

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



Friday

May 16, 2014



Tornado Special
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Briefly

Class of 2014 will graduate Sunday

Norton Community High School Commencement ceremonies will be held at the Stull Gymnasium on Sunday starting at 2:30 p.m.

Eisenhower band display on Monday

Eisenhower Elementary band display will take place on Monday at 4 p.m. in the cafeteria for those interested in joining the band next year.

Goodwill trailer in Norton next week

The Goodwill donation trailer will be coming to Norton next Monday and be here through next Thursday. Monday from noon to 6 p.m. and then on Tuesday and Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and then on Thursday from 8 a.m. to noon. The trailer will be located at South First Street and West Main Street. Bring your clothing and computer and household items. No furniture or appliances please.

Last day of school is next Wednesday

The last day of school for USD 211 will be on Wednesday with students being released at 11 a.m. with buses running like normal. Have a fun and safe summer.

Markets

MAY 2014

Wheat.....	\$7.53
Milo.....	\$4.27
Soybeans.....	\$14.09
Corn.....	\$4.67

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Saturday- Overcast with showers at times and a high of 62. Chance of rain 40 percent. Saturday Night - Occasional rain showers later at night with a low of 46. Sunday - Showers in the morning then cloudy in the afternoon with a high of 71. Sunday Night - Chance of rain 60 percent with a low of 58. Monday - Rain showers early with overcast skies later in the day with a high of 84. Chance of rain 50 percent.

Prayer

O Lord, may we be strengthened by adversities and feel your loving presence with us always. Amen

Exhibit and concert make for an eventful evening



Norton Community High School held an exhibit night and spring band concert on Tuesday night. Art, woodworking and facts projects were displayed throughout the art room, lunch room and hall ways for people to enjoy. About the exhibit the band performed. Between songs, the first place state forensics coaches and team were honored as well as the Artists of the Year, Ashley Hildebrand, Stephen Cum-

mings and Sierra Griffith. At the end of the concert Sarah Brehmer and her mother, Nyla Stuewe, presented the Dave Stuewe award and a \$1,000 scholarship to Landon Slipke and the John Phillip Sousa award went to Ty Burns.

- Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

Norton Trails seeks better sidewalks

By MIKE STEPHENS
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Norton Trails representatives, Kristine Knapp, Tonya Stover and Patsy Maddy, attended Monday's school board meeting to inform the board of several grant projects they are working on.

The first grant the group is applying for is Safe Routes to School. Norton Trails stated that the sidewalks the students have to walk on the way to school are in bad condition and need repaired or replaced.

They believe if the sidewalks were repaired, students could safely walk or bike to school, and not have to walk in the streets.

Norton Trails told the board that they are in the preliminary stages in the process, but the grant would fully fund the project, at no cost to the taxpayers or the school district. Phase one of the project would repair or replace the sidewalk on Crane St. from Reagan Ave. to State St. Phases two and three are contingent upon future grant approval.

This not only helps the homeowners get new sidewalks, according to Norton Trails, but also encourages kids to get more exercise while easing parents

minds about sending their kids to school knowing they have safe sidewalks to travel on.

The application will be submitted in July and the group said they would keep the board informed.

Patsy Maddy told the board that grant money for the Walking School Bus Project had been approved, which will pay for walking coordinators to help students safely cross streets, printing educational materials, maps, forms and postage. It will pay for student incentives (frequent walker card) and vests for volunteers.

Norton Trails is also pursuing Wildlife and Parks and Sunflower Foundation grants in order to install running/biking trails throughout the community.

Other board news:

-the 2014-15 Student-Parent Handbook changes were distributed by principals, Rudy Perez, Dustin McEwen and Cory Roy. Adoption of the handbooks will be considered at the June meeting.

-agreed to join the Kansas Association of School Boards for the 2014-15 school year at the rate of \$8,288 and join the Association of School Boards Legal Assistance Fund at the rate of \$1,650.

