

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



Friday

December 14, 2012

Briefly

Calling contest held on Saturday

A coyote calling Contest will be Saturday (\$30-2 man team). You must be pre-entered before 6 p.m. on Dec. 14. Includes a meal Saturday night and each contestant's name will be in a drawing for a Bushmaster AR-15 .223 cal., 5.56 mm. For more information contact, Rick McChesney (202-2468) or John Baker (877-3253).

Football banquet to be held Sunday

The annual Norton Community High School Football Awards Banquet, sponsored by the Blue Jay Booster Club, will be held this Sunday at 6 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.

A carry-in meal will precede presentations.

All fans are invited and are asked to bring a main dish and side dish or dessert and their own table service. Drinks will be provided.

Food for flicks this Sunday at theatre

The Norton Theatre and the Norton Boy Scouts Troop 181 are having the second "Canned Film Festival Food Drive" on Sunday at the Norton Theatre. Free admission to a special 1:30 p.m. movie showing with a donation of non-perishable food items per person. All food donations will go to God's Pantry.

Telegram holding a coloring contest

The Telegram has its coloring contest. Pictures can be picked up at the Telegram or the Almena Market. All entries due back to the Telegram no later than noon Dec. 20. Judging will take place Dec. 21.

Markets

Friday, December 14, 2012

Wheat.....	\$8.05
Milo.....	\$6.87
Soybeans.....	\$14.29
Corn.....	\$7.18

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Friday Night - Overcast with rain in the evening, then mostly cloudy with a chance of snow and rain. Low of 37. Saturday - Partly cloudy in the morning, then clear. High of 52. Saturday Night - Partly cloudy with a chance of snow and chance of rain. Sunday - Partly cloudy with a high of 48.

Kingham Report

Tuesday, Dec. 11.....Low 14, High 43
Wednesday, Dec. 12.....Low 20, High 52
Thursday, Dec. 13.....Low 28, High 57
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Dear Lord, in good times and in bad, we praise you for all that you are doing in our lives. Help us to reach out to those for whom we pray. Amen.

Raise up your voices...



The Norton junior and senior high school students had a flawless performance last night as they presented their Christmas program for family and friends. Show Choir started it off followed by the junior high singers then mixed both the junior and senior high chorus' and then the senior high. Sticking with tradition, the entire group entered

the audience, the lights turned down and the grand finale was silent night. Tamra Cochran has worked at UDS 211 for five years now and the programs her students put on are always very memorable.

- Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

Bonds underwrite council meeting

By Mike Stephens

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The Norton City Council meeting held on Wednesday, Dec. 5, focused on two resolutions needed to issue revenue bonds to pay for the city's swimming pool project.

Norton City bond underwriter, Rick Ensz, discussed the City's resolution of intent to issue revenue bonds, and the Public Building Commission's Resolution of intent to issue revenue bonds. Ensz informed the council that the Public Building Commission's Resolution must be published for two consecutive weeks, and then there is a 30 day protest period. He also stated that interest rates are at all-time historic lows, so the sooner the City locks in the interest rate, the better. Ensz said the three steps that need to take place are; 1. passing the Resolution of Intent, 2. signing the bond documents, 3. and closing on the bonds.

Ensz expects to receive the first invoice for the pool design by January 1, 2013.

Council member Jerry Moritz made a motion, that was seconded by Donna

Foley, to adopt Resolution #12-2012, requesting the City of Norton PBC to issue revenue bonds in an amount not to exceed \$4,535,000 for the purpose of paying all or a portion of the costs of constructing a city swimming pool project to be leased to the City of Norton. The motion carried with a vote of 5-1, with Jerry Jones voting no.

Council member Ron Briery made a motion, that was seconded by Donna Foley, to recess the council meeting for 10 minutes in order to conduct a Public Building Commission meeting to consider Resolution No. PBC 2. The motion carried with a vote of 5-1, with Jerry Jones voting no.

The Norton Public Building Commission convened at 6:10 p.m., and a motion was made by council member Harriett Gill, and was seconded by Donna Foley, to approve Resolution No. PBC 2, a resolution declaring it necessary for the City of Norton PBC to construct a new swimming pool to be leased to the City of Norton, to issue revenue bonds in an amount not to exceed \$4,535,000 for the purpose of paying all or a portion of the costs of

a city swimming project; and providing for the giving of notice of said intention. The motion carried with a vote of 5-1, with Jerry Jones voting no.

The PBC meeting was adjourned at 6:16 p.m., and the City Council reconvened in regular session.

