

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



Tuesday
July 5, 2011

Briefly

Norton Car Show planned for Friday

The eighth annual Norton Car Show will take place Friday, July 8 and Saturday, July 9. See this Telegram issue for a schedule of events.

Farmers Market open on Thursdays

The Norton County Farmer's Market will be held 7-9 a.m. and also from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Thursdays. Please note the location for the market will be the main entrance to Elmwood Park, south side of the entrance row of cotton trees. It will be held every Thursday morning and evening until the first killing frost in the fall. The Farmer's Market allows local produce growers an opportunity to offer their foods to the public. The mission of the market is to provide private vendors the opportunity to produce and sell locally grown vegetable produce and baked goods.

Nebraska author coming to Oberlin

"Heaven Is for Real" author Todd Burpo will present a program at the Gateway Civic Center in Oberlin on Sunday, July 10 at 6 p.m. The cost of admission is \$5 plus a non-perishable food item. Proceeds from the event go to Oberlin's Teens For Christ. RSVP is required and can be made at 785-505-7395. Leave a message with your name, contact information and requested number of tickets.

Extension Office relocating this week

The Twin Creeks, Norton County Extension Office is moving this week to a new location at 107 S. State Street. The phone numbers for the office will remain the same at 877-5755 and 877-5757.

Races planned on Saturday, July 9

The next races at Elmwood Park Speedway will be Saturday, July 9 with races starting at 7 p.m.

Markets

Tuesday, July 5, 2011

Wheat	\$6.32
Milo	\$5.50
Soybeans	\$12.50
Corn	\$6.11

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Kingham Report

Friday, July 1	Low 62, High 100
	.35 Rain
Saturday, July 2	Low 65, High 86
	.50 Rain
Sunday, July 3	Low 59, High 94
	.30 Rain
Monday, July 4	Low 63, High 99
Tuesday, July 5	Low 64, High 103
Wednesday, July 6	Low 62, .80 Rain

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

Prayer

Thank you, Lord, that every time we trust you and seek your help, you hear our prayers. Thank you for the wonderful examples of confidence and strong faith we discover in the Bible. Amen.

Celebrating Freedom



(Above) A display of fireworks were set off Monday evening at the Sebelius Reservoir to celebrate July 4. (Left) Rich and Dawn Risewick of Jamboree Foods serve watermelon Monday at the Sebelius Reservoir for the annual 4th of July watermelon feed. The Risewicks donate watermelon each year for the event.

-Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

For more photos, see page 9

Huelskamp town hall draws a large crowd

By Carleen Bell
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With First District Representative Tim Huelskamp visiting Norton last Monday, local citizens have made it clear that they are most concerned about the condition of the nation's economy and how federal government decisions affect northwest Kansas.

About 50 local citizens attended Huelskamp's town hall meeting at the Town and Country Kitchen last Monday afternoon, where the Congressman presented some information about how federal government decisions affect rural Kansas. Many of the town hall attendees expressed concern over how the government is spending money and how the economy affects the quality of life in northwest Kansas.

Those in attendance at the meeting raised concern over the nation's dependence on foreign oil and the nation's financial relationship with other countries, along with how tax dollars are spent across the nation.

Huelskamp explained that he was opposed to President Obama's Rural Affairs Committee, citing concerns over the committee's effect on rural America. He reported that Cap and Trade regulations will place restrictions on rural bankers that will make lending money nearly impossible.

"The Cap and Trade proposal is going to kill rural America," Huelskamp said. "Rural bankers aren't going to have a chance. The philosophy in Washington is that government is too big to fail. Rural American banks didn't cause the nation's problem, but they are getting hammered with federal mandates." Huelskamp cited several examples of

how federal regulations are putting ever-increasing pressure on rural America with unfunded mandates. Czars, for example, are appointed by executive order and make decisions for Kansans, a method that the Congressman said he fears will make rural life increasingly difficult.

"We need to stop the czars and stay with the confirmation process," he said.

Those executive decisions carry over into healthcare, as well, especially for rural medical providers and hospitals.

