

Church:

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Pages 6 & 7

Vol. 97, No. 95
75 cents

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

Sports:

Check the Norton High School football and volleyball all league players and junior high basketball results.

Pages 8 & 10

Friday

November 26, 2004

Norton, Kansas
Home of Richard Burd

Briefly

Santa Claus

is coming tonight

Don't miss Santa tonight. He'll be in Norton from 6:30-8 p.m. on the west lawn of the Norton County Courthouse.

Kids who line up to see Santa and Mrs. Claus in the gingerbread house will receive coloring books, hot chocolate and cookies. Parents and older kids can also warm up on hot chocolate and cookies.

After meeting with Santa, the whole family can jump in the sleigh and take a ride around the block.

If you miss him this Friday, you can catch him again on Thursday, Dec. 2, 9, 16 and 23.

Time for T, V, W

to renew tags

November is the month for renewing automobile, pickup, motorcycle and/or motorized bike tags at the county treasurer's office for those whose last name begins with "T", "V" and "W" or businesses whose name begins with those letters.

You are required to bring in or include proof of insurance for each vehicle, which includes the vehicle identification number, policy number and expiration date.

Office hours are 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. The computers shut off at 4:30 p.m. to balance each day's business.

The courthouse is closed today for the Thanksgiving holiday.

The treasurer's office is a limited service driver's license station. They do renewals on regular driver's licenses and commercial licenses.

If you have questions, please call the treasurer at 877-5795.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Partly cloudy with lows in the upper 20s. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph and gusty. **Saturday** — Partly cloudy with highs in the mid 40s.

Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph shifting to the northeast around 10 mph in the afternoon. **Saturday Night** — Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Lows in the lower 20s. East winds around 10 mph shifting to the southeast 10 to 15 mph after midnight.

Sunday — Cloudy with a 40 percent chance of snow. Cooler with highs in the lower 30s.

Howell report:

Tuesday High 37, Low 30
Wednesday High 45, Low 31
Thursday High 61, Low 40
Week ago High 46, Low 42
Month ago High 62, Low 43
Year ago High 50, Low 24
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

Loving God, thank you for the privilege of praying for others. Help us to remember someone somewhere who needs our prayers today. Amen



"A pair and a spare" is the way their mother describes the 10-month old Blair triplets. Bryn, left, is the singleton, while Sasha and Kiowa are identical twins.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Triplets enliven Norton home

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

It's your typical love story.

Boy meets girl. Boy proposes; girl says, "Yes." They get married and baby will make three. Well, baby made three; then four, five and six.

Mindy and Russell Blair, Norton, met in Hays while they were both working on a new Wal-Mart store. They courted, married and along came their first child, Chakota Russell, also known as Cody, now 2.

Ten months ago, the Blair family doubled in size, overnight, with the birth of triplets, Bryn Leslie, Sasha Renee and Kiowa Dolores. Their birth weights, in that order were: 3 pounds 11 ounces; 3 pounds 10 ounces; and 3 pounds 7 1/2 ounces. That's almost 11 pounds of babies.

Mrs. Blair said she used no fertility drugs.

The Blairs were living in Hays when they learned she was having triplets. A

sonogram at 21 weeks showed not one, but three, babies. Mrs. Blair said she knew long before that she was having more than one.

However, when she posed the possibility of twins to her doctor, he discounted it by saying, "There's only one heartbeat. It's just going to be a big baby."

Because Mrs. Blair had a pre-existing heart condition, she was considered high-risk. After learning there were going to be

(Continued on Page 5)

Traffic light causes backups when cars stop too soon

By VERONICA MONIER

A little traffic problem is easily solved.

Both the Kansas Department of Transportation and the Norton County Sheriff's Department have gotten calls from area residents saying that the temporary traffic lights at the west edge of Norton on US 36 weren't changing.

The solution is simple.

Public Affairs Manager Gina Mastin and Sheriff Troy Thomson both said they told the callers that all they needed to do is pull up a little further.

Sheriff Thomson said that he also called the Department of Transportation and the sign company who is in charge of the "Stop Here" signs and told them that there was a problem.

Ms. Mastin said there is a sensor in the highway's pavement that controls the lights. The sensor, she said, is 15 feet in front of the sign that reads "Stop Here on Red".

She suggested that people pull all the way up to the sign before coming to a complete stop to make sure they go over the sensor.

