

**CHURCH:**  
 Take advantage of the church listings to find out when and where to go.  
**Page 6&7**

Vol. 97, No. 27  
 75 cents

# THE NORTON TELEGRAM

**COOKIES:**  
 The Girl Scout cookies have arrived and The Norton Telegram is giving them away. Find out how to get a free box.  
**Page 3**

Friday  
 February 27, 2004

Norton, Kansas  
 Home of Nina Melroy

*Briefly*  
**Meeting to help explain closing**

Motorists will have the chance to ask Kansas Department of Transportation officials questions concerning the spring closing of U.S. 283, from K-9 south to Hill City, during a meeting Thursday. The meeting will be held at the Frontier Stage, 321 E. Main in Hill City starting at 7 p.m. on Thursday.

A slide program and a question-and-answer session are planned. A representative from Venture Corp., the primary contractor, will also be on hand to discuss the official detour for the project. That detour is from Stockton to Phillipsburg to Norton. The tentative closing date is March 15.

For more information, contact Tom Hein, Kansas Department of Transportation public involvement liaison at (877) 550-5368 or by email at tom.hein@ksdot.org.

**Storm spotters classes planned**

A basic storm spotter training class will be held at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 11, in the library community room in Norton.

The class, which is sponsored by the National Weather Service and Norton County Emergency Preparedness, will cover severe weather safety at home, school and work, as well as provide an in-depth look at severe storm spotting and reporting procedures.

The class is free and open to all. Anyone interested in becoming a storm spotter or simply learning more about severe weather is invited to attend. The session will last 2 1/4 hours.

The class will also be offered at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, March 24, at the Hill City courthouse and at 7 p.m. on Monday, April 19, at the Decatur Community High School cafeteria in Oberlin.

*Weather*  
**Forecast:**

**Tonight** — Partly cloudy and not as cool. Lows in the upper 30s. **Saturday** — Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of thunderstorms in the afternoon. **Saturday Night** — Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of rain or snow. **Sunday** — Mostly cloudy with a chance of rain. A chance of snow in the morning. Highs in the mid 40s.

**Howell report:**

Tuesday ..... High 39, Low 26  
 Wednesday ..... High 41, Low 23  
 Thursday ..... High 56, Low 34  
 Week ago ..... High 62, Low 33  
 Month ago ..... High 18, Low 3  
 Year ago ..... High 31, Low 24  
 February precipitation ..... .60 inches  
 Year-to-date precipitation ..... 1.15 inches  
 (Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

*Prayer*

For your constant presence we thank you, God. Help us to accept change and to rely on your steadfast love.  
 Amen

