

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: nwkansas.com 10 PAGES

Friday
August 23, 2013

Briefly

Fun Day this weekend in Jennigs

The Jennings Firemen's Fun Day will be held Saturday in Jennings. Come see the parade, barrel competition, kids tractor pull and auction. Enjoy the kolaches, sno-cones and funnel cake and wind up the day with the street dance.

Republican Picnic set for Saturday

The 33rd Annual Old Fashioned Republican Picnic will take place Saturday at 5:30 p.m. at the Hansen Memorial Plaza in Logan. Keynote speakers will be Governor Sam Brownback, Senator Pat Roberts, representative Tim Huelskamp and Patricia Stoneking, President of the Kansas State Rifle Association.

BBQ challenge set for this weekend

The fifth Annual Smokin' in the Barn Challenge starts tonight and then on Saturday the public is invited for taste testing throughout the day with the meal at 6 p.m. followed by the awards presentations. Then stick around and dance to Jimmy Dee and the Fabulous Destinations.

Archery club to hold a 3-D shoot

The Norton Archery Club will hold a 3-D Shoot on Sunday, August 25 at the northwest corner of Prairie Dog State Park. Trickle start from 9-10 a.m. For more information call 877-3253 or 877-5269.

Blood drive set for next Wednesday

The American Red Cross is having a Norton community blood drive on Wednesday, Aug. 28 from noon to 6 p.m., at the Norton County 4-H Building, 126 East Park Street. Visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED-CROSS to schedule an appointment.

Markets

Thursday, June XX, 2013

Wheat	\$6.94
Milo	\$5.44
Soybeans	\$13.11
Corn	\$6.24

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Saturday - Clear with a high of 91. Saturday Night - Clear with a low of 68. Sunday - Clear with a high of 95. Sunday Night - Partly cloudy with a low of 70. Monday - Partly cloudy with a high of 95. Monday Night - Overcast with a low of 68. Tuesday - Partly cloudy with a high of 93.

Prayer

Work through us today, Lord Jesus, that we might be a blessing to others. Amen.



Soldier returns home safely

By DANA PAXTON
dpaxton@nwkansas.com

Nine months ago Jeff MacWilliams was deployed to Afghanistan. On July 17 he made it back to his home in Georgia and on August 15 he made it back home to Norton. Jeff is the son of Sharon Batson and once upon a time was a Norton resident. Known as Sergeant Mac, Jeff followed the footsteps of his father, who was in the army infantry and was stationed in Fort Riley. His father served in Vietnam.

Jeff enlisted in the army in March of 2008 and was stationed in Fort Stewart, Ga. During his first tour he was in Korea. His second tour took him to Uruzgan, Afghanistan, and then he went on to Wardack Providence Afghanistan with the First Brigade third Infantry Division 69th Armor Delta Company. Jeff works as an army me-

chanic, fixing everything from plumbing to vehicles and construction that needs to be done. If it was all left up to him to take care of these things, "I wouldn't pick anything else," he said.

Jeff was one of 30 hand picked soldiers for a small support division made up of mechanics, cooks, medical staff and paper pushers. These groups were attached to tankers, infantry, calvary scout and combat companies. His group went to village sustainability operation sites and village sustainability placement sites with a special forces group. His group was attached to a special forces group of Green Berets to train the local Afghan police and Afghan Army on how to run missions correctly and safely so that our army can soon turn it over to them and they will be able to do it on their own. "They are doing a good job and some

really care about their country. We are making a difference by working hand in hand with them on their qualifications and training, some are fearless." Jeff stated.

Due to his placement, he could only receive care packages which were air dropped to him. He said he always requested beef jerky and black olives while there. Since they couldn't send mail out his company had access to what he called Moral Net, internet service to talk to loved ones at home. Skype and Yahoo weren't available but once to twice a week he could get in touch with his family to keep informed on what was going on in the world, at home and where he was thanks to Moral Net.

When asked what he missed
(Soldier - Continued on Page 5)

Valley Hope Alkathon was a success, again

The 46th Annual Norton Valley Hope Alkathon was another huge success with more than 220 people registered the day of the event Saturday, August 17.

The Alkathon draws people from all over. Valley Hope alumni and friends came from Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Oklahoma and other places throughout the midwest. The person who came the farthest lives in Georgia.

The crowd met at the Catholic Parish Hall in Norton and was moved by speakers Jennifer W and Wendell T. Each speaker told a bit about their story of addiction and more so about their life in recovery today.

A silent auction is held during the Alkathon to raise money to help patients with recovery. This patient fund is used to cover books, halfway house down payments and incidentals. Last year the patient fund spent \$10,000 to help those that needed it. This years total brought in by the silent auction was

\$3,700. This money will be put with carry over from last year to help future patients.

The sobriety countdown revealed that the combined group had nearly 400 thousand sober days, "one day at a time." Golden Heart awards were given to Don Schlatter and Vicki Taylor. Golden Heart awards are given to people who have gone the extra mile to help Valley Hope's patients get into and stay in recovery. Don and Vicki's efforts are greatly appreciated.

Norton Valley Hope Program Director Larry Black especially noted the energy and enthusiasm present at this year's event, identifying this year's event as being "on fire for recovery." Mr. Black wants to send out a big thank you which goes out to everyone who helped with the event and to all the people who donated their time, money, auction items, or just their enthusiasm to make this event one of the best ever.



Valley Hope Program Director Larry Black addresses the crowd gathered at this year's Alkathon. The event was held last week starting with the annual meeting on Friday followed by the Alkathon Saturday at the Catholic Parish Hall.

Participation in Community survey wanted

The Norton Area Chamber of Commerce is conducting a Norton Development Survey, designed to collect feedback from citizens of Norton and the surrounding area in order to improve the community and local economy. Responses from residents are critical in helping improve the area and create new opportunities.

Residents can go online at <http://survey.constantcontact.com/survey/a07e81dolyphk17seho/start> to complete the survey. They can also go to the Norton Public Library to manually fill out and return the survey, or to use the public computers to complete the survey online. For questions about the survey at the library, contact Mary Luehrs at 785-877-2481.

All survey responses are anonymous. Links to the survey will also be posted on discovernorton.com, visitnorton.com, [facebook.com/nortonchamberofcommerce](https://www.facebook.com/nortonchamberofcommerce), and [facebook.com/visitnorton](https://www.facebook.com/visitnorton).

Submit your answers online or at the Norton Public Library to make a difference in the community.

For more information, contact Tara Vance, Executive Director of the Norton Chamber of Commerce, at 785-877-2501 or email nortoncc@ruraltel.net.

Bike Bash thanks it's contributors

Northwest Kansas Bike Bash promoter Joe Sweet, was pleased with the turn out of the first annual event that took place last weekend at Larrick Park in Lenora.

Sweet reported that local law enforcement had zero complaints and zero DUI's due to the weekend's events and Lenora City Council member Phil Rule told Mr. Sweet that the park was cleaner after this event then it was after the Lenora Jubilee. "Bikers police their own." Sweet stated.

Many prizes were given away over the two days. Sweet said, "We want to express our gracious thanks and deepest gratitude to all the sponsors and to John Milnes of Miltech for being the largest cash donating sponsor. John's name mistakenly was omitted from the posters and t shirts."

When it was all said and done the group was able to reach their goals and will be donating \$500 to the Norton Legion Riders, \$1000 to the Norton Ministerial Alliance and a whopping \$3000 to Children's Hospital. The group plans on riding to the hospital and presenting the money to them in person.

Plans are already underway for next years benefit bike bash.

