

# \$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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**Friday**  
May 3, 2013

## Briefly

### Credit Union closed part of next Tuesday

United Northwest Federal Credit Union will be closed on Tuesday, May 7 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. in order for the employees to attend the funeral of longtime supervisory committee member Don McMullen.

### Almena graduation planned for Sunday

Graduation for Northern Valley's class of 2013 will be held in the high school gymnasium on Sunday at 2 p.m. in Almena.

### Free movies and popcorn Sunday

Relay for Life will be hosting a free will donation movie fundraiser on Sunday, May 5 at the Norton Theatre starting at 2 p.m. The popcorn will be free and the movies showing will include ET: The Extra Terrestrial (PG) and The Swiss Family Robinson (G)..

### Hydrant flushing on Wednesday

The City of Norton will flush the hydrants on Wednesday, May 8, beginning at 8 a.m. (weather permitting). Please refrain from doing laundry on this day.

### Kindness program to be held Tuesday

The Norton Community High School will hold its annual Kindness Units US Program at East Campus on Tuesday night at 7 p.m.

### Consignment sale planned for Friday

My Kidz Stuff is holding a huge children's consignment sale Friday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon at the Norton National Guard Armory.

## Markets

Thursday, May 2, 2013

Wheat.....	\$7.41
Milo.....	\$6.39
Soybeans.....	\$13.86
Corn.....	\$6.82

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

## Weather

Saturday - Overcast in the morning then mostly cloudy with a high of 63. Saturday Night - Mostly cloudy in the evening then overcast. Fog overnight. Low of 37. Sunday - Partly cloudy with a high of 63. Breezy. Sunday Night - Fog overnight. Monday - Fog early with a high in the 70s.

## Prayer

Gracious God, send your Spirit to remind us not to judge. We pray in the name of Jesus. Amen

## Sing out loud, sing out strong



The kindergarten class at Eisenhower Elementary School performed a vocal concert on Tuesday in a packed cafeteria of family and friends. The kindergarteners sang several different songs, including a little hip-hop, and were a big hit with the crowd.

-Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

## Sheriff collects 80 pounds of unused drugs

By CYNTHIA HAYNES  
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The Norton County Sheriff's department ended up with more than 80 pounds of unused and expired drugs after a turn-in day when county residents turned in their old medications.

Sheriff Troy Thomson told the county commissioners on Monday that his office took in prescription medicines, over-the-counter drugs and even a few veterinary items in an effort to remove old and perhaps harmful drugs from the medicine cabinets and pill cases of the county.

On Saturday, residents were encouraged to drop off their old drugs at the sheriff's office between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., Sheriff Thomson said. He added that his office will take expired and unused medicines at any time but this gave people a timeframe to get their spring medicine cabinet cleaning done.

The Federal Drug Enforcement Administration provides prepaid shipping labels for the department to turn in the medications, he said.

A local pharmacist later said that

turning old drugs into the sheriff's office is the way to go. Drug stores cannot take back medications, she said, unless they have a way to dispose of them and they should not be thrown in the trash or flushed down the toilet. Children have been known to find dangerous drugs in the trash and take them and flushing antibiotics and hormones down the toilet can pollute the ground water.

The sheriff and the commissioners discussed problems with the courthouse' phone system. There have been problems with dropped calls, calls where one side couldn't hear the other and other problems. Most of the problems are due to the age of the system, County Clerk Robert Wyatt said. However, he noted that he has not been able to get any straight answers as to what the county needs to do to get the problem fixed from Nex-Tech, the phone provider.

Mr. Wyatt did note that the county likes using Nex-Tech because the company is local and because it responds to emergency problems.

The sheriff also brought up a problem he has been having with his budget. The phones within the jail are on a separate system. The company, which maintains the system, sells prepaid phone cards to the sheriff, who resells them to the inmates. The sheriff said that he usually buys \$400 worth of cards at a time for \$280. The county makes a \$3 fee per \$10 card but all the money goes into the county general fund. The \$280 cost of buying the cards, however, comes out of the jail budget.

Right now, he said, the jail budget is in real trouble because there have been a lot of medical expenses that the county has had to pay out of that fund. One inmate has spent almost \$900 purchasing cards in a month, he said. That is unusual, he noted, but normally he sells about \$4,000 a year in cards to inmates.

"This is really affecting the jail side (of my budget)," the sheriff said.

The commissioners agree that it would be fairer and easier to follow if the money spent on the cards went back into the jail budget.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Learned that the sheriff had renewed his contract with Western Pest Control to spray the jail area every month for \$25 a month.

