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Vol. 97, No. 93  
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# THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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Pages 8&9

## Friday

November 19, 2004

Norton, Kansas

Home of Caroline Austerman

### Briefly

## Schools to close for Thanksgiving

Jennings, Northern Valley and Logan schools will all be closed for Thanksgiving break Wednesday-Friday, Nov. 24-26.

Norton and Lenora schools will dismiss at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 24, and be closed the rest of the week.

Classes will resume at all area schools on Monday, Nov. 29.

## PRIDE to hold

## pancake supper

The Almena PRIDE committee is holding a pancake supper from 5-7 p.m., Saturday at the Community Building.

Organizers said donations from the fund raiser will be used towards purchasing seasonal flags.

## School paper

## inserted today

Norton Community High School's *The Nugget* will be in today's edition of *The Telegram* for those subscribers who get their paper delivered by carrier. People who want a copy, but don't get one with their paper, can stop by the high school to pick one up.

Norton High School students will get a copy of *The Nugget* at the school.

### Weather

## Forecast:

**Tonight** — Partly cloudy with lows in the lower 30s. North winds 10 to 15 mph. **Saturday** — Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of snow in the late morning and afternoon. Cooler with highs in the lower 40s. North winds 10 to 15 mph. **Saturday Night** — Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Lows in the mid 20s with northeast winds 5 to 15 mph. **Sunday** — Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Highs in the mid 30s with northeast winds 5 to 10 mph shifting to the northwest in the afternoon.

## Howell report:

Tuesday ..... High 63, Low 48  
Wednesday ..... High 58, Low 44  
1.60 of an inch of precipitation  
Thursday ..... High 46, Low 42  
..... .35 of an inch of precipitation  
Week ago ..... High 43, Low 31  
Month ago ..... High 73, Low 49  
Year ago ..... High 57, Low 38  
November precipitation ..... 2.60 inches  
Year-to-date precipitation ... 25.00 inches  
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

### Prayer

In our weakness, O God, make us strong so that we can have victory through your strength. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen



Cub Scouts from Pack 181, helped stock the shelves at God's Pantry in the offices of Norton's Trinity Episcopal Church. Norton Boy Scouts held a food drive Oct. 24. The boys are (from left) John Risewick, Kurt Douglas, Leif Carlson, Christopher Chambers (back to camera) and Nicholas Koch. Dale Carlson is their den leader. —Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

## Boy Scouts help to fill shelves at food pantry

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

A record amount of non-perishable grocery items were collected by Norton Boy Scouts during their annual food drive on Oct. 24 to benefit God's Pantry.

Volunteers at the food bank at the Trinity Episcopal Church, said the response this year has been better than ever before.

"Whenever the shelves are empty the food comes," one volunteer said. "And

whenever the food comes, the people who need it come. We see miracles every day around here."

During October, 13 families with 24 adults and 33 children were helped.

So far this month seven families with 15 adults and 15 children have needed assistance.

This year the food pantry has helped 154 families, compared to 130 families

during 2003.

The purpose of the food bank is to serve everyone.

"We don't judge anyone," said a volunteer.

"We have people who have used the pantry. And when they get back on their feet, they bring food in, themselves. It's very gratifying."