-waived fees/insurance requirements for building usage for the summer athletic activities sponsored by the Norton coaching staffs and conducted according to the guidelines of the Kansas State High School Athletic Association.

-accepted the resignations from Megan Brummer as 4th grade teacher, Randy Perales as assistant Norton Junior High School boys basketball coach effective at the end of the 2013-14 school year, and Rich Hageman as Eisenhower Elementary custodian effective May 22.

-approved the letters of intent with Ashley Smith Maybon as 4th grade teacher and Kasey Lane as Norton Community High School Spanish teacher for the 2014-15 school year.

-will offer contracts to all current certified staff who have not resigned for the 2014-15 school year with pay and benefits to be determined.

-approved the summer employment of Lucas Melvin as head weight room supervisor with George Rossi and Jeremy Hawks as his assistants.

-will offer work agree- **Sidewalks** - Continued on Page 5)

New emergency preparedness system launched

The Sheriff's department of Norton County officially launched its new emergency preparedness and mass notification services for citizens this week. To enter your data into the new system one must go to ksnortoncounty.civiready.com. Norton County partnered with CivicReady to create this new site. CivicReady is an expert in helping local governments engage

communities in emergency preparedness to provide them with official and direct mass communication in emergency situations.

This emergency communication tool and website allows Norton County to communicate with citizens quickly and efficiently before, during and after an emergency. Citizens can be reached through the website, email, SMS or

short message service, voice calls and social media platforms. Federal Emergency Management Agency-sourced emergency preparedness content is easily accessible to citizens to keep your community informed in the event of an emergency.

With the new website and emergency communication system, Norton County will be able to increase its

community engagement and be better prepared in the event of an emergency.

"We encourage all citizens to visit our new website, ksnortoncounty.civiready.com today and enter their contact information along with specific notification preferences. In the event of an emergency this will allow the city to immediately notify citizens of an event." Sheriff Troy Thomson said.

Little Bo-tique open for business in downtown Norton

By MIKE STEPHENS
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Little Bo-tique, located at 106 1/2 South State Street, is one of the newest businesses to open in downtown Norton.

Owner Martina Ruiz opened the doors to her children's clothing consignment store on April 24.

"I was terrified," said Ruiz, "and I did it on 'Ladies Night Out.' It was so much fun. It was a lot of pressure, but it was good fun and we had a great turn out."

Little Bo-tique's clothing is for newborns to juniors, sizes 14-16. The Little shop also has shoes, hair bows, strollers, kids car seats, toddler toys and maternity clothing.

Ruiz, a consignment shopper herself, believes consignment shopping is a cost-effective way to buy clothes.

"I love it, almost brand new clothes at a fraction of the cost."

However, her biggest inspiration for starting her own business were her children.

"I have shopped thrift stores and consignment stores with my older sister since I was in high school and have wanted to open my own consignment store for years. My passion for children's consignment came when I became pregnant with my oldest son Rafael (Bubby) who is now seven."

A newborn in the span of one year will go through four to five different clothing sizes, according to Ruiz, and consignment shopping makes good financial sense.

Prior to opening Little Bo-tique, she ran Mommy and Me Daycare with her mom, Millie Matchett. Now her mom helps her out at the shop as does her husband, Rafael Ruiz, dad, Marvin Matchett, brother, Scooter Matchett, sister, Mandi Fick, friend, Danielle Cunningham and several friends from

Norton Christian Church.

Coming up with the name, Little Bo-tique, was also a family affair.

"It was a family process. We came up with several names and then we took a vote. The whole family helped out."

Ruiz said she's received a lot of support from the community as well.

"As soon as I announced that I was opening the store, support from all over Norton and the surrounding area started pouring in, with people bringing in consignments and well wishes.

"God has really blessed me through this whole experience, and I am truly grateful."

She's also received support from her fellow business owners.

"A special thanks to the ladies at Renew for all their help."

Little Bo-tique's hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday.



Martina Ruiz was so passionate about designing clothes shopping she made it her business when she opened Little Bo-tique in April.

-Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

