

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

WEBSITE: nwkansas.com 10 PAGES

Friday

April 12, 2013

Briefly

Wrestling banquet set for this Sunday

Wrestlers, coaches, parents and fans are invited to attend the 2013 Norton Community High School Wrestling Banquet at 6 p.m. on Sunday in the Norton High School Cafeteria.

Those attending are asked to bring their own table service, one main dish and a side dish or dessert for the potluck dinner. Drinks will be provided.

Laser light show to be held in Logan

The Dane G. Hansen Memorial Museum is sponsoring a Bureau of Lectures program on Monday, April 15, at 9:30 a.m. at the Logan Grade School in Logan. This year's event will feature a laser light show, Laser Science, by Wondery Productions.

Concert and recital dates for next week

The Norton fifth and sixth grade vocal concert will be Monday night at 7 p.m. at East Campus and then the sixth grade band recital will take place on Wednesday in the Eisenhower band room at 1:40 p.m.

Legion is looking for new umpires

The Norton American Legion is seeking certified umpires for the upcoming American Legion baseball season. New this year, all Legion umpires must have a background check and be certified with the State of Kansas American Legion. Those interested should contact Joe Durham at (785)202-1040 or (785)877-5662.

Boy Scouts are holding food drive

Norton Boy Scout Troop 181 is sponsoring a food drive for God's Pantry. Collection boxes are at Jamboree, Mainstreet IGA, Shopko, and Dollar General. Food can be dropped off at these locations until April 21.

Markets

Friday, April 12, 2013

Wheat.....	\$6.95
Milo.....	\$6.19
Soybeans.....	\$13.70
Corn.....	\$6.62

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Friday Night - Partly cloudy with a chance of rain in the evening. Saturday - Partly cloudy with a chance of rain. High of 68. Chance of rain 20 percent. Sunday - Partly cloudy with a high of 66. Chance of rain 20 percent. Sunday Night - Mostly cloudy with a chance of snow.

Prayer

Loving Father, we ask you to forgive us as we examine our conscience and confess to you the sins present in our lives. Thank you for your saving grace. Amen.

Former Norton woman crowned



The 2013 Ms. Wheelchair Kansas (MWKS) was recently crowned during a weekend ceremony held March 17, 2013, at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka. Angel Shaver of WaKeeney received her crown after participating in four judging sessions, as well as many other activities, throughout the three-day event held March 15-17. The weekend concluded with a formal crowning, where Angel was chosen as the new titleholder and fellow contestant Jessica Soderlund of Oakley was chosen as the runner-up.

Angel Shaver is the daughter of Larry and Terry Hillman, Norton. Angel is a 1993 graduate of Norton Community High School.

Angel would like to say:

Thank you to those who sponsored the first leg of this journey. I am looking for sponsors to help with the expenses involved with my travel this year. There will be expenses involved with traveling around the state sharing my platform as well as expenses for the Ms. Wheelchair America 2014 competition in Houston, Texas this July. Registration for Ms. Wheelchair America is \$1850. Donations of any size will be appreciated. If donations are received above the amount of expenses, the extra will be donated to the Ms. Wheelchair Kansas program. Donations can be made to Ms. Wheelchair Kansas; 4001 SE 34th Terr.; Topeka, KS 66605. Donations are tax deductible since they are affiliated with Three Rivers, Inc. Please make the check out to Ms. Wheelchair Kansas and write Angel Shaver in the memo section. For donations of goods or services, please contact me at angelshaver@hotmail.com or 785.743.8487.

County faces issue involving transports

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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One word makes a difference in how a patient is handled by various state and county agencies, Norton County Hospital representatives were told at a meeting with the county commissioners, emergency medical service workers, county attorney and sheriff's department.

If a patient goes to the hospital and is reported to have psychiatric issues, they are considered to have a non-emergency problem and cannot be transported by the ambulance. However, if a patient is believed to be suicidal and be a danger to either themselves or others, they then fall into a different category.

Hospital Administrator Rich Miller had asked that the various county agencies get together during a commission meeting because of a specific problem the hospital had in January.

A patient came in to the emergency room at 6:30 a.m., he said, and the hospital personnel couldn't get anyone to take them to Hays for treatment despite calling both the Norton ambulance ser-

vice and the sheriff's office. The hospital finally got help from the Ellis County Emergency Medical Service and the patient was sent to Hays at 3:30 p.m.

