

# Church:

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Pages 6 & 7

Vol. 97, No. 97  
75 cents

# THE NORTON TELEGRAM

# Sports:

Norton wrestlers prepare for their first tournament while Northern Valley students show off in basketball

Pages 9 & 12

Friday  
December 3, 2004

Norton, Kansas  
Home of Jon Rowh

## Briefly

### Children can write to Santa

The Norton Telegram will soon be printing letters to Santa in a special edition, which will include Christmas card greetings from area businesses.

We hope to get Santa letters from students of Eisenhower Elementary, Northern Valley Grade School, Lenora Grade School, Logan Grade School, Jennings Grade School, the Norton Post Office and daycare centers.

We'll be accepting letters to Santa until Friday, Dec. 10. Either drop them off at the office or mail them to *The Norton Telegram*, Attn: Santa Letters, 215 S. Kansas Ave., Norton, Kan., 67654.

### Top students honored in paper

On Page 10 of today's *Norton Telegram* is a full-page dedicated to students at Norton Community schools and on Page 8 is a one-half page for Northern Valley students, who made the honor roll for the first nine weeks of the school year.

This is the first of a series of four. After each nine weeks *The Telegram* and community sponsors will place the names of those making the best grades in an advertisement in the newspaper.

The Norton and Northern Valley school districts are providing the names of those on its honor roll and the community sponsors are helping to make better placement of the notice of top students in both districts possible.

## Weather

### Forecast:

**Tonight** — Clear with lows in the mid 20s. Southwest winds 5 to 10 mph.  
**Saturday** — Sunny with highs in the lower 50s. Southwest winds 5 to 10 mph.  
**Saturday Night** — Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s. South winds 5 to 10 mph.  
**Sunday** — Partly cloudy with highs around 50. West winds 5 to 10 mph

### Howell report:

Tuesday ..... High 29, Low 16  
Wednesday ..... High 36, Low 19  
Thursday ..... High 38, Low 20  
Week ago ..... High 61, Low 40  
Month ago ..... High 53, Low 27  
Year ago ..... High 53, Low 24  
December precipitation ..... 0.00 inches  
Year-to-date precipitation ... 25.75 inches  
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

## Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for wanting the best for us. Help us to follow your guidance and not our own inclinations. Amen

# Flu shots available from county

By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton County Health Department has gotten more flu vaccine.

Administrator Gina Frack said people wanting the vaccine no longer have to live in Norton County.

Also, she said the guidelines for who can get the vaccine aren't as strict as they were.

"We're still trying to give high risk people a shot," she said.

Mrs. Frack said it isn't necessary for people who aren't high risk — mainly young, healthy individuals — to get vaccinated.

Also, infants younger than six months and people who are allergic to eggs can't get the vaccine.

She said, although there is vaccine available, the supply is still short. The health department got its vaccine by networking. When other health care agencies have extra vaccine, they call around to see who needs more.

The people who have been coming in are those who are high risk, who didn't come in before or those who don't live in the county.

Those considered high-risk are children 6-23 months, adults 65 years or older,

people with chronic medical conditions, pregnant women, residents of nursing homes, health care workers and anyone who provides care for young children, including people who live in the household with the children or care-givers such as day care providers.

Mrs. Frack said people who would like to get the flu vaccine should call the health department before coming in to make sure there is still vaccine available.

The vaccine costs \$17. She said they accept Medicare, Medicaid, Blue Cross Blue Shield or cash.

Prevention is still a big part of not get-

ting the flu, she said. Handwashing is one of the best ways to avoid getting the virus.

Jenda Jones, a staff nurse at the health department, said there have been no confirmed cases of the flu in Kansas so far this season.

Mrs. Frack said symptoms of the flu can vary and includes fever, cough, sore throat, headache, chills and muscle aches. Most people who get the flu are only ill for a few days and it usually doesn't affect young, healthy people too much.

To contact the Norton County Health Department, call 877-5745.



### Sleigh rides offer fun for holidays

After visiting Santa, children and their families could take a spin around the block in a sleigh. Dustyna Sprigg and Jordan Brown, two of Santa's elves, (above) sang Christmas carols to entertain the sleigh riders. Another special treat was a ride in Larry Nelson's vis-a-vis (right), which was pull by a pair of his horses.

— Telegram photos by Veronica Monier



### Plows remove speed bumps

Something's missing from U.S. 36 in the construction zone.

After it snowed, snow plows cleared ice and snow from the street and took the rumble strips, or speed bumps, with it.

The strips are used as a way to remind people to slow down for upcoming road construction.

