

# \$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: [nwkansas.com](http://nwkansas.com) 10 PAGES

Friday

November 1, 2013

## Learning the basics...



Prospective hunters completed their Hunter Education class on Saturday at the Blackpowder Gun Range. (Pictured left to right) Dakota Bliss looks on as his father Dan Bliss, WaKeeney, assists Larry Ran-

dall, a hunter education instructor from Phillipsburg, and Kole Breth shoots clay pigeons with a shotgun.

—Telegram photo by Mike Stephens



**Daylight Savings Time Ends Sunday, November 3 Turn Clocks Back 1 Hour**

### Almena hosts craft fair on Saturday

The 2013 Fall Craft /Vendor Fair will be held in Almena on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Almena Community Building. A lunch stand will be available.

### 4-H achievement night on Sunday

The Norton County 4-H Achievement Night is Sunday, Nov. 3 at the 4-H Building, 126 E. Park Street. The potluck meal begins at 6 p.m. and the program at 6:45 p.m. Please RSVP by calling (785-) 877-5755 or email at [csander@ksu.edu](mailto:csander@ksu.edu).

### Jugglers coming to town Sunday

The Norton County Arts Council will host Something Ridiculous Jugglers on Sunday, Nov. 3 at 4 p.m. The event will be held at the Norton East Campus auditorium.

### Extension office to hold program

So what's buggin' you this year? Join Twin Creeks Extension District Agriculture and Natural Resources Agent, Keith VanSkiel for this informative program. Tuesday, Nov. 5, 7 p.m., Norton County 4-H Building. RSVP to Twin Creeks Extension Office in Norton (785) 877-5755. Ten participants are needed to hold this program.

## Norton County insurance bill to increase

By Cynthia Haynes

[cynthia.haynes@nwkansas.com](mailto:cynthia.haynes@nwkansas.com)

Norton County's insurance bill will be going up in 2014 but partially because the county decided it needs to increase its coverage.

Larry Sharp with the Kansas County Association Multiline Insurance Pool, commonly called K-Camp, presented the commissioners with their bill and talked to them about their coverage, which includes liability, casualty and property damage.

The county had 10 property claims this year and the insurance company has paid on eight of those, Mr. Sharp said.

"It was a tough year for Norton County," Mr. Sharp said, which pushed the county's loss ratio up. "But," he added. "That's what you have insurance for."

The insurance company has paid out

173 percent of what the county paid in in premiums in 2013, Mr. Sharp said but the company uses a four-year average in figuring premiums.

This is the first year that the company has paid out more in property claims than in liability claims for its covered counties, Mr. Sharp said.

The biggest problem for liability, he noted, is law enforcement.

"Sheriffs' departments can't win for losing," he noted.

They are always getting sued for failure to act, illegal search and seizure and false arrests. He noted that in one county the sheriff's office answered two domestic violence calls at one residence. Officers arrested an occupant the first time and got sued for false arrest and didn't arrest on the second call and got sued for failure to act.

The insurance company, he said, looks at claims and sorts them into

three categories.

On property claims, such as Norton County had, the company looks at the accidents and asks if they could have been avoided.

Casualty claims are disregarded, he said, because you can't do anything about storms, hail or tornadoes.

Liability claims are looked at most carefully since they are usually one of the biggest expense.

"We haven't really had any liability problems here in Norton County for some time," Mr. Sharp said.

For 2014, the county's bill will be about \$48,000. That is up from \$39,000 last year but still less than the \$50,000 bill the year before.

The county had all its property appraised last year, County Clerk Robert Wyatt said, and the commissioners decided that they were underinsured so they raised the amount and also added

the old doctors' building, which now houses the Colby Community College nurses program.

Mr. Sharp said that the county needs to fill out a property list so that it isn't paying for property (such as road graders) that it no longer has. He said that the county clerk usually gets to do that job.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Signed checks on Monday because they and Mr. Wyatt were planning to attend the annual Kansas Association of Counties meeting in Wichita on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

- Heard from Treasurer Cynthia Linner that the county has received \$33,741 in sales tax for October. That is up from \$28,198 for last month and \$32,321 for this time last year, she said. "(It's) looking good right now," Mrs. Linner said.

## Sevier retires and new Nex-Tech CEO named



Nex-Tech, Lenora, Kan., has named Jimmy Todd, pictured at left, as the CEO/General Manager to replace Larry Sevier, at right, upon his retirement, March 1, 2014. Sevier, who has been with the company for 28 years, will end his distinguished career after 48 years in the industry. Todd, the current CEO at Mutual Telephone Company (MTC),

Little River, Kan., will join the organization after January 1, 2014. He has a Bachelor's degree in Social Sciences from Chapman University in California and a Masters of Business Administration from University of Portland.

Jimmy's career in telecommunications spans over 25 years starting with active duty service in the Navy as a

specialist in communication electronics, and continuing in the Army National Guard. After military service, he worked at Pacific Bell in San Jose, Calif., and Qwest/US West in Portland, Ore., managing field and network operations. In 2004, Jimmy was named President/General Manager for Malheur Bell, an independent telephone company under Qwest. In 2008; he became the President & General Manager of MTC.

Jimmy has been involved in the formation of the Kansas Fiber Network (KFN) and is the current KFN Board Chairman. He serves on the NTCA The

Rural Broadband Association (NTCA) Trust Committee for the Retirement & Security program, and is a member of the NTCA Government Affairs Committee. MTC is an owner/partner of Nex-Tech Wireless (NTW) and Jimmy has played an active role with the NTW Board. In 2011, he was appointed by Kansas Governor Sam Brownback to represent rural independent telcos on the Kansas NG911 Coordinating Council. Jimmy has lobbied at the State and Federal level on behalf of independent companies and is involved with several national industry associations.

### Don't forget to reset your clocks

If you think it's getting dark early this week, just wait until Monday.

Daylight Saving Time ends Sunday, and with the return to Standard Time, sunset will be an hour earlier next week, about 5:36 p.m. Monday in Oberlin.

While the "official" time change is at 2 p.m., few of us will be up to set our clocks back an hour then. Most people will change their clocks before going to bed, or in the morning. Just don't forget, or you're going to be late for something Sunday morning.

The days will keep getting shorter for another few weeks, until the shortest day of the year on Saturday, Dec. 21, the winter solstice, when the sun will set here at 5:21 p.m.

### Markets

Thursday, October 31, 2013

Wheat	\$7.27
Milo	\$3.95
Soybeans	\$12.07
Corn	\$4.20

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

### Weather

Saturday - Clear with a high of 59. Saturday Night - Clear with a low of 37. Sunday - Clear with a high of 70. Sunday Night - Clear with a low of 48. Monday - Mostly cloudy with a high of 59. Monday Night - Overcast with a low of 34. Tuesday - Overcast with a chance of rain and a high of 52.

### Prayer

Dearest heavenly Father, help us to remember that others may be looking to us as models of faith. Guide us to be ever mindful of our actions that we may be examples of what is good. Amen.