## Player injured at game

Colby star hits window, severs artery

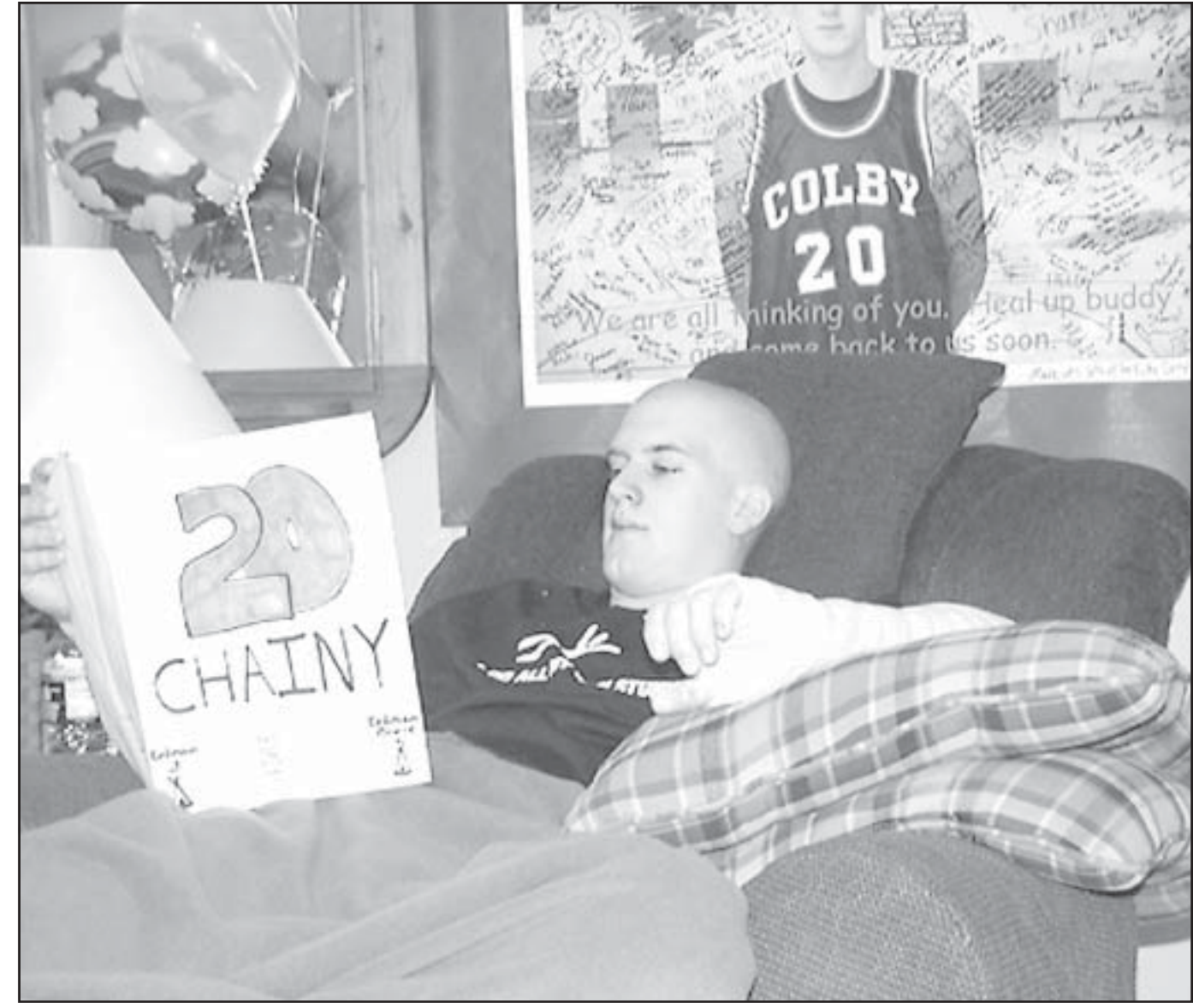
By **PATTY DECKER** and **CAROLYN PLOTTS**  
 A Colby basketball player was injured here Tuesday night when he put his left arm through a window in a door of the gym and severed an artery, while trying to recover an out-of-bounds ball.

Senior Shane Stover, a top Colby player, hit one of the windows leading into the lobby at the Norton High School gym late in the fourth quarter. The glass broke and the door opened allowing the player to fall into the lobby.

Fans with medical and first aid training rushed to his side to assist and stop the bleeding. Within minutes Norton emergency medical technicians had him ready to go to the hospital.

Fans and players from both towns gave Shane a standing ovation.

Jeff Quenzer, activities director and assistant principal at Colby High School,



Colby Eagle basketball player Shane Stover looks at a card he received from friends as he rested at home on Thursday. Behind him is a picture, of the high school basketball star in his No. 20 uniform, which was autographed by most of the Colby school students.  
 — Photo by Patty Decker

said that Shane was taken by ambulance to the Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney, Neb., where surgeons operated early Wednesday.

Mr. Quenzer said that Shane's father, Lynn Stover, told him that his son was doing well under the circumstances and that the doctor was pleased with the outcome of the surgery.

Mr. Stover said, "It was a long surgery, and because of the severed artery, Shane lost a lot of blood."

Shane suffered a tear in the biceps on the upper left arm and below the elbow, one of the two arteries was severed.

Shane had to be taken to Kearney by ground ambulance because the air ambulance plane in Goodland was broken

down and the helicopter used by Good Samaritan in Kearney could not fly because of the fog Tuesday night.

It was a very long trip to Kearney for the entire family, Mr. Stover said, since Shane was losing a lot of blood. However, once at the hospital, surgeons went to work immediately.

