

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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Friday

April 19, 2013

Briefly

Norton high school will hold prom

The Norton high school will hold prom this Saturday. Promenade is at 6:30 followed by the dinner and dance with the crowning of this year's royalty.

Spaghetti dinner fundraiser Saturday

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 \$5.

Lenora to hold business expo

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

Prairie Land to hold annual meeting

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.

Parent meeting is set for Monday

There will be a sixth grade parent meeting at 7 p.m. in the Norton Junior/Senior High music room on Monday. Information will be provided about the transition to junior high. Call Jen Hauser at 877-5851 with questions.

Early dismissal for USD 211 Wednesday

USD 211 Schools will dismiss at 1 p.m. on Wednesday to allow for teacher training.

Blood drive to be held Wednesday

There will be a blood drive on Wednesday at the 4-H building in Norton from noon until 6 p.m. Appointments can be made yet walk ins are welcome. Come save a life.

Markets

Friday, April 19, 2013

Wheat	\$6.89
Milo	\$6.11
Soybeans	\$13.93
Corn	\$6.54

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

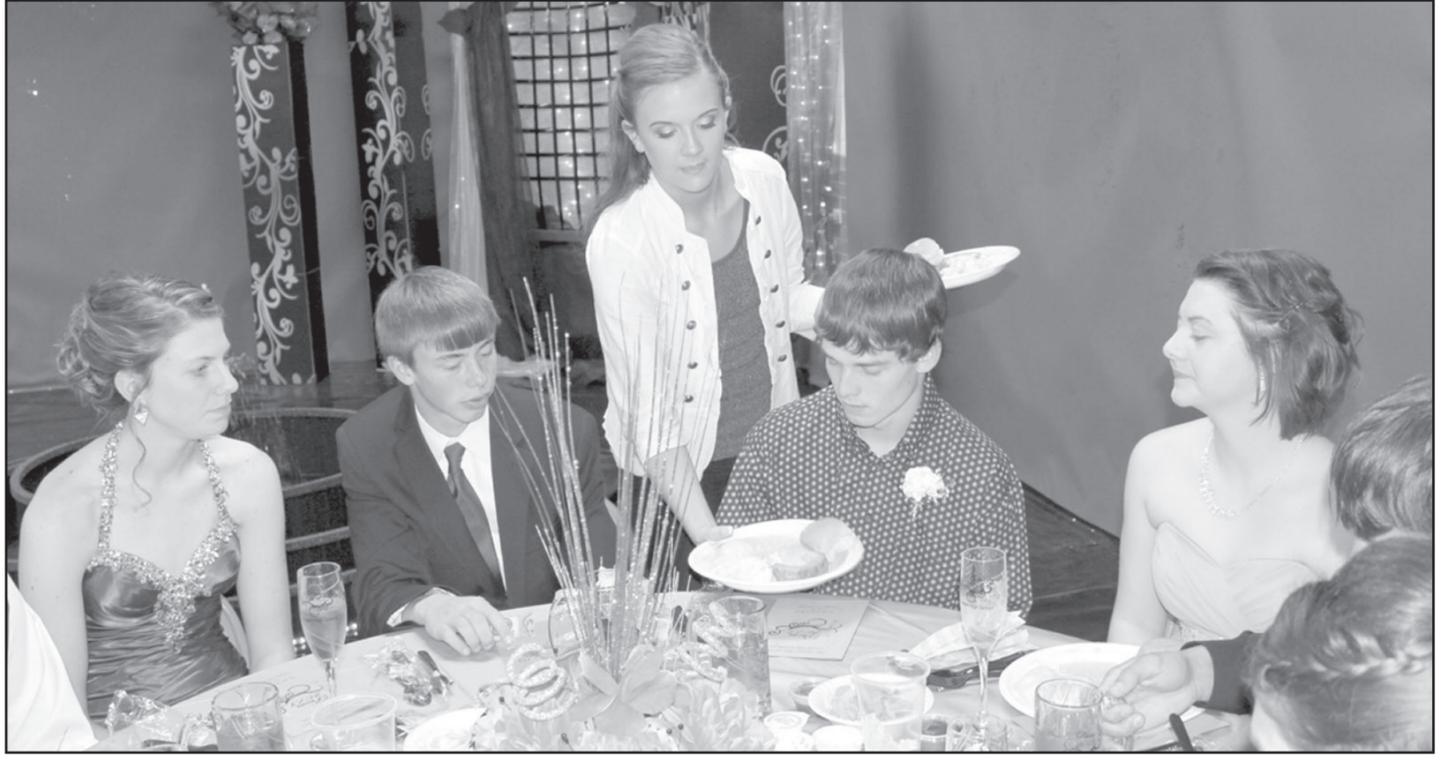
Weather

Saturday - Overcast in the morning then mostly cloudy with a high of 66. Saturday Night - Overcast with a low of 39. Sunday - Overcast in the morning then mostly cloudy with a high of 64. Sunday Night - Overcast with a chance of rain after midnight. Monday - Mostly cloudy with a chance of snow.

Prayer

Dear God of hope, may we always confide in you, especially in our darkest days. Amen.

A formal affair...



Sophomore Kadee Braun served Juniors Libby Schneider, Kyle Pakkebie, Coy Leggett, and Nathalia Cruz who enjoyed a meal before the Logan prom which took place last Saturday. Logan didn't have a theme and they do not crown royalty at their prom; they do that at the winter formal - Courtesy photo

Concealed carry is topic of discussion

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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What should, could, will the county do about Kansas' upcoming concealed carry law occupied Norton County Sheriff Troy Thomson and county commissioners at their meeting on Monday.