Mr. Miller said that he has since checked with the Ellis County service and discovered that they have not been paid for the transport. While Ellis County has not asked the hospital to pay them, he said, he feels that they need to be paid because Norton may need their help again.

Norton Emergency Medical Service Director Jane Wyatt said that since the patient was at the hospital, they were classed as non-emergency and her service could not transport them per county protocols. However, she said, Ellis County might have different rules.

She said that an ambulance can be used to transport patients, who have been involuntarily committed, to the Larned State Hospital but only if that can be done safely for all concerned.

There are so many hoops to jump through, she said, the ambulance can't transport patients, who do not have an emergency because then it would just

be considered taxi service and third-party payers (insurance companies, Medicare and Medicaid) will not cover that.

Sheriff Troy Thomson told Mr. Miller that his department has an agreement with the Norton City Police that the police will take care of anything within the city and the hospital is inside the city limits.

The calls to the sheriff's office were turned over to the police, he said, but since the officer was calling from the sheriff's office, the hospital thought they were talking to the sheriff instead of the police.

Again, the word psych patient was used, he said, and they were not told that the patient might be suicidal and a danger to himself or others. The difference is that a person who comes into the emergency room under their own volition for help is a voluntary commitment and again not considered an emergency. If someone is considered suicidal or a danger, that is a police matter.

The police spoke to people at the

hospital twice that day, the sheriff said. However, law enforcement can't take voluntary commitments because again that would be considered a taxi service and is outside what they are supposed to do.

Both Mrs. Wyatt and the sheriff expressed concern and said that they felt badly about what had happened and did not want the hospital to be in the middle of a controversy but said that they are constrained by what they can do to help.

"I'd like to see a solution so it doesn't happen like this again," Mrs. Wyatt told Mr. Miller.

County Attorney Doug Sebelius explained the laws which the sheriff, the ambulance and his office operate under and said that he would not be in favor of the county paying for the Ellis transport.

"It's not Norton County's expense," he said. "I couldn't authorize a voucher."

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It all boils down to the cost of things

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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The Norton County Road and Bridge Department is changing its engineering firm from B&G Engineering to Penco for bridge inspections.

Road department Supervisor Sandy Smith told the county commissioners on Monday that B&G has just become more and more expensive over the years and, while the county will still be using them for many things, Penco has a better price for bridge inspections.

The county has 195 bridges, she said, but not all are inspected every year. By switching to Penco, she hopes to save about \$7,000 a year on inspection fees. In 2010, B&G charged \$112 a bridge and in 2012, the cost was \$115. Penco will cost about \$80 a bridge, she said.

Ms. Smith said that all the new road graders, the county has just purchased, have arrived and that the crew is delighted with them. However, she said, she did not buy an upgraded mainte-

nance contract on the machines because it was just too expensive for what it covered.

She said that the crew had spent some time Monday morning in a safety meeting, which was good because the fog would have hindered work anyway and that she has hired a new equipment operator. He will start on May 1, she said.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Decided to help with the annual spring city-county cleanup with the City of Norton. It costs about \$4,600 for the cleanup, County Solid Waste Supervisor John Miller told the commissioners. Each year, the City of Norton has both a spring and a fall cleanup, he said, but the county only helps out with the spring one.

- Authorized the road and bridge department to go to a 10-hour, four-day work week. The crew will work from 7 a.m. to 5:30 Monday through Thursday

from May through the beginning of September. The change should give the crews more time on the roads and less in traveling back and forth, Ms. Smith told the commissioners, noting that the biggest day for calls is Tuesday with Friday getting the least calls for road work.

- Visited with Len Coady, who talked to them about First Central Insurance, which handles health insurance for all Kansas companies except Blue Cross and Blue Shield. Mr. Coady told the commissioners that he was sure he could save the county money without changing its benefit package but would need the health history for its workers. That will not be available until June, County Clerk Robert Wyatt said. That is when the county starts work on health insurance benefits for the next year. Right now, the county has Blue Cross for its health insurance, he said.

Norton man to face charges of rape this May

Norton resident Tom Winningham is being charged with felony rape of a 17 year old female. The alleged assault is reported to have taken place on Feb. 19, 2012. The alleged victim in the case was a minor at the time and her identity remains anonymous.

The defense attorney for Winningham has requested a continuance of the preliminary hearing which will be heard on May 2, at 9:30 a.m. in District Court. Winningham is currently being held on \$100,000 bail.

During the preliminary hearing the Court will review the evidence in the case and determine if a crime was committed and establish if there is probable cause to believe the defendant committed the offense.

