in January, 1986.

The foundation was governed by a board of nine trustees elected by the Norton Library Board. They were: Mary Beth Boyd, president; Ruth Hartman, vice president; Nancy Sebelius, secretary; Clarence Collins, treasurer; Phoebe Stutheit; Helen Bullock; Gordon Brantley; Bill Belt and Ada Arford.

"We are overwhelmed by the initial positive response to the foundation," said Ruth Hartman. "We have already received two major donations."

By December, the list of contributors was growing and long lists of names were published in the Daily Telegram. Foundation brochures were printed telling about the foundation and how it would benefit the library.

By 1986, the Norton Library had grown from a 500 volume library in 1909 to over 30,000 volumes.

In 1986, former librarian Muriel "Bennie" Henningsen was named an honorary

member of the Friends of the Library.

Hand-stenciled tote bags were made by foundation board members assisted by Julie Russell and Barbara Loyd and sold at the Norton Craft Fair.

"Each tote bag has been lovingly hand-stenciled by a book reader," said Nancy Sebelius. The foundation's theme was: "Readership: it can take you anywhere you want to go."

"Hats Off to the Library" was the theme for a fund-raiser luncheon in March, 1986. Arian Arnold, the "hat lady" from Herndon, presented the program followed by an auction of rare antiques, antique jewelry, baked goods, handmade items and an autographed copy of "The Doles Unlimited Partners" by Bob and Elizabeth Dole. To top off the afternoon, those present were treated to a Victorian Tea complete with tea breads and petits fours.

In 1986, Charlotte Hinger, Hoxie, author of the book, "Come Spring", was the guest of honor at a luncheon held at the Pinestone Landing. The Library Foundation sponsored this "Meet the Author" luncheon.

Donations to the Library Foundation (Library - Continued on Page 5)



Elevator big plus at Norton County Museum

By ERICA BRADLEY
erBradley@nwkansas.com

No more stairs to climb for those who have a problem navigating them. That was one of the big improvements made at the Norton County Museum over the winter months.

Joe Ballinger, who helps operate the facility, said the elevator was installed, a water main break was repaired and last year prisoners re-plastered and re-painted the basement.

The elevator was put in with the money left to the museum by George Jones' estate. He left an estimated \$20,000 to the museum, Mr. Ballinger said.

"I think George had the elevator in mind when he left us that money," Mr. Ballinger said.

Program puts hospital on map

By ERICA BRADLEY
erBradley@nwkansas.com

Norton County Hospital has been named recipient of the Kansas Hospital Association Community Connections \$1,000 award for their annual water aerobics program.

The program began nine years ago by the hospital's physical therapy department and the city swimming pool. Jan Volgamore, Physical Therapy Assistant, said the program was created when the physical therapy staff saw a need for a fun, beneficial form of exercise. Area hospitals in Hays and Kearney began using water therapy and doctors in Norton began requesting that service, Mrs. Volgamore said.

The class runs twice a week for eight weeks in the summer. There are two classes: a low impact half hour class for

Mr. Ballinger and Mr. Jones had talked about improvements that needed to be made shortly before he passed away, Mr. Ballinger said.

The museum was also recently cleaned from top to bottom, he said.

The annual budget for the museum is \$8,000. It is staffed by volunteers who do everything from greeting visitors, archiving, filing and giving tours.

"We may try to open more, but right now we're comfortable with the schedule," he said.

The museum is only open a few hours a week, but the staff is willing to schedule tours for people or groups who request them. Hours of operation are from 2-4 p.m. on Wednesdays.

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those who cannot be as active, and an hour long class that involves more cardio, she said.

Mrs. Volgamore said there are an estimated 70 participants. "We have young, old, men and women. Anyone is welcome to come out."

The program is very beneficial; it is an alternative form of exercise and helps people with orthopedic injuries, she said.

"We have participants who walk to the pool stairs with walkers and canes and are able to leave them at the side of the pool. They get very excited the first time they walk across the pool without an assistive device, if that is something they have not been able to do on dry land."

Mrs. Volgamore was the first instructor and had to limit the number of people (Hospital - Continued on Page 5)



Joe Ballinger demonstrated the new elevator in the Norton County Museum. The elevator was installed over the winter and makes the museum handicapped accessible.

- Telegram photo by Erica Bradley