

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



Tuesday,
January 15, 2013



Briefly

Geography bee set for Wednesday

The Norton Junior High School will hold their Geography Bee this Wednesday at 3:30 p.m.

Spanning the globe...



Norton Eisenhower Elementary School held their Geography Bee last Friday with ten students competing. The contest is sponsored by the National Geographic Society. Jane Burton questioned the students who are seated left to right starting with Tessa Hauser, Carson Harting, Lance Griffey, Hayden Wiltfong, Henry Boutwell, Sarah David, Jonah Ruder, Stacie Elliot, Emily Henderson and Deven Gasper. This years third place went to Hayden Wiltfong, second to Emily Henderson and Lance Griffey was the winner which qualifies him to attend state and possibly go on to Nationals to win a scholarship.
- Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

Norton will host Colby wrestling dual

Norton Community High School will host Colby High School in a wrestling dual this Thursday in Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym in Norton.

Wrestling will begin at 6 p.m. and will include varsity and junior varsity matches.

Norton Post Prom will sponsor a "Cash Dash" fund raiser at the halfway point in the dual. First Security Bank & Trust has donated \$100 to the cause.

Arts Council program Saturday

The Norton County Arts Council is proud to present Melinda Ferree in a Patsy Cline tribute that will take place Saturday at 7 p.m. at the East Campus Auditorium.

Notice for Jennings post office survey

Reminder to the Jennings post office patrons - be sure to fill out your post office survey and return it before January 22. If you did not get a form, you may pick one up at the Jennings post office. There is to be a discussion meeting at the Jennings Masonic Hall on February 5, 2013 at 12 noon. Please plan to attend to have some input as to the future of our post office.

Markets

Tuesday, January 15, 2013

Wheat\$7.70
Milo\$6.91
Soybeans\$13.75
Corn\$7.28

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Tuesday Night - Clear in the evening, then partly cloudy. Wednesday - Partly cloudy in the morning, then clear. Wednesday Night - Partly cloudy in the evening, then clear with a low of 25. Thursday - Clear with a high of 52.

Kingham Report

Friday, Jan. 11Low 32, High 51
Saturday, Jan. 12Low 10, High 19
Sunday, Jan. 13Low 1, High 19
Monday, Jan. 14Low 3, High 27

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

Prayer

Loving God, help us to reach out to those who need to know that they are loved and that their lives matter. Amen.

Local couple is giving back the right way

Like many communities in Northwest Kansas, the Norton community has struggled with a lack of housing options for many years. This lack of housing has held the community back as businesses wanted to expand. In an effort to do something about this, one generous family, Norman and Gloria Nelson, saw the need and took action. The Nelsons developed six properties that were considered blighted areas of the city. A total of three blighted houses were demolished to make way for the additional family housing. This action has provided six families who were in need of housing a place to live and an opportunity to grow up in a fantastic place like Norton County.

In the season of giving, the Nelsons

have generously donated those six homes to the Norton County Community Foundation. This donation continues their legacy of philanthropy in Norton County. "As I have grown up in this county and have watched it evolve in a progressive way, by hard work and determination, I am excited to give back to this community because it's where my family has grown up and where my grandkids and great-grandkids will continue to grow," philanthropist Norman Nelson stated.

Tara Vance, Norton County Community Foundation Executive Director, expressed the board's appreciation. "We are so very excited about this gift of real estate from a very generous family. The Nelsons have

goals and dreams for Norton County, and they align with the goals and dreams of the foundation. We are very happy that we could provide the Nelsons with a reliable way to leave their charitable contribution and continue their legacy in Norton County."

This housing investment is one way the Norton community is moving toward meeting the needs of the businesses it serves. The business community in Norton County has expressed a need to add numerous jobs in various fields of work over the next several months. This gift to the Foundation marks the beginning of a concentrated effort to provide housing to the families that want the additional jobs expected in Norton County.

The Norton County Community Foundation is a tax-exempt, independent publicly supported philanthropic organization organized and operated as a permanent collection of endowed funds for the long-term benefit of a defined geographical area. It works to preserve and build on the wonderful quality of life we enjoy and continue to benefit from as we raise our families and celebrate our rural way of life.

For additional information on the Norton County Community Foundation, contact Tara Vance, Executive Director, at nortoncc@ruraltel.net or at 205 S State, Norton, KS 67654.

