

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM

WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

10 PAGES

Tuesday

April 16, 2013

Briefly

Booster Club to meet Wednesday

The second meeting of the Norton Blue Jay Booster Club for the golf and track and field 2013 seasons will be held on Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.

Speaking about their team's early season results will be head golf coach David Stover and head track and field coach Jason Jones.

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.

Band recital set for this Wednesday

The Norton sixth grade band recital will take place on Wednesday in the Eisenhower band room at 1:40 p.m.

Spaghetti dinner to raise money

The Norton Community Center, 208 West Main, will host a spaghetti dinner fundraiser on Saturday, April 20 from 5-7 p.m. Free will offering accepted. Take out available.

Home based expo set for weekend

The 2013 Lenora Spring Home based Expo will be Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Lenora school cafeteria.

Annual meeting to take place Saturday

The annual meeting for Prairie Land Electric will take place on Saturday beginning with a meal and then the meeting will start at 12:45 at the Prairie Land Electric office in Norton.

Northern Valley to hold special day

Northern Valley Elementary is hosting Grandparent's Day on Friday, April 19 for students K-4 from 9 a.m.-noon.

Weather

Tuesday Night - Overcast with a chance of rain, then rain showers after midnight. Low of 34 degrees with a windchill as low as 27. Wednesday - Overcast with a chance of rain in the afternoon. High of 61. Wednesday Night - Overcast with a chance of snow. Fog overnight. Chance of snow 40 percent with accumulations up to 1 inch possible. Thursday - Overcast with a chance of snow, then a chance of snow and a chance of rain in the afternoon. High of 43. Friday - Partly cloudy with fog early. High of 55. Friday Night - Partly cloudy with fog overnight.

Prayer

O God, sometimes it is difficult to accept care from others. Help us accept graciously your love shown through others and to be grateful for opportunities to share it as well. Amen.

A mystical night...



Northern Valley held their Prom on Saturday. This year's theme was "Masquerade Mystique". There was a dinner then the dance, followed by the post prom activities. This year's crowned royalty were,

from left, King- Alex Tharman, Queen- Harley Rupp, Princess- Brittanie Larison and Prince- Phillip Compton.

- Courtesy photo

Superintendent makes recommendations

By Mike Stephens

mstephens@nwkansas.com

Superintendent Greg Mann made three recommendations to the Board of Education, to combat the budget shortfall for the 2013-14 school year, at the April 8 meeting at the Alice Tweed Center.

Mann's first recommendation is to increase revenue by increasing the Local Option Budget mill levy in order to raise the same amount that was raised this school year. Second, is to utilize approximately \$250,000 in contingency fund reserves. Third, avoid reduction in force and laying off employees to the largest extent possible by replacing the vacant full-time custodial position with a part-time position, not replacing the vacant language arts teaching position at Norton Community High School, and by enacting a limited staff reduction (from two to one band directors) by going to a grade 5-12 instrumental music position.

Retired Norton Community High School band director David Will went before the board and expressed his

concerns about the possible loss of an instrumental music instructor.

The board is expected to take action on Mann's recommendations at its May 13 meeting.

Following three executive sessions the board approved the following personnel decisions:

-Accepted the resignation of Kevin Jilka (retirement) as the high school's math and physical education instructor, head volleyball coach and Norton Junior High School head track coach. The board expressed its appreciation for his 35 years of service to U.S.D. 211.

-Accepted the resignation of Brad Leiker as Norton Community High School custodian, effective April 1, 2013.

-Approved Richard Wyatt as part-time custodian at Norton Community High School.

-Approved Marilyn Dicks, Kathy Richard and Tony Fiscus as summer maintenance help.

-Approved Erin Manning as summer computer maintenance help.

-Approved Lucas Melvin as head

summer weight room supervisor and George Rossi and Jeremy Hawks as assistants.

-Extended the contracts of Principals Corey Roy, Dustin McEwen, Rudy Perez and Technology Director Keith Hauser through the 2014-15 school year with salaries to be determined later.

Two instructors made curriculum presentations to the board. Tamra Cochran, fine arts department, presented statistics of the vocal music department's achievements over the past five years. She thanked the board and administration for its support and her appreciation for her accompanists Sara Brehmer and Belinda Thalheim.

