

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

10 PAGES

Friday
January 11, 2013

Briefly

Legion spaghetti supper coming up

The Long Island American Legion Post #304 will be hosting a free – will donation spaghetti supper on Saturday, January 19, 2013 from 5 – 7 p.m.

If there are any veterans that think they would like to join the American Legion, please come visit with one of our members at the Spaghetti Supper or call me (653 – 2527).

If you have recently moved to the area and are currently a member of another post, we can assist with switching post memberships as well.

Favorite food show to be held Sunday

Norton County 4-H members will be preparing their favorite recipe and showing off their best hostess style as they present the Favorite Food Show, Sunday, Jan. 13, at the 4-H Building in Norton. Registration is from 1:45 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., judging will be done from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. and the exhibits will be open to the public at 4 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Company giving cash for treasures

Come get cash for your treasures Tuesday and Wednesday of next week. Estate Jewelry and Treasures will be at the Brooks Motel in Suite 101 in Norton from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. to buy your treasures.

Reception to be held for retirees

There will be a retirement reception held for Commissioners John Miller and Carolyn Applegate on Monday from 9:30 to 11 a.m. on the second floor lobby of the Norton County Courthouse.

Markets

Friday, January 11, 2013

Wheat.....	\$7.38
Milo.....	\$6.63
Soybeans.....	\$13.13
Corn.....	\$7.00

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Friday Night - Clear in the evening, then partly cloudy. Low of 18. Saturday - Partly cloudy with high of 28 with a windchill as low as 5. Saturday Night - Partly cloudy with a low of 10. Sunday - Clear with a high of 28. Sunday Night - Partly cloudy in the evening, then clear.

Kingham Report

Tuesday, Jan. 8.....Low 11, High 41
Wednesday, Jan. 9.....Low 20, High 45
Thursday, Jan. 10.....Low 32, High 37
.02 Rain

(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Thank you, Lord, for creating us to reflect who you are. Help us to be faithful in doing so. Through Christ we pray. Amen



The Natoma Corporation airplane and The Valley Hope jet are seen setting in front of the new self service fueling station located at the Norton airport. Offering two kinds of aviation fuel allows travelers in our air-space to stop at any time to re-fuel. – Courtesy photo

Self service fuel station now available

By Dana Paxton
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Norton has recently added another service to bring people to town. A self service fueling station at the airport now makes it available to get two kinds of airplane fuel day or night, twentyfour-seven.

The airport board has had this in the works for two years now and it is now a reality. After much planning and several hoops the board had Kent Misegades out of North Carolina come and submit a proposal six months ago. The proposal came from U-Fuel Systems and the new self service fueling station would cost \$130,814. The board accepted the proposal and approached First State Bank of Norton to borrow the money.

A new concrete slab had to be poured for the new station and sits on the north-west side of the turn around. As of December first it was up and running. The station offers 100 LL aviation gas and Jet-A jet fuel. The gas runs about \$6 per gallon and the Jet-A is a bit cheaper.

Gail Boller, airport board member, said “I have used the new station. It is easy to pull up to, can be used at any time with a credit card and self service stations are about 50 cents cheaper than a full service station. I expect more traffic through this area due to the new station because those flying across country can now stop in at any time and get fuel here. This is a very good thing for Norton County.”

Norton continues to be a growing community and with this new service it only makes our little town all that much better.

Two commissioners to step down

By Cynthia Haynes
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Retiring commissioner John Miller will stop being one of the Norton County’s top officials and become one of its employees next week.

Miller, who will leave the commission on Monday as newly elected commissioner Charles Posson is sworn in, has been named the new county solid waste supervisor and will take over that job on Tuesday.

Commissioner Carolyn Applegate, who is also retiring next week, announced the appointment at the commission meeting on Monday saying that the county had eight applicants and ended up interviewing two people for the position.

Mr. Miller she stressed was not involved in the decision process. Instead the two remaining commissioners and the two incoming commissioners, Mr. Posson and Dr. R.A. Peterson, made up

the selection committee.

The county has been without a solid waste supervisor for several months.

Mrs. Applegate also told the two commissioners-elect that they would have to put money aside from the budget to pay for two major maintenance problems.

The first, she said, was the courthouse plumbing.

There has been continued problems with the third-floor men’s restroom, which has been leaking into the second-floor restroom.

The problem came to a head several months ago over a weekend, she said.

Luckily the Relay for Life was taking place and when someone entered the courthouse they discovered water coming down the stairs and alerted the county as to the problem.

Since then, however, all efforts to repair the problem have been only partially successful.

The second big item, she said, is the

wiring at the county shop.

“We’re going to burn the shop down if we don’t get to it,” she said.

There is just too much going through one electrical box, Mr. Miller said. When you touch the box, he noted, it’s warm, which means its overloaded.

These two jobs may be costly, Mrs. Applegate said, but are really necessary to keep the buildings safe for use.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Appointed Dr. Peterson to the Local Environmental Pollution Group with Commissioner Richard Thompson as the alternate. The group deals with local health codes for several Northwest Kansas Counties and handles problems with septic systems, sewers and wells.

