

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



Friday

September 2, 2011

Briefly

Chess club to begin at Norton library

The Fall Session of Chess Club will begin at the Norton Public Library on Wednesday, Sept. 7. Participants will meet each Wednesday after school from 4-5 p.m. Jared Shelton will be teaching the various skills needed for playing chess. School age children with all levels of chess playing experience are welcome to attend. A light after school snack will be served. To register, please call the Library at 877-2481 or come in and sign up. This ongoing event is sponsored by the Norton Friends of the Library.

Post office to reduce hours for holiday

The Norton Post Office will reduce its window hours by one hour on Saturday Sept. 3. The window will be open from 9 to 10 a.m. Mail will be delivered as usual. The Post Office will be closed on Monday, Sept 5. Regular hours will resume on Tuesday, Sept 6. Starting on Saturday, Sept. 17, the mail truck will leave Norton at 3:30 p.m. Mail in the outside collection box will be picked up at 3:10 p.m. on Saturdays. Outgoing mail should be at the Post Office by 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Telegram office to be closed Monday

The Norton Telegram will be closed on Monday for Labor Day. The Monday Extra and the Tuesday Telegram will be put together and delivered free to everyone in Norton on Wednesday like the Monday Extra normally is. If you do not receive this free paper please contact our office and let us know.

Ribbon cutting set for Tuesday

There will be a ribbon cutting Tuesday at 11 a.m. for the new Twin Creeks Extension Office located on South State Street next to Twice Sold Treasures.

Markets

Friday, September 2, 2011

Wheat	\$7.81
Milo	\$6.51
Soybeans	\$13.20
Corn	\$7.16

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Tonight - Mostly cloudy and cooler with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the evening. Saturday - Partly sunny and not as warm. Sunday - Sunny with highs in the lower 70s.

Kingham Report

Tuesday, August 30.....Low 62, High 85
1.60 Rain
Wednesday, Aug. 31Low 65, High 93
Thursday, Sept. 1Low 65, High 100
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm
9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Thank you, Lord, for your constant care. Thank you that wherever we go, "your hand shall lead (us), and your right hand shall hold (us) fast." Amen

Cause of fire undetermined



By Carleen Bell
cbell@nwkansas.com

An apartment on the east side of Norton has suffered significant smoke damage after a fire broke out in the building Tuesday afternoon.

Norton Fire Chief Mitch Jones reported that fire crews were called to the scene at 405 E. Holme Street just before 2:45 p.m. Tuesday after a fire was reported in a small apartment building at that address.

Upon arrival, fire crews found that the second floor of the structure was burning, but Jones said the smoke and flames were contained primarily to the main living area of the upper floor.

The 16 firefighters responding to the call were able to contain and extinguish the blaze in a very short time.

"We got a good knockdown

on the blaze and we were able to contain it mostly to one room," Jones said. "The smoke and fire damage were pretty much contained only to the second floor."

Fire crews were on the scene for just under two hours, but were called back at about 9 p.m. Tuesday evening when the fire reignited in the building. Firefighters spent about an hour working through the building's attic to locate and extinguish any smoldering spots.

Jones said the cause of the fire was undetermined Thursday afternoon and a state fire marshal may be called in later to determine a cause.

The Norton Fire Department, Norton Police Department, Norton County Sheriff's officers and Norton County EMS responded to the fire.

(Left) A Norton firefighter sprays down a stuffed chair that had been burning inside an apartment building on East Holme Street Tuesday afternoon. The cause of the blaze is unknown and no injuries were reported.

—Telegram photo by Carleen Bell

Republican picnic draws large crowd

By Dick Boyd

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

The 31st annual Phillips County Old-Fashioned Republican Picnic was held last Saturday, Aug. 27 at the Dane G. Hansen Memorial Plaza in Logan and another large crowd of congressmen, state legislators, other officials and supporters attended.

Mingling with national, state and local Republican officials, enjoying the usual delicious fried chicken dinner with all the trimmings and listening to positive speeches by party officials made it another delightful evening for everyone.

Through the years, the picnic has drawn many Republican dignitaries, including U.S. Senators Bob Dole and Nancy Kassebaum, former Kansas Governors Bill Graves and Mike Hayden, former U.S. First District Congressman and now U.S. Senator Jerry Moran and U.S. Senator Pat Roberts.

Senator Moran had conflicts this year that kept him from attending but Senator Roberts was present along with freshman First District Congressman Tim Huelskamp, who was accompanied by his wife, Angela.

The fried chicken, baked beans, potato salad and watermelon meal was followed by a speeches and patriotic music.

