

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



Tuesday
March 5, 2013

America's farmers grow communities



Representatives from the Ministerial Alliance, God's Pantry, Monsanto and Ag Valley gathered at the Norton Christian Church on Thursday, Feb. 28 in recognition of Charlotte and Dave Kindall's \$5,000 donation to God's Pantry and the Ministerial Alliance. (Front row, left to right) Rev. Terrill Worthington, Michael Woodyard (God's Pantry), Connie Johnson (God's Pantry), James Siemens (Ag Valley), Charlotte Kindall,

Dave Kindall, Matt Stevenson (Monsanto), Pastor Lyn Linde, Father Vincent Thu Laing, Pastor James Kallenberg. (Back row, left to right) Pastor Kirk Kasson, Pastor Gerald Cummings, Pastor Wilmer Severns, Pastor Darel Boston, Chaplain Darel Kats, Pastor Ron Scheimo, Rev. Rick Rostek, Pastor Larry Lyles and Rev. Robert Speer.

-Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

Norton County Farmer Wins \$5,000 for God's Pantry and Ministerial Alliance Charlotte Kindall of Norton has been selected as a winner in America's Farmers Grow Communities, sponsored by the Monsanto Fund. Grow Communities gives farmers the opportunity to win a \$2,500 donation to direct to their favorite local nonprofit organizations. To further support counties that have

been declared disaster areas due to drought by the U.S.D.A. winning farmers in these counties were able to direct double the donation, a total of \$5,000 to further support the community. Norton County was declared a disaster area by the USDA, giving Kindall the opportunity to place two \$2,500 donations. Kindall selected God's Pantry and the Ministerial Alliance.

In 1,271 eligible counties in 39 states, farmers could sign up for the opportunity to win a \$2,500 donation for their favorite community nonprofit. This year, the Monsanto Fund will invest over \$5 million in rural America through Grow Communities, which includes double donations for counties suffering from the historic drought. America's Farmers Grow Communities

is sponsored by the Monsanto Fund to highlight the important contributions farmers make every day to our society and to help them positively impact their communities. This program is part of the Monsanto Fund's overall effort to support rural America. For a complete list of Grow Communities winners and more program information, please visit growcommunities.com.



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Briefly

Booster club set to meet Wednesday

The first meeting of the Norton Blue Jay Booster Club in March will be held on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.

Speaking about the results of their team's seasons will be Norton girls head basketball coach George Rossi, Norton boys head basketball coach Doug Reusink and Norton head wrestling coach Bill Johnson.

All fans of Norton Community High School sports are invited to the meetings.

You do not have to be a member of the booster club to attend.

Daylight Saving time is almost here

It's time to spring forward. Daylight Saving Time returns at 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 10. Set your clock ahead one hour.

Television station to have work done

The Goodland television station KBSL channel 10 will be undergoing service work and will be off the air starting at 7 a.m. Wednesday morning and will remain off the air for possibly two days until the problem can be fixed.

Markets

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Wheat.....	\$6.82
Milo.....	\$6.74
Soybeans.....	\$14.20
Corn.....	\$7.18

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Wednesday - Clear with a high of 32 and a windchill as low as 7. Wednesday Night - Partly cloudy with fog overnight and a low of 25. Thursday - Clear with a high of 50. Thursday Night - Partly cloudy with fog overnight. Friday - Partly cloudy in the morning then overcast and a chance of rain.

Prayer

Dear Lord, give us wisdom to discern whether we need to wait patiently or to step out of our comfort zone - in obedience and with purpose. Amen.

Our changing mailing habits

By Dana Paxton
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The U.S. Postal Service confirmed Monday, March 4 that incoming and outgoing mail processing for the 676 Zip codes has moved to Wichita, Kan., but don't worry about a letter to your neighbor going off on a long trip. The switch will take place in Norton starting this Saturday, March 9.

Brian Sperry, regional spokesperson for the service in Denver, said mail addressed within the 676 area will still be delivered overnight. That area includes Norton, Decatur, Osborne, Graham, Russell, Ellis, Smith, Trego and Rooks counties.

Mail will still go to Salina, to be processed then the mail for the 676 area will go on to Wichita to be sorted, then put on a truck to maintain overnight delivery. Sperry said the sorting machines at the Wichita facility can handle 35,000 pieces of mail in an hour.

"Bulk mailing will not change," he said, "but the time to submit may be different."

Outgoing processing had been done in Colby until a previous round of consolidation, when most of that work was moved to Salina. That facility is being closed and processing there moved to Wichita. Hays and Salina will still be processing centers.

In an effort to stem billions of dollars in losses, the Postal Service is closing more than 100 processing facilities by July. There will be 146 total consolidations by the time it is all said and done.

"Last year the postal system lost \$15.9 billion and since post offices are not funded by the tax payer there had to be some adjustments made in order to keep it affordable. We need to adapt to a new reality," Sperry said. "In the last five years single piece first class mailing have gone down 37 percent and will continue to decline due to online and digital communications. However there has been a 14 percent increase in packages due to online purchasing."

