

Vote:

Vol. 97, No. 87  
75 cents

# THE NORTON TELEGRAM

Sports:

The Norton Blue Jays and the Northern Valley Huskies won their district games. Now it's on to bi-district play.

Pages 10&12

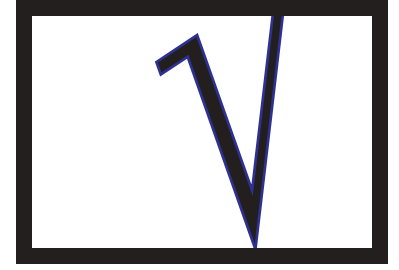
Read about the candidates, their stands and affiliations.

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Friday

October 29, 2004

## Vote Tuesday



Norton, Kansas  
Home of Maxine Cargill

Briefly

### Paper to be Wed. due to election

Tuesday's paper will be a day late next week. The Norton Telegram will postpone the paper in order to publish the general election results of county races. The paper will be mailed and delivered by carrier on Wednesday as it would normally be delivered on Tuesday.

### Turn your clocks back on Sunday

The evenings will get a little shorter Sunday as Daylight Saving Time ends and clocks across the country fall back an hour.



Clocks will be set back to standard time at 2 a.m. Sunday morning. Most people set their clocks Saturday night before turning in instead of waking up Sunday morning to turn the clocks back. Just don't forget.

### Play set in Oberlin

Oberlin Arts and Humanities will sponsor "Arsenic and Old Lace" by Joseph Kesserling at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday at Morgan Theater in The Gateway in Oberlin. Tickets are \$10 for adults or \$5 for students grades 1-12 at the door.

Weather

### Forecast:

**Tonight** — Partly cloudy and breezy. Much colder with lows in the upper 30s. West winds 15 to 25 mph with gusts to around 40 mph. **Saturday** — Mostly sunny with highs in the mid 60s. **Saturday Night** — Mostly clear with lows in the lower 30s. South winds around 10 mph. **Sunday** — Partly cloudy with highs in the lower 60s. Southwest winds around 10 mph shifting to the east 5 to 15 mph in the afternoon. **Sunday Night** — Partly cloudy in the evening then becoming mostly cloudy. A 20 percent chance of rain showers and snow showers. Breezy. Lows in the upper 30s.

### Howell report:

Tuesday ..... High 68, Low 55  
Wednesday ..... High 67, Low 61  
Thursday ..... High 81, Low 53  
Week ago ..... High 65, Low 54  
Month ago ..... High 67, Low 51  
Year ago ..... High 61, Low 44  
October precipitation ..... .93 inches  
Year-to-date precipitation ... 22.40 inches  
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

Prayer

Thank you, Lord God, for your promise to be with us in all circumstances of life. When we feel uncertain, hold us close and reassure us of your presence. Amen



### Youngsters enjoy parade, wiener roast

Princesses, goblins, witches and lots of animals were all seen in Norton last night during the annual Halloween Parade and Wiener Roast. A princess and two witches, Adrienne Hager, Courtney Cunningham and Hannah Park (right) roasted a few 'dogs' over the coals. Volunteer Fireman John Hanlon (above) helped his son Michael, 3 1/2, cook some wieners.

— Photos by Veronica Monier



### Commissioners worry cleanup will push limit

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

Norton County officials are afraid they'll get more trash than they can handle.

The City of Norton is planning a city-wide cleanup program next week.

The county commissioners, however, are worried that while folks are tossing out their old washing machines, tree limbs and rusty pipes they will also be adding the extra household trash sitting in the back room.

Solid Waste Supervisor Curt Archibald said that he has talked to City Administrator Rob Lawson about the problem and the city will ask folks to just put out white goods and construction material.

But, he said, both of them know

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### Almena to get vehicle to help in emergencies

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

Almena will be getting an emergency response vehicle to get the sick and injured to the hospital earlier.

Acting Ambulance Director Andy Nielsen told the commissioners on Monday that a first responder vehicle is almost ready to go for Almena.

The vehicle is not an ambulance, he said, and will be used by first responders instead of by emergency medical technicians.

The advantage of having the vehicle is speed, he said. First responders can take the vehicle to an accident or to an illness and have the patient or patients mostly ready to go to the hospital by the time the ambulance and emergency medical technicians show up from Norton.

"They get people ready," Mr. Nielsen said. "That should take scene time down from 15 to five minutes."

