

# \$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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8 PAGES

**Tuesday**

**March 25, 2014**

*Briefly*

## Eighth grade parent orientation

An orientation session for parents of eighth graders (freshmen next year) will be held in the Music Room of the Jr.-Sr. High School on Thursday, March 27, at 7:00 P.M. Presentation will cover such items as the Kansas Board of Regents Qualified Admissions requirements, N.C.H.S. graduation requirements, the enrollment process, MTSS, school policies and expectations.

## Story time for area preschool children

Preschool story-time will be held at the Norton Public Library on Thursday, at 10:30 a.m. Join the library staff for stories, songs, games, and snacks. The featured books will be about a bear named Hugless Douglas, by author David Melling.

## Harlem Ambassadors ball game on Friday

The Harlem Ambassadors vs. the Northwest Kansas Jubilee Jammers basketball game will be held on Friday at 7 p.m. in the Stull Gymnasium. Tickets: Age 5-11 \$5, 12 and up \$10, kids 4 and under are free. For more information, call 785-567-4860.

## Childhood screening set for Friday

Eisenhower Elementary School will conduct a free Early Childhood Screen on Friday. To schedule an appointment, please call Eisenhower Elementary at 877-5113 by March 27, and ask for Joan Hale.

## Monday movie at the public library

The next "Monday at the Movies" will be on March 31 at 1:30 p.m. in the Norton Public Library community room. The featured movie for March is "A Dog Year," starring Jeff Bridges. Refreshments will be served.

## Markets

MARCH 2014

Wheat	\$7.51
Milo	\$4.36
Soybeans	\$13.34
Corn	\$4.56

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

## Weather

Wednesday - Sunny with a high of 69. Wednesday Night - Partly cloudy with a low of 43. Thursday - Cloudy with occasional showers and a high of 47. Thursday Night - Partly cloudy with a low of 28. Friday - A few clouds, otherwise sunny with a high of 57.

## Prayer

Dear God of grace, thank you for the many blessings that have enriched our lives. Place a right and noble spirit within us. Help us remain close to you in the face of all the changes in our lives. Amen.

## Coming together...



The Norton City Fire Department received a page at 11:10 a.m. Sunday morning for a house fire at 602 North Second. "By the time we arrived the home was fully engulfed," stated City Fire Chief Mitch Jones. The blaze was so large that the Rural Fire Department was also called in to help. A total of three pumper trucks, a rescue truck and 21 fire fighters responded to the call. The cause was determined

to be a mattress that caught fire due to a lit cigarette and it was a total loss of the structure and all of its contents. Two families lived at the residence once known as "Hillside Grocery". The blaze was contained within an hour but firefighters remained on the scene for about five and a half hours.

- Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

## Truck traffic a concern in downtown

BY MIKE STEPHENS

[mstephens@nwkansas.com](mailto:mstephens@nwkansas.com)

The Public Works Committee met with Rick Mullen, Norton Ag Valley Co-op, regarding the re-routing of grain trucks, Donna Foley reported, at the council's meeting on Wednesday.

Foley said the committee hoped to ease the truck traffic load through Norton, especially by Jamboree Foods and Engel's Sales and Service. The council directed City Attorney Karen Griffiths to prepare an ordinance for a stop sign for northbound traffic at the intersection of Washington and First Street, a yield sign at the intersection of Second

Street and the railroad right-of-way, and a yield sign at the intersection of Graves and the railroad right-of-way. The council also voted to have an advisory sign installed at the approach of the intersection of Washington and First Street.

Foley also reported the City of Norton was the only applicant in northwest Kansas to apply for the 2014 Federal Transportation Alternative funding program. The City should find out in June if the funding has been approved.

The Airport Board met on March 10, according to Harriett Gill. She said they are getting cost estimates to repair

gaps at the north end of the runway and the airport engineer will request emergency funds from the Kansas Department of Transportation for the repairs.

The Airport Board also approved the bid from Hardy Aviation Insurance for property and liability insurance, and they will be removing some obstructing trees as soon as the weather allows.

Gill reported they received a request for use of the runway for the Norton Car Show, and have asked for additional information. The board has also requested additional information regarding the airport's ceilometer, which is an instrument that measures cloud ceiling.

