

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



Friday
August 26, 2011

Briefly

Vehicle tag renewal deadline approaches

According to the Norton County Treasurer, the deadline for businesses or persons whose names begin with "M", "N" or "O" to renew automobile, light truck, motorcycle and motorized bike tags will be Aug. 31. You will need your proof of insurance with you. Office hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Driver's license renewals can be processed Tuesday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. You need to have your driver license, social security card or something with your number on it and a current utility bill with name and address on it. CDL licenses must be renewed at the Phillipsburg, Hays or Colby offices.

Blood screening to be held Tuesday

The Norton County Health promotion blood screening will be held Tuesday from 7 a.m. until noon at the Norton County Health Department at 801 North Norton, Norton. Call 785-877-5745 with questions and for prices.

Republican picnic planned for Saturday

The 31st Annual Old Fashioned Republican Picnic will be held at the Hansen Memorial Plaza in Logan this Saturday at 6 p.m. Speakers will be Pat Roberts and Tim Huelskamp. Contact Kari Moore at 638-2320, Janie Ragsdale at 638-2893 or Linda McDowell at 638-2346 for tickets.

USD 211 weight room open to public

The USD 211 Weight Room will be open to the public Monday, Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., beginning Tuesday, Sept. 6.

Markets

Friday, August 26, 2011

Wheat	\$7.67
Milo	\$6.50
Soybeans	\$12.97
Corn	\$7.20

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Tonight - Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Saturday - Mostly sunny with highs in the lower 90s. Saturday Night - Partly cloudy with lows in the mid 60s. Sunday - Mostly sunny in the morning then becoming partly sunny. Highs in the upper 80s. Sunday Night - Partly cloudy.

Kingham Report

Tuesday, August 23.....Low 63, High 102
Wed., August 24Low 62, High 94
Thursday, August 25Low 59, High 89
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Thank you, God, for always helping us, especially when our lives are stressful. Please help us to trust you always. Amen.

Norton woman celebrates 100 years

By Carleen Bell
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Not many people can say that they have lived for a full century, but one local citizen isn't just living, she's thriving.

Della Connell celebrated a milestone birthday Thursday, turning 100 years old. A resident of the Andbe Home in Norton, she celebrated with dozens of her closest friends with a party at the Andbe Home, complete with cake and a rousing rendition of "Happy Birthday."

Connell was born in 1911 on her family's farm south of Clayton, the second of four girls in her family. She reflects that growing up with only sisters was sometimes a challenge, but none of them really wanted any brothers.

She lived with her parents on the farm until after high school, when she met and married her husband, Benjamin. Della had been working as a telephone operator in Lenora when she met Benjamin and the couple married in 1931.

Together, the Connells moved to his parents' farm where the couple lived and worked until the early 1980's. When Benjamin retired from farming, they continued to live on the farm until 1982, when the couple moved to Norton.

Soon after their move, however, Benjamin suffered a stroke and his wife faithfully cared for him until 2001. Both of them had required hospital care and, after their release from separate hospitals, the couple moved to the Andbe Home that same year. Soon after, Benjamin passed away.

Together, the Connells had one son, Donald, who also passed away in 2001. Now with no immediate family, Della's room at the Andbe Home brings a steady stream of extended family and friends visiting her. That was espe-

(Connell - Continued on Page 5)

(Right) Della Connell, turning 100 years old on Thursday, prepares to cut her own birthday cake at the Andbe Home. Della celebrated her birthday with friends and family at the Andbe Home.

-Telegram photo by Carleen Bell



Norton County seeks disaster declaration

By Carleen Bell
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After severe storms caused hail damage in mid-August, local emergency management officials have reported that Norton County may be receiving a federal disaster declaration to help repair property damage from the storms.

Norton County Emergency Management Director Justina Smith reported this week that along with other emergency response and management personnel in the county, she is working to assess damage and gather data to submit to the Kansas Division of Emergency Management. The assessment data may help the county be eligible for federal dollars to recover from the storms that occurred Aug. 9-12.