"People probably didn't pull up far enough is my best guess," she said.

Ms. Mastin said there were stop bars — wide, white strips — but they came loose with the last rain. She said they were scheduled to be replaced Wednesday.

She said the bars will, hopefully, make it easier for drivers to know where to stop.

She said that bridge, which is under construction, should be finished by the week of Dec. 6, depending on the weather.

She said that the construction crews were going to pour concrete last week but couldn't because of the rain.



Bridge construction has slowed traffic on the west end of town on US 36 and some complaints have been made that the temporary traffic lights installed to keep one lane open haven't been chang-

ing. To solve the problem and keep traffic moving, drivers need to pull all the way up to the "Stop Here" sign to catch the sensor that's in the road.

— Telegram photo by Veronica Monier

Until the bridge is done, the lights will stay up so folks need to pull far enough up to the signs to trip the sensors.

Ms. Mastin said after the bridge is finished, there won't be any major construction work in that area that will affect traffic until spring.

She said there will be construction on a much smaller scale this winter, possibly including some shoulder work.

"Everything that can be done this winter will be," she said. "But it shouldn't affect traffic in the same way major work will."

The lights have been there since Oct. 29.

Students help youngsters

It's good to have an older pal when you're in grade school and, thanks to an FFA program, 27 of Eisenhower Elementary's students have a high school mentor.

The third-grade students, and their high school counterparts, are taking part in Partners in Active Learning (Continued on Page 5)

Emergency preparedness grant requested

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

Norton County is hoping to get a grant from the state to catalog possible problems for its emergency preparedness plans.

County Emergency Preparedness Alvin Mapes asked the commissioners last week to sign forms so he could apply for the grant to do a hazard analysis of the county.

Similar grants were given out earlier in the year but Mr. Mapes didn't receive the information in time to apply.

The county has been putting together a mitigation plan to minimize the damage if something went wrong, he told the commissioners.

"We can recover a lot better, a lot quicker with a plan in place," he said.

Consultant Addie Homburg was also at the meeting to explain the disaster management plans and why the county should apply for the grant. Ms. Homburg is with E-Fm (Emergency and Facilities management) out of Ellis. If the county gets the grant for a hazard analysis, Ms. Homburg

said she hopes it will hire her firm to help with it.

Ms. Homburg has been helping the county set up a mitigation plan, which will help get disaster assistance from the state and federal government in the case of a disaster, such as a tornado.

The hazard analysis that the county wants to do is more subjective than the mitigation plan, she said. In the mitigation you can only collect facts. The county would use its hazard analysis to help with (Continued on Page 5)

Post office starts to feel the holidays

It's the holiday season and the post office is starting to feel it.

Postmaster JaNan O'Brien said the Norton Post Office has seen a lot of packages coming in from what people have ordered for Christmas presents, but they haven't gotten a lot of outgoing packages yet. She said she expects the amount of outgoing packages to pick up around the first week in December.

"The people in Norton have always been really good about getting their packages sent out early," she said.

As to how late mail can be sent and still make it to its destination before Christmas, Mrs. O'Brien said it depends on what is being sent. She said packages sent by express mail in the state will possibly arrive there in time if sent on Dec. 24, but she recommends they be sent sooner, just to be sure. A package sent first class will probably take two to three days to get where it needs to go in the state.

For out of state, the postmaster said people should expect packages to take two to three business days to get where they're going if sent first class. For parcel post, which is the cheapest way to send something, it could take up to a week if being sent out of state.

Mrs. O'Brien said the optimum mailing date for shipping something overseas or to someone in the military service is on or before Saturday, Dec. 11, for priority and first class mail. She said Monday, Dec. 20, is the last mailing date to send express mail overseas and have it reach its destination in time for Christmas.

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Post office ready for holidays

(Continued from Page 1)
No matter where it's sent, she said the post office will do all it can to get people their packages. She said the post office has two new priority mail flat rate boxes people can use. The boxes have a red star burst on them and can be mailed for \$7.70, regardless of the weight. She said one is 10.5-inches-by-8.5-inches-by-6-inches and the other is 14-inches-by-12-inches-by-3.5-inches. She said they also have the regular priority mailers, where the cost is based on weight.

The postmaster said the Norton Post Office will have extra mail pickup on the first three Mondays in December. That means all mail deposited before 1 p.m. will be processed early in the day.

