

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



Tuesday

January 28, 2014

Briefly

Scholar's bowl set for this Thursday

The Mid-Continent League (MCL) Scholar's Bowl, re-scheduled from Jan. 6, will be Thursday, Jan. 30 at 4 p.m. in Stockton.

Rotary club to hold soup supper Friday

The Norton Rotary Club will hold a soup supper Friday night during the game against Colby. Soup will be served in the high school cafeteria. Profits assist the Rotary with senior scholarships.

Dance camp kids to perform on Friday

The little kids dance camp participants will perform at 7 p.m. between games on Friday night at Stull Gymnasium

Late registration for AYSO soccer

Late registration for the 2014 Norton AYSO Soccer season will be held on Saturday at the Library Community Room and running from 2 to 4 p.m.

Almena dance camp on Saturday

There will be a Grade School Dance Camp on Saturday, Feb. 1, from 9 a.m. to noon in Almena at the high school cafeteria.

Veterans to get help with claims

Jody Tubbs of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs will be in Norton from 10:45 until 11:45 a.m., at the Norton County Library to assist veterans and their dependents with VA claims work on Tuesday, Feb. 4.

Markets

Monday, January 27, 2014

Wheat.....	\$6.04
Milo.....	\$3.94
Soybeans.....	\$12.17
Corn.....	\$4.14

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Wednesday - Sunshine and some clouds with a high of 53. Wednesday Night - Partly cloudy with a low of 28. Thursday - Overcast with a high of 33. Thursday Night - Cloudy with a low of 17. Friday - Cloudy with a high of 29.

Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for the differences that make us unique. Teach us to meet people wherever they are and share your love with them. Amen.

Future hunters...



Prairie Dog State Park in cooperation with the Norton Long Spur Pheasants Forever Chapter held their annual "Pass It On" youth hunt on Saturday. The program is to encourage youth to experience quality hunting that will last a lifetime. Nine youth attended and a total

of 12 birds were taken. After a morning of hunting the group was treated to a trap shoot and pizza party all provided by the Norton Long Spur Pheasants Forever Chapter. Special thanks to them for all they did to make this happen. - Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

Proposed unlimited postal rate increases

Senators Thomas Carper, D-DE, and Tom Coburn, R-OK, are proposing new legislation that would remove rate regulation from the Postal Regulatory Commission and give the U.S. Postal Service's own Board of Governors unlimited authority to adjust postage rates for mail within its mail monopoly.

The Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee intends to review this bill for passage to the Senate floor on Jan. 29. NNA recommends that you urgently contact your senators to ask them to contact

the committee and urge that this bill be suspended until proper rate regulation is included.

Background

Despite a postage rate increase that more than triples inflation rates for most Periodicals-mailed newspapers, the Postal Service continues to argue for more "flexibility" in setting rates. That flexibility could be manifested in higher Periodicals rates, lower saturation mail rates for newspaper competitors and other outcomes that affect mail distribution.

Now, the law limits postal increases to a common Consumer Price Index for each class of mail (e.g., First Class, Periodicals, Standard), to be exceeded only with prior review of the PRC.

But the new proposal would let the presidentially-appointed Board of Governors, which includes two seats for postal management, decide to raise rates by the CPI index plus 1 percent as a total revenue figure for all monopoly mail. That means major adjustments for Periodicals mail, Standard mail or other classes used by newspapers could

occur so long as all mail together produced revenue under the cap.

This provision could mean a chain of triple- or quadruple-inflation increases, without even PRC oversight, in the future.

The bill also includes modest language to rein in Negotiated Service Agreements, such as the one extended to Valassis Direct Mail Inc. last year. But this proposed language requiring the Postal Service to take into

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Sheriff's department in need of new recorder

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

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Sheriff Troy Thomson has a broken piece of equipment that he feels is necessary but hates paying to replace.

The sheriff told the Norton County commissioners at their meeting on Monday, Jan. 20 that the dispatches voice recorder has died. It records all phone calls and is used by the 911 system, he said.

He has called the company in Wichita that supplied the machine and they have sent out a loaner while they look to see if the old machine is repairable. However, he said, they didn't sound hopeful about a possible repair. The machines last about seven to eight

years, he said.

A similar new machine would cost \$19,000, he said, but would probably not meet the new 911 standards, which he knows will be coming out soon.

An upgraded machine that should meet those standards would set the county back \$24,000, he said, and then there will be additional costs involved in the mandatory maintenance agreement.

If we have to purchase this, he told the commissioners, it will take all the money.

"We're barely scraping by," he said adding that the county may have to start supplementing the 911 system with its own funds because the taxes

the county receives from phone users will not cover everything.

"The next generation of 911 is coming," he said adding that he doesn't really know why they need to be able to send photos and movies over the phone of 911 scenes. He said maybe if there was train wreck with a fire, but mostly he foresees a lot of loopy loos taking cell phone pictures to send to the sheriff's office.

However, that's the wave of the future.

"If we're going to continue to re-

ceive that 911 tax money, we're going to have to do what they say," the sheriff told the commissioners.

He noted that the sheriff's office and dispatch spend \$60,000 a year on phone-related services.

He also noted that although it costs \$2,000 to \$3,000 for maintenance, the companies don't even have to come out to fix things anymore, they just do it over the Internet most of the time.

Norton landfill offers help cleaning up towns

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

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Solid Waste Supervisor John Miller wants the cities within Norton County to know what it will cost them to get rid of old and abandoned homes.

He presented the county commissioners with a plan to allow each city a chance to remove a neighborhood eyesore at a free or reduced price.

His plan would allow Almena, Clayton, Edmond and Lenora to each remove one house a year and for Norton to deal with three.

He said that his crew has come up with some pretty good formulas for knowing how much waste will be put into the landfill from a house without a basement and one with a basement.

This would only be for houses, he said. There would be no incentive to rebuild. It would just be a chance for cities to get rid of old and abandoned houses in their neighborhoods. Businesses that needed to be demolished or revitalized would need to go through

the economic development office.

His proposal would allow the cities to condemn houses in advance, he said, and budget for the demolition. They would need to fill out a Norton County Demolition Program for Cities Application and notify the landfill no later than June 1 to participate.

The reduced or free allocation must be used within the year and can not be carried over to the next year.

The landfill director can accept or reject any application.

"I think that makes it simple for everybody to follow," Mr. Miller told the commissioners.

The commissioners agreed that it sounded like a good plan.

"I just hate to give stuff away but this is for a good cause," Commissioner R.A. Peterson said.

Commissioner Charles Posson agreed that it would increase the value of other homes in the town not to have dilapidated houses standing around and would help everyone.

Best friends...



Dan Lauer and his chocolate labrador Jade were volunteers at the youth hunt that took place at the Prairie Dog State Park on Saturday. The event is sponsored by the Norton Long Spur Pheasants Forever Chapter in partnership with the Department of Wildlife and Parks department at Prairie Dog State Park. Dan has been a chapter member since it began and offered the use of his hunting dog to assist in retrieving birds the youth were able to hit. - Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