(Continued on Page 5)

## City, county offices up for grabs in elections

Several council seats for the City of Norton and the City of Lenora and most of the Norton County offices are up for election this year.

The city elections will be held Tuesday April 6, while the county primary election will be Tuesday, Aug. 3, and the county general election will be Tuesday, Nov. 2.

**City elections**  
 For the City of Norton, three council

positions are up for election.

Incumbent Harriett Gill has filed for re-election in Ward I. Opposing her for the seat is Jerry Jones, owner of Jerry's Body Shop.

Both incumbent Jerry Hawks, Ward II, and incumbent James G. Williams, Ward III, are running unopposed.

The election for the City of Norton will be 7 a.m.-7 p.m. at the Norton American

Legion.

The City of Lenora also has three council positions open. Incumbents Jim York, Doris Hendricks and Larry A. Shepard are running for re-election unopposed.

The election for the City of Lenora will be 7 a.m.-7 p.m. at the Lenora City Office.

**Norton County elections**

Jobs up for election in Norton County include the county attorney, county clerk,

county treasurer, register of deeds, sheriff and commissioner seats in Districts 2 and 3.

Holding those positions now are Commissioner John Miller, Commissioner Leroy Lang, County Attorney R. Douglas Sebelius, County Clerk Robert D. Wyatt, County Treasurer Cynthia Linner, Register of Deeds Wanda Vincent and Sheriff (Continued on Page 5)



Ambulance crew members helped a passenger in a one-vehicle accident Tuesday afternoon at the junction of U.S. 36 and K-383. Assisting at the scene with extraction equipment were members of the Norton Fire department. The sheriff's department directed traffic. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

## Colorado man injured in roll over

A Colorado man was partially ejected from the pickup in which he was riding after the vehicle overturned on a curve Tuesday afternoon.

The Kansas Highway Patrol responded to the accident, which occurred on K-383 Highway, six miles east of Norton.

Thomas R Claman, 73, Peyton, Colo. was a passenger in a 1990 Chevrolet

pickup being driven by August F. Schmitt, 23, Colorado Springs.

The truck, which was towing a 1994 Toyota passenger car was southbound on K-383, took a curve too fast and the vehicles went into the west ditch and the pickup rolled onto the driver's side.

Mr. Claman, who was not wearing a seat belt, was partially ejected. He was

treated at the scene by Norton emergency medical technicians and taken to the Norton County Hospital for treatment.

The driver and another passenger Roger A. Claman, 41, Colorado Springs, were not injured. They were both wearing seat belts.

## Hospital sets date for festivities

By **KRISTEN BRANDS**

The Norton County Hospital Board set a tentative date for the dedication ceremony of the newly remodeled wings for Sunday, May 2.

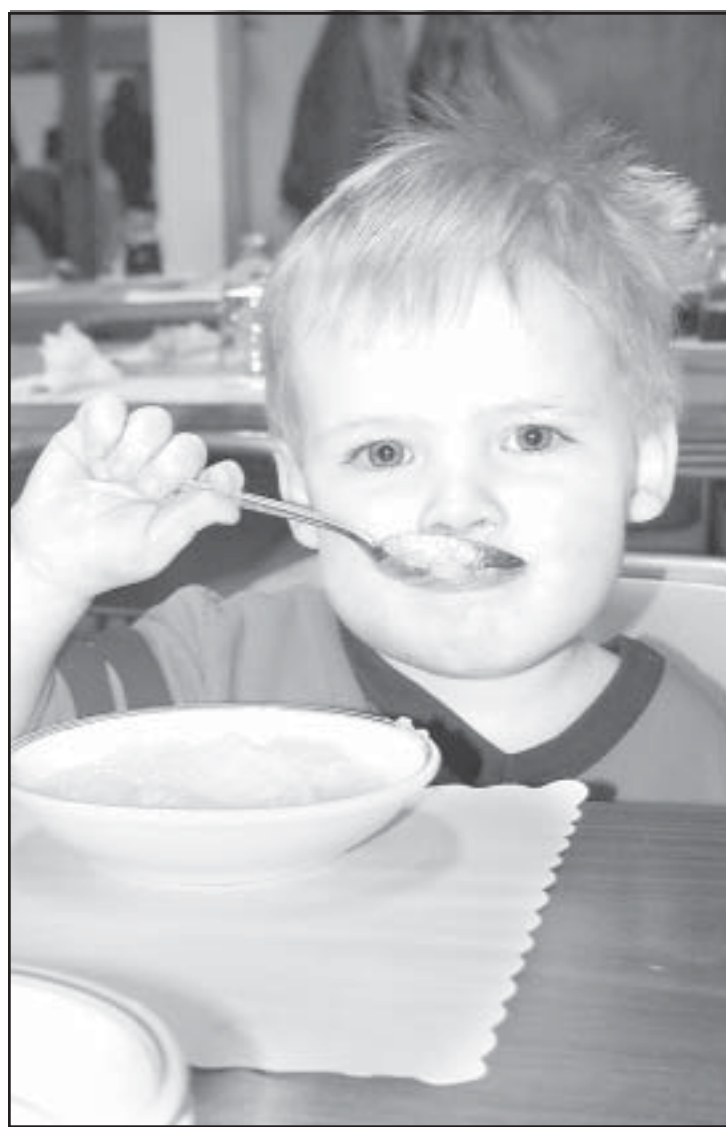
During its meeting Feb. 18, Hospital Administrator Richard Miller asked the board to select a date, so that as the renovation winds down he can invite dignitaries and draft an itinerary for the day's events.

