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THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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Tuesday
July 14, 2009

Norton, Kansas
Home of Brock Miller

Briefly

Wednesday council agenda released

Norton's city council meets Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. at the City Building. The meeting is open to the public. Reports will be given by Rob Lawson, city administrator, as well as the chairman of the Finance Committee Toby Kuhn. The Chamber of Commerce meeting report will be given by Roberta Ryan. Bills will be paid. The third reading of Ordinance 1584, amending Section 15-204 of the City Code dealing with utility service water tap fees, will take place. Three building/demolition permits will be considered.

Clock ticking for tag renewals

July 31 is the last day to renew vehicle tags at the Norton County Treasurer's office if your last name begins with "J," "K" or "L" or your business name begins with "J," "K" or "L". New items needed are Driver License or Identification number for each owner or Federal Employer Identification number for the business in addition to the insurance. Vehicle business is done from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily. Driver license renewals can be done Tuesday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Remember to bring along your social security card or something that has your social security number on it for verification. Instructional permits and Driver Education restricted licenses can be done in the office by appointment. You will need to bring an original, certified birth certificate, social security card and a utility bill with current address plus the driver license of the parent that brings the child. Questions to (785) 877-5795. All CDL renewals need to be renewed at a full service station in Phillipsburg, Hays or Colby.

weather forecast

Tonight - A 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Wednesday - Partly cloudy with a high near 86. Wednesday Night - A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms before 1 a.m. Thursday - A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1 p.m. Thursday Night - A 20 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.

Kingham report:

Friday, July 10..... Low 68, High 95
Saturday, July 11 ..... Low 67, High 88
.12 Precipitation
Sunday, July 12 ..... Low 64, High 98
.10 Precipitation
Monday, July 13 ..... Low 65, High 91
.15 Precipitation
Tuesday, July 14 ..... Low 63, .50 Prec.
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm
9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Dear Father God, help us to keep praying and to keep reaching out in love to those around us. Amen.

Ray Mizell and Kem Kindall discussed this year's harvest at Dennie Lofgreen's farm on Friday. Mr. Mizell and Mr. Kindall said they were disappointed to see prices for wheat decline so much. The average price per bushel is $4.80 here. Yields this harvest season are very good in many cases, but the price isn't. Some will hold onto it until the price goes up.
–Telegram photo by Erica Bradley

Bushels climb, but prices fall

By ERICA BRADLEY
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Conventional farming market wheat prices are on the decline, which could hurt many farmers in the area as harvest comes to a close, but prices for organic farming have remained steady.

Scott Hillius, grain origination and marketing specialist in the Ag Valley Co–op office at Edison, Neb., said the market price for wheat has dropped $2 in the past two weeks.

Mr. Hillius said weather, supply and demand, value of the dollar, gold and crude oil prices and many other variables affect the market.

He said speculator money has had a huge effect in the last two years as speculators pull their money out of the market.

"There's a lot of wheat this year, which could keep prices down," he said.

Mr. Hillius said he expects the markets to average out, but he does not expect them to fully recover.

"With the amount of drop we've seen, a balance would not be out of line. We may not see a big recovery in the near future," he said.

Mr. Hillius said the effect speculators are having on the market is unusual, but it has been the trend in the last couple of years.

"It's a different ball-game all together," he said.

Mr. Hillius said the market closed Friday at $4.59 per bushel.

Dennie Loftgreen, local farmer, said profit margins are different on every farm depending on several variables including how much they owe on equipment, land and other factors.

Mr. Loftgreen said bushels are going for an estimated $4.80 per.

"That's pretty tight for younger farmers," Mr. Lofgreen said.

Mr. Hillius said $5 would be the best price a farmer could get per bushel. Mr. Lofgreen agreed, saying that would be the break-even point for most farmers.

Mr. Lofgreen said younger farmers will be hurt the most while those who have been farming longer (either through a family farm or by building their own farm up) will not feel the pinch as much.

Mr. Lofgreen advised farmers to sell

(**Harvest** - Continued on Page 5)

Figures not quite what they appear to be

By ERICA BRADLEY
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Sometimes figures can be deceiving.

Take for example the chatter around the community that 23 students from the Norton School District are requesting permission to attend school in Almena. While that is true, it's not what one might think.

Northern Valley Schools Superintendent George Griffith said the number of students transferring districts is pretty steady each year. He said five Northern Valley students are requesting transfer to Norton.

And he said that the 23 students in question have already been attending Northern Valley and are simply requesting to attend for another year.

The 23 students will count towards Northern Valley's enrollment, not Norton's.

Students are picked up by bus four miles east of Norton. Mr. Griffith said Northern Valley pays the cost of transportation.

Mr. Griffith said some students are more successful in Almena because of the smaller class sizes.

Larry Patterson's daughter Caitlyn is hoping to attend Northern Valley High School for her senior year.

Mr. Patterson said his daughter was struggling in Norton because there was not enough one-on-one attention given to students.

(**Students** - Continued on Page 5)

Hospital budget, plans aired

By Erica BRADLEY
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The June 30 Norton County commission meeting was a busy one.

The Norton County Hospital Board presented their quarterly reports and budget request for 2010. The reports for the doctor's clinic were also delivered. Reports included patient days, admissions, observation, births, surgeries, outpatient days and inpatient procedures.

Rich Miller, hospital administrator, delivered the request for the 2010 operating budget. He asked that the county tax appropriations be increased to $4 million, which would represent a $2 million hike.

He also updated the commission on plans for renovation and construction. An architect has looked at the possibility of adding the clinic to the hospital as well as expanding the nursing program offered through Colby Community College.

Mr. Miller reported that their plan is to add a doctor's clinic to the southwest part of the hospital and make the current clinic into the Colby Community College nursing facility.

Gina Frack, county health department nurse, said the department will take over the Decatur Women Infant Children program in October without increasing staff or revenue.

In an interview with The Telegram after the meeting, Mrs. Frack said the health department will not see an increase in revenue.

"The staff was willing to take more work on without increased salary," Mrs. Frack said.

Mrs. Frack said staff will go to Decatur County once a month for Women Infant Children program services, and Decatur residents will have to come to Norton if they need services in-between.

Mrs. Frack said Sherman County was handling Decatur's program.

(**County** - Continued on Page 5)

Cindel Harrington and Grant McClymont viewed one of the many cars on display in front of the courthouse on Saturday. Both are from Norton and came out to enjoy the sixth annual car show. There were an estimated 26 entries in the show.

Car show crowd pleaser here Saturday

By ERICA BRADLEY
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The sixth annual Norton Car Show was held on Saturday and featured drag races at the Norton County Airport.

The event was sponsored by the *Car Classic Cruisers Car Club* and several local businesses.

Mark Griffin said there were 152 entries and 20 host cars. He said there were different models, including everything from street rods to antiques.

He said 30 cars participated in the drag races.

The races at the airport were a quarter of a mile long, he said.

Mr. Griffin estimated 500 people were in attendance between the car show and

(**Car show** - Continued on Page 5)

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