Public Affairs Manager Gina Mastin with the Kansas Department of Transportation Norton office said the department had no plans to replace the strips because crews plan to begin paving the highway with asphalt either today or tomorrow.

She said the weather has delayed the work and hopes to have the area open and the temporary traffic lights taken down sometime next week.

### Carriers to be honored by Telegram subscribers

December is Carrier of the Year month for *The Norton Telegram* and *Norton Extra*.

There are 20 routes delivered by 12 paper carriers. We ask subscribers to vote for their carrier (see the ad in today's paper), and let us know how good a job they are doing. Deadline for voting is Friday, Dec. 17.

The first-place winner will receive \$30; second place, \$20; and third place, \$10.

Carriers and their routes are:

**Keziah Whitesell**, carrier for routes 1 and 17. She delivers the 100-200 blocks of E. Park; 300 blocks of S. Kansas, S. Wabash, E. Penn, S. Archer, and S. Norton; and the 200 block of S. State. She also delivers to E. Holme; 200-300 blocks of E. Crane; 300 block of E. Army Dr.; 1000-1100 blocks of N. Wabash; 900-

1100 blocks of N. Norton; and to Echo Acres.

She is the daughter of Jolene Porter. **Josiah Laughlin**, carrier for route 2. He delivers the 500-800 blocks of N. Jones; 300-500 blocks of W. Wilberforce; and the 400 block of W. Warsaw.

He is the son of Bonny and Terry Laughlin.

**David Somers**, carrier for route 3. He delivers the 100 blocks of S. Kansas, S. State, W. North and W. Wilton; 200 block of W. Waverly; 100-200 blocks and part of the 300 block of W. Lincoln; and the 100-500 blocks of N. First.

He is the son of Robin and Steve Somers.

**Steven Somers**, carrier for route 4. He delivers the 100 blocks of W. Warsaw, W. (Continued on Page 5)

# Water letter confuses residents

By VERONICA MONIER

Some Norton residents are scratching their heads over a letter they have received from the city.

Basically, the letter is telling them that the city's water doesn't meet state standards.

The letter said that the city's water system has more trihalomethanes than what is allowed, but that it wasn't an emergency.

City Administrator Rob Lawson said Norton is in violation because the Environmental Protection Agency has set new standards that are enforced by the Kansas Health and Environment.

The city's water plant just can't meet those standards, which is why the city is building a new one. The new plant is being designed to take out trihalomethanes, he said.

"I can't say it's nothing to worry about," he said. "But, it's not an emergency either."

(Continued on Page 5)

# County plans to do hazard study

By VERONICA MONIER

Norton County will be doing a hazard analysis to help with emergency preparedness if the county can get a grant to do so.

At Tuesday's meeting, the county commissioners accepted a bid from E-Fm (Emergency and Facilities management) out of Ellis to help determine the area's top 15 natural hazards.

Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Alvin Mapes said E-Fm was the only company to turn in a bid. He said he tried to get other bids from other companies, but no one else was available.

He said E-Fm was probably the county's best choice, since Addie Homberg, a consultant with E-Fm, has already been working here on a mitigation plan in case of a natural or man-made disaster.

Mr. Mapes said they hope to get a grant to pay for the hazard analysis and will be turning in the application for that soon.

Commissioner Leroy Lang asked if he thought the county could get a grant.

Mr. Mapes said he thought so.

He said he was going to attach a letter to the application saying that the county didn't get an application for the first round of grants.

He said only four or five counties got it last time, because nobody got the information in time.

Mr. Mapes said the county will have to put up \$4,500 if it gets the grant of about \$21,000. But, he said, it doesn't have to be paid in cash. It can be paid in salaries for the county employees, who are required to go to meetings.

If the county doesn't get the grant, it will have to re-think whether to go the analysis.

In other business, the commissioners:

(Continued on Page 5)





Scott Bohl, Norton, lit the advent candle at Redeemer Lutheran Church. The advent season, a time of preparation and prayer before the celebration of the birth of Christ, started Sunday. One candle on the wreath will be lit each week until Christmas. — Telegram photo by Carol Erlenbusch

# Traffic count on county roads will have to wait for spring

By VERONICA MONIER  
The county is going to have to wait until spring to get an accurate count of how many people are using some of its roads.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom Brannan said road crews pulled traffic counters from roads E-2 and E-3. He said in the last couple of weeks, 485 vehicles drove over the counter on E-2 and 315 on E-3.

"I don't know how accurate these numbers are," he said. "Because of hunting season, there has probably been a lot more traffic on those roads than normal."

