

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: nwkansas.com 10 PAGES

Friday

February 25, 2011

Briefly

Primary moved to courthouse

The Norton City primary election for mayor has been moved from the American Legion to the Norton County courthouse lobby.

The polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday, March 1, for voting for city wards 1, 2 and 3.

The change should save money and increase the speed and ease of tabulating the ballots, County Clerk and Election Officer Robert Wyatt said.

Kindergarten roundup planned

The Eisenhower Elementary school will be holding the annual Kindergarten Roundup on Monday, Feb. 28 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. At 5 p.m. there will be a meeting in the school cafeteria, with the principal, kindergarten teachers and school nurse and should last 30-40 minutes. At this meeting we will discuss what is required for school attendance. Students must have turned five on or before Aug. 31 to be eligible for Kindergarten. Parents can come between 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. to visit the classrooms and the school with their child. If there are any questions, please contact the school at 877-5113.

Help available for veterans

Jody Tubbs of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs will be in Norton from 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. on Tuesday at the Norton City Office. She will assist Veterans and their dependents with VA claims. She can be contacted in Colby any Monday, Wednesday or Friday at 785-462-3572.

Gas, diesel pumps to get replaced

Norton's Total Station is having new gas and diesel pumps installed. Monday the new gasoline pumps will be installed. Tuesday, the new diesel pumps will be installed, no diesel on that day.

Markets

Friday, February 25, 2011

Wheat	\$7.36
Milo	\$5.93
Soybeans	\$12.33
Corn	\$6.32

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Tonight - A chance of snow and freezing drizzle before midnight. Areas of freezing fog after midnight. **Saturday** - A chance of freezing drizzle. Areas of freezing fog before noon. **Saturday Night** - Mostly cloudy with a low around 22. **Sunday** - A slight chance of rain and snow.

Kingham Report

Tuesday, Feb. 22.....Low 10, High 47
 Wednesday, Feb. 23.....Low 16, High 56
 Thursday, Feb. 24.....Low 21, High 30
 3" Snow

(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

O God of comfort, when trials come, help us to remember that you care about us and desire to bless us and help us. Amen



Norton Police Officer Jody Enfield is shown with his K-9 partner, Wotan. Through a grant and the generosity of the Norton Community this German Shepherd was purchased for narcotics detection.

—Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

Canine officer joins force

By DANA PAXTON
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As of the third week of January, the Norton Police department has a new employee. His first day on the job was Monday Feb. 14. He is a two year old German Shepherd by the name of Wotan.

Wotan was purchased by the Norton Police department to be used as a narcotics detection canine. The hope is to later have him trained for a tracking dog to aide in search and rescue missions. The total cost to purchase him was \$9500. The money was raised through a \$2500 grant Officer Enfield received as well as through donations made by the community, businesses and individuals. The Rojas family did a Mexican dinner benefit to raise money and Pamida did a pin up program.

Wotan was born and raised in Germany. He trained in Germany for this line of work since he was ten weeks old. Due to where he was trained, he responds only to commands in German.

His partner is officer Jody Enfield who has worked for the department for years. In order for officer Enfield to work with Wotan he too had to attend training. He went through three weeks of training in Longford, Kansas at the training center. Upon completion of the three weeks Officer Enfield became a certified K-9 handler.

The partners spend all of their time together. It's not all work; Wotan is a part of the family and lives with the Enfields. He sleeps in a kennel; he is not a house dog. The only time he is out of his kennel is when he is working or on

Officer Enfield's days off. Enfield said, "He loves the kids and they all get along great." On their days off the two go out for walks together.

There have not been any official calls for the use of Wotan yet, so to keep him ready to do his job, Officer Enfield works with him an hour every shift. Narcotics are hidden and Wotan does a search for it. Once narcotics have been detected, Wotan sits and then the officer knows he has found something.

When asked if there was much of a need for a K-9 in Norton County, Enfield said that there was a great need for it. He said, "Wotan is a lot of fun, he is a very smart dog and I think he is a great asset to the department."

Landfill cost study underway

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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Is the Norton County landfill paying its way?

County Landfill Supervisor Curt Archibald has been doing some figuring and has come up with some preliminary figures but will have to go back to the calculator.

Archibald said that his preliminary figures showed that the cost for construction and demolition and municipal solid waste is \$39 a ton but he has to add in wages and benefits.

(Landfill - Continued on Page 5)

Board looks at weather problems

By HARRIETT GILL
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At the Feb. 14 USD 211 Board of Education meeting, the Board approved a plan to make up the projected deficit at the Norton Junior High School and Norton Community High School as well as approving a contingency plan to address the possibility of missing additional days due to weather and/or other unforeseen situations.

The Norton Community Schools have missed five days of school this year. Three have been weather related, one was the result of having no water, and one was for the funeral of a member of the school family.

The Norton Community High School and Junior High are projected to be in the deficit by the end of the scheduled school year: the high school by about three hours and the junior high by about

four hours. Eisenhower Elementary is estimated to be in the positive by more than one full school day.

Whether or not a school district has met the minimum annual attendance is determined by the attendance center with the fewest hours of attendance. The attendance center with the fewest hours must have met or exceeded the minimum hours of attendance for the entire district to be considered as having met the attendance requirement.

The plan that was approved by the board was:

If ONE more day is lost: The school day at the junior high and high school will be extended by ten minutes beginning on Tuesday, April 19, and going through Monday, May 23, which is the last scheduled full day of school for students in the 2010-11 school year. Five minutes will be added to the beginning and end of the school day. School

Museum asks city for help

By HARRIETT GILL
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The Norton County Historical Society Museum needs help with utilities to keep the museum open. That was the bottom line of the discussion before the City Council and members of the Historical Society, Joe Ballinger and Karl Kohfeld, at the regular Norton City Council meeting on Feb. 16.

"The cost last year for city utilities was \$2,539," said Joe Ballinger, Treasurer and Trustee of the Norton County Historical Society Museum. "Our total expenses at the museum were \$7,200. With insurance and other expenses, there is very little money for improvements. We have already turned off the heat in an effort to save money."

Mr. Ballinger said, "If the museum is going to stay open we need some help from the City of Norton."

"The museum could save money on the cost of water and sewer if these utilities are turned off for approximately 6 months of the year. You can call the city office and advise them to shut the water off and then call to advise them when the water services need to be turned back on," said Justina Smith, Utility Committee Chairman. "This would save roughly \$310 per year in water and sewer minimum charges."

Justina Smith further stated any public entity must carefully consider the ramifications of its' actions.

"The Council has been asked on several occasions to offer utility discounts to various businesses. To date, the Council has not offered any type of break on utilities. If the council was to approve one request, this would set the precedent for any and all requests to be granted, thereby affecting the billing structure adversely for residential and business owners," said Smith. "The City is not able to offer a discount or abatement to the utility portion of the Museum's expenses, but the committee has other ideas to help the museum to save money."

Ms. Smith stated the museum out-sources the landscaping and lawn maintenance services at a yearly cost of \$1,200. The City would be able to provide this service to the property at no cost to the museum.

A motion was passed by the Council to provide landscaping and lawn maintenance services to include mowing, edging, clipping removal, chemicals for fertilization, weed control and pesticide, maintenance and repair of existing sprinkler system and all water and water timer equipment associated with the lawn upkeep. This agreement would be reviewed every 5 years with the first review in 2016.

"With these actions, the museum could save around \$1,500 in expenses yearly," said Ms. Smith.

Mr. Ballinger and Mr. Kohfeld thanked the council and said with their other fundraising ideas the museum has a future.