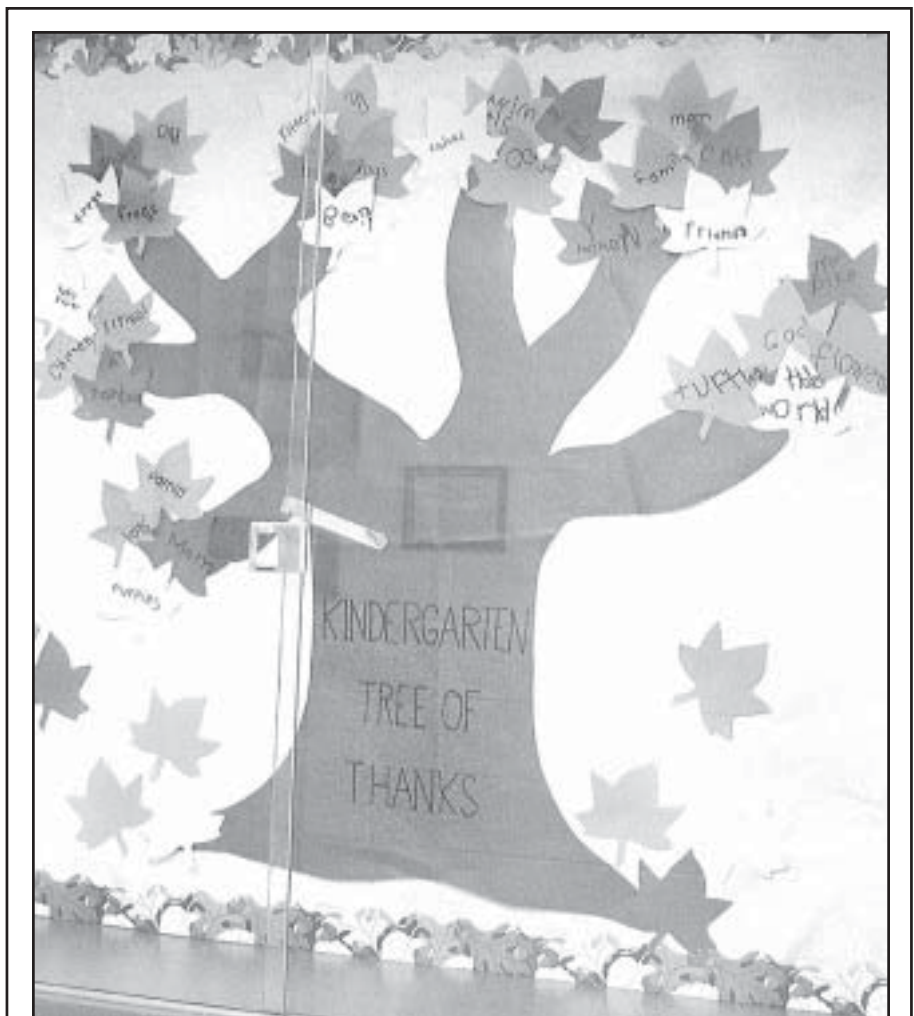
The community pantry was established

to meet emergency requirements of Norton County families.

A family may use the pantry three times in six months and all contacts are confidential.

The pantry is open every Sunday afternoon from 3-4 p.m.

To learn more about God's Pantry or how you can help, call Connie Johnson, 877-2039 or Elaine Mann, 877-2019.



Kindergartners at Eisenhower Elementary know what they are thankful for this Thanksgiving season. The leaves on their "Tree of Thanks" on display in the front lobby includes puppies, Mom, friends, flowers and frogs. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

## Courts have new cracks; but, they're getting fixed

By VERONICA MONIER

The tennis courts are cracking. Again. City Administrator Rob Lawson said at Wednesday's City Council meeting that the tennis courts have cracked, but it was expected.

He said city crews have already filled in the crack with material that had been purchased when the courts were resurfaced earlier this year. He said the nets and posts have been removed as A-1 Sports, who did the work, recommended.

Councilman Ron Briery asked if they could cover the courts with caps of some kind. He said this might help to keep water from getting onto the courts and freezing, causing more cracks.

No one had any idea of how that might be done.

The city administrator said he needs to know what the council is planning on personnel.

Mr. Lawson said he would like to be (Continued on Page 5)

## Restaurant would like street exit for customers

By VERONICA MONIER

Quizno's wants to get its customer back on the street but has run into legal problems with the city's rules.

City Administrator Rob Lawson said at Wednesday's City Council meeting that Bruce Reeves, co-owner of Quizno's, had asked him for Quizno's if he could have an exit for Quizno's if he trimmed trees and took down a fence that was behind his property at 411 W. Holme St.

Mr. Lawson said he and City Attorney Karen Griffiths looked at the property and didn't think it would be a problem. But then, he said, Mrs. Griffiths told him Wednesday afternoon that she had found a section of the code that made the request illegal. He said Mr. Reeves had started removing the fence that morning.

He said he called Larry Enfield, a co-owner of Quizno's, and told him that they

needed to stop what they were doing because it was illegal.

Mrs. Griffiths said the code says no person can drive over any pavement, sidewalk or incomplete grading which has not been opened for traffic. She said if they wanted to make that an exit, it would need to be made into a street first.

Councilman Ron Briery said there needs to be a 60-foot width for a street and he didn't think there was enough room.

Mr. Lawson said Mr. Reeves doesn't want to make a street, just an exit.

Councilman Jerry Hawks said the council had addressed this issue a few years ago and that the grade school was very opposed to the idea because of the safety of its students.