Commissioner Dean Kruse said E-3 is a dirt road used as a short cut to the Norton Correctional Facility and that any shortcut is going to have a lot of traffic on it.

Mr. Brannan said the mud from the recent snow might be affecting the numbers as well. He said they should wait until spring and then put the counters back out when it isn't hunting season and the mud isn't so bad.

He said the weather is giving his department a chance to get some needed repairs done to their equipment and trucks. He said that it was

nothing major, just some small things that have been put off.

Mr. Brannan said they have six aged pick-ups in his department and might need to look at getting some different ones in the next couple of years. He said their oldest trucks are a 1975, 1978, 1981, two 1983s, and a 1989. He said the 1975 is probably in the best shape, one of the 1983s is only used as a standby while the other '83 is burning oil and the 1981 engine needs repaired.

He said there was a 1985 with low mileage being sold at an auction in Hill City. The blue-book value is \$3,000 to \$3,700. The commissioners told him to go to the auction to see if he can get the truck for around \$3,000.

Mr. Brannan said a pile of asphalt millings near Edmond was 6,600 tons and the county will pay \$2/ton to the state for them.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Went into a 15-minute closed session with Mr. Brannan to discuss non-elected personnel.
- Heard from Register of Deeds Wanda Vincent that she got two bids for a scanner reader printer.

She said her reader printer is too old and no one will fix it. The two bids were for a Manolta from Salina Blueprint for \$7,204 and a Cannon from Cannon of Wichita for \$7,787. The scanner reader printer will be paid for out of the Register of Deeds technology fund, which has about \$13,000 left in it.

She said she would like to get the Manolta, which has a six-month warranty. Also, she said there are about 20 Manoltas in the area, and so she would be able to share travel costs for repairs.

Mrs. Vincent said Salina Blueprint told her that if she doesn't like the Manolta they will take it back with a full refund. The commissioners agreed.

• Signed a communications and jail agreement with the City of Norton. The city has already signed the agreement.

• Met with Sheriff Troy Thomson, who said they were waiting on consoles for the department's new vehicles and for the equipment to get switched from the old to the new. He said the jail was full over the weekend, but that it was back down to seven people now.

# County plans to do hazard study

(Continued from Page 1)

• Spoke with Mr. Mapes about his new employment contract with the county.

Commissioner John Miller asked him to review the rough draft of the contract to see if he had any questions.

He said the county will change Mr. Mapes' status to a consultant and pay him \$13,200 annually. Mr. Mapes will have to pay his own taxes and wouldn't have county benefits.

Mr. Mapes asked how much he would be making after he paid taxes. He said he was making about \$800 a month now. The commissioners said they didn't know.

"Look the rest of the contract over and if you have any questions, talk to (county attorney) Doug Sebelius. He wrote the contract," Mr. Miller said. "We'll try and get the salary thing figured out."

He suggested that Mr. Mapes show the contract to his account-

tant. Commissioner Dean Kruse asked him to find out what the other preparedness coordinators in the area make.

• Approved tax abatements for Mil-Tech for economic development. Mr. Miller said they need to do yearly checks to make sure everything is going smoothly when tax abatements are given by the county.

# Time to choose top carriers

(Continued from Page 1)

Wilberforce, S. State, E. Washington; 200 block of W. Wilmington; 100-800 blocks of N. State; and the 600-800 blocks of N. First.

He is the son of Robin and Steve Somers.

**Mary Herring**, carrier for routes 5 and 16. She delivers 100-200 blocks of E. Lincoln; 200-300 blocks of N. Kansas; 100-400 blocks of E. Waverly; 200-400 blocks of N. Norton and N. Wabash; 400 block of N. Archer; and all of East Avenue. She also delivers to the 100 blocks of N. Norton, N. Wabash and N. Archer; 100-200 blocks of S. Norton, S. Wabash and S. Archer; 300-800 blocks of E. Lincoln; 300-600 blocks of E. Main; 100-400 blocks of E. Washington; and to all of Indiana Ave.

**Tory Rhodes**, carrier for route 6. He delivers 100-500 blocks of E. Wilton and E. Woodsfield; 400-500 blocks of E. Wilberforce; 500-600 blocks of N. Norton, N. Wabash, N. Archer and Home; and the 600-900 blocks of Sun.

He is the son of Ciri Mac-Williams.

**Aaron Pulec**, carrier for routes 7 and 9. He delivers the 200 blocks of W. Warsaw, W. Wilberforce, W. Woodsfield and W. North; 200-300 blocks of W. Wilton; and 300-800 blocks of N. Second. He also delivers the 300 blocks of W.