"When there is a disaster or event of any kind, like tornadoes and hail storms, part of the recovery process is assessment," Smith said. "We assess the damage in the county by gathering information about any damage to public infrastructure, like buildings and roads."

Smith said the deadline to submit the

assessment data to state officials is today. State officials will then review the information and possibly direct Gov. Sam Brownback to request a federal disaster declaration for the county.

Such a declaration would make the county eligible for money from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to help recover from the storm. To be eligible, however, counties must reach a certain threshold of financial cost. Based on population from county to county, Norton County's threshold has been set at \$19,466.31. Preliminary estimates indicate that damage to public property in Norton County is in the range of \$10,000 to \$13,000, but that estimate could increase with the federal agency's cost code formula.

"I hope that if we are going to get a declaration, it would be sooner than later," Smith said. "It's really up to officials much higher than the county level, but there is no set timeline for when we know whether or not we are getting the declaration. It's fortunate that we don't have more damage, but that's a double-edged sword because we may not get the disaster declaration."

Firefighters earn trophy in Norton blood drive

By Carleen Bell
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In a "Battle of the Badges" competition to save lives, the men and women who serve on local fire departments have earned bragging rights and a trophy this year after Tuesday's American Red Cross blood drive in Norton.

American Red Cross representatives reported that local law enforcement battled local firefighters and EMS personnel to see who could donate the most blood and get the most votes for the competition.

Though exact numbers were unavail-

able, local volunteers have reported that the firefighters donated the most blood and earned the most votes during the six-hour event.

Red Cross representatives reported Monday that the goal for the overall event was 130 units, but 94 units were actually collected. Showing up to attempt to donate were 108 individuals.

The American Red Cross holds a blood drive in Norton every 56 days, which is the time a donor must wait between donations.

State treasurer seeks to return assets

By Carleen Bell
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In an effort to return lost or unclaimed assets to Kansas citizens, Kansas State Treasurer Ron Estes visited Norton County Thursday morning to help local citizens search for unclaimed assets.

Estes reported from the Norton County courthouse that the Kansas government is holding \$230 million in unclaimed money, property and assets that rightfully belong to Kansas citizens. As treasurer, Estes said, one of his responsibilities is to make sure the property gets returned to the citizens.

To do that, Estes and his staff are visiting each of the 105 Kansas counties during this calendar year to help citizens search for unclaimed property and file claims to have the property returned.

Estes said that the state acquires unclaimed property through a variety of means, but most often through businesses and organizations that turn the property over to his office.

"By law, businesses are required to turn over unclaimed property if they can't track down the rightful owners," Estes said. "The time frame for that varies, but usually it is turned over after

five years."

When Estes and staff visit citizens in each county, office representatives help the citizens search through online records and print and fill out the necessary forms to claim the property. While family members can potentially claim property of deceased relatives, Estes said, the process can become complicated and requires legal proof of rights to the money or property.

The Treasurer reported that so far, he and his staff have had great success in helping Kansas citizens claim their property and assets with an average of two out of three people being able to file a claim.

Anyone who believes they may have unclaimed property or assets in Kansas or any other state can visit www.missingmoney.com to search for unclaimed property and assets. Estes emphasized that the website is legitimate.

"There are a lot of scams out there for things like this," the Treasurer said. "If you encounter a site that asks you to pay a fee to conduct a search, it probably isn't legitimate. Citizens should never pay a fee to search for unclaimed property when they can do it for free through missingmoney.com."



Kansas State Treasurer Ron Estes visited Norton Thursday morning on his unclaimed property tour through all of the state's 105 counties. Kansans who think they may have any unclaimed assets or property are asked to visit missingmoney.com to search for themselves or their families.

-Telegram photo by Carleen Bell

See page 3 for photo