City council hears from Mayor and issues permits

By Mike Stephens
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At the Norton City Council meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 2, Mayor David Corns reported the city sales tax receipts collected in December 2012 totaled \$20,261.79, and the county sales tax receipts totaled \$14,766.52, for a total of \$35,028.31. The 2012 year to date sales tax receipts totaled \$475,015.33. This is an increase from 2011 total sales tax receipts.

Also, Mayor Corns stated that anyone wanting to file for the seats which will be up for council election the deadline is Tuesday, Jan. 22 at noon. The general election will be held on April 2.

The Council also approved the re-appointment of Karen Griffiths to the Northwest Kansas Community Corrections governing board for a two-year term.

The Council approved the State of

Kansas contract bid of \$25,753 to purchase a 2013 Ford Utility Police Interceptor vehicle. A budget of \$30,000 was set for the purchase which will replace one of the high mileage police cars.

Chief of Police Pat Morel distributed his year-end statistics sheet and said it was a quiet New Year's Eve and that 11 people used the "Safe Ride Home" program.

The following building permits were presented:

Norton Estates, LLC- \$225,000/2 units - Construct 2 single family dwelling units at 1001 A & B Ryan Circle.

Norton Estates, LLC- \$225,000/2 units - Construct 2 single family dwelling units at 1003 A & B Ryan Circle.

Norton Estates, LLC- \$225,000/2 units - Construct 2 single family dwelling units at 1005 A & B Ryan Circle.

Norton Estates, LLC- \$225,000/2

units - Construct 2 single family dwelling units at 1007 A & B Ryan Circle.

Ben Bolt- \$11,661 - Re-roof property at 315 N. Norton.

Troy Thomson- \$2,000 - Demolish dwelling at 305 N. Second Street.

City Administrator, Rob Lawson, reported that Estates, LLC would host a groundbreaking ceremony on Jan. 9, at for the new duplex units to be constructed.

Two hearings were set to go before the governing body. A hearing regarding a dangerous and unfit structure located at 109 E. Main Street will be held on March 6, at 5:45 p.m. The legal owners of the property are listed as Paul A. Gower and Mary S. Gower.

The second hearing was set at the request of Jon Keiswetter regarding his Notice and Order of Violation for his property at 408 South Street. Councilman Jerry Jones made a motion, which

was seconded by Ron Briery, to set a hearing with Keiswetter on Jan. 16, at 5:45 p.m. Keiswetter said he helped

with Brian Keiswetter's order for clean up and then moved a few of Brian Keiswetter's items to his property and then he got a notice and order shortly after that.

City Attorney Karen Griffiths reported the setbacks, street size, distance from street and side streets of the new addition have been approved by the Code Inspector and City Administrator and meet the city requirements. Griffiths also said the City Council has to approve the plat, which approves the streets for city purposes, the name of the streets and the name of the addition; if approved, it is filed with the Register of Deeds and then all work in the new addition has to comply with the plat. The Council then voted, approving the plat request for Ryan Addition.

Oath of office...



District Court Judge Preston Pratt swears in the newly elected Norton County Commissioners on Monday. Charles Posson, center, filled the seat vacated by John Miller and R.A. Peterson replaces Carolyn Applegate.

- Telegram photo by Cynthia Haynes

Commissioners get an update

By Cynthia Haynes
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Norton County Economic Development Director Scott Sproul gave the county commissioners, at their meeting on Monday, an update on what he and his group have been doing over the last month.

The geological work as been done to test the soil on an expansion planned for roads leading to the new Ag Valley fa-

cility, he said. This puts the county one step closer to upgrading the roads.

He said that economic development is still looking for help with paying for the project including getting assistance from the Kansas Department of Transportation.

It has been suggested, he said, that the county ask for bids for both asphalt and concrete for the roads. The asphalt is

(Update - Continued on Page 5)

Foul play ruled out in local death

By Dana Paxton
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According to Norton City Police Chief of Police, Pat Morel, at 10:45 a.m. Friday morning the Norton City Police were called out to do a welfare check on an individual. Upon arrival at the home, officers found the deceased body of Jeremy (J.J.) Courtain. The Kansas Bureau of Investigation was called in to rule out the possibility of foul play. Several people were interviewed and all released in the case. There was an autopsy done in Hays which did rule out foul play however the investigation is ongoing until the toxicology report has come back. Mr. Courtain leaves behind two children, his mother, a brother, other family members and several friends. Services will take place at Enfield Funeral Home on Monday Jan. 21 at 10:30 a.m. with a dinner to follow in Almena.