Mrs. Griffiths said if people drive through the back of the property, it is a (Continued on Page 5)

## Theater has used savings to pay for damage from fire

By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton Theatre is still repairing damages caused by a fire that destroyed the C&R Western Construction building just over a year ago.

The fire, which started in the construction company's building on the theater's west side, caused about \$55,000 in damage at the theater, said Theater Manager Kim Wicker.

The roof had to be replaced, the inside treated for smoke damage and the west exterior wall had to be re-stuccoed and painted.

She said the roof cost about \$35,000, the smoke damage about \$4,000, and the stucco and painting is expected to cost about \$16,000. All of the repairs except the stucco and painting, which is being done now, have been finished.

Mrs. Wicker said, unfortunately, the

theater wasn't covered 100 percent by its insurance company, which ended up paying about \$21,000 for the damages. The theater, she said, ending up having to pay about \$29,000.

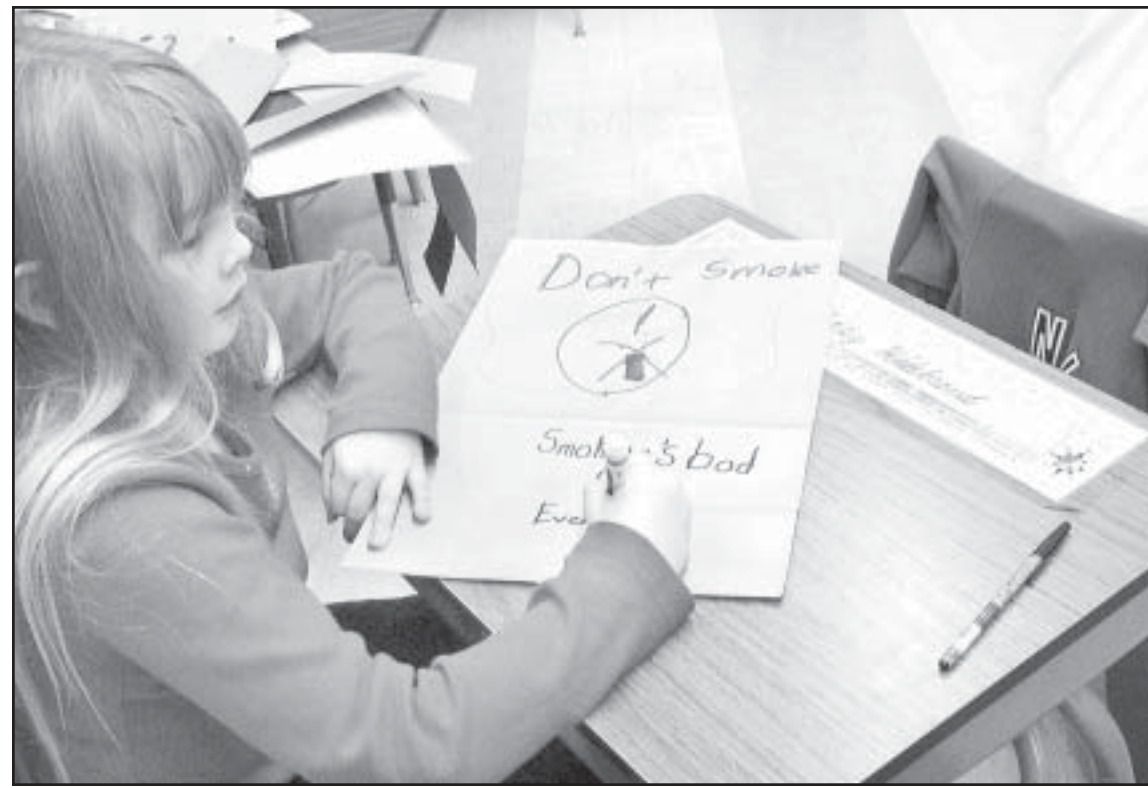
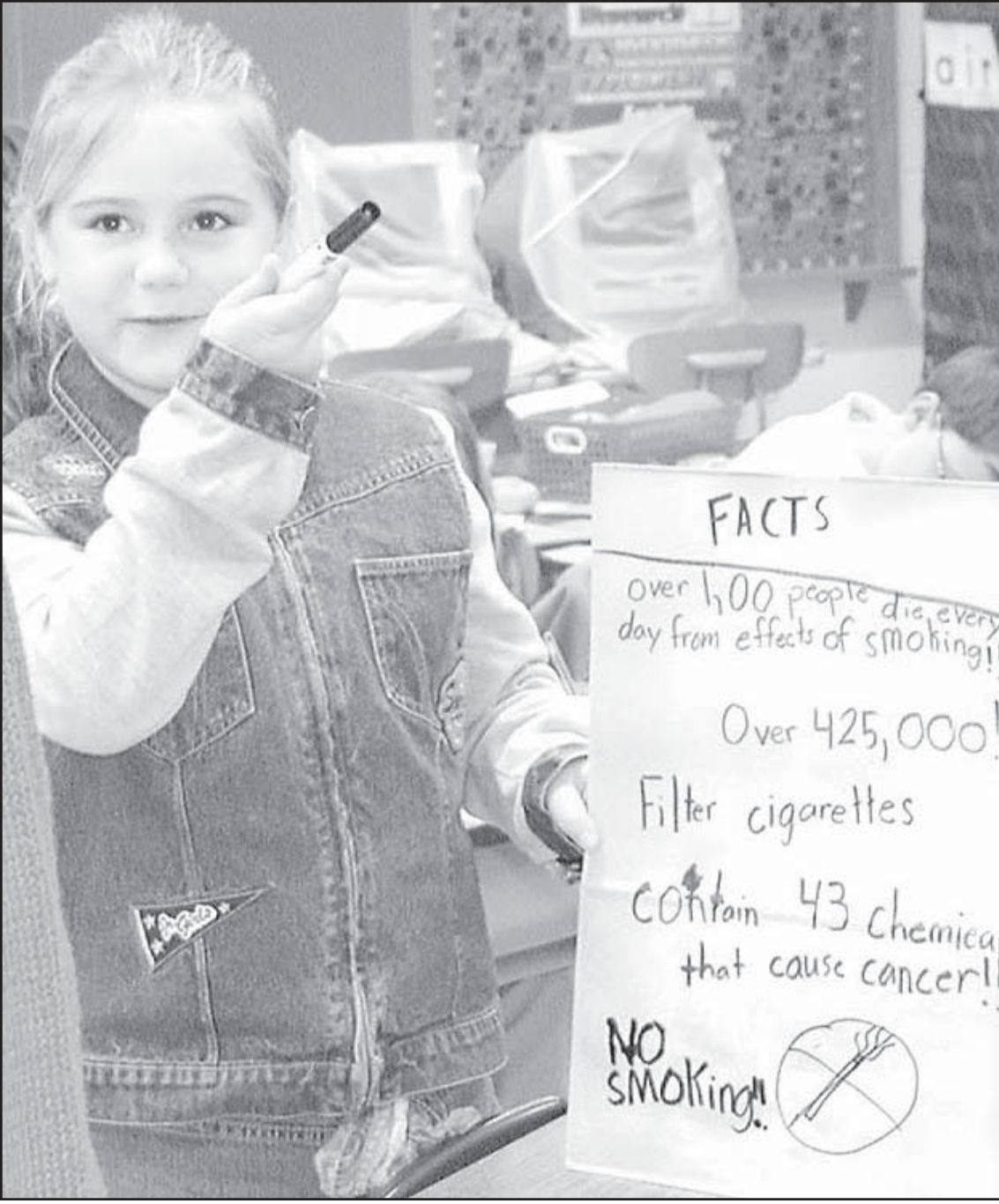
"We've had to cash in all of our CDs and savings," she said. "There's nothing left except what we make to run on. We've been trying to keep our costs down."

She said the theater has been saving for a new sound system, but has had to use that money to help pay for the repairs.

Luckily, the theater has had the money to cover the repair costs, she said, mostly because of generous estate donations, including those from George Jones and Mary Walters.

"Without this money," she said, "we wouldn't have enough to pay for the repairs." (Continued on Page 5)





## Students help with smoke out

Third and fourth graders at Eisenhower Elementary, Almena Elementary and the entire school body at Lenora School took part in a program sponsored by the Chronic Disease Risk Reduction grant through the Norton County Health Department. Brown grocery sacks were donated by Almena Market, Jamboree Foods, Lenora's Country Corner and Norton Shop and Save to be decorated by

the students. These "sacks with a message" were then taken back to the stores for sacking groceries. Thursday was the "Great American Smokeout". Tuesday, students in Julie Schrum's room decorated their sacks. Ashley Hildebrand, (above), wrote on her sack "Don't Smoke — Smoke's Bad For Everyone". Rickette Green, (left) listed many of the dangers of smoking.— Telegram photos by Carolyn Plotts

## Eatery runs into trouble over street exit

(Continued from Page 1)  
violation because it hasn't been opened to traffic.