Mr. Miller also suggested that the board think about making one of the new semi-private rooms into a hospice room. This would take the hospital from 25 beds to 24.

The board approved the purchase of a new Kodak 5000 RA X-Ray Film Processor for \$29,350. Mr. Miller said the current processor, used mostly for processing X-rays, could not be re-certified for conducting accurate mammogram results.

Last year, he said, the machine earned the hospital \$60,270 for 574 mammograms.

Other equipment items to be purchased are four Stryker Medical Beds for patient rooms. Two beds, costing \$11,752.68, will be equipped with an exit alarm, which will notify the nursing staff if a patient is leaving his or her bed. The other two beds (Continued on Page 5)



## Yum, yum, yum

Applesauce was more to Nathan Nelson's, 22 months, taste (above) than pancakes on Tuesday during the Trinity Episcopal Church's Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. Nathan is the son of Blain Nelson and Rachael Nelson of Norton. While he was enjoying himself Elaine Mann (right) and other members of the church prepared the pancakes and sausages.

— Telegram photo by Cynthia Haynes



# Injured player recovering

(Continued from Page 1)  
 "The way the surgeon explained it," he said, "was Shane severed the smaller of the two arteries below the elbow and in surgery that artery had to be tied shut."

He said that the doctors told the family that Shane was fortunate in that he had not severed the larger artery below the elbow or the "huge" artery that leads down from the shoulder.

In addition to shutting the artery, doctors reattached the biceps and now Shane is wearing a "hard splint" with lots of wrap around it, his dad said.

"He will need to keep the splint on for the next 10 days," Mr. Stover said, "And for now and after the 10 days, we will be consulting with our physician, Dr. (Victor) Hildyard."

Mr. Stover said that the surgeon had remarked that Shane did "remarkably well," and that he was "a very lucky young man."

Norton Coach Doug Reusink said that all the fans and players here are hoping Shane will make a full recovery.

"We contacted his coaches and let them know we were thinking about him," Coach Reusink said. "I hate to see something like that happen to a senior player. He's a good player and he played hard."

Shane has been released from the hospital and is recovering at home. Doctors said that he should not suffer any lasting damages from the accident other than some scarring. He will not, however, be helping the Eagles in any post-season play.

## Most offices in county in election

(Continued from Page 1)  
 iff Troy Thomson.

The deadline to file is at noon on Thursday, June 10.

To file for office, Republicans need 70 signatures from members of the party on a petition, while Democrats need 30 signatures from other Democrats. All candidates will have to pay a \$30 filing fee.

Those wanting to run for election but not wanting to petition may pay 1 percent of the yearly salary of the office in addition to the \$30 filing fee.

The last day to register for the primary election is Monday, July 19. The last day to register for the general election is Monday, Oct. 18.