The council authorized the city staff to get three bids for windows and doors for the Norton Recreation Center. Foley said replacing the doors and windows would greatly reduce the cost of utilities at the facility, and she believes the Recreation Commission would be willing to contribute money to the improvements.

In other council news:  
-waived the formal third reading of Charter Ordinance #14.  
-adopted Charter Ordinance #14, repealing Charter Ordinance #13, and

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## Commissioners ask that hours be held down

BY CYNTHIA HAYNES

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

Although they had no one scheduled to come in to talk to them during their first meeting of March, the Norton County commissioners ended up having a pretty busy agenda.

The commissioners talked with county Emergency Management Director Justina Smith about her hours and changes in a disaster management plans.

Ms. Smith is supposed to work just 30 hours a week but has been putting in more than that and the commissioners wanted to know why and asked her to cut back.

She said that she has had to take some training and that has caused her

to work over the allotted time.

Since the training has been out of town, the commissioners said they would need to speak with County Attorney Doug Sebelius about travel time, mileage and logging of hours after the normal work time.

They also said that they didn't like some of the changes in the disaster plan and they wanted to make sure that any changes were made locally before they signed off on them.

After Ms. Smith left, the commissioners talked to 4-H Building committee member Gil Otter about upgrades being proposed for that structure.

Mr. Otter told the commissioners that the committee is taking bids for a new ceiling and insulation above the ceiling

in the 4-H Building. He told them of the options the committee is reviewing.

Norton County Solid Waste Manager John Miller came by to tell the commissioners about two outstanding bills from November 2011 and last May. The bills total \$74.30, he said. Mr. Miller told the commissioners that County Attorney Sebelius has advised him that the bills are un-collectable and that the county should write them off.

The commissioners agreed with him and voted to write off the bills for Last Chance Enterprises for \$29.75 and Rich Estes Wavering Services for \$44.55.

Road and Bridge Foreman Floyd Richard told the commissioners that new federal specifications will require

the county to replace its 911 road signs. The new rules require these signs to have high intensity prismatic letters that are six inches high for upper case and 4.25 inches for lower case letters.

Mr. Richard had a bid from Kansas Correctional Industries for the aluminum needed to make the signs and the county has a sign making machine. However, he told the commissioners that the machine has a hard time cutting the thicker material required for these signs.

After some discussion, the commissioners decided that the county would probably be ahead in time and labor if it just got someone else to make the signs. Mr. Richard was asked to get bids for the project.

## Nex-Tech officer honored

By DICK BOYD

[nortontelegram@nwkansas.com](mailto:nortontelegram@nwkansas.com)

Larry Sevier, who just retired after 28 years as Chief Executive Officer of Rural Telephone/Nex-Tech headquartered in Lenora, was honored during a reception recently in Washington, D.C. by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack for his total of 47 years of service to rural America and the nation.

Larry was the driving force behind Rural Telephone's growth from 25 employees to over 400 today. Prior to his employment with Rural Telephone, Larry was instrumental in the progress of the Rural Electrification Administration, now known as the Rural Utilities Service.

In addition to receiving a Certificate of Appreciation from Secretary Vilsack, Larry also received a personal letter from him.

The letter said in part, "I extend my congratulations on your retirement and thank you for your exemplary contributions to the well-being of individu-

als, families and communities in rural America.

"You can look back on a long and productive career in which you can take much pride. I am pleased to note that you began your career in 1967 as a loan specialist with USDA Rural Electrification Administration and that you were a valued member of the USDA family for more than 18 years in addition to serving two years in the military. I am also pleased to note your subsequent fine leadership of Rural Telephone and your success in providing communities in rural Kansas and beyond with important telecommunications technology.

"The numerous honors and awards you have received--including the Army Commendation Medal for your military service and the Kansas Governor's Award of Excellence, among many others--attest most eloquently to the dedication with which you have served our country and the significance of (Honored - Continued on Page 5)



From left, Larry Sevier, former CEO of Rural Telephone/Nex-Tech, and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack visit during the reception in Larry's honor in the patio area of the Jaime Whitten Agriculture Building in Washington, D.C.

- Courtesy photo