Mark Keilig, a neighbor, said if it was made into a street, Quizno's would lose all of its parking, which defeats the purpose. He said also that even though it would say exit, people would be entering there as well. Also, he said, there were the safety issues with the children at the school to worry about.

Mr. Keilig said he told Mr. Reeves he was against this idea.

Kayla Tacha, a neighbor, said she was also against the idea and that the fence belonged to her and

Mr. Reeves had never asked if he could take it down. She asked if the council could make him put it back up.

Mrs. Griffiths said the council didn't have that authority.

Councilwoman Elaine Mann said the fence is an issue that is probably between Mrs. Tacha, Mr. Reeves and the police department.

Mr. Lawson said, although the city doesn't have any authority to make him put it back up, he would ask Mr. Reeves to do so.

In other business, the council:

- Renewed the three-year con-

tract for audit services with Mapes and Miller for \$10,200 for the 2004 audit, \$10,500 for 2005 and \$10,800 for 2006.

- Appointed Councilman Jim Williams and Mr. Hawks as the council representative, and Mr. Lawson as one of the at-large representative on a new economic development committee. The commission will have two council members, two county commissioners, a member of the Lenora City Council, a member of the Almena City Council and four at-large representative, two of which will be from the city and the other

two from the county. A second at-large representative from the city has to be appointed.

The committee will work on hiring an economic development director.

- Heard from Mr. Hawks that the airport board accepted bids for new windows in the manager's building at the city/county airport.

- Heard from Mr. Lawson that the gates at Elmwood Park are closed, but not locked and that Christmas lights around the city are almost all up.

## Theater savings went to make repairs

(Continued from Page 1)

The major problem, she said, is that C&R's insurance company isn't paying for the damages caused by the fire. She said the theater wasn't at fault for the fire, but was damaged by it. Because of this, the theater board has decided to sue.

Dan Walter, the board's secretary, said the board decided to sue on Nov. 4. Because it can't legally

name C&R's insurance company in the suit, it has to sue the construction company, which owns the building.

He said he expected the paperwork to be filed sometime Thursday. The board is suing for \$24,553.56 plus interest and costs.

Mrs. Wicker said despite the loss of the money in savings, the theater is still doing well. She said the reason they have been able to

stay open is because of the volunteers who step up and help.

"There have been rumors that the theater is going to close," she said.

"But the theater is not closing! As long as I'm involved, I'll do everything in my power to keep it open. And, as long as we have volunteers to help run things, we'll be okay.

"We really appreciate them."

She said it would be good if C&R's insurance company paid for the damages caused by the fire. Although there is still a high attendance, she said it's been 12 years since the theater has been renovated and upkeep and maintenance is expensive.

For movie listings or other information about the theater visit the website at [www.NortonTheatre.com](http://www.NortonTheatre.com).

## Tennis court cracks expected, being repaired

(Continued from Page 1)

involved in any executive session dealing with personnel, since he oversees the city employees. He said if there is something being done that a council member doesn't like, then he would like to be told about it.

He said he has started tape recording the committee meetings so there is a record of what is happening and has considered having someone type minutes at the meetings.

He also told the council that several people have asked to have another cleanup time, where yard waste will be removed.

He said they're saying the leaves hadn't fallen yet during the city-wide cleanup and recommended they pick up yard waste again.

The council agreed and told him to set a date and then advertise when it will be.

He said the city got a bill in October for material for the cemetery improvement project, but hadn't paid it because a member of the improvement committee said she was trying to get the owner to donate the material.

He said the owner has called three times asking for payment and he doesn't want the city to get a reputation for not paying its bills.

He said if the owner wants to make a donation, then it can be made in cash. The bill will be paid out of the cemetery improvement fund, he said.

In other business, the council:

- OKed a Christmas party for city staff, contingent on the auditor's approval. The party will be held on Dec. 21 and will cost around \$600.

- Heard that the Kansas Department of Health and Environment sent the city notice that its water system has violated drinking standards. Mr. Lawson said the water plant meets the standards it was built for, but no longer meets the state's higher standards, which is why a new plant is being built. He said people are drinking the same water that they have been for the past 40 years.

