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THE NORTON TELEGRAM

Norton boys and girls basketball versus Osborne and Norton wrestling tournament

TUESDAY,
January 13, 2004

Norton, Kansas
Home of Daughn Avery

Briefly

SHARE deadline set for Thursday

The deadline for ordering the January Heartland SHARE food package is noon Thursday. To order call the Norton Senior Center at 877-5352 or Ermalea Mason at 877-3098.

Distribution will begin at 8 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 24, at the Norton Senior Center. The January Heartland SHARE food package contains Gorton's crunchy fish fillets, Tyson's barbecue chicken breast, pork chops, ground beef, chicken thighs, potatoes, cabbage, 1 pound baby carrots, lettuce, yellow onions, apples, oranges, grapefruit, tangerines and an 8-ounce block of cheese.

For \$17.25 plus two hours of volunteer work, you can receive all of the food or "SHARE" listed. You can order as many shares as you want.

You can also order a meat only (first five items) package for \$10.50 plus one volunteer hour.

This month there is a Super Bowl Party Pack available. It includes 14 ounces of pizza snacks, one pound of sliced salami, one pound of cocktail franks, 28 ounces of barbecued ribs and one pound of honey dijon wings. This package can be purchased for \$16 and one additional volunteer hour.

A reminder that this is the last month you can order the "Home for the Holiday" Special. This special includes 3, eight-ounce packages of cheese and 3, nine-ounce summer sausages. It is gift packaged and ready to give. Cost is \$16 and one volunteer hour.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Mostly clear. Lows in the mid 20s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph shifting to the northwest after midnight. **Wednesday** — Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid 50s. Northwest winds 5 to 15 mph. **Wednesday night** — Partly cloudy. Lows in the lower 20s. Southwest winds 5 to 10 mph. **Thursday** — Mostly sunny. Highs in the lower 60s. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph. **Thursday night** — Partly cloudy. Lows around 20. **Friday** — Mostly cloudy. Cooler. Highs in the upper 40s. **Friday night through Sunday** — Partly cloudy. Highs in the mid to upper 40s. Lows in the lower 20s.

Howell report:

Friday High 45, Low 26
Saturday High 59, Low 35
Sunday High 57, Low 30
Monday High 55, Low 26
Week ago High 12, Low -7
Month ago High 37, Low 18
Year ago High 55, Low 25
Jan. precipitation 0.30 inches
Year-to-date precipitation 0.30 inches
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

Prayer

Thank you, God, for life and peace and steadfast love that wakes us up and sets us straight. Amen



Norton County emergency workers rushed to the aid of a construction worker, who fell from the partially finished viaduct on U.S. 36 just east on Norton. The man was taken to the Norton County Hospital and later flown to Kearney.

— Telegram photos by Brandon Gay



Worker hurt after falling from bridge

A Lincoln man was flown to Kearney Good Samaritan Hospital after falling from the viaduct east of Norton Friday morning.

Oscar Gonzales was working on the bridge when he lost his footing and slipped, said Capital Contractors Project Supervisor Dennis Adams.

Mr. Gonzales fell about 20 feet. He was taken to the Norton County Hospital and then flown to Kearney.

Mr. Adams said Mr. Gonzales was still at the Kearney hospital and is doing well. He said he had a couple of broken bones.

County looks at neighbor's trash charges

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

Norton County Commissioners were still working on and worrying about the proposed new landfill during their meeting last Monday.

Curt Archibald, solid waste supervisor, gave the commissioners a list of what 17 counties in Northwest Kansas charge for trash and as much information as he could get about recycling, number of employees and equipment used at landfills.

The amounts varied from Logan County, which pays for its landfill with a mill levy, and Gove County, which pays for its out of the general fund, to Decatur County, which charges \$55 per compactor load, and Ellis County, which charges

\$50 per ton plus sells permits of \$2 per day, \$5 per month and \$25 per year to dump.

County Commission Chairman John Miller said that he needed to know what each county budgets for its landfill to get a better picture of what others feel their landfills are costing.

"I think so many people are doing this but they don't have any idea what it's costing them," he said. "Maybe, we're looking too hard at this."

Commissioner Dean Kruse agreed saying he thought the state is picking on Norton County.

"These people are simplifying things and KDHE (Kansas Department of

Health and Environment) are letting them get away with it," He said. "But, they're making us dot all the i's."

Commissioner Leroy Lang said he is more concerned that the cost of the proposed landfill will come up to a lot more than was originally estimated.

The original estimate was for just under \$500,000. However, new things keep coming up, including equipment that the state will require — such as a compactor and water truck — and requirements not planned for — such as another testing well, the leachate liner and extra cover material.

Mr. Lang said that just figuring roughly the added costs will take the facility to

about \$750,000.

Mr. Miller was worried that the state rules will be almost impossible to follow because of the expense and conflicting regulations.

A representative of BG Consultants, the company the county has hired to help with the engineering of the landfill, will attend the commissioners meeting on Monday, Jan. 19, to discuss some of the commissioners concerns.

In other business, the commissioners:

• Heard that there are at least six people interested in taking an upcoming emergency medical services training course in Phillipsburg. The course starts on Monday (Continued on Page 5)

City feels relationship with commissioners is OK

By BRANDON GAY

Relations between the Norton City Council and the Norton County Commissioners were discussed as the city council met Wednesday.

Rob Lawson, city administrator, said he was disappointed with recent news coverage by *The Norton Telegram* of the council's affairs.

Mr. Lawson said he believed the views of the city council and county commission had been misrepresented. Mr. Lawson said relations between the two boards were better than had been portrayed by the paper.

"We feel there has been controversy reported that isn't there," Mr. Lawson said. "We don't feel there's friction. We have some issues, but we're making progress. Our relationship is positive, not negative."

In regards to the rising cost of dispatch-

ing emergency vehicles, Mr. Lawson said while it was factually accurate that the city's contract puts a lid on what they will pay at \$44,000, the city and county will work it out. He said neither side could afford to do it alone.

Mr. Lawson said that the city will work with the county on landfill issues, but there was not enough information at this time for the city to talk to the county.

Councilman Jerry Hawks said the two sides working together is the way it has to be.

Mr. Hawks said since he came on the board in 1984, there have been strides in cooperation between the city and county. He said there needed to be give and take on both sides.

Mr. Hawks also reported that the finance committee recommended the city talk to Phillips County to explore the possibility (Continued on Page 5)

Kansas Bureau of Investigation expenses questioned by county

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

Can Norton County save \$2,400 a year and still give the sheriff the information he needs?

County Commissioners pondered the question at their meeting last week as they discussed a \$200 per month fee from the state to pay for a router line from the Kansas Bureau of Investigation to the sheriff's department.

Sheriff Troy Thomson told the commissioners that the line was essential to his work since it allows his people to check criminal records or warrants when an officer stops someone.

The sheriff's office isn't the only one to use the line, commissioners were told, it also helps the city police if they have a problem and is connected to the bureau's computer system.

In the past the state has paid for this

service. But, with the state budget crunch, this, like many other things has been cut from the budget and put on the county's bills.

Commissioners said that they understood that the sheriff needs the information provided.

"This is the lifeline to your sheriff's department," Commission Dean Kruse said. "If they cut you off you'd be out of business."

The commissioners discussed not paying the fee. Both Gove and Decatur counties have stopped paying the state for this service.

The commissioners said that they would study the expense some more before deciding not to pay since they understood the importance of the service to the law enforcement agencies in (Continued on Page 5)