The vehicle will be ready to go once it is outfitted, he said. It needs a cot, back board and a few other smaller items.

The most expensive piece of equipment will be the cot, he said, since it will have to be compatible with the cots in the county ambulances.

Mr. Nielsen said that he has checked on used cots but the kind the county needs is not available. A new cot will cost between \$3,900 and \$4,800, he said. Unfortunately, he said, he doesn't have that amount available in his budget.

"I think just because we can put one (an emergency vehicle) in Almena, we just do it," Commissioner John Miller said noting that the county has wanted to put some kind of ambulance or medical emergency vehicle in the area for several years.

Mr. Miller said the county would come up with the money from somewhere.

Mr. Nielsen said that almost all of the six first responders in the Almena area have hand-held radios so he is not planning to put a good radio into the vehicle. There is one in it, he said, but it's old.

Mr. Miller suggested that a vehicle ra-

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### Candidates give notice of finances

By VERONICA MONIER

Candidates for Norton County commission filed campaign finance reports at the courthouse on Monday.

Each candidate was required to report his financial campaign activities from July 23 to Oct. 25. Candidates reported their cash on hand at the beginning of the period, contributions, expenditures, cash on hand as of Monday and in-kind contributions, which is money the candidate spends out of their own pocket or someone else spends on behalf of the candidate without making a direct contribution.

Incumbent 3rd District Commissioner John Miller, Republican, reported that he has accepted no contributions and had no expenditures for the period. He had \$50 cash-on-hand at the beginning of the period and has none remaining.

Mr. Miller's out-of-pocket expenses of \$762.15 included \$268.15 KQNK Radio for advertising; \$444 to The Norton Telegram for advertising; and \$50 to First Security Bank and Trust, Norton, for the return of a contribution.

Democratic candidate for the 3rd District seat Robert Clydesdale reported \$900 in contributions and \$742.55 in expenditures. He had no cash-on-hand at the beginning of the period and \$157.45 at the end.

Mr. Clydesdale's contributions included \$50 from Mr. Clydesdale, Edmond; \$100 from George Gassmann, Clayton; \$50 from Randy Gassmann, New Almemo; \$50 from Loyd Schoen, Lenora; \$100 from Gail Boller, Norton; \$100 from Rural Telephone, Lenora; \$20

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### Flu vaccine shortage explained

By VERONICA MONIER

A lack of flu vaccine has everyone wondering what will happen if there's an outbreak this fall.

Norton County Hospital Pharmacy Director Carol Elling, a registered nurse, said normally there were two vaccine manufacturers — Chiron Corp. and Aventis. This year Chiron Corp., a company based in England, had problems during the inspection process.

The company was supposed to manufacture 50 million doses of vaccine, she said, but won't be sending any out this year because of contamination.

Mrs. Elling said Aventis has about 14.2 million doses that it is trying to redistribute to high risk people.

"I believe that they have called some of the people who aren't high risk who have ordered the vaccine to see if they will send it back so it can be redistributed," she said. "People everywhere are scrambling to get it."

She said a survey was sent out to hospitals and clinics to see how many doses were ordered and how many high risk patients there are in the area. Once they get the information back, she said they will figure out how to redistribute the vaccine.

She said this area isn't as highly populated as others and so probably won't get as much vaccine.

Mrs. Elling said the hospital and clinic should get some of the vaccine in a couple

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# County employee replies to letter

To the Editor:  
There has been a lot of talk about how the commissioners seats should be changed. Everyone has the right to have an opinion. That opinion must not go "outside the line" to speak for everyone.

In Tuesday's paper there was an article asking people to talk with county employees on how bad it is to work with the "Now Commissioners".

I was put in a position to run the ambulance service back in November of last year. Since then, there have been a lot of changes at that service for the good of the community. With all the help of the people who are on the service, it has been nothing but great.

Even with all the volunteer help that I have, this could have not happened without the commissioners' support and understanding. They have done a lot for this service, with all their help in sending me to directors' training seminars and their understanding on what new equipment we have

needed, we have achieved some of the goals that were put in place.

We are two weeks from putting a first response unit in Alma. Back in November there were only 17 people on the roster for the ambulance service. With the commissioners support we have held EMT and First Responder classes; now we have 35 active people on the roster.

Our heart monitoring equipment was old enough that the batteries were not keeping charged, now we have all new ones. With the job that we on this service do on a daily basis, the improvements have been greatly appreciated.

