

Friday  
January 9, 2004

Norton, Kansas  
Home of Dean Blickenstaff

*Briefly*  
**Deadline looms for disaster loans**

Farmers and ranchers in Norton, Decatur, Phillips and Rawlins counties have until Jan. 14 to apply for Emergency Disaster loans.

Farm Loan Manager John C. Vogt said those needing farm credit as a result of heat and drought who think they are eligible for Farm Service Agency assistance should apply at their local county agency before the deadline.

Loans covering physical losses may be used to replace installations, equipment, livestock, or buildings (including homes), lost through this disaster. Loans covering production losses may be used to buy feed, seed, fertilizer, livestock, or to make payments on real estate and chattel debts. Mr. Vogt said funds can also be used for other essential operating and living expenses.

To be eligible for an emergency disaster loan, an applicant must be operating a family size farm or ranch, must be unable to get credit elsewhere, and must have suffered a qualifying physical and/or production loss from the disaster.

Farmers who suffered at least a 30 percent reduction to at least one cropping enterprise may have a qualifying production loss.

In Norton, the Farm Service Agency is located at 113 N. Norton and can be reached by calling (785) 877-2623.

**4-H archery will start Sunday**

The 4-H Archery Program plans on holding their start-up program at 2 p.m. this Sunday at the Norton Archery range.

The suggested age is 9 to 18 years. You need not be in a 4-H Club to participate. The sessions are weekly and include five mandatory sessions to complete the practice sessions and to take part in competitions. After the beginning training sessions there will be regular practices for some of the spring-time shoots.

There is a fee of \$5 for the class. Contact Mary Vanover at 785-693-4393 or John Baker at 785-877-3253.

*Weather*  
**Forecast:**

**Tonight** — Mostly clear with lows around 15. **Saturday** — Mostly sunny with highs in the mid 50s. West winds around 10 mph shifting to the south 10 to 15 mph with higher gusts in the afternoon. **Saturday Night** — Mostly clear, lows in the mid 20s. **Sunday** — Partly cloudy with highs in the upper 40s. **Sunday Night through Tuesday** — Partly cloudy with highs in the 40s.

**Howell report:**

Tuesday ..... High 30, Low 13  
Wednesday ..... High 31, Low 19  
Thursday ..... High 44, Low 21  
Week ago ..... High 60, Low 33  
Month ago ..... High 46, Low 24  
Year ago ..... High 71, Low 28  
January precipitation ..... 30 inches  
Year-to-date precipitation ..... 30 inches  
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

*Prayer*

Loving God, thank you for forgiving us. Help us to forgive those who hurt us and to get on with life. Amen



Little Helena June Job, center, barely 12 hours old in this picture, claims the honor of being the first baby born in Norton County in 2004. Baby Helena, born at 1:07 a.m., Jan. 6, is the daughter of Rod and Marla Job, Prairie View. Also pictured is Helena's big sister, 12 year-old Jessica.  
— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

**Prizes given as daughter is born into family of New Year's babies**

**By CAROLYN PLOTTS**  
Tradition!  
The Job family of Prairie View may have started a tradition hard to continue. The newest addition to the family, Helena June Job, was the first baby born in Norton County in 2004, arriving at 1:07 a.m., Jan. 6. Her father, Rod Job of Prairie View, was the New Year's Baby in Hastings, Neb., in 1969. The Jobs have a grandson, who is Baby Helena's nephew and was born just last Friday on Jan. 2, to be the New Year's Baby in Austin, Minn. Coincidence? Or good family planning?  
Marla Job, Helena's mother, was surprised and grateful to see all the sponsors of The Telegram's "First Baby of the Year" Contest. She even got a little teary as she looked over all the gift items listed in the paper.

Mr. Job is a proud father, proclaiming, "Helena is a very good baby. She's only cried twice." He accompanied his wife into the delivery room and even cut the umbilical cord. Dr. McKinley delivered the 7 pound 11 ounce, 19 1/2 inches long baby.

Another family member excited about the arrival of Baby Helena is her big sister, 12 year-old Jessica Weavering who claims, "She's sleeping in my room!"

Mr. Job works at the Phillips County Retirement Center and Mrs. Job is on maternity leave from the Norton McDonald's, but plans on returning to work.

Grandparents of the New Year's baby are Bob and June Thompson, Klamath Falls, Ore., and Steve and Alice Luttrell, Orleans, Neb.

Helena's name. "Helena is the middle name of Rod's mother and the first name of his great-grandmother. June is my mother's name."

**Chamber shows member increase in 2003**

**By Brandon Gay**  
The Norton Chamber of Commerce's membership was up in 2003 and increasing their numbers further is the goal of the ongoing membership drive.

The annual membership drive began in November and Karla Reed, executive director, said she anticipated a membership increase in 2004. Reed said the potential increase was partly due to new businesses in town.

According to Ms. Reed, about one third of Norton County business are members of the chamber.

Ms. Reed said different businesses had been affected by a rough economy in different ways, but overall most Norton businesses have said they are doing well.

"I think for the most part, most people were pleased with 2003," she said.

