

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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Friday

February 1, 2012

Briefly

Disc Golf tourney this Saturday

The Norton Disc Golf Club is hosting a Winter Food Drive Disc Golf Tournament at Elmwood Park on Saturday, February 2 at 10 a.m. Registration will be at White Field's Cafe from 8:30-9:30 a.m. Entry fee is \$20.

Potato bar Tuesday for scholarships

The Norton PEO Chapter will host a potato bar scholarship fund-raiser Tuesday, Feb. 5 before the Norton/Oberlin basketball game at the NCHS cafeteria. They will be serving from 4:30-7 p.m. PEO is a philanthropic organization of women.

Students honored at Tuesday's game

Students will be recognized for their Assessment Standard of Excellence at the High School basketball game on Tuesday night at Stull gym.

Little kids dance is halftime show

There will be a little girls dance performance Tuesday night during half time of the boys varsity basketball game. Please report to the junior high gym by 7:30 p.m. and perform by 8:30

Veterans get help with their claims

Jody Tubbs of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs will be in Norton from 10:45 until 11:45 a.m. at the Norton Public Library to assist veterans and their dependents with VA claims work on Tuesday, Feb. 5. If unable to contact her at that time, you may contact her in Colby any Monday, Wednesday or Friday at 785-462-3572.

Markets

Friday, February 1, 2012

Wheat\$7.88
Milo\$7.15
Soybeans\$14.22
Corn\$7.45

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Saturday - Clear with a high of 46. Saturday Night - Clear with a low of 25 with a windchill as low as 18. Sunday - Clear with a high of 48. Sunday Night - Clear in the evening, then mostly cloudy with a low of 21. Monday - Partly cloudy.

Kingham Report

Tuesday, Jan. 29.....Low 15, High 37
1" Snow
Wednesday, Jan. 30.....Low 15, High 37
1" Snow
Thursday, Jan. 31.....Low 14, High 26
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Dear Lord, show us kindness and grant us favor in the eyes of others. Teach us to trust you always. Amen

Sixth grader wins County Spelling Bee



The three winners of the Norton County Spelling Bee talk with one of the three judges after the competition. Featured from the left are: Taryn Kuhn, third place winner, Seth Otter the second place winner and Micah Kasson this year's first place winner. The judge they are speaking with is Jim Springer of Northern Valley. This year's three judges were Amie Burge, Jeremy Hawks and Jim Springer.

- Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

By Dana Paxton

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Twelve students participated in the Norton County Spelling Bee on Wednesday. It took five rounds to find the winner.

Taryn Kuhn, Emily Estes and Nate Branek represented Eisenhower Elementary while Kale Cox, Riley Sides and Micah Kasson were there for the Northern Valley Junior Grade School. The Northern Valley Junior High participants were Kylie Kinderknecht, Drake Shearer and Brianna Johns. and Piper Smith, Seth Otter and Kira Roberts were from the Norton Junior High School. Each team did have an alternate. Hadley Hauser for Eisenhower, Savannah Kindall for Northern Valley Grade School, John Lower for the Northern Valley Junior High and Tyus Henson for the Norton Junior High.

After four quick rounds, the third place finisher was announced, Taryn Kuhn took this honor. In the fifth round, it then came down to Seth Otter and Micah Kasson. Micah won the championship with the word Pantheon and that left Seth as the second place winner.

Plaques were donated to the winners by the Norton Telegram and a dictionary was provided to the first place winner by Prairie Land Electric. The Champion of this Bee qualifies to compete in the Sunflower Spelling Bee in Hays and will take place on Saturday March 2 at 9 a.m.

County needs graders Norton woman prepares for Mrs. Kansas pageant

By Cynthia Haynes

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Some of Norton County's road graders are getting old and starting to run up repair bills.

Road and Bridge Administrator Sandy Smith, foreman Floyd Richard and shop foreman Herman Pfannenstiel visited with the county commissioners last week about what their department will be needing over the next year or so.

The county has 10 graders ranging in age from 1992 to 2007. The road department officials would like to get three newer graders to replace the four oldest units, since those four caused 57 percent of the maintenance expenses last year.

"As they get more hours (of use) the less value they have," Ms. Smith told the commissioners, adding that two of the graders are just used as backups now.

"Well, you're about going to have to do something," Commission Chairman Richard Thompson said.