Some people ask why we need a bigger building, we have no classroom space right now to teach classes, our office is 8 by 13 feet, and this is supposed to be enough room for three to four people? There are dog kennels bigger than that.

The commissioners understand the need for more space. As far as the grant goes that we elected not

to put in this year, we felt that other options needed to be looked at as far as the location and the cost. I was not about to put in for the grant when we didn't know what we were going to do. It would not look very good to put in for a grant and tell them that, yeah we want the money to do something but we don't know what we are going to do yet.

Yes, I am the Acting Director for the ambulance service but I feel that when the commissioners are ready to make a decision on that matter then the acting will be taken away. The commissioners, in my opinion, have done what they were elected to do, and that is to better this county in ways that benefit everyone who calls Norton their home. So if anyone would like to speak on my behalf please find out how I feel first.

Andrew Nielsen  
acting director,  
Norton County  
Emergency Medical Service

## COMMENTS FROM OTHERS:

### Farming is tougher these days

The following column is from the Oct. 11 edition of the High Plains Journal. It is being reprinted by permission of the editor.

By JEFF CALDWELL

Crops and livestock have long been a staple in the lore of the rural U.S., especially in the Midwest and High Plains.

But times have changed, and so have the means of crop and livestock producers for getting their job done: Putting food on the plates of millions of Americans. At the same time, many urbanites remain steeped in the action of escaping the city in favor of finding a quieter existence in the countryside. Nothing in a city, however, can prepare urban sprawlers for some of the byproducts of today's food production.

Today's large tractors and field equipment are capable of kicking up a cloud of dust in the field. Today's livestock operations, whether open-air or enclosed, are capable of emitting an odor, and with just the right wind gust, that odor can carry itself directly into the path of your nostrils.

And now, long gone it seems, are the days of passive acceptance of this dust and odor. In last week's Journal, you read a story about a family hog operation that has been targeted by activist groups because of its size and the alleged negative effects it has on the environment. Regardless to what extent the owners and operators of this farm go to meet and exceed the

requirements set fourth by law protecting air and groundwater, they still come under fire for the way they operate, even as the food they produce does not come close to meeting the needs of the American consumer.

There's a small sign along I-70, between Manhattan and Topeka, Kan., sponsored by the Kansas Agri-Women and Kansas Farm Bureau, stating that every U.S. farmer produces enough food for 128 consumers. Even in the last decade, the number of those fed by each farmer has climbed. Every time I drive by this sign (this time of year to watch the sometimes frustrating K-State Wildcats football team), I'm reminded of the importance of our industry.

Yet to many, a disconnect exists today, one that prompts stern speech and action against the very men and women who work each day to produce our nation's food and fiber.

We no longer live in a world where we can subsist without large-scale crop and livestock operations.

With fewer producers, skyrocketing urban populations and the corresponding demand for food this continues to create, it is no longer possible for the few remaining farmers and ranchers in this country to provide food for everyone's table by producing at the level of their parents and grandparents. As a result, large operations have become a necessity. The more people who move

to areas where subsistence comes from the shelves of a grocery store, the fewer there are producing that subsistence. How else can they make a living without shortening margins and producing on a larger scale in concert with their natural environment?

The next time you see a newspaper ad or hear a radio spot from an environmental group purporting to be in favor of "family farms" and against "corporate farms," think first about the demographic changes that have forced large livestock operations and farms into being.

Our society's growth has forced farmers and ranchers to produce more efficiently. In most cases, the primary way to accomplish this efficiency is growth. It's a business decision, perhaps if more Americans, like a century ago, lived on the farm and raised a handful of hogs and chickens themselves, we could subsist without large operations. But, as the growing housing subdivisions on the edges of every city across the Midwest and High Plains indicate, farmers and ranchers already have their hands full.

And, the next time you happen to drive by a large feedlot, hog farm or packing plant, don't curse the odor. Instead, thank your lucky stars the men and women who keep those operations open are making it possible for you to have that paunch above your belt.

Jeff Caldwell can be reached by e-mail at jccaldwell@mchsi.com.

## Commissioners worry about trash

(Continued from Page 1)  
there will also be more household trash than usual.

The problem, commissioners said, is they don't have any place to put extra trash.

The county has contracted with Phillips County to transport an average of 44 tons of trash a week and it moves just about that much each week without any extra.

"We can't do anything to jeopardize Phillips County," Commissioner John Miller said.

