

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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10 PAGES

Tuesday
June 18, 2013

Briefly

Register for July 5-K race and derby

Registration forms for the Fourth of July 5K Race and the Carp Derby can be picked up at the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce office.

Blood Drive set for Thursday

The Red Cross Blood Drive will be Thursday, June 20 at the 4-H Building, 126 E. Park St., from noon to 6 p.m. It's open to the public and walk-ins are welcome, or you can schedule an appointment by calling 1-800-Red Cross.

Fun night at the Norton Library

Fun Night at the Norton Public Library on Thursday, June 20 from 6:30-8 p.m., is 'Wii Game Night.' Bring your favorite Wii or Playstation 2 game to play with friends and pig out on fudge.

Ribbon cutting to be held Thursday

The Norton Area Chamber of Commerce will be hosting an open house and ribbon cutting at Destination Kitchen on Thursday. The open house will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and the ribbon cutting will be at 10:30 a.m.

Hwy 36 Association holding meeting

The U.S. Highway 36 Association will be celebrating 100 years at its annual meeting in Phillipsburg on Friday, June 21.

Markets

Monday, June 17, 2013

Wheat	\$6.83
Milo	\$6.53
Soybeans	\$14.51
Corn	\$7.15

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

weather forecast

Tuesday Night - Chance of rain. Wednesday - Partly cloudy with a chance of thunderstorms. Breezy with a high of 84. Wednesday Night - Chance of rain. Fog overnight. Thursday - Partly cloudy with fog early and a high of 99. Thursday Night - Clear with a low of 72 and breezy. Friday - Clear with a high of 100. Breezy with winds from the SSW at 15 to 20 mph. Friday Night - Clear with a chance of a thunderstorm. Low of 66.

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for your grace that saves us. As we freely receive it, help us freely give by praying for and serving others. Amen



Lenora Jubilee hosts several entertainers

The City of Lenora held the Lenora Jubilee over the weekend and started off with the Adam Craig Band in concert Friday night. A short storm delayed the next performer but finally national recording artist Gregg Bates, whose current song, "I did it for the Girl", that can be heard on the radio, took his place under the spotlight.

Saturday held a day full of activities. City wide garage sales, a parade, the Amazing Arther, the power pedal pull, critter races, bingo, trap shoot, and a blow up carnival.

On Saturday night, the weekend's events concluded with another concert. The band DOC from Hays was the first band up and then Reggie Shaw took the stage.

Gregg Bates is seen here at the end of his concert thanking his fans for coming out despite the rough weather.

— Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

Sheriff's department to get new truck

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

cynthia.haynes@nwkansas.com

When the Norton County Sheriff's office receives its new four-door pickup, which is on order, the Almena Fire Department will get its old one.

Sheriff Troy Thomson told the county commissioners on Monday that after the new vehicle arrives, it will still need to be equipped and in exchange for getting the old police car with its light bar, the Almena Fire Department will pay for the new equipment installation.

That is not to say, Almena will be paying for the multitude of things that need to go into or on a sheriff's vehicle, Mr. Thomson said. The fire department will only pay for installation, which helps the county.

The old vehicle has 190,000 miles on it he said, but the sheriff's office does a good job of maintaining the vehicles and it should be good for the fire department, which doesn't put the miles on that law enforcement does.

The sheriff said that his vehicles have to be well maintained because his people are all over the county in them and sometimes have to run at high speeds.

"They need to be in good shape," he said.

The new vehicle will be equipped with a one-half cage, he said.

He explained that that is a prisoner holding area that would take up about one-half of the back seat, leaving the rest of the space for the officer's equipment and paperwork, of which there is always a bunch, he said.

The sheriff said that at the commissioners request his officers have been doing extra traffic work on the road by the armory. Most vehicles are running from 28 to 39 mph, he said. The road is posted for 30 mph.

"30 miles per hour for that road is pretty low," the sheriff noted. "It's a good road with not many houses. It's easy to speed."

He said that there is more traffic out there than most people would expect, however and his officers don't give tickets to people going a mile or two over the limit.

"We'll stay on it," he promised the commissioners.

The sheriff also told the commissioners that he had been interviewing

candidates for a night dispatcher job and would hire Ashley VanEaton of Norton.

She almost finished her degree in criminal justice, the sheriff said, and seems the best candidate for the job.

The sheriff told the commissioners that he has been getting prisoners in the evening and holding them overnight for other counties so that they could be put on the Department of Corrections bus, which leaves early in the morning for Norton.