Jerry Moritz made a motion to approve the formal second reading of Ordinance #1634, authorizing the imposition of a three-quarter percent (0.75%) citywide general purpose retailer's sales tax and related matters. The vote was taken and the motion carried 4-2, with Ron Briery and Jerry Jones voting no.

Moritz reported the city sales tax receipts collected in October of 2012 totaled \$22,734, and the county sales tax receipts totaled \$20,988, for a total of \$43,722. The 2012 yield to date receipts total \$439,987.

Roberta Ryan made a motion, seconded by Ron Briery, to approve the power contract with Prairie Land Electric.

City Administrator Rob Lawson said the contract includes everything that he requested. The rates will get 5.87 percent cheaper in 2017 and 5.02 percent

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Improvements for Ag Valley road entrance

By Cynthia Haynes

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Norton County is looking to improve a road leading to the new Ag Valley Grain facility.

County commissioners met on Monday with engineers from Schwab Eaton to discuss what upgrades are needed in roads E1 and L and the intersection between them.

Stuart Porter, an engineer with Schwab Eaton out of Beloit, told the commissioners that the plan is for asphalt patching and an overlay on Road E1 and concrete pavement, drainage improvement and minor right-of-way acquisition on Road L and the intersection of the two roads just east of the entrance to the new Ag Valley site.

He said that contracts have been signed and temporary financing for the project is in place but the timing has not been determined. The project cannot be done before the wheat harvest, he said.

The geotechnical work on the area is being done now, he said, but it will take at least a month to complete and get the report. Then they can start the design and surveying can be done.

"Is this a project you want us to push as hard as we can on," Mr. Porter asked adding that would the commissioners prefer to wait until after fall harvest.

The E1 road and intersection are basic anchors, Commissioner Carolyn Applegate noted.

Commissioner John Miller suggested that the engineers check with the people out at Ag Valley to get a better idea of their busy shipping times.

Mrs. Applegate said that if part of the E1 road and intersection could be done before the wheat harvest it would be preferable.

Mr. Porter noted that the county is at the mercy of when a hot-mix asphalt plant is in the vicinity to cut down on the costs.

Norton Economic Development Director Scott Sproul, who was attending the meeting, noted that the state will be doing an overlay on U.S. 36, probably this spring or summer, and that might be a good time to look at the project.

"If we can do anything to speed it up, let's do it," Mrs. Applegate said.

Mr. Miller asked if the county could buy the right-of-way in the area to make sure it's available when needed. Other-

(Improve - Continued on Page 5)

A postage increase set to start in January

The price of stamps will be going up again at the end of next month as the U.S. Postal Service struggles with a financial crisis.

"They're going up the 27th of January," Norton Postmaster Larry Donahey said.

The agency reported a \$15.9 billion loss for fiscal year 2012, as compared to \$5.1 billion last year. \$11.1 billion of that total loss was due to two payments to prefund retiree health benefits.

Mr. Donahey said, "We've been busier due to the holidays; lots of packages so our volume is way up right now."

The rate for first-class letters will go up a penny, from 45 to 46 cents, beginning in January, according to the service's website. The charge for postcards will go from 33 cents to 34 cents. Most First-Class stamps are "forever" stamps, which were created to help consumers get through price changes. Because they are "forever," they can be used through any price changes.

Prices will increase for other mailing services, the service



The price of stamps will be going up again, from 45 to 46 cents, beginning in January. (Pictured) U.S. Postal Service employee Jean Bowman scans a package.

-Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

said, including standard mail (mostly advertising), periodicals such as newspapers and magazines, package services and extra services such as

registered mail and return receipts.

Brian Sperry, a postal service spokesman in Denver, said the overall average price increase across all mailing services is capped by law at 2.1 percent, based on the rate of inflation shown by the Consumer Price Index.

The price increase is one way for the service to deal with its financial crisis, he said, and hopefully bring the agency back to its feet. He said the service adjusts prices, just like other shipping companies, but doesn't add surcharges for fuel or residential or Saturday delivery.

A timeline of letter prices issued by the service shows the price of a stamp was 2 cents in 1885. Since 2006, the service has had a price increase every year except 2010. The last stamp increase was in January, from 44 cents to 45 cents.

"People don't say much about the increase but they are sure to buy the "Forever" stamps," Donahey stated.

Our Gift To You

Destination *Kitchen* from...

115 W. Main, Norton, KS

20% OFF EVERYTHING ON DECEMBER 17 AND 18

(DOES NOT INCLUDE DESTINATION BABY BY ELLEVEN)



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