"Gosh, they've been really good to us," Commission Chairman Leroy Lang agreed.

Mr. Archibald said that it might be possible to hold some of the trash for an extra day or take it elsewhere.

Mr. Miller suggested that Kearney might have to take the trash because of the landfill designation but Mr. Archibald said he wasn't sure because it is out of state.

The other choice, Mr. Miller said, is to go to Garden City.

"Sheesh, I'd hate to send a truckload of trash to Garden City," Mr. Miller said.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Opened bids for construction of the first pit at the proposed county landfill at 11 a.m. Sporer Land Development, Oakley, bid \$133,845 for the base and \$118,963 for extra work for a total of \$252,808.

Whitney Construction, Norton, bid \$52,389 for the base and

\$53,580 for extra work. The engineer estimated that the base — excavation, compaction and a liner — would cost \$57,365 and the extra work — things like roads and gravel — would cost \$54,463 for a total of \$111,828.

The county will probably do the road work itself.

Because of a problem with Whitney's bid and questions as to how much the county will do, the commissioners put off accepting a bid.

However, commissioners said they expect to accept Whitney's bid on Friday.

- Learned that Commissioner Dean Kruse had to leave the meeting early to drive to Topeka for an energy conference. He left at 10:30 a.m.

- Heard that the road and bridge department isn't planning to buy any steel for bridges for a while.

- Said that the county will be the grant host for a Community Development Block Grant for rural Fire District No. 2 for a new fire truck.

"In other words we do all the paperwork," Mr. Lang said.

- Talked briefly about the county plan in case of a foreign animal disease outbreak.

"We had a meeting and all producers in the county were notified," Mr. Lang said.

- Talked to Jeff Younger from

Midwest Energy in Hays about the costs of natural gas for the county this winter.

- Set a meeting for 11 a.m. Friday to accept Whitney's bid and decide what parts of the extra items the county will be doing.



# Candidates release reports on campaign finances

(Continued from Page 1)  
from H.J. Austerman, Norton; \$100 from Don Ryan, Norton; \$100 from Lenus Schuck, Edmond; \$100 from Doyle Schoen, Lenora. He also had \$130 in unitemized contributions of \$50 or less.

His expenditures included \$392.55 to KQNK Radio for advertising, \$310 to *The Norton Telegram* for advertising and \$40 to Nex-Tech for advertising.

Mr. Clydesdale's out-of-pocket expenses of \$279 included \$20 to *The Telegram* for thank you advertising, and \$259 for postage for a survey.

George Gassmann, the Republican candidate for the 3rd District seat who was defeated in the primary by just one vote, reported that he had \$96.73 cash-on-hand at the beginning of the period. He accepted no new contributions and ended with no cash-on-hand.

His expenditures of \$96.73 included \$12 to Rural Telephone for advertising, \$20 to *The Norton Telegram* for advertising and \$64.73 to Boxler Insurance Co. to close the account and pay for postage. The only in-kind

contribution reported was from Boxler Insurance for \$64.75 for postage for flyers.

Incumbent 2nd District Commissioner Leroy Lang, Republican, reported that he accepted no contributions and had no expenditures for the period.

Mr. Lang's out-of-pocket expenses of \$504.13 went to *The Telegram* for advertising.

Ivan Kingham, the Republican candidate for the 2nd District seat who was defeated in the primary and is now running a write-in campaign, reported \$1,085 in contributions and \$306.66 in expenditures for Sept. 21 to Oct. 25. He had no cash-on-hand at the beginning of the period and \$778.34 cash-on-hand at the end.

Mr. Kingham's contributions included \$50 from himself; \$100 from Gail Boller, Norton; \$100 from Mel Juenemann, Norton; \$100 from Sumner Farms, Norcat; \$100 from Flatland Hay Co., Norton; \$75 from Kathy Holste, Norton; \$100 from Bev Warner and Joe Dawson, Norcat; and \$300 from Sharp Enterprises, Norton. He also had \$160 in unitemized

contributions of \$50 or less.

His expenditures included \$11.28 to First State Bank for checks, and \$295.38 to *The Norton Telegram* for advertising.

Mr. Kingham's out-of-pocket contributions of \$411.13 included \$15 for a name list from the Norton County clerk, \$294.10 to KQNK Radio for advertising and \$102.03 to Artline Graphics for copies and handouts.