Ms. Smith agreed saying that one of the graders is already scheduled to go to Colby for repairs that the shop in Norton can't do. The transmission will have to be dropped out of the machine, she

said, for the repairs to be made and that gets pretty expensive.

Commissioner R.A. Peterson asked for figures on new graders.

Mr. Pfannenstiel said that they are also having a problem with the seals on the front and rear of a new tractor that was purchased in the fall of 2011. It was in Colby, he said, and when it came back it was only used for two days before it gave up. They may end up replacing the whole front end.

The good news is that the vehicle is still under warranty.

"We need to stay on top of this and make sure they back this warrant up," Mr. Pfannenstiel said.

Ms. Smith told the commissioners that she also had some cost projections on the milling and resurfacing expense on a shale project the county is doing.

"We still have a huge pile of shale to use or sell," she added.

The other item on the road and bridge agenda was a tire machine, which would cost between \$11,500 and \$12,400.

The men were interested in getting the machine because it now takes about two days of turnaround time to get a

(Graders - Continued on Page 5)

Calming concerns...



Kansas First District Congressman Tim Huelskamp held a town hall meeting on Thursday afternoon at Town & Country Kitchen. Huelskamp answered questions about the economy, gun control and social security, to name a few, and received a lot of support from the 30-plus constituents packed into the meeting room.

-Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

Determined to be in the best shape of her life, Mrs. Northwest Kansas, Lori Shields of Norton, spends about an hour every day at the Norton Rec Center running three miles and working out with light weights.

"I have a couple more pounds to lose and I'm on track to be at my target weight by the Mrs. Kansas pageant (March 1-2)," she said.

Mrs. Shields went on to say that she still has a lot to do before traveling to Branson, Mo., for the combined Kansas and Missouri competition.

"I have pictures to take," she said, "a page in the brochure to lay out, travel arrangements to make and I haven't even selected my gown for the evening competition yet. It's so important to find the perfect gown."

The pageant provides swimsuits for each contestant, she said, but they wear their own choice of outfits for the interviews and other events.

Letters asking for financial support have been sent to many area businesses and individuals.

"I have lots of friends helping me," she said, "but honestly we're doing this on a shoestring. I am very frugal, but

it is going to cost some money. Some of the contestants, I know, have major corporate sponsors. I don't. A few people have already stepped up to help, and I really appreciate that. Any money I receive goes directly into a special account just for the pageant."

A send-off party for all her supporters will be held Saturday, Feb. 23.

Mrs. Shields said people have been wonderful supporting her efforts. Her platform is to raise awareness of the work done at the Haven in Norton, a nonprofit she runs that provides a place for families to stay while visiting prisoners at the state prison here.

Mrs. Shields also is a full time teacher aide at Eisenhower Elementary School in Norton. She and her husband, Damien, have two children, Emmary, 2, and Darius, 8.

Donations may be sent to her at 813 N. Grant Ave., Norton, Kan. 67654. Anyone who helps support her before Feb. 6 will be recognized in the official pageant brochure, she said.

For more information or to have Mrs. Northwest Kansas speak at your club or function, call (785) 202-1167.

Landfill gets a clean-up

By Cynthia Haynes

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Cleaning and more cleaning plus filing and dealing with the rubble of an old house filled his first week, new Solid Waste Supervisor John Miller told the county commissioners last week.

The landfill offices needed a good cleaning and there were a lot of papers and documents that needed to be filed as well as files that needed to be cleaned out, he said. Also, the landfill got the rubble from the first house this year torn down under a city-county program.

The program allows for the rubble from five houses or businesses a year to be dumped at the landfill for half price. The City of Norton gets three houses and Almena and Lenora get one each.

Mr. Miller said that he had his people carefully measure how much rubble was put in the construction and demolition pit from the building, which came from the City of Norton. That way, he said, he can figure how much the coun-

ty is really putting into the project.

He said the construction and demolition pit is filling up although it has several more years of useful life.

He said he is starting to make sure that everything that comes in is weighed and that its final destination at the landfill is tracked to know what goes where and to be able to estimate how long each pit or site will last.

He said that he is also estimating the costs for making the landfill last longer than its allotted 30 to 40 years.

He said that he has checked with both groceries and with both Shopko and Dollar General and know that they all carry blue recycling bags.

Recycling can be a challenge, he said, especially if people don't do it right and put the wrong things in the bags.

That is the reason that some of the recycling dumpsters have been removed from public places, he said. People were just dumping trash in them and things like dog do are not recyclable.