She said the post office will be closed on both Christmas, Dec. 25, and New Year's, Jan. 1. The post office will be open for normal business hours all other days in December. That is Monday through Friday 9-11:30 a.m., 12:30-4:30 p.m. and Saturday 9-11 a.m.

The postmaster asks that everybody try to send their mail early to help keep the flow of mail from getting congested.

County to apply for grant

(Continued from Page 1)
the mitigation plan.

The hazard analysis would help determine the county's top 15 natural hazards. Part of that would be to look at things like the weather over the past 50 years, she said.

Other hazard data would come from people like fire chiefs, local industry and large scale farms and ranches.

"Say you have a spill on the highway," she said, "You can go in and get information on the chemical and the area — how far is it from people, who is in charge, evacuation procedures and so on."

"We, as a consulting firm, cannot go out and ask industries for information. However, Alvin or the fire chief can require this information."

"The biggest thing I've been able to do for other counties is to tell them who isn't reporting information."

"There's no guarantee he will get the money from the state. He's got a pretty good shot at it since he missed out on the last round."

She said that if she is hired she will drive all the county roads and meet with folks all over the county.

She said that she will talk to industry and get a list of the top three chemical sites for risk and visit those. Sites are chosen by what chemicals they have and their proximity to people, she said.

Also, the sites can change from year to year.

Commissioner Leroy Lang pointed out that there are a lot of chemicals kept on farms.

Some bigger farmers will report, she said, but many don't have enough to be required to report.

"I probably have 30 pages on chemicals," Mr. Mapes said, "If you have over a certain number of pounds you need to report."

Since a contract of this size would run into the thousands of dollars, Commissioner John Miller said that the county must get at least two bids before awarding a contract.

"We aren't the only company that does hazardous analysis," Ms. Homburg said. "Alvin can go out and find others."

"If it works out, wonderful, if it doesn't, I understand," Ms. Homburg said of the possibility someone else would be hired if the county gets the grant.

"You'd be surprised how much money we've saved over the years by taking two bids," Mr. Lang said. "That's how you manage your money."

"Well, when there's a grant like this you need to go after it, no one can afford to do this on your own," Ms. Homburg replied.



It's good to have a pal as Chris Richards and Megan Arehart know. Both Eisenhower Elementary students got to spend 45 minutes with their PALS (Partners in Active Learning Support) Austin Brooks and Stacy Reeves doing playing the board game "Clue" earlier this week.

— Telegram photo by Veronica Monier

Students team up to help 'pals'

(Continued from Page 1)

Support or PALS, a mentoring program sponsored by the National FFA, which matches high school FFA students with elementary youngsters to, hopefully, help them develop their social skills and get them excited about school. Mentoring should build trust and develop self-esteem.

The 54 Norton students involved began the program on Nov. 9 when the FFA hosted a barbecue so the pairs of students could get to know one another.

For the rest of the school year, the high school mentors will be going to Eisenhower every two weeks to visit their pals for about 45 minutes to work on school assignments or projects or to play.

This week, the program coincided with National Farm-City Week.

On Feb. 14, the students are planning a Valentines party starting at 7 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. The partners will get to make ice cream sundaes and valentines.

This year's participants are Samantha Brasted and Jordyn Gosselyn, Wes Georgeson and

Andrew Smith, Pat Burton and Kolton Harting, Brian Juenemann and Austin Hager, Jessica Arehart and Marisa Maddy, Sara Campbell and Hannah Pollock, Blake Wolf and Cody Temmel, Stacy Reeves and Megan Arehart, Cydnie Milnes and Desiray Skrdlant, Travis Ray and Keith Sander, Lance Roe and Trey Deal, Jessica Cook and Shaelynn Gibson;

Paul Juenemann and Darcy Bainter, Josh VanSlike and Cole Renner, Blake Hillebrand and Zachary Esslinger, Aaron Husted and Christopher Chamber, Andrew Black and Alec Hager, Chelle Donovan and Johnnye Ruder, Thea Wiseman and Jessica White, Tim Becker and Isaac Schaefer, Rachael Hickman and Abbie Smith, Austin Brooks and Chris Richards, Dana Hillebrand and Cristine Nelson, Devin Marx

and Jon Meyer, Carson Braun and Corey Horacek, Kristen Leibhart and Connie Gassman, and Hannah Goss and Kayla Cook.

The paper you read for the news you need!