He also filed an amended report that covers July 23 through Sept. 21 which said he had \$261.32 cash-on-hand at the beginning of the period, no new contributions, \$261.32 in expenditures and no cash-on-hand as of Sept. 21.

The expenditures reported included \$132.60 to KQNK Radio for advertising, \$92 to First State Bank for postage, \$21.31 to Artline Graphics for designing post cards and \$15.41 to himself for advertising reimbursement.

These reports were received from the Norton County Clerk's Office.

## Flu vaccine shortage explained

(Continued from Page 1)  
of weeks and will then have to decide how to distribute it.

One suggestion they've gotten, she said, was to have the health care workers take the nasal vaccine, which uses live flu. Also, it's been suggested that the medical staff take pneumonia vaccine, so that if any of them actually get the flu, they'll be protected against pneumonia.

She said they'll be talking to the hospital and clinic's employees to see how they feel about these suggestions.

Dr. Ruben Silan suggested that if there is an outbreak, the hospital restrict visiting.

Hospital Board President Kathy Holste asked how many doses were ordered this fall.

Mrs. Elling said she ordered 680. That figure doesn't include the Norton County Health Depart-

ment or the Andbe Home, both of whom ordered their vaccine from Chiron as well.

Board Member Weldon Brooks said he saw that Sheridan County had vaccine available. Mrs. Elling said anyone, who needed a shot, should go where they can to get one.

In other business, the board:  
• Made the final payment of \$7,543 to Windmill Farms for landscaping. Hospital Administrator Rich Miller said that the original price was \$38,773. The hospital also had some additional work done that totaled \$4,770. He said they have paid \$36,000 and just have the final payment left.

Mr. Miller said sod strips have been laid, but some of it may look a little funny until the seeded grass grows. He said it should sprout up with a little bit of warmer weather.

- Decided to put up a lighted sign

on the building near the walkway entrance for \$2,950. Electricity is available.

On a tour of the landscaping project at the September meeting, several of the board members said another sign that could be seen from the highway would look nice.

- Approved \$3,294 in construction manager contingency funds to Murray Co. as final payment for the renovation project.

- Learned that snow will be piled in the middle of the main parking lot and then will be hauled off.

- Heard that the Hospital Association convention will be Nov. 9-11. Mr. Miller said board members are welcome to attend.

- Went into a 30-minute closed session to discuss non-elected personnel and attorney client privileges.

## Almena to get emergency vehicle

(Continued from Page 1)  
dio might be a good thing to get with the next round of federal money the county receives to fight bioterrorism.

"In an 'event' we might have to use everything we have," he said.

Mr. Nielsen said that he plans to store the vehicle at the fire department in Almena. He said he has talked to one person on the fire department and plans to talk to some others to make sure that there is no problem with that arrangement.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Heard that the ambulance had made 383 calls.

- Held a 15-minute closed session with Emergency Medical Technician Ruth Schillig to discuss non-elected personnel after Mr. Nielsen was called away on a run.

- Learned that ambulance service personnel will be downtown on Thursday handing out treats along with the firemen for the annual Halloween parade.

- Were told that the ambulance service will also be teaching cardio pulmonary resuscitation classes for the Kansas Department of Transportation. This is done yearly, Mr. Nielsen said.

- Talked briefly about a new ambulance building. Mr. Lang said

that the county would have liked to apply for a grant to help pay for a building but didn't have the time to do so.

"We have to have our ducks in a row before applying for a grant," he said.

**Nobody covers  
the Blue Jays  
like we do!**

THE NORTON  
**TELEGRAM**

## Write In

*Ivan Kingham* X

**For District Two  
Norton County  
Commissioner**

- Lifelong Norton Resident
- Farm Bureau Board for eight years — President two terms
- Norton County Co-op Board since 1990 — Chairman six years
- Airport Board 20 years

I want to be a commissioner for all people of the county. Let's cooperate for better government and economic growth for Norton County

**Your Write-in Vote will be  
Greatly Appreciated**

Pd. Adv. by Ivan Kingham for District 2, Norton Co. Comm., Kathy Holste, Treas.



**Your Vote on August 3 was  
Appreciated. Please Remember  
to Vote on November 2**

**Re-Elect**  
★★★★★



**Troy  
Thomson  
for  
Norton County  
SHERIFF**



- Appointed by Central Committee and Governor Graves, 1999
- Elected 2000
- Past Member of Law Enforcement Advisory Committee

Pd. Pol. Adv. by Susan Thomson, Treasurer