

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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Tuesday

February 11, 2014

Briefly

Treat your special Valentine to dinner

Destination Kitchen will be open this Friday until nine just for you and your Valentine. They will be serving from 5 to 9 p.m. Then starting Saturday, February 15 they will have new hours, Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Fundraiser to be held on Saturday

A fundraiser will be held this coming Saturday at the Norton American Legion ballroom from 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. to help Deb Jones with medical expenses.

Norton Snowball dance on Saturday

The Norton Community High School will be holding the annual Snowball dance on Saturday. The dance will begin at 8 p.m. in the Norton Junior High gymnasium.

Northern Valley off to scholar's bowl

The Northern Valley High School State Scholar's Bowl will be held at 11:30 a.m. in Rolla, Kansas on Saturday.

Valentine's Day theme story hour

Preschool story-time will be held Thursday, Feb. 13, at 10:30 a.m., at the Norton Public Library. The library staff will be sharing stories, songs, games, snacks, and a craft about Valentine's Day. Come join the fun!

Potato bar to be held next Tuesday

The Norton PEO Chapter will host a baked potato bar scholarship fundraiser on Tuesday, Feb. 18 before the Norton vs. Hoxie basketball game, in the high school cafeteria. Baked potatoes with a variety of toppings, dessert, and a drink will be available for \$6. They will be serving from 4:30-7 p.m.

Markets

February 2014

Wheat.....	\$6.29
Milo.....	\$4.10
Soybeans.....	\$12.65
Corn.....	\$4.27

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Wednesday - Intervals of clouds and sunshine with a high of 37. Wednesday Night - Partly cloudy skies with a low of 27. Thursday - Intervals of clouds and sunshine with a high of 48. Thursday Night - A few clouds with a low around 30.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, when we face difficult times, reassure us of your love, remind us that you will never leave us, and help us to trust in your will. Amen.

Record dogs...



The Norton Archery Club held a coyote calling contest on Saturday and a new record was set in the process. (Pictured) Patrick Hargitt and Doug Wagoner of Quinter, shot nine coyotes, surpassing the old record of six set in 2006 by Doug Johnson of Goodland. In second

place with three coyotes were Gary and Austin Niblock and in third with two coyotes were Sam States and Jim Ashmore.

—Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

Norton resident faces drainage problems

By MIKE STEPHENS
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There is some good news and some bad news for Norton resident Flint Griffin who went before the City Council a few weeks ago about the drainage issues at his property at 609 N. Norton. City Attorney Karen Griffiths said she had done research regarding this matter and the City is under no obligation to provide surface water drainage. However, the underground storm water drainage near the property was

built in 1958, by private individuals. The City made tube repairs about 10-15 feet from the end of the tube about six to eight years ago, according to Griffiths, when a sewer contractor cut a hole in the drainage tube. Because those repairs were made, the City is obligated to maintain that portion of the tube. Griffiths added that the City is not obliged to take care of the embankment issues at Mr. Griffin's property, because it's natural wear and tear.

The Council approved the City Attorney's recommendations that the

tubing be cleared from approximately 20 feet back to the opening to get rid of the major obstructions, and that the City doesn't extend any further back; the City should also look at a way to clean the drainage ditch so there can be natural flow. Some work will also be needed around the tube opening to build the eroded area back up, so it will drain properly. (Harriett Gill abstained from voting).

The City of Norton was notified by Norton County that the landfill fees will go up five dollars from \$75 to \$80

per ton. The rate increase will take effect August 1.

The City was also notified by the Norton County Clerk's office that all voting for the city council election on April 1 will take place in the lobby at the Norton County Courthouse.

Roberta Ryan reported the Utility Committee has discussed net metering and wastewater sewer sludge disposal. The two pumps have quit working and it will cost approximately \$1,500 per

(Resident - Continued on Page 5)

Nocatur community building asks for help

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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Farmer and political activist Bob Strevey hopes that Norton County will help the Nocatur Senior Center pay its rent.

"Basically, we're a card-playing group," Mr. Strevey told the commissioners at their meeting on Monday, February 3.

He said that the group pays \$700 a year rent to use the educational building at the United Methodist Church in

Nocatur, a community that is mostly in Decatur County but where most of the students attend school in Norton, according to Mr. Strevey.

Mr. Strevey told the commissioners that there are a lot of Norton County residents and taxpayers that use the Nocatur Senior Center and, while Decatur County helps with expenses, he is hoping Norton County can help also.

Mr. Strevey said that the senior group has no complaint against Decatur County but there is a thought that

because so many of the people there come from Norton County, the commissioners here could help a little as a matter of fairness.

The commissioners said that they understood the problem but felt that their hands were tied by state statute.

A county levy for senior activities is prorated between Norton, Alma and Lenora, County Clerk Robert Wyatt said.

Commissioner Charles Posson said that, as he understood state statutes,

you couldn't go outside the county to give support to groups.

"We'd like to help but our hands are tied by the state," Commissioner R.A. Peterson said.

"Personally, I'd love to help you," Commissioner Posson added.

Mr. Strevey said that he understood. Commissioner Posson suggested the group put out a donation box to help defray expenses.

The men then briefly discussed the

(Nocatur - Continued on Page 5)

Checkered flag winners...



Elmwood Park Speedway/Rooks County Speedway 2013 Race Banquet was held Saturday night at the American Legion. There was a social hour, dinner, door prizes and the awards presentations. (Pictured) Cory Struckhoff of Kensington was the Sports Mod champion, Dustin McClurg of Logan was the Stock Car champion, Garrett Hager of Hays was the Hobby Stock champion and Howard Vandye of Clay Center was the Sprint champion. There was a crowd of 100-plus on hand for the evening. "This is the best one so far," said track manager Rick Schwab.

—Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

Community champions host leadership training

Under a unique statewide health initiative, business leaders in Norton County underwent in-depth training that will lead to better health for employees and residents of Norton County.

Hosted by WorkWellKS Champions Tara Vance, Chamber of Commerce Director and Gina Frack, Norton County Health Department Administrator, community worksite leaders were educated on how to build a successful worksite wellness strategy within their organizations and will continue to receive resources to help them to grow and strengthen their strategies in the future.

"Addressing the health of a business' workforce is just good business so that is the reason why this was a combined effort between the chamber of commerce and the health department" said Tara Vance, Director of the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce.

Business site participants included:
•Prairie Land Electric

•Norton County Hospital/Norton Medical Clinic
•Andbe Home
•USD 211 - Norton Community Schools

•Almena State Bank
•New Age Industrial
•Bridges Insurance Group
•Norton County

WorkWell KS is a statewide worksite wellness initiative administered by the Wichita Business Coalition on Health Care and funded by the Kansas Health Foundation. Through WorkWell KS, local Champions from across the state are challenged to provide leadership in their communities to engage local business and organization leaders to support worksite health and wellness. In September 2013, community Champions from 10 communities across Kansas convened in Wichita for two days of training. The Champions represent local Chambers of Commerce, businesses, and other community organi-

(Training - Continued on Page 5)