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

55TH ANNIVERSARY

Bozie of Bozie's Barber Shop, 111 N. Kansas, Norton, is celebrating his 55th anniversary with an open house on Wed., December 1. STOP IN ANY TIME FOR COOKIES, COFFEE AND SOUVENIRS
Bozie and Deloros

Senior Citizens Christmas Party

Thursday, December 2
2:00-4:00 p.m.
St. Francis of Assisi Parish Hall
COME JOIN IN GAMES, REFRESHMENTS AND PRIZES



JIMMY DEE



AND THE Fabulous Destinations

Appearing at the . . .
EAGLES LODGE
NORTON, KANSAS

Saturday, November 27
9:00 p.m.-1:00 a.m.

Triplets take family from three to six

(Continued from Page 1)
three babies, it was decided they would be delivered, at 32 weeks, in Wichita where she could be monitored more closely.

That was the plan. Delivery date was set for Nov. 30, but on the Friday before, in the middle of the worst snowstorm of the year, Mrs. Blair went into labor. She had to be air lifted from Hays to Wichita. Her husband had to drive.

She said the triplets were born healthy and did not even need respirators. At birth it was discovered two of the girls, Sasha and Kiowa, are identical twins, while Bryn is the singleton.

Because of their low birth weight they were kept in the hospital until they gained a few pounds. Being premature also was a problem. Their suckling instinct was not fully developed and they had to be encouraged to eat.

They were released from the hospital when they were 3 months old.

The girls obviously figured out how to eat, because now, at 10 months, they eat cereal, fruits and vegetables and take a bottle every

four hours. All weigh over 15 pounds and are the picture of bright, inquisitive, energetic babies.

Mr. Blair's grandmother, Katie Blair, lives in Norton. Other area relatives include Rod and Marilyn Dial and Margie Portenier.

Mr. Blair moved to Norton last December. Mrs. Blair, Cody and the girls joined him on March 2. He works as a substitute teacher and a para professional at Eisenhower Elementary School.

The girl's big brother, Cody, is a little overwhelmed at times by the sheer numbers. His parents make a special effort to see to it that he has his own private time with them every day. They also take him to the pre-school story hour at the library on Thursdays.

Mrs. Blair said she had always wanted to operate a day care, but that idea is out. She has more than the state will allow with just her own children. She doesn't mind though. Even with four youngsters in diapers (that's 30 changes a day, at least), she remains cheerful.

"Our kids are healthy, and we're having fun," she said with a smile.

Norton County walkers win prizes

Team results and team winners for the Fall Walk Kansas program (celebrating the Lewis Clark Expedition) have been announced for Norton County.

Six teams with 36 people participated this fall in an abbreviated Walk Kansas program. The goal of this program is to encourage adults to establish an exercise habit of walking or exercising for 30 minutes a day five days a week.

Teams which participated were: Walking Wonder — 762 miles with team captain Cheryl Mann, Mary Mann, Alice Hawks, Jeanne Pharis, Eva Harrington, and Jan Volgamore; Walkabouts — 713 miles with team captain Bill Goscha, Joan Bolt, Linda Burge,

Cathy Kellerman, Lonnie Kellerman and Joyce Lofgreen; Validated Gang Members — 643 miles with team captain Kelly Gill, Hazel Peterson, Deb Kaus, Barbara Thompson, Jenny Braun and Vickie Brungardt; Wild Walking Cats — 556 miles with team captain Carol Woodmansee, C.J. Woodmansee, Alice Jones, Dorothy Luechen, Gloria Cole and Barb Ballinger; Cheetahs — 265 miles with team captain Sandy Kaiser, Kendra Merchant, Norma Mullen, Sherry Robinson, Delores Keiswetter and Elaine Schuckman; and Sunflower Sues — 207 miles with team captain Carol Mayo, Twila Carter, June Keiswetter, Wanda Graham, Judy

Moppin and Coni Park.

Individuals who reported walking the most miles were Bill Goscha, 273 miles, and Mary Mann, 184 miles.

All team members who turned in six weeks of walking reports were eligible for prizes. This year the prizes are half-hour massages performed by Masters Touch Massage.

Winners are: Wild Walking Cats, Alice Jones; Walking Wonders, Jeannie Pharis; Sunflower Sues, Judy Moppin; Walkabouts, Bill Goscha; and Validated Gang Members, Hazel Peterson

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