Any business or person can become a member of the chamber with payment of dues. Annual dues include a base rate of \$75 for businesses with 1 employee, \$100 for two to three employees, \$200 for four

to 10 employees, \$300 for 11 to 20 employees and \$400 for 21 or more employees.

In addition to the base rate, there is an annual fee for financial businesses and utilities. Financial businesses pay \$20 for each million dollars in deposits. Utilities pay 20 cents for each connect.

Organizations, clubs, non-profit groups, individuals and retired persons do not pay the base rate. Organizations, clubs and non-profit groups pay \$50. Individual memberships are \$50 and retired persons pay \$25.

The chamber provides services to members such as ribbon cuttings, promotion of events such as Moonlight Madness and Crazy Day and a monthly newsletter.

Other services include providing lists of places to live in Norton, the annual teacher picnic, providing packets of information to new residents and the annual Christmas dinner at the Methodist Church for people without a place to go. The 2003 dinner served 76 people. The chamber is

also a directory for anyone needing to find out about Norton County businesses and the Norton community.

Ms. Reed said the basic function of the chamber was to be the front door to the community.

The chamber is working with Nex-Tech on developing a Discover Norton web site.

The web site will provide a list of businesses and links of their Web sites and feature the Norton community to encourage travel and tourism.

The web site is in the early developmental stage and there is no set date for its completion. However, Ms. Reed said it could be operational by mid-February.

Nex-Tech has developed similar sites for Hill City and Hays.

Since becoming executive director in 2002, Ms. Reed said she had been surprised at how much the chamber does every day.

"It's amazing how many people walk through the door," she said.

**Almena council discusses city's trash and sewer line**

The trash question is affecting everyone in the county, including the City of Almena.

County Attorney Doug Sebelius told the Almena City Council at the Jan. 5 meeting about the county's pending application for a new permit to operate a solid waste landfill facility.

He said the process has been slowed by new rules and extensive paperwork. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment is requiring a leachate collection

system and one or two new monitoring wells.

To fund the landfill operations, Mr. Sebelius said the county may need to consider an assessment on real estate based upon its use, as well as the tipping fee upon disposal. Engineering costs to date have been approximately \$70,000.

The City of Almena continues to dispose of its trash at the landfill site under its contract with Norton County.

Mr. Sebelius also talked about the sta-

tus of the claim against Almena for a sewer line backup, which happened in June. The Claims Department of EMC, the City of Almena's insurer, has responded to his questions, but had no adjustment file established.

Mr. Sebelius said he will continue to work with EMC to insure that the claim is addressed within the time allowed by law.

In other business, the council:

- Heard a complaint that the siren was

**Board hears report Phase III finished at hospital**

**By KRISTEN BRANDS**  
The Norton County Hospital board members heard a progress report on the renovation project during the Dec. 17 meeting, and toured the recently completed areas of Phase III of the construction project.

Board members toured the newly constructed lab, health information management office, three new patient rooms, and tele-medicine space. The tour also included Phase IV demolition areas.

One new change order was approved by the board as it voted to allow \$7,030 to be spent on the demolition of an exterior wall and new support beam and column. The cost will include labor and materials.

An update on construction costs was given as total payments to date are \$3.4 million. The original estimate of the entire construction/renovation was \$3.9 million. A newly awarded \$450,000 U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Loan through Prairie Land Electric will help alleviate a \$1.4 million temporary loan to \$950,000.

Quality Assurance and Risk Management Coordinator Lyn Thiele gave the board an overview of the hospital's Risk Management Plan. The board re-approved the plan with no changes. Board member Dennis Gilhousen was re-appointed to the Risk Management committee for 2004. Ms. Thiele also reviewed the revised Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act for the board. In addition, she gave a report on the Quality Improvement Program in which Norton participates with other hospitals. After an executive session, the July-Sept. 2003 Quarterly Risk Management Report was approved.

Richard Miller gave the administrative report stating that the hospital is continuing negotiations for an agreement with Correct Care, the company that provides medical care for the inmates at the Norton Correctional Facility.

Mr. Miller set a goal to have the Dairyland agreements revised in their final form by In Tech, a software and hardware consulting company, completed by Jan. 1.

In other business, the board:

- Discussed insurance coverage. Blue Cross and Blue Shield premiums for hospital employees are \$175 for a single plan and \$600 for a family plan. A decision to add a prescription plan will be made during the January meeting.
- Reviewed the November patient surveys. They also reviewed the 2003 Kansas Hospital Association statewide survey.
- Learned that a \$25,000 Bioterrorism Grant was awarded to the hospital for "equipment, supplies, and for the development of resources in case of a bioterrorism attack or other emergency situation".
- Heard the November report. There were 315 in-patient days, 52 admissions, 5 births, 23 surgeries, 6,699 out-patient procedures, and 1,204 Clinic visits.

disturbing some of the day sleepers who work the evening shifts. No decision was reached on this matter.

- Talked about the city's need for a dump truck with a blade. Council President Monte Montgomery will continue to look for one.
- Discussed having snow routes where no parking would be allowed until the streets were cleaned. The routes would be the City Shop to Bowman's, Main Street to U.S. 383, and Railroad and Mills.