The processing changes will save about \$1.2 billion a year, Sperry said,

and the service has its eye on several other changes that may require action by Congress. The service announced in February that it plans to stop delivering and collecting letters, including first-class mail, on Saturdays beginning Aug. 5. Packages will be delivered, however. Post offices that are currently open Saturdays will remain open, and mail to post office boxes will be delivered.

The service has been asking for several years to get rid of Saturday delivery. Since 2006, it has been required by law to prepay retiree health benefits, which cost about \$5.5 billion a year.

"We are asking Congress to resolve that," Sperry said. "We will still pay retiree benefits, but we're asking Congress to make it more manageable."

Despite the service plans to go ahead and to cut Saturday delivery, Congress has yet to act on either issue, he noted. A postal reform bill died in the last Congress and no action has been taken this year to get the effort going.

Commissioners vote to close a local rural road

A road closing hearing was held at last week's county commissioners meeting. Gary Mulder, representing his brother Darryl and Dale Sides were both present.

Mr. Sides initiated closing the road some time ago and on this day he and his neighbor's brother came to see if the commissioners had made a decision on the subject. Norton County Attorney Doug Sebelius said that it didn't matter how the whole thing got started because a vote would take place that day to either continue to investigate it, close it or deny it.

Both parties, Mulder and Sides, were in agreement to close the road because it currently was receiving very little maintenance and was being used more as a trail. "To the county this road was nothing more than an easement," Mr. Sebelius said. He then informed the men that if they voted to close the road then it would revert to the landowners to determine fence lines and whether or not to have a survey done on it. The cost would be divided equally between the landowners.

A vote was then taken and all in attendance voted to close the road.

Mr. Mulder then asked if a survey should be done on it in order to keep everything documented and legal for future reference. Mr. Sebelius said that a survey was not required but that if they wanted one it would not be up to the county to determine the section corners since after being closed it would be considered abandoned. The decision to have it surveyed would lie in the hands of the landowners. Mr. Mulder stated, "I want it surveyed." and Mr. Sides said, "We want it legally on the line."

Mr. Mulder questioned weather or not a survey had ever been done on the road and he was told that that information was unknown but the commissioners did give a lengthy list of area surveyors that could do the job for them.

At this time Commissioner Thomson asked if both agreed that they wanted a survey done and both agreed. Mr. Mulder asked if the commissioners needed to inspect it after the survey had been done and a fence was in place. Mr. Sebelius informed him that they did not need an inspection.

Arts Council has two events coming up

The Norton County Arts Council will be sponsoring a performance by the Sea Chanters, The United States Navy Band from Washington D.C., this Friday at 7:30 p.m. at the East Campus Auditorium.

The twenty member chorus is accompanied by a three piece rhythm section and they travel all over the United States. They will entertain the audience with patriotic songs, show stoppers and many other numbers.

To see the performance is free but tickets are required and can be picked up at the First State Bank in Norton. You can also write to Sea Chanters, Norton County Arts Council, PO Box 225 Norton, Kansas 67654 to request tickets; be sure to include a self-addressed stamped envelope. Doors open at 6:30 and ticket holders will be seated. Then at 7 p.m. anyone still wanting to see the performance that does not have a ticket will be seated. Come enjoy an evening

The last program of the year sponsored by the Norton County Arts Council will take place on Saturday, March 23 where they will present Norton County's Showcase Talent Show to be

held at the East Campus Auditorium starting at 7 p.m.

They are looking for the hidden talent of the Norton County residents. We know that Norton holds many talented individuals. Not only do we have singers and dancers but there must be people out there with other talents as well and we want to see all of them. Do you or anyone you know like a family member or a friend sing, dance, juggle, do magic, tell jokes or have a pet who can do a crazy trick? If so, now is the time to show off what you can do.

There are only twenty spots open for this competition so if you are truly interested then pick up your application at The Norton Telegram, Norton Area Chamber of Commerce, Almena State Bank, both in Norton and Almena and at DiscoverNorton.com, fill it out and return it to Showcase, Norton County Arts Council PO Box 225, Norton, Kansas 67654. Make sure it is postmarked no later than March 15. All entries must be 12 years of age or older. All contestants will be notified by March 19 if they have been selected for the Showcase. There is a

\$5 non-refundable entry fee that will be collected on the day of the competition for those chosen to participate.

Each performer will be given three minutes to strut their stuff in front of a live audience and then the audience will vote on their favorite performance by ballot. After all of the ballots have been counted three winners will be named. Third place will receive \$50 in Chamber Bucks, Second place will get \$100 in Chamber Bucks and the first place grand prize winner and Showcase Champion will get \$200 in Chamber Bucks.

We look forward to seeing what Norton County has to offer so be sure to get entered today.

The Arts Council was almost lost last year but thanks to a dedicated bunch of people who refused to let it die many wonderful programs were brought to Norton this season. They are trying to get more of the younger generations to get involved and attend the shows but always keeping in mind those that have come for years and years. Keep your eye peeled for this next season's variety of shows they will sponsor.