Teresa Schulze, science department, informed the board about the Little Red Hen Project at Eisenhower Elementary. The students, with the help of the Norton County Farm Bureau Association, have a 20 x 30 foot wheat plot where they planted seeds, harvested the wheat and grind it into wheat flour to make pretzels.

In other council news:

-Approved the Norton Junior High School master schedule as proposed by Principal McEwen.

-Decided to table action on replacing doors and locks to an unspecified time.

-Directed the Superintendent to solicit official lease-purchase bid proposals for a Blue Bird or International bus for consideration at the May meeting.

-Directed the Superintendent to enter into a lease-purchase agreement with Apple for teacher laptops, ending in a \$1 purchase of the leased laptops for a total annual cost of \$34,058.

-Voted 6-1 to withdraw from participation in the Parents as Teachers program for the 2013-14 school year. April Karnopp voted no.

Mann reported that the wheels and axles on the bleachers at Stull Gym need to be replaced at a cost of \$350 each, approximately \$35,000 to \$40,000 total. Also, bus number 18 is having electrical problems and is being repaired in Colby and should be covered under warranty.

A past bill that needs to get paid

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

c.haynes@nwkansas.com

An agreement and a handshake aren't always enough to make sure things work smoothly over a number of years, the City of Norton realized when it found out that Norton County wasn't helping pay for a rescue unit it purchased some years ago.

The county for its part, wasn't paying because it wasn't receiving a bill.

Back in 2007, the county was paying for one-half of the cost of a rescue unit each year. At that time, the city asked that the deal be changed and the county pay \$10,000 each year for seven years so that a new rescue, a 2008 Ford Mini Rescue pumper could be purchased for \$131,874 on a lease-purchase plan. The city would provide for all the rescue needs.

So in 2008, the county paid its \$10,000.

In 2011, Mr. Lawson said, the city realized that the county had not paid its share of the unit for 2009 and 2010. He talked to the commissioners at that time and was told to send a bill, which

the city did.

The commissioners paid the \$10,000 owed in 2011, he said, but no more. On Monday, Rob Lawson, Norton City Administrator, said the county has made three of the \$10,000 payments but still has not paid the back bills. He said that he understood that the county didn't just have \$20,000 to plunk down but that he had talked to then commissioners John Miller and Carolyn Applegate and was told that the county pays its bills.

"We're not mad," Mr. Lawson told the commissioners but noted that the cost of the pumper is considerable, about \$23,000 a year, and that the city needs help to pay for it.

Commissioner Charles Posson said that he is sure that the county not getting a bill for those years was the problem as to why the city wasn't paid but felt like Mr. Miller and Mrs. Applegate had truly assured everyone that the county pays its bills.

"It's a problem that needs to be resolved," he said.

Mitch Jones, Norton City Fire Chief, gave the commissioners some background on the rescue operation. In 1979, he said, the city got its first Jaws of Life after a community fund-raiser.

Liability, he said, is a huge expense for rescue units and he noted that the fire department is called for rescues in the county including wrecks, drownings and hazardous material spills. He said, his crew is not equipped to deal with some things like drownings and hazmat problems but they do know who to call upon for help.

Mr. Lawson said that the city would be happy to demonstrate the equipment on the rescue unit so that the commissioners will understand how the unit works.

The commissioners thought that would be a great idea and suggested that the unit be shown to the public in demonstrations during the county fair this year.

The commissioners said that they would have to look at the problem of the missing payments and figure out the best way to get the city taken care of.

Norton's prom is set for this Saturday night

The Norton Community High School will be having their Junior-Senior Prom on Saturday. The theme, "Somewhere Only We Know" is available for public viewing on Saturday from 1-4 p.m. in the Junior High gymnasium. This year's theme will highlight a hidden garden in colors of green, black and gold. Please stop by and see all the decorations and the hard work of the junior class. The promenade starts at 6:30 p.m. in the Stull Gymnasium. This is sponsored by the post prom committee. Mr. Kevin Jilka will be the honored speaker this year at the prom banquet. The banquet will be followed by the dance. During the dance the coronation of the Prom King and Queen will be at 10:15 p.m. and the public is invited to attend the crowning ceremony.