The county clerk's office is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

# New voting law will hurt county budget

By VERONICA MONIER

Norton County is facing a potentially large problem with something that was once relatively simple — elections.

Because of the 2002 Help America to Vote Act, Norton, along with other Kansas counties, will have to spend cash it doesn't have, said County Clerk Robert Wyatt.

The law has done away with counties having a say in how their citizens vote, he said. Now, every county in the state will have to vote using the same method.

Also, every voting place in every county will also have to have at least one computerized voting machine that is handicap accessible with an alternate language available, he said.

The machines are estimated to cost between \$5,000 and \$7,000

## Registration laws change

A new election law for 2004 has changed the way people vote for the first time and how those who have moved need to register.

The law says that those filling out a registration card must complete it in front of a clerk in the

driver's license office or in front of one of the workers in the county clerk's office. If it isn't done this way, the first time the person goes to vote, they will be asked for proof of identification, which would be either a driver's license or social security card.

apiece.

"The counties are going to have to come up with some money," said Mr. Wyatt. "The state said it was going to pay for one voting machine for each voting place using the \$7.5 million it was given by the federal government. But the state has not approved any fund-

ing to date for the hardware or software required by the voting act."

Another major problem with the voting act is that polling places have to be accessible to those with disabilities, he said. That means there can be no slippery surfaces, such as gravel; that there are handicap parking places and

ramps available; that the restrooms, doorknobs, elevators and stairs are all compliant; and that there are signs that can be read by anybody including the blind and handicapped.

"Right now, there are no buildings in Norton County that could be considered compliant," he said. "The courthouse isn't big enough and the American Legion has a gravel/asphalt parking lot."

"This thing is so large before you even get to the election part of it."

All counties are also going to be required to use the same software from one company, he said. If there is a problem with the software on election day, the possibility of one company being able to service multiple counties is slim to none.

Mr. Wyatt said the state is plan-

ning on paying for the software, but that the counties are on their own for most hardware.

A major concern Mr. Wyatt has is keeping most of the voting places the county has in place.

"I really hope to maintain the rural voting places," he said. "My goal is to keep as many as possible open."

"The rural communities in Norton County need to keep an identity. That is very important to me, although there is no doubt that the smaller voting places will have to be consolidated."

Mr. Wyatt said the county is looking at possibly \$100,000 just to get into the bare basics. That would cover one voting machine for Americans with disabilities and one scanner per polling place. It doesn't include the required education that he and several other people must get.

"We're hoping that we'll still be allowed to use the paper ballot with scan options," he said. "That will make things a little bit easier."

The county will not be ready by the upcoming general election, he said. But the county and everyone else will have to be ready by Jan. 1, 2006.

# Hospital board chooses new computers

(Continued from Page 1)  
 total \$8,760.12. Twenty Stryker Beds were purchased in 1999.

Last month, the board considered bids for purchasing new computer equipment in switching the information system to Dairyland software system.

Quotes were presented to the board by Mortensen Computer Services, using Dell equipment, and NexTech, using HP/Compaq,

for 39 computers and 16 printers.

The board voted to approve the NexTech bid for \$73,743.50. Twenty of the new computers will need to be installed by July 1.

Chief Financial Officer Brian Carlton gave the January statistical report, saying that the hospital had 299 patient days with 49 admissions, two births, 23 surgeries, 7,000 outpatient procedures and 1,328 doctor's clinic visits. Patient revenue generated for the month was \$690,000.

In other business, the board:  
 • Received a salary handout schedule from Richard Miller. He asked that the members review it

in order to make a decision for staff salary increases during next month's meeting.

• Requested that the administration present a five-year capital outlay plan to the board for the April meeting.

• Heard a management report given by Richard Miller.

Mr. Miller reported that University of Kansas student David Weber will be observing with Physicians Assistant Mike Carroll the weekend of March 4-7.

On March 4, Mr. Miller will be attending a critical access hospital meeting in Hays. He also said that Medicare auditors have been re-

viewing the June 30 cost reports related to critical access reimbursements at the hospital all week long.

• Approved medical staff privileges for Physicians Assistant Rachel Burger, from Kearney.

