

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



Friday

June 22, 2012

Wheat stubble burns off in small fire



A wheat stubble fire broke out two miles north of Road F and W3 in Norton County late Monday afternoon. Rural Fire Chief Steve Otter reported that about 6:20 p.m., the field caught fire from something hot on a combine in the field. About 25 acres burned in the fire, which was mostly wheat stubble and some green wheat. A crew of 11 firefighters was on the scene for about two hours before the fire was extinguished. Pictured, firefighters put out the last of the fire.

- Telegram photo by Dana Paxton



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Council decides on proposed sales tax ballot

By Carleen Bell
cbell@nwkansas.com

Setting the proposed tax below recommendation, the Norton City Council agreed Wednesday evening, by a tie-breaker vote, to propose a .75 percent sales tax to fund a new swimming pool for the city.

Rick Ensz, the city's bond underwriter for the possible project, reported to the council Wednesday evening that if the city builds a new pool with the design as it stands, he is recommending a .85 percent sales tax to cover the costs of building, maintaining and operating the pool.

That recommendation is based on an estimated \$4.535 million to be financed for the project, which includes all costs like bonding fees and engineering fees, along with construction costs.

Looking for ways to keep the proposed sales tax as low as possible, council member Jerry Moritz reported that the current city budget has \$60,000

set aside for pool operation and maintenance and raised the question of whether or not the tax could be set at .75 percent and still raise enough money for the project.

According to Ensz, the bonds are not guaranteed with sales tax dollars, so the city can set the sales tax as low or as high as they deem necessary as long as funding for interest and principal payments are covered by some other source.

In what has come down to a council divided over the issue, council members Jerry Jones, Jerry Moritz and Ron Briery expressed concern that the council is preparing to propose a sales tax for a project when they still have questions about the specifications and details of the design.

"We got into a situation with the

sewer plant where we turned a contractor loose with \$3.5 million and no plans," explained council member Ron Briery. "Are we tied to this pool design if the sales tax passes? I'm a little leary of buying something I don't know or understand what I'm getting."

Representing the half of the council in favor of moving forward with the project as it stands, however, council member Harriett Gill referred her colleagues back to an evaluation report from Kevin McElyea of Aquatic Design Consultants, Inc.

"I don't believe they have misled us," Gill said. "They gave us a range of cost depending on size and features. The features we choose affects the cost."

McElyea also voiced his agreement with that opinion, maintaining that exact cost of the project won't be avail-

able until after bids are gathered and even with bids, the cost could increase or decrease.

Council members who aren't totally in favor of moving forward with the project as it is have expressed concern that other emergency projects might require large expenditures.

After some discussion and in the interest of moving the project forward, council member Donna Foley proposed that instead of asking the public to pass a .85 percent sales tax with no sunset, the ballot for public consideration be set at .75 percent with a 20-year sunset, a provision which some council members have requested from the beginning of the process.

(Council- Continued on Page 5)

Norton Thunder to hold a fund-raiser

The Norton Lady Thunder softball team will hold a car wash and bake sale fund-raiser on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Downtown Carwash. A free will donation will be accepted for the automatic car wash and team members will dry vehicles.

Shred day planned Saturday morning

To help citizens dispose of potentially sensitive information, Moffet Drug and Cintas will host a free shred day at the drug store this Saturday. The shredder truck will be accepting paper that needs to be shredded to help guard against identity theft, such as personal or business financial records. The truck will be on site from 9 a.m. to noon and everyone in the community can take documents to be shredded.

BB Gun team will be hosting trap shoot

The Norton Rotary BB Gun Team will host the third annual Wobble Trap Shoot on Saturday at 9:30 a.m. at the Blackpowder Range. Entry fee is \$5 per round and participants should bring their own guns and ammunition. Rocks will be supplied and a lunch stand will be available. All ages are encouraged to participate. For more information, contact Chandra McKenna at 785-871-1314.

Markets

Friday, June 22, 2012

Wheat\$6.51
Milo\$5.47
Soybeans\$13.58
Corn\$6.02

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Friday evening - Breezy and partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Saturday - Sunny and warmer with highs around 104. Sunday - Sunny with highs around 103. Sunday evening - A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms. Monday - Partly cloudy with highs in the 90s.

Kingham Report

Tuesday, June 19.....Low 71, High 101
Wednesday, June 20.....Low 63, High 81
Thursday, June 21.....Low 55, High 96
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Dear Lord, help us always to remember that when life is difficult, we have your light to show us the way. Amen.

Registration is open for Aug. 7 primary election

By Carleen Bell
cbell@nwkansas.com

For anyone who would like to register to vote in the Aug. 7 primary election, the final day to register or change parties is Tuesday, July 17 at 5 p.m.

