

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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8 PAGES

Tuesday
March 19, 2013

Briefly

Parent orientation set for Thursday

An orientation session for parents of eighth graders (freshmen next year) will be held in the Music Room of the Jr.-Sr. High School on Thursday, March 21, at 7 p.m. Counselor Shane Miller will host the meeting.

Early childhood screening on Friday

Eisenhower Elementary School, in conjunction with Kid Link, will be conducting a free Early Childhood Screen on Friday, March 22. If you have a concern in any of the following developmental areas; vision, hearing, speech, motor, behavior and/or reasoning, please call 877-5113, by March 21, and ask for Joan Hale to set an appointment.

Talent Showcase to be held Saturday

Norton County Arts Council Showcase Talent Show will take place at the East Campus Auditorium at 7 p.m. on Saturday. Admission at the door.

Dodgeball tourney set for Saturday

A dodgeball tournament will be held at the East Campus Gymnasium on Saturday, March 23 at 10 a.m.

Casino night to benefit Diabetes

The Norton Eagles Club #3288 will be holding a Casino Night fund raiser for the Fraternal Order of Eagles Diabetic Research Center at the University of Iowa on Saturday, March 23 from 7-10 p.m. Fun and games for the whole family and an auction to follow to spend your funny money winnings on.

Rotary BB Gun team head to state

The Norton County Rotary BB Gun Team will compete in the Kansas State BB Gun Championships on Saturday at the Jackson County Fair Building in Holton. Shooting will begin at 9:30 a.m.

Markets

Tuesday, March 19, 2013

Wheat.....	\$6.94
Milo.....	\$6.89
Soybeans.....	\$13.65
Corn.....	\$7.36

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Wednesday - Partly cloudy in the morning, then overcast with a high of 55. Wednesday Night - Mostly cloudy in the evening. Thursday - Overcast with a chance of rain, then a chance of rain in the afternoon. High of 54. Thursday Night - Overcast with a chance of snow.

Prayer

Dear Lord, help us not to judge but rather to listen and to help others. Amen.



This is an old photo of the Oberlin gas station that is still standing on U.S. 36. – Courtesy photo

Association celebrates one hundred years

Announcing the 100th anniversary of the U. S. 36 Highway Association on March 21, 2013, is rather unique, according to the Kansas Legislative Research Department. Their findings reveal only a hand-full of highway associations remain active. There are more than 500 members across Kansas. Strength in numbers is what has sustained this organization. Go to: www.us36.com where you'll find members listed on each county page, in addition to historical site information, lodging, restaurants, fuel stops and more!

Today, roads, highways and freeways are developed and maintained through State and Federal funding. But, that was not so in 1913! Road boosters, auto clubs, business men and entrepreneurs with visions for an infrastructure benefiting commerce and tourism, led the charge.

On March 21, 1913, in Belleville, representatives from the 13 northern tier counties which included businessmen, auto-club enthusiasts and railroad representatives met to form the Rock Island Highway Association (RIHA); so named because the proposed route would parallel The Rock Island Railroad for many miles. The first officers were: President, Dr. C.W. Cole of Norton; Vice-President, C.F. Traveler of Marysville; Secretary-Treasurer, A.Q. Miller, of Belleville. For years these men and many others who followed held steadfast to the dream of roadways and infrastructure across a developing continent. They dedicated hard work, raised cash and made long journeys to attend meetings; often sacrificing family time and personal earnings.

On Sept. 21, 1913, Kansas Governor, George H. Hodges, D.R. Watkins, W.S. Gearhardt, A.Q. Miller and officials

from the Blue Book Corporation left the Robidoux Hotel in St. Joseph, Mo., in a two-car convoy; destination, Denver, Colo. Their mission was to map the route across Kansas. A.Q. Miller, Editor of the Belleville Telescope, had been given charge of publicity for this trek. Many towns held ceremonies and welcoming parties greeted the governor and these pioneering men. Four-days later, hub caps crusted in mud, they arrived in Denver, sharing stories of the

adventure with greeters and reporters!