The sheriff said that he hasn't been charging for the service since he doesn't have to feed the prisoners and it helps the other counties not to have to send an officer out in the middle of the night to make sure the prisoners get on the bus. This is especially helpful for places like Goodland in Sherman County, he said, that are a ways away.

However, he said, its getting crazy. While he normally would average four of these prisoners a month, one night his office had three of them.

The sheriff said that he usually charges other jurisdictions \$52 a day to keep their prisoners. He asked it the

commissioners thought that \$20 to \$25 would be reasonable to pay for the expenses he incurs when holding these overnight guests.

The commissioners said that they thought a small booking fee would be acceptable especially since there are some costs and some danger involved with keeping any prisoner.

The fee will help cover expenses, the sheriff said, and not be punitive to the counties that want to send their people over early. They have the choice of either taking them themselves or paying a small amount.

The sheriff agreed that the prisoners he gets in this manner are probably a little more dangerous than your average jail inmate since most of them are going to prison and this is their last opportunity to get away.

"We're not trying to make money off this," the sheriff said, adding that the other law enforcement agencies do Norton County favors also.

"It allows us to recoup some money and give them a choice," he said.

Local man gets hired hand with paws

By Mike Stephens

mstephens@nwkansas.com

Three years ago, Troy Balderston, 35, from Beaver City, Neb., was in a car accident that forever changed his life. "I was driving on a country road, a gravel road, and I ran a stop sign and hit somebody head-on, killing the wife. The husband survived but he had some head injuries. They were neighbors to us," explained Balderston.

The accident broke Balderston's C-4, C-5 and C-6 vertebrae, leaving him a quadriplegic. He would spend 25 days in the intensive care unit at the hospital in Kearney, Neb., and then three months at the Madonna Rehabilitation Center in Lincoln, Neb., followed by two years of physical therapy. His left arm had no mobility for over a year. Now he goes to therapy once a week.

The road to recovery has been a long one for Balderston but he remained positive during the transition. "Its been really good, I have my wife (Sher'rie) and two girls (Brenna and Becca). You can't feel sorry for yourself. You can't do that," said Balderston.

Even though he's paralyzed from the chest down, Balderston does have limited mobility in both arms. He decided to get back to work with his own livestock and at the Harting Farm nine miles south of Norton. Chris Harting and Balderston are friends and "Chris gave me a chance to micro-manage things here (at the Harting Farm)" said Balderston. Despite his efforts to remain active



and independent Balderston needed a little help. That's where 'Duke' the PHARM Dog comes in.

'Duke' is a Border Collie trained to herd livestock, basically a 4-legged farm hand. PHARM Dog U.S.A. in cooperation with Nebraska AgrAbility and Nebraska Vocation Rehabilitation placed 'Duke' with Balderston at the Harting farm on Monday, June 10.

The PHARM Dog project (Pets Helping Agriculture in Rural Missouri)

is the brain child of AgrAbility Rural Outreach Specialist, Jackie Allenbrand. 'Duke is the first out-of-state placement for the PHARM Dog project.

'Duke' will be Balderston's companion, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. "Duke' will work the feed lot and run cattle at my place." In addition to his work responsibilities, 'Duke' will have responsibilities at home as well.

"Duke' will be a family dog as well as a work dog." Balderston had been

waiting for his dog for about a year and his two daughters, Brenna age seven and Becca age four, were also excited about 'Duke's' arrival. "They met him this morning (Monday)," said Balderston.

'Duke' is probably excited about his new job and home as well. He was a homeless dog running the streets in Iowa, and was rescued by an animal shelter and donated to the PHARM Dog project in Missouri, according to Allenbrand, and with the cooperation of NebraskaAgrAbility and Nebraska Vocation Rehabilitation, 'Duke has a new home in Beaver City, Neb., and a job in Norton.

'Duke is replacing Balderston's older work dog, a 12 year old Blue Healer, who is being retired to the homestead. "She can't jump in the pickup anymore," said Balderston.

'Duke' is well trained to herd cattle and impressed Balderston early on. "He's really good. He listens really well. He had to settle in to me and I had to settle in to him." And the girls, "they just love him. We let him in the house and he acted like he's been there forever. He's a good one," said Balderston.

Balderston is very appreciative of the help and support he has received, and for his new companion, 'Duke'. "I am so grateful. I want to thank NebraskaAgrAbility and Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation, they're the ones that came up with the money," said Balderston.

(Paws - Continued on Page 5)



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