Speakers, in addition to Roberts and Huelskamp, were: Ralph Ostmeyer, Grinnell, State Senator; Ward Cassidy, St. Francis, State Representative; Bob Tomlinson, Topeka, Assistant Commissioner of Insurance, representing Commissioner of Insurance Sandy Praeger; Randy Duncan, Brookville, First District Republican Chairman; Derek Schmidt, Independence, Kansas Attorney General; Clay Barker, Executive



Roberts



Ostmeyer



Huelskamp



Logan's Hannah Pinkerton, left, and sister RaeAnn Pinkerton entertained the large crowd attending the 31st annual Phillips County Old-Fashioned Republican Picnic on Saturday evening at the Dane G. Hansen Memorial Plaza in Logan with a touching patriotic song, "American Tears".

—Telegram photo by Dick Boyd

Director, Kansas Republican Party, Topeka; Kelly Arnold, Vice Chairman, Kansas Republican Party, Wichita; Travis Lovelady, representing State Treasurer Ron Estes; Garrett Love, Montezuma, State Senator, plus numerous State Representatives.

Present from the Phillips County Republican Central Committee were: Rob Pinkerton, Logan, chairman; Janie Ragsdale, Agra, vice-chairman; Kari Moore, Phillipsburg, secretary; Linda McDowell, Agra, treasurer, who is also Phillips County clerk.

Other dignitaries present were Bob Quanz, Glade, Phillips County Commissioner and wife, Shirley; Kenneth Rose, Agra, Phillips county Commissioner and wife, Janice; Bonnie Leidig, Phillipsburg, District magistrate judge; Judy Rowland, Phillipsburg, Phillips County treasurer; John Miller, Norton, Norton County Commissioner; Sheila Frahm, Colby, former U.S. Senator and Kansas Lieutenant Governor and husband, Ken.

Celia Beymer, Lakin, First Congressional District vice-chairman, read a note from National Committeewoman Helen Van Etten, Topeka, expressing regret that she would be unable to be present.

Janene Schneider, Logan, was the master of ceremonies.

To begin, RaeAnn and Hannah Pinkerton, both from Logan, entertained the crowd with a patriotic song, "American Tears".

Troy Buss, pastor, First Christian Church, Logan, gave the invocation.

Four Teenage Republicans led everyone in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Former police officer released on diversion

By Carleen Bell

cbell@nwkansas.com

After months of court proceedings and negotiations, a former Norton police officer accused of sexually assaulting two women was freed, with stipulations, Wednesday after a motions hearing in Norton County court.

Ryan L. Zweygardt was released on a two-year diversion just one week before he was scheduled to go to trial on charges of rape and aggravated battery.

Zweygardt was originally charged on April 21 with two counts of rape, one count of aggravated criminal sodomy and one count of aggravated battery after two women accused him of sexually assaulting them in two separate incidents. The charge of aggravated battery was later dropped.

Since his April 21 arrest, Zweygardt has been held in the Graham County jail and was slated to go to trial next Thursday.

Norton County prosecutor Doug Sebelius reported, however, that he and Zweygardt's attorney, Dan Walter, reached an agreement that will defer a possible trial and keep Zweygardt out of jail for two years if he fulfills stipulations set forth by the arrangement.

"Mr. Walter and I reached an agreement to place the defendant on a two-year diversion agreement," Sebelius said.

"If he has to go to trial, it will be for charges other than rape."

Essentially, Sebelius said, if Zweygardt is a model citizen for the next two years and fulfills requirements set forth by the court, all charges will be dropped after two years.

As part of the diversion agreement, Zweygardt is released from custody and will be required to reside within the state of Kansas for the next two years. He is also required to undergo therapy for anger and aggression management and work with Norton County Court Services to fulfill the provisions. He is also barred from contact or communication in any manner with the alleged assault victims and is prohibited from seeking further employment as a law enforcement officer.

While Sebelius and Walter reached an agreement before the case went to trial, the prosecutor admitted that the outcome wasn't exactly what he had hoped.

"You can say you're never totally satisfied with the outcome, but I think this solution best serves the interest of justice," Sebelius said. "The defendant has the opportunity to better himself without suffering the full repercussions of what could come from taking the case to trial."

Dan Walter, Zweygardt's attorney, was not available to comment on the case Wednesday or Thursday.

No injuries reported in Wednesday crash at 2nd, Highway 36

By Carleen Bell

cbell@nwkansas.com

Three drivers avoided injury Wednesday afternoon when their vehicles collided in a minor accident at the intersection of Second Street and Highway 36.

Norton Police Chief Pat Morel reported Thursday that about 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Joseph Annon was operating a Ford Ranger westbound on Highway 36, attempting to turn south onto Second Street. At the same time, Heidi Lane-Davis was operating a Ford Taurus eastbound on Highway 36, also attempting to turn south on Second Street. Annon didn't see Lane-Davis trying to turn at the same time and the vehicles collided. The impact pushed the Taurus

(Crash - Continued on Page 5)