If the county allows firearms to be carried into the courthouse, will a security system with a metal detector and extra help be needed?

Can the commissioners just keep up the signs they have prohibiting guns in the courthouse or do they need to do something else to stop firearms from being carried into the building except by law officers.

"We can still prohibit it (concealed carry in the courthouse)," Commissioner Charles Posson said after pulling up and reading sections of the senate bill that is causing all the furor. "We can put the signs up. We just have to make the motion."

He added that he believes the only ones who should be allowed to carry guns into the courtroom should be the

judge, bailiff and law-enforcement officers.

The sheriff agreed and noted that if concealed-carry firearms are allowed on the premises, a security system would be quite expensive and troublesome.

The bill that Mr. Posson was referring to has been passed but not signed by the governor yet, but he said, that he thinks it will be and then it will go into effect July 1 so the county needs to decide what it will do before then.

The commissioners briefly discussed what is needed to get a concealed carry permit.

It's not as easy as you might think, Commissioner Posson said, pointing to the regulations. There is an eight-hour or more class that applicants have to take, then their weapons are inspected and they have to qualify on a firing range. The rules also say that anyone who has been convicted of any domestic crime, like battery, cannot ever get a permit.

Commissioner R.A. Peterson asked how many concealed carry permits

there are in Norton County.

The sheriff said that he didn't have an exact figure but it is more than most people would think. There are two to three classes for those seeking the permit each month in the county, he said, and each one usually has about 25 people in it. Also, he said, some people go to nearby counties to take the class.

The sheriff also told the commissioners that Correctional Care has helped the county keep medical costs down by watching Medicaid rates. In a recent case, he said, the company was able to bring a hospital bill from \$2,599 to under \$500. That service cost the county \$17, the sheriff said.

The sheriff also talked to the commissioners about a service that the county has been buying that calls everyone with a land or cell phone attached to it when there is a severe weather alert, such as a tornado is bearing down on the area.

The money to pay for the service has been coming out of the emergency management budget, the sheriff said, mostly because when it was set up he

was handling that department. However, he said, since the dispatchers run the system, it should probably be switched over to the sheriff's office budget now.

He said that the company he works with wanted a three to five-year contract but he would only go for one year.

"There are a lot of these systems out there that are free," he noted but added that he wasn't sure how well they all worked.

If we're going to provide this service, he said, he will need to pay \$4,460 by May 1 to keep it going.

"I've got an awful lot of people who like it," he said. "I get (told so) on the street. But, I also get people who say: 'I wish you'd quit calling me in the middle of the night.'"

The commissioners agreed that the county should keep the service but asked that the sheriff and Justina Smith, the emergency preparedness manager, look at other options for next year.

Norton County wide clean up is next week

Its spring cleaning time in Norton County and next week county residents will have a chance to get rid of some of the old junk and clean up their property at the same time.

The county is asking residents to bring tree limbs, appliances and construction debris to the landfill at the east edge of Norton from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday for

free or reduced rate disposal.

The county asks that items be separated according to type with junk furniture, siding, windows and carpet going into the construction and demolition pile; appliance and metal into the metal pile; tree limbs and branches into the tree pile; and grass, leaves and yard waste into the compost pile.

Electronic waste must be brought in separately since it has to be disposed of differently than other waste. This includes phones, computers, flat screen televisions, monitors, printers, stereos and radios, county officials say.

There will be a \$4 charge for car tires, \$5 for pickup tires and \$25 for appliances not accompanied by a certificate saying that freon has been

removed.

The cleanup effort sponsored by the county is for residents only and does not include businesses or commercial enterprises.

The county landfill is also open on Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon for those who are unable to participate in the cleanup days.

Oath of Office...



Newly elected to the Norton City Council for Ward III, Jeff Urban took the oath of office on Wednesday night. Re-elected Mayor David Corns and council members Jerry Jones of Ward I and Roberta Ryan of Ward II also took the oath. -Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

Lions Club pancake feed moved to November

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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The Norton Lions Club is changing their annual pancake feed from October to November to take advantage of and help out with the annual governor's pheasant hunt, which will be taking place in Norton County this year.

Commissioner Charles Posson told the other commissioners at their meeting on Monday and county Economic Development Director Scott Sproul that the Lions Club has changed the pancake feed to the Saturday of the hunt. The club is also willing to help with other things with the hunt, which is being co-sponsored by Graham County, Mr. Posson said.

Mr. Sproul also told the commissioners that work is continuing on both asphalt and concrete roads that will serve the new Ag Valley loadout facility.

He also said that the meeting last week with Kansas Department of

Transportation Secretary Mike King and Corrections Director Jay Shelton went well.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Agreed to allow Lance Kinderknecht to put a water line under a county road. Mr. Kinderknecht said that he would not be trenching the road and would put in a culvert if one is needed after the line is installed.

- Suggested that two older emergency vehicles be put up for bids. Emergency Medical Director Jane Wyatt said that both vehicles have been taken out of service and are not useful to the county anymore but might be nice for someone doing dog grooming, barbecue or anything that needs a van with a lot of cabinets in it. One vehicle is gas and one is diesel, she said. County Clerk Robert Wyatt suggested sealed bids with the county having the right to refuse all offers if they are not high enough.