**SPIRAL STAIRCASES**  
 Custom Built to Order  
 Complete with Beautiful Wood Railing  
**785-689-4341**  
**Goddard Manufacturing**  
 Located at Logan, KS

**NEWCOMER FURNITURE**  
 Low Overhead Means Low Prices

- Sealy • La-Z-Boy • Broyhill • Whirlpool
- Chromcraft • Zenith • Eagle • Best Chair
- La Crosse • England • Peters-Revington

HOURS: 9:00 A.M.-5:30 P.M. MONDAY-FRIDAY • 9:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M. SATURDAY  
 FREE DELIVERY • 119 S. Main • WaKeeney, KS • 785-743-2982

## Congressman to be on TV

Congressman Jerry Moran will discuss the rising costs of health care and health insurance during an appearance on Wichita Public Television.

The program, entitled "Kansas Health Watch" will air at 8 p.m. tonight.

Dale Goter, public affairs editor, will moderate the program. Also taking part will be the Director of the Kansas Governor's Office of Health Planning and Finance Dr. Robert Day, and Sedgwick County Commissioner Tim Norton. The program will air again at 9:30 a.m. Saturday.

It will also air on Topeka Public Television at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday and on Smoky Hills Public Television at noon on Sunday.

For more information, contact Congressman Moran at (202) 225-2715 or visit his web page at www.house.gov/moranks01/.

**SUBSTANCE ABUSE AWARENESS TRAINING**  
 The Regional Prevention Center of Northwest Kansas invites the public to Kansas Baseline Training on March 9 and 10, at the Norton Library Community Room.

Baseline is a program created to increase the awareness of the impact of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs on the individual, the family and the community. Baseline is a tool that assists communities in prevention efforts. The two days training is a fun and learning experience for all who participate. Manuals will be available at no charge to you for your ease in understanding the training concepts. (12 CEU's are available). The training will begin on Tuesday, March 9 and run Wednesday, March 10. Registration will take place at 8:30 a.m. with the training beginning at 9 a.m. and dismissing at 3:30 p.m. Pre-Registration is required since a maximum of 24 participants is allowed, deadline for pre-registration is March 7. There is no fee for the training, snacks and lunch will be provided. This training will be sponsored by the Norton County Council on Alcohol and Other Drugs and Juvenile Justice Authority.

**For more information or to pre-register please contact the Regional Prevention Center at 785-625-5521 or 1-800-757-2180.**

Lower Cholesterol  
 The Natural Way

—Organic Rolled Oats  
 HIGH IN FIBER  
 HIGH IN MINERALS  
 GREAT IN FLAVOR  
 —Flax Seed  
 WHOLE SEED OR MEAL  
 CAPSULES OR OIL  
 —Oat Bran or  
 Wheat Bran  
 BOOST THE FIBER  
 —Natural Beef  
 •GRASS FED •HIGH IN  
 OMEGA 3'S •LOW IN FAT

**Pure Prairie Natural Foods**  
 108 E. Washington  
 NORTON, KANSAS  
 PH (785) 877-3610  
 ORDERS—  
 1-800-545-7232

**New Listing — 905 Crestview, Norton**

Why wait for the sun to set when you can enjoy a perfect sunrise from this home in Westridge Acres on the west side of Norton. Entrance from the street into an entry hall leads either to the living room, kitchen or laundry area. Nestled off the kitchen is an eating nook that overlooks the large fenced in back yard. Two nice size bedrooms and bath complete the ground level. Downstairs the large east windows provide plenty of light for the basement level with very little hint of being underground. A family area, kitchenette, storage room, bedroom and a bath round out the basement. An attached garage has an automatic door opener with space for a work area and tools. A storage shed in the back yard adds more dimension for yard equipment. There is central air and heat to keep the house the right temperature from sunup to sunset and all other times too! House has previously been approved for a Rural Development Loan.

**Duane R. McEwen**  
 SALESPERSON  
 East Hwy. 36, 601 East Holme,  
 Norton, KS 67654 • PH 785-877-3032

**RJ Metcalf**  
 Real Estate  
 Carolyn Burtis, Broker  
 785-475-2111