- Found out that Sheriff Thomson has signed the county up for one year of emergency call service to warn residents of approaching destructive weather. The cost is \$4,893 and the sheriff is looking at cheaper alternatives for next year.

- Heard that the sheriff will be looking at both new and used pickups as he replaces a vehicle. He said that he would like to use a local dealer and that will require looking at a low mileage used vehicle.

- Were told that the sheriff has applied for a federal grant to help pay for replacing the county's protective vests for his department. The current vests are way over their five-year life span, he said, and since the materials deteriorate, they need to be replaced.

## Decatur survivors invited to Norton County Relay for Life

Although Relay For Life volunteers could not be found in Decatur County, the known 30+ cancer survivors will not be forgotten this year. Relay For Life of Norton County is inviting all cancer survivors to join them on June 7th for their Relay. Letters are being mailed to the known survivors, but we encourage those newly diagnosed, caregivers and cancer survivors who do not receive a letter in the next week to contact Melba Witt at 785-871-1975 to register for this year's Relay For Life.

Relay For Life is the American Cancer Society's primary event each year. At the event we Celebrate our Survivors, Remember those that we have lost and encourage everyone to Fight Back against this terrible disease. The money raised at Relay For Life goes

towards various programs, education and research for finding a cure.

It is projected that an additional 21 Decatur County residents will hear the words "You have cancer" this year. In the early 1990's cancer patients had a 1 out of 3 chance of survival, today that number is 2 out of 3. The American Cancer Society won't stop fighting until that number is 3 in 3. For more information on Relay For Life or the American Cancer Society, you may go online at [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org). For more information about the Norton County Relay For Life, contact Event Chairmen, Lee Russell at 785-871-1539 or Karen Wright at 785-877-2707.

## Man charged in rape case

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.

On Thursday, in District Court, Winningham waived his right to a preliminary hearing and is being bound over by the District Court for arraignment on June 11 at 3 p.m.

Winningham is currently in jail on bond.

The alleged victim in the case was a minor at the time and her identity remains anonymous.

## Sleep Inn gets award

The Sleep Inn & Suites in Norton, has received a 2013 Platinum hospitality award from Choice Hotels International. This award is presented annually to the top three percent of hotels within the Sleep Inn brand, based on guest satisfaction and quality assurance ratings. In addition, the Norton Sleep Inn & Suites achieved the number one ranking out of the 376 Sleep Inn hotels in the United States.

The staff of the Sleep Inn and Suites will remain committed to exceeding the expectations of all our guests and providing top quality accommodations and exceptional value to visitors of the Norton area.

## Lenora volunteers recognized

PRIDE volunteers working on behalf of Lenora, Kan. joined others in the state to accept community development awards at the Kansas PRIDE Program's 2013 Day of PRIDE.

The event is sponsored by the Kansas PRIDE Program, a volunteer-driven community development resource available to Kansas communities. The statewide effort is co-administered by K-State Research and Extension and the Kansas Department of Commerce, Business and Community Development.

The celebration and idea exchange was held April 27th and co-hosted by the cities of Wilson and Lucas, neighboring communities that each earned PRIDE Community of Excellence (COE) awards this year.

Co-locating the annual event provided opportunities for representatives from other PRIDE communities to learn

more about successful community development projects in Wilson, which hosted the morning program, and Lucas, which hosted the luncheon and afternoon program, said Trudy Rice, K-State Research and Extension PRIDE coordinator.

The PRIDE COE Award is presented to communities demonstrating ongoing community development, Rice said. The designation extends over a three-year period, and PRIDE COE's receive an award sign to display during this period. Recipients also become eligible to apply for grant funding from Partners in PRIDE to fund future community development projects.

The City of Lenora, pop. 250, earned recognition as a COE, and is one of only 10 communities in the state to be honored with the PRIDE award this year. It is one of only five communities to earn a PRIDE

Community Partner Award to honor the successful collaboration of the local PRIDE committee and Chamber of Commerce.

Award recipients are nominated by their communities for the award, which honors exceptional volunteers for leadership, citizenship, and service to the community.

"We are a small community, and can benefit by working together," said Maggie Basgall, president of the local PRIDE group.

In the absence of a local newspaper, Lenora PRIDE and the Chamber of Commerce work together to produce the "Lenora Meridian," a weekly newsletter to keep residents informed.

The two groups also collaborate on several community-wide events, including an Easter Egg Hunt, Memorial Day Program, and Halloween event.

(LENORA - Continued on Page 5)

