

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

8 PAGES

Tuesday

August 21, 2012

Briefly

Blood drive will be this Wednesday

The American Red Cross will hold the Battle of the Badges blood drive this Wednesday from 12-6 p.m. at the Norton 4-H building, highlighting our hometown heroes.

Ribbon cutting for college is Saturday

There will be an open house for the Colby Community College nursing campus at the old doctor's clinic in Norton on Saturday with a ribbon cutting at 10 a.m.

Child screening will be Friday at school

Eisenhower Elementary School will be conducting a free Early Childhood Screen on Friday, Aug. 24. Those eligible are children ages three through five. The appointments are approximately 30 minutes, beginning at 8 a.m.

To schedule an appointment, please call Eisenhower Elementary School at 877-5113 by Aug. 23, and ask for Joan Hale.

Smokin' in the Barn to be this weekend

The fourth annual Smokin' In The Barn challenge will start this Friday night at 7 p.m. with the cooking. The event will continue on Saturday at 6 p.m. with a meal, followed by a dance at 8 p.m. The public is invited to watch the cooking and judge for people's choice.

Puppy Plunge set for this weekend

The Norton City swimming pool and the Norton Animal Health Center will host the first ever Puppy Plunge on Saturday from noon to 5 p.m. and then again on Sunday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pre-register at Norton Animal Health or show up the day of. Must provide proof that your pet is current on all vaccinations. Bring some snacks and take the plunge with your best friend.

Markets

Tuesday, August 21, 2012

Wheat.....	\$8.28
Milo.....	\$7.72
Soybeans.....	\$16.71
Corn.....	\$8.07

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Wednesday - Clear with a high of 91. A 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the evening. Thursday - Overcast with a chance of a thunderstorm and chance of rain.

Kingham Report

Friday, August 17.....Low 49, High 82
 Saturday, August 18.....Low 52, High 85
 Sunday, August 19.....Low 45, High 83
 Monday, August 20.....Low 49, High 91
 (Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Dear Lord, teach us your good way and give us courage to follow it. Amen

Valley Hope holds annual Alkathon

The Norton Valley Hope Association held the 45th annual meeting and Alkathon over the weekend.

New board members were elected at the meeting Friday and over 200 were in attendance at the Alkathon on Saturday. The day started with the Freedom Ride from the treatment center to the Parish Center in downtown Norton.

This year's theme was Prairie Miracles. Many things took place during the Alkathon including award presentations, speakers, fellowship, a meal and a silent auction. All proceeds from the auction go to help with books, personal hygiene products, clothing as well as money for down payments on half way houses for those leaving the Valley Hope treatment facility. Valley Hope first opened its doors right here in Norton in 1967 and now 45 years later there are 18 facilities in seven states.

Each year during the 45th Annual Valley Hope Alkathon a person is presented with the Golden Heart Award. This year's winner was Jim Sughroue from Indianola, Neb. The recipient of this award is one who has helped others in the midst of their addictions as well as those in recovery. Pictured, Larry Black presents Sughroue with the award at the Alkathon.

-Telegram photo by Dana Paxton



Hearing scheduled for proposed hog facility

By Carleen Bell
 cbell@nwkansas.com

Ahead of a public hearing on the matter, the Norton County Commissioners have declined to rescind a vote earlier this year to request reduced separation distance for a proposed hog confinement facility near Calvert.

Concerned citizen Joyce Quinn approached the commissioners Monday morning to ask the county leaders to rescind a decision they made on April 16 that supports a reduced separation distance between the proposed facility, and any habitable structures in the area. Terry Nelson is seeking to build the facility as an expansion of Nelson Farms.

While the Kansas Department of Health and Environment initially declined Nelson's request to reduce the mandated separation distance from the

proposed facility to a habitable structure, the Norton County Commissioners submitted a letter of support to reduce the distance.

A hearing is scheduled for Wednesday in Alma to help the state department determine if the request will be granted.

When Quinn approached the commissioners Monday morning, she asserted that since the county leaders initially voted on the proposed facility plan, revisions have been made to the plan, specifically making it a two-stage lagoon system instead of the original three-stage.

While Quinn's assertions have not been verified, commissioner John Miller said he didn't feel it was fair to reverse the commission's decision so near the public hearing.

In addition, Miller explained, Quinn

and other challengers to the decision would have the opportunity to voice their opinions at Wednesday's hearing, leaving the decision up to the Department of Health and Environment.

At the April 16 commissioners meeting, several concerned citizens expressed their opposition to the proposed facility, citing concerns over air and water quality. Nelson emphasized, however, that regardless of whether the state allows him to build the proposed facility, he does intend to expand.

The question, however, is whether the expansion will be one large facility or three or four smaller facilities. Nelson said that the larger site would include a three-stage lagoon system and more environmental regulations than the smaller facilities, which would use only single-stage lagoons and carry far fewer regulations and permitting rules.

"The bottom line is that we are going to build a hog unit there," Nelson said. "For everyone's sake, we hope to build one big unit instead of three or four smaller ones."

In the end, the Norton County Commissioners passed a resolution to request that the Secretary of Health and Environment reduce the separation distance for the proposed facility from 4,000 feet to 3,000 feet.

Commissioners John Miller and Carolyn Applegate approved the move and commissioner Richard Thompson opposed the decision.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment public hearing on the matter is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. at the Alma Community Center on Wednesday.

Fire destroys Beaver City bar, damages adjoining building

By Carleen Bell
 cbell@nwkansas.com

Bringing in mutual aid from seven departments, the Beaver City, Neb. fire department spent most of Sunday battling a fire at the Branding Iron bar in Beaver City, which destroyed the bar building and heavily damaged an adjoining business.

Travis Theobald of the Beaver City Fire Department reported Monday that the department received a call at 4:39 Sunday morning of a fire at the Branding Iron, which is located on the north side of the Beaver City town square and owned by Tonya Roberts of Beaver City.

When they arrived at the scene, the building was engulfed in flames and the blaze had spread to the adjoining Strayer Motor Company.

Along with the total loss of the bar, half of the Strayer building was destroyed, which was mostly used for storage. Four antique cars were lost in the blaze.

Theobald said that crews from Wilsonville, Cambridge, Holbrook, Edison, Arapahoe, Oxford, Stanford, Orleans and Alma, along with Beaver City, responded to the fire, along with the Beaver City EMS and Furnas County Sheriff's Department.

Three state fire marshals were on the scene Sunday with an arson dog, but as of Monday, no cause had been released.



The Branding Iron bar was destroyed in a fire early Sunday morning in Beaver City, Neb. The blaze also damaged part of the adjoining Strayer Motor Company building. Pictured, Kerby Strayer of the Beaver City Fire Department talks with a fire marshal about the potential cause of the blaze. As of Monday, no cause had been released.

-Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