Anyone who would like to register to vote must go to the Norton County Clerk's Office (Courthouse, 2nd floor) with a photo identification to fill out a voter registration form. Norton County Clerk Robert Wyatt reports that the identification can be driver's license, state issued identification card, government-issued identification or college identification. Regardless of the type, the photo identification must bear a current photo and name of the person registering.

Voters must also provide photo identification at the polling places on election day.

For the Aug. 7 primary election, polling hours will be from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at multiple locations around the county.

-Almena City-Townships and Harrison: Almena Community Center

-Center Precincts 1 and 2, Highland Precinct 3, Old Belle Plain: Norton County Courthouse lobby

-Highland Precinct 1 and all of Modell: Lenora Community Building

-Highland Precinct 2, Solomon Precincts 1 and 2: American Legion building

-Wards 1, 2 and 3 of Norton: American Legion building

School reports on 2012 scholarship data

By Carleen Bell
cbell@nwkansas.com

Following completion of the class's high school career, Norton Community High School guidance counselor Shane Miller has reported on scholarship statistics for the school's class of 2012.

Miller reported to the Norton school board at their June meeting that 45 students graduated this year, which was quite a bit lower than last year's 59 graduates. Consequently, average scholarship money was also decreased from last year.

Of the students who graduated in 2012, Miller reported, 35 intend to pursue college at two or four-year institutions, seven intend to attend technical schools or other post-secondary interests, two intend to enter the workforce and one student is undecided.

The 2012 graduates earned an average of \$3,895 each in

scholarships this year, which is down from the 2011 average of \$4,645.

The average is from local, regional/state, national and institution scholarships, totaling \$163,590 in financial aid money. Local scholarships amounted to \$53,200 with \$26,750 coming from regional/state scholarships. Institution scholarships outweighed both, however, totaling \$83,640.

The guidance counselor also reported to the school board on a study conducted by students at Oberlin High School about area ACT scores. According to the study of six high schools, including Oberlin, St. Francis, Atwood, Phillipsburg, Norton and Smith Center, Norton had the highest average ACT score among those schools with an average of 24.87. The highest possible score on the ACT, which most high school juniors take, is 36.

Leadership Norton County nominations open

Leadership Norton County has announced its 2012-2013 class schedule and is seeking applications for the upcoming class roster.

The goal of Leadership Norton County is to establish a network of present and potential leaders and to give upcoming leaders an opportunity for growth and experience with the guidance and assistance of those who presently hold positions of leadership.

The 2012-2013 class is scheduled to meet eight times, including an Introductory Session, Aug. 23 and concluding with a Graduation Banquet, March 6, 2013. In between, class mem-

bers will participate in six, fast-paced, full-day sessions which will deal with local government, health care, education, agriculture, economic development and a state government field trip to Topeka.

The program is co-sponsored by the K-State Research & Extension Service, Norton Area Chamber of Commerce, Norton County Economic Development and many area wide business and individual sponsors who assist with the program cost.

Previous class members are Catrina Kunclers, Craig Eveleigh, Verla Grysch, Jeana Cozad, Julia Nelson,

Jamie Wentz, Missi Schoen, Justina Smith, Teresa Clydesdale, and Nicole Rushton.

Persons seeking more information about Leadership Norton County may contact Keith VanSlike at 877-5755 or Tara Vance at the Norton Chamber at 877-2501. Leadership Norton County brochures and nomination forms are available at the Norton County Extension Office, and the Norton Visitors Center. Nominations for class members are due Aug. 3 and the class member selections will be announced Aug. 15.

Producers encouraged to enter Market Wheat Show

With the wheat harvest underway, producers are encouraged to enter the Market Wheat Show at the Norton County Fair this year.

The entries will be collected at the fair and sent to the State Grain Inspection Service to determine the physical properties such as test weight, protein and dockage.

Scores will be tallied after the official grading is done. Results of final scores will be sent out to the participants after the fair. All that is needed is a bin run sample of about five pounds. Entries can be submitted in a container or a large baggie style freezer bag that is sealable. A large coffee can is about the right amount to submit. Samples do not need to be sifted or cleaned.

A data entry form must be included with the entry. The score also depends upon some of the information filled out on the card, such as variety type, growing conditions and cultural practices used with growing the wheat. You do not need to fill out a white fair entry card.

The brown entry cards can be picked up at the Twin Creeks Extension Office (785-877-5755) or contact Dwight Heikes who is superintendent of Crops and Wheat.

Producers may leave their samples at the Twin Creeks Extension Office, 107 S. State Street, downtown Norton, before the fair or take them to the 4-H Building on Entry Day, Tuesday, July 24 by 1 p.m.