Warsaw, W. Wilberforce and W. Woodsfield; and 300-800 N. Grant.

He is the son of Kathy Runnion and Chuck Gleason.

**Heaven Peters**, carrier for routes 8, 10, 11, 12 13 and 15. She delivers the 900 blocks of Westridge, Crestview, Manor Drive, Holme and Valley Drive for route 8. She also delivers the 900-1000 blocks of Regan, West Ave., Kennedy, Truman, Hartford and Churchill; 500-700 blocks of W. Crane; and the 900 blocks of W. Armory Dr. and Quail Dr. on route 10. On route 11, she delivers 1000-1100 blocks of Eisenhower; 300-400 blocks of W. Crane; 300 blocks of W. Holme and W. Armory Dr. She delivers the 300-500 blocks of N. Brown, N. Graves and W. Waverly; 300-400 blocks of N. Jones; 400-600 blocks of W. Wilton; and the 400-600 blocks and part of the 700 block of W. Woodsfield for route 12. On route 13, she delivers the 600-800 blocks of N. Brown and Valley Vista; part of the 700 block and all of the 800 block of Woodsfield; 600 block of W. Wilberforce; 600-700 blocks of Woods Dr.; 500-600 blocks of Pool Dr. and Sunset; 400-700 blocks of West Ave.; and the 700 block of W. Wilton. She also delivers the 300 blocks of S. State and Pearl; 200-300 blocks of Taft; 500-600 blocks of Johnson

Road; 400 block of South St.; 200-400 blocks of S. First, 200-500 blocks of S. Second and the Norton Manor for route 15.

**Caspian Whitesell**, carrier for route 14. He delivers the 100 blocks of N. Brown, S. Brown, Howard, S. Graves, Case, S. First and S. Second; 100-200 blocks of N. Graves; 100-600 blocks of W. Main; 100-800 blocks of W. Washington; and part of the 300 block and all of the 400-600 blocks of W. Lincoln.

He is the son of Jolene Porter.

**Laura Somers**, carrier for route 18. She delivers the 100-200 blocks of W. Crane; 1000-1100 blocks of N. Second; and the Andbe Home.

She is the daughter of Robin and Steve Somers.

**Brett Pulec**, carrier for route 19. He delivers the 100-400 blocks of E. Warsaw; 800 block of N. Archer; 400 block of E. Wilmington; 700-800 blocks of N. Norton; 200-300 blocks of E. Wilberforce; and the 700-900 blocks of N. Wabash.

He is the son of Kathy Runnion and Chuck Gleason.

**Caleb Laughlin**, carrier for the 600-700 blocks of W. Waverly and W. North; 200-300 blocks of West Ave., Ward and Sunset; 800-900 blocks of Middle; and the 800 block of Timbercreek.

He is the son of Bonnie and Terry Laughlin.

# State requires stronger water standards

(Continued from Page 1)

It's the same water we've been drinking for the last 40 plus years. It's just that now we know they're (trihalomethanes) in there because we're testing for it."

Mr. Lawson said trihalomethanes are disinfection by-products. He said the raw water is pumped into the plant from wells and the lake and chlorine is added to disinfect the water, which is then pumped through a filtering system to a clearwell. The clearwell is an underwater storage tank where the water is kept until it's needed.

He said once the water is needed, it is chlorinated again, which is where trihalomethanes, a byproduct of the dead bacteria form.

Trihalomethanes, he said, are more abundant in warmer weather when the city uses more lake water. During the colder months, the city relies more heavily on well water, using about 70 percent from wells and 30 percent from the lake.

He said the trihalomethanes have to be filtered out, but the current plant can't do that.

that will help take care of the problem. He said, hopefully, they will have it in place around the first of the year.

"I don't know if this will get us in compliance, but it will bring the trihalomethane levels down," he said.

Mr. Lawson said state regulations require that the letter be sent out to all water customers every three months until the city is in compliance.

He said the city is expecting the new plant to be finished late next year.

Right now, it's still in the design process, which will take about nine months. The city, he said, started looking at a new water plant several years ago, but it's a long process.

"With the new plant, we will be testing for things that don't even require testing yet," he said. "We're looking to the future and designing it so it will still meet standards in 30 years. That's no easy task."

"The current plant still does everything it was designed for 40 years ago. The standards have just been raised."

Mr. Lawson said the city has gotten a couple of calls about the letter, but not too many.

Mr. Lawson said while he could have written a letter that was simple and easy to understand, he has to use state and federal-required wording.

If people have questions, they can contact the city office at 877-5000.

# VIOXX

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# Bulletin Board

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