"Current law says that a 14-member Board will make decisions to cut healthcare expenses," Huelskamp said. "We're losing a lot of providers and when we lose providers, we just lose services. I'm really concerned about what that means for small hospitals like the one in Norton, Kansas."

Along with healthcare, federal mandates are spilling over into county and city government. Norton County Commissioner John Miller raised concerns over being forced to raise property taxes when the federal and state governments ask counties to spend more money.

"We are being asked to change all of our road signs again," Miller said. "The only way to pay for that is to raise property taxes. Do you see an end to this?"

Huelskamp echoed those concerns and said he advocates removing some of the regulatory authority from federal agencies and commissions.

"Congress says they aren't going to fund all the regulations anymore," he said. "We can tell agencies what to regulate and what to fund. The agencies work for (the public), for Congress."

With pressing concerns and uncertainty (Huelskamp- Continued on Page 5)

Hospital leaders seek tax funding increase

By Carleen Bell
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In preparation for the new fiscal year that started Friday, representatives of the Norton County Hospital requested a tax increase from the Norton County Commissioners Thursday morning.

Hospital Administrator Rich Miller and Chief Financial Officer Ryan Stover presented a budget overview for the facility's projected income and expenditures for the coming year. Miller explained that the budget assumes 10 key points, some of which are service area, staffing and revenue and expenditures.

Miller and Stover reported that the hospital has budgeted just over \$14 million in patient revenue for the 2011-2012 fiscal year, which is an approximately \$1 million increase over 2010-2011 fiscal year. With adjustments and expenditure projections, hospital leaders are expecting a budget surplus of just over \$7,000 at the end of the fiscal year.

The hospital leaders requested a county tax appropriation of four mills, which is a 1.5 mill increase from the 2011 levy. With the current mill rate set at just over \$43,000, the hospital's request represents a total funding request of almost \$173,000 for the year.

Public entities like public hospitals and schools are funded with operating revenue, but also with tax dollars from county residents. Commissioner John Miller explained that the Commissioners will be accepting budget requests from county programs and departments over the next several weeks, but like most counties across the state, Norton County is facing ever-increasing budget pressure. With those concerns, county leaders must determine how much funding to appropriate to the entities that request a budget increase.

Those decisions, Miller said, will hinge on what he and the other Commissioners decide to do with the mill levy for county residents. The current mill rate

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County postpones road closure decision

By Carleen Bell
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After hearing objections from landowners affected by the move, the Norton County Commissioners postponed a decision Thursday morning to close a portion of County Road DD. The decision to table the matter came after a public hearing on whether or not to close a half-mile portion of the road from Road W1 to W2 from the midpoint to one-half mile east.

Road and Bridge Commissioner Sandy Smith reported that the pending decision to close the section stems from the condition of the area, which is overgrown with weeds and trees and is frequently covered by standing water.

Property owners who would like to use the road for farm and pasture access spoke up against the decision Thursday morning, however, and requested instead that the road be cleaned up and maintained better in the future.

Bob Marx, who owns property along the road, explained to the Commissioners that with the condition of the road, he has to drive four miles around his property to get to his pasture land but those extra miles could be eliminated if the road was passable. "If the trees were cleared out years ago, we wouldn't have standing water on the road," Marx said. "We would like to see the road cleared out and maintained and we don't know why the road was allowed to deteriorate to this extent."

Commissioner John Miller explained that the county has had issues maintaining roads in the past because previous road commissioners didn't pay enough attention

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Gun Team finishes well

By DICK BOYD
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The young marksmen on the Norton County Rotary BB Gun Team turned in another outstanding performance with a ninth place finish out of 48 teams in the 46th annual Daisy BB Gun Championship Match over the weekend in Rogers, Ark., the home of Daisy Outdoor Products, who were celebrating their 125th year in business.

The Norton County teams have a long tradition of placing high in the national shoot, which was called the international shoot for many years when other countries sent teams to compete.

Norton County marksmen has won the International/National Championship eight times, more than any other community in the world!

With 240 girl and boy marksmen plus alternates competing from all over the United States, the national shoot is the largest junior marksmanship competition in the world.

Norton head coach Cameron Archer was pleased as always to see his shooters once again place in the top ten and was especially happy since all of the Norton shooters were so young and set

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