- Went over upcoming meetings including new commissioner training and meetings with the Kansas Department of Transportation secretary and the hospital board.

Norton man agrees to buy ranch in Gove County

By MIKE CORN
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Hays Daily News

With an asking price of \$11 million, Norman Nelson wasn’t at all interested in taking a closer look at the famed Pyramid Ranch in southwest Gove County.

“I said at \$10 million, I’d go look at it,” said Nelson, a Norton resident whose current ownership interests include First State Bank and extensive landholdings in Norton, Trego and Russell counties.

The rest of the story, as they say, is now history and Nelson has agreed to purchase the 12,900-acre ranch, which includes Monument Rocks deemed a National Natural Landmark by the National Park Service and one of the 8 Wonders of Kansas.

Nelson, in a telephone interview from Florida, agreed the Pyramids, as they’re called by area residents, are truly a state wonder.

He’s not sure, however, what the access will be once the sale is completed.

“At the moment, there is total access to Monument Rocks,” he said. “I’m not sure what we’re going to do.”

He said that out of concern over liability, raised when seller J.M. Theis, Topeka, told Nelson about an incident several years ago, when someone climbed to the top of the rocks and fell to his death.

“At this moment, they’re open to the public,” he said. “We’re not sure what to do. It would probably be smart to put up a good fence. Let the people look at them, but not go around them.”

A major county road splits the rocks, which is shared its 8 Wonders designation with Castle Rock in the eastern part of the county.

While Nelson has looked at the ranch before, this time around, all the papers have been signed and only the legal research needs to be completed.

“I guess it’s going to happen,” he said.

Nelson crossed paths with the Pyramid Ranch a couple years ago, when a friend suggested it might be for sale.

“I couldn’t get a straight answer from

anyone,” he said of the situation at the time. “I just gave up the idea of buying it.”

So much so that he didn’t even get involved when there was a public auction of the ranch last fall, an auction that fetched a bid of \$8.5 million. That bid, however, was deemed unacceptable by family members, who ended up putting the ranch through the corporation owned all of the land up for sale through private treaty.

But that’s when Warren Bullock, the Norton resident who first suggested Nelson look at the ranch, suggested he

might contact the owners again.

Nelson then contacted Theis, whose family has owned the ranch for years.

That’s when the exchange over the price started.

Much like the auction, Nelson will be buying the entire ranch 12,900 acres and most of the mineral rights with it. The land itself is actually owned by the Pyramid Ranch Corp.

“It’s all owned by the corporation, and I’m buying the corporation entirely,” he said.

(Ranch - Continued on Page 5)

Norton woman wins the Pig Skin Pick Em

By Dick Boyd

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Kerri Ray, Norton, is the winner of the championship in the 43rd annual Pigskin Pick-Em Contest in the Norton Telegram.

As is usually the case, a number of football fans were in the running for the title of Pigskin Pick-Em champion for 2012 and Kerri won by just one game! She was correct in picking 82 winning high school and college teams in the 12-week contest while three others were just one win behind her in a tie for second.

Mary Ann Hager, Amanda Ray and Tom Davis, all of Norton, each chose 81 correct high school and college game winners.

Kerri entered every week and was among the leaders most weeks, placing second in the third and eighth weeks.

As the 2012 champion, Kerri received a handsome trophy engraved with her name along with \$50 in scrip money.

Three winners each week received a total of \$30 in scrip money.

Mary Ann Hager is a former season champion in the popular Pick-Em contest.

The Ray family did quite well in this

year’s contest. In addition to Kerri winning and Amanda tying for runner-up, Travis Ray tied for fifth with 80 wins. Dustan Daniels, Norton, and Chase Rice, Norton, tied with Travis. Rice is also a former Pick-Em season champion.

Six fans tied for eighth with 79 wins. They were Rick Green, Norton; Jim Springer, Long Island; Tobi Boller, Norton; Heather Simmons, Norton; Chad Gasper, Norton and Andrew Lantz, Norton.

Four more fans tied for 14th with 78 wins. They were Regina Beikman, Chelle Millan, Baylee Miller and Taryn Graham, all of Norton. Taryn was the defending champion from 2011.

Correct on 77 games and tying for 18th were Fig Millan, Norton; Keely Millan, Norton; Bob Covington, Alma and Barbara Brooks, Clayton.

Doug was the other member of the Ray family who was entered every week and, although he tied for 22nd this year with Dorothy Becker, Logan, Doug is also a former season champion. Doug and Dorothy both had 76 correct.

Five fans tying for 24th with 75 wins were Jennifer Boller, David Riemann,

(Winner - Continued on Page 5)

Ground breaking day...



Norton Estates LLC., held their ground breaking ceremony on Wednesday at the future site of several duplexes. Pictured are Wes Bainter of Norton Estates LLC., Fred Bentley of the Kansas Housing Resource Group, Scott Sproul Director of Norton City/County Economic Development, Carolyn Applegate of the Frontier Community Foundation, the City of Norton’s Mayor David Corns and Randy Hrabec of Northwest Kansas Planning and Development.

– Telegram photo by Vicki Henderson