Prior to the formation of RIHA, other associations dating back to 1910 had also been formed. The grand vision was to build the first transcontinental highway (New York to San Francisco). Merging and re-organization resulted in the formation of the Pike's Peak Ocean to Ocean Highway (PPOO) on March 18, 1914, at a meeting in St. Joseph, Mo. An account of this event appeared

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Illegal dumping addressed



The headless carcass of an unknown animal, deer or calf was one of many animal bodies found laying in and around the water under a bridge northeast of Almena. The rotting remains along with a bunch of trash are polluting the Horse Creek.

– Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

For a long time now there has been some illegal activity taking place at a bridge located on road E 10 and H at the northeast edge of Almena.

A bridge going over Horse Creek seems to be the dumping site for the carcasses of dead animals and trash. The KDHE, Norton County Sheriff and the Norton County Commissioners have all been approached about the problem but there is little to nothing that can be done to stop the illegal dumping.

Bodies of a coyote, turkey, headless deer and a pig or badger are at the edge and in the water running under the bridge. Bag after bag of used cat litter are strewn around. All of these things contaminate the drinking water for those who drink from a well near and downstream from this point on Horse Creek.

There are weekly trash pick ups for people to use. There is no reason for people to dump dirty cat litter over the bridge railing; as for the dead animal bodies there are other ways to dispose of them. They can even be picked up.

John Miller of the Norton Landfill met with the Norton County Commissioners Monday to report this and told them that he had visited the site. With commissioner approval he will try to find a place to dispose of the rotting carcasses.

People don't think about how their actions affect others but this dumping is affecting people and it needs to be stopped. If anyone sees this type of activity going on, please write the plate number down and contact the Norton County Sheriff's Department.

Commissioners updated on needed road repairs

By Cynthia Haynes
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The Norton County commissioners met with Economic Development Director Scott Sproul and Kenzil Lynn, an engineer with Schwab-Eaton of Salina at their meeting on Monday about two road projects.

The first was Road L1, which is an upgrade to the road leading out to the new Ag Valley project.

Mr. Lynn said that the road is pretty straight and flat but a little north of the section line. He is proposing two 12-foot wide lanes with six-foot shoulders on each side. The lanes would be asphalt or concrete and the shoulders just rock, he said.

"It's a pretty good road out there, now," he told the commissioners.

Commissioner R.A. Peterson said he thought that the 24-foot roadway with another 12 feet of shoulders sounded pretty wide and Mr. Lynn said that that could be narrowed. Commissioner Richard Thompson said he didn't think that would be a good idea due to the heavy truck traffic including semis meeting each other and if something broke down it would need someplace to go.

Commissioner Peterson said that that was a good point.

Next Mr. Lynn showed the commissioners some preliminary plans and said that his company is looking at some curb and gutter work near the sale barn and the buildings in that area to eliminate a standing water problem and keep it from going over the roadway. He noted that they are also looking for some sort of paved ditch in the area near the livestock pens.

He said that the intersection out there would need to be done in concrete no matter if the commissioners decided to do the roadway in asphalt or concrete and that he thought that the intersection would have to be closed for a few days to get it done right.

He said that he knew this would be a

problem for the businesses in the area but it would be better in the long run and they would try to work around the busiest days such as sale day at the livestock sale barn.

Mr. Sproul said that the original estimate on the road exceeded \$3 million but it looks like now it will come in under \$2 million. He said that he is busy trying to get the county more help to pay for it.

The second project that Mr. Lynn had on his agenda was an overlay on Road E out by the viaduct.

He said he is looking at a four-inch overlay from intersection to intersection with no widening. The work should stop right in front of the tire shop by the viaduct, he said.

There is another small stretch of E2 that Mr. Sproul asked Mr. Lynn to get an estimate on. It will probably need an overlay, he said, because he didn't think a new chip seal would hold up with all the traffic out there. The road is good, the commissioners said, but has a real problem with washboarding.

Mr. Lynn said that it would probably take six inches of asphalt to deal with that road and Road and Bridge Foreman Floyd Richard said that he thought so also because he didn't think a three-inch overlay would hold up to the traffic either.

Mr. Sproul said it might be possible to incorporate that project into the bigger one because more and heavier truck traffic in going to be a problem for all the roads in the area. He also said that the state should have an asphalt plant in the area sometime in the spring or summer for work on U.S. 36. That is the time to get any asphalt work done, he said as it will be cheaper and it could be some time before an asphalt plant gets set up this close to where the county needs work done.

Mr. Scott said that he is also looking for additional dollars to help pay for this project.