He said the city has to send notice to all of its water customers telling them about the violation and what action the city is taking.

- Approved a new chain of command chart. Mr. Lawson said the

new chart was recommended by the League of Municipalities. Councilman Jerry Hawks said it should be included in the new personnel policy.

- Heard that the Norton County Horse Council has submitted its 2005 calendar of events. It will be reviewed at the next Parks Committee meeting.

- Learned that the 1978 Ford pickup used by the parks department is in bad shape, including the wiring.

Mr. Lawson said he will present bids and pictures for a used pickup at the next Parks Committee meeting.

- Waived the formal second reading of Ordinance No. 1540, restricting vehicular parking, excluding passenger buses, on the south side of Wilberforce Street next to the East Campus gym and auditorium.

Mr. Lawson said a school board member doesn't think this ordinance is necessary. He said Superintendent Greg Mann and several school board members will be at the Nov. 29 Public Safety Committee meeting to talk about it.

- Heard that Brad Schroeder, a

## Norton Republicans elect new chairman

The Norton County Republican Central Committee's reorganization meeting was held Nov. 10.

Steve Berry, Lenora, was elected committee chairman, replacing Jon Lofgreen who had been chairman for the last three years.

Karen Reedy will continue to serve as vice-chairman. Joe Ballinger will remain as the treasurer and Joni Berry was elected secretary.

The next event on the political agenda is the First District Republican meeting on Saturday, Dec.

11, in Russell.

Three alternate district members were elected — John Miller, Norton County Commissioner; Doug Sebelius, Norton County Attorney; and Geneva Berry, Norton County Central Committee member.

## Emergency calls keep ambulance on road

By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton County Ambulance Service has had more calls so far this year than they did in all of last year.

The service has had 413 calls this year, while it had 403 in 2003, said Acting Ambulance Director Andy Nielsen.

Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 was a record month, he said, with 57 calls. The ambulance service month runs from the 15th to the 15th.

He said this year, a lot of the calls the service has responded to have been traumas, which include severe injuries or illnesses and accidents.

The ambulance has responded to about 25 motor vehicle accidents this year. Last year they had 15 or 20.

Mr. Nielsen said he didn't know the reason for the increase in calls but thought it was probably a combination of things.

He said most of the accidents calls are for people from out of town or out of state.

Transfers from the Norton County Hospital to other facilities are up. He said they have always had a lot of transfers, but this year they've had about twice as many as last year.

Also, he said the ambulance service has done a lot of public relations work this year, and so more people know about the service and aren't afraid to call.

Mr. Nielsen said the county's service has four ambulances and one first-response vehicle.

Three of the ambulances are in Norton. The fourth is in Lenora.

The first-response vehicle

was put in Almena on Monday, he said, to help get patients ready to go to the hospital. However, it won't normally take them to the hospital.

He said the service has 35 volunteers and four full-time emergency medical technicians.

Ten of the volunteers are first responders, who are new to the service.

One of the new first responders is taking an emergency medical technician bridge course in Oberlin to become a volunteer technician.

Technicians can do more patient care than a first responder.

Mr. Nielsen said the high number of calls does have an effect. He said when the service has a transfer out of town, it takes two technicians and leaves just one at the ambulance barn.

If a call comes in during the transfer, then the technician in Norton gets a crew of volunteers together to take the call.

"We have a lot of dedicated people here," he said. "I know on any given day that I could get two crews together."

He said they have an average of 1.7 calls a day, although some days are busier than others.

"We go through dry spells," he said.

"Sometimes we won't have a call for a couple of days. But it seems like once that pager goes off, it keeps going off."

The technicians and first responders are always happy to help people, he said.

In case of an emergency, call 911 for ambulance, fire, the police or the sheriff's office.

When you're driving on US 36 or 75 between November 15th and 24th, you'd better obey the law.

### Don't ignore this warning.

"Drive carefully. We're strictly enforcing the law."

Law enforcement officers all across Kansas are united in an unprecedented crackdown on drivers who break the law. And you're part of the effort—like it or not. We're especially watching for people who aren't wearing their seat belts. So, if you get pulled over for a traffic violation and are not wearing your seat belt, you aren't going to get just one ticket—you're going to get two! I know you may not like it, but enforcing the law is my job. And I'd rather see you angry than dead.

Click it. Or ticket.  
It's Kansas Law.