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Norton and Northern Valley high school football players have been honored by the state's largest daily newspapers.

Tuesday

December 28, 2004

Norton, Kansas
Home of Chriss McDiffett

Briefly

Post Office

open on Friday

People who need to will be able to send and receive mail this Friday as the Norton Post Office will be open for its regular business hours of 9-11:30 a.m. and 12:30-4:30 p.m.

However, the post office will be closed on Saturday for New Year's Day, a federal holiday.

Paper will print on Thursday

The Norton Telegram will be printing the Friday edition a day early in observance of the New Year's holiday, so if you get the paper by carrier expect it Thursday evening. Mail customers will get it with their Friday mail.

The Telegram office will be closed Friday for New Year's Eve and will open again at 8 a.m. Monday morning.

Have a safe and happy holiday.

Students get extra day off

While students have until Tuesday, Jan. 4, before they have to resume classes in Norton, Northern Valley, Lenora and Jennings, teachers will be back to work on Monday, Jan. 3, for an in-service day.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Partly cloudy. Lows in the upper 20s. West winds around 5 mph.

Wednesday — Partly cloudy. Highs in the lower 60s. South winds around 10 mph increasing to 10 to 20 mph in the afternoon.

Wednesday night — Partly cloudy. Lows in the mid 30s. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.

Thursday — Partly cloudy. Breezy. Highs in the upper 50s. West winds 15 to 25 mph with gusts to around 40 mph.

Thursday night — Mostly clear. Lows in the upper 20s.

Howell report:

Thursday	High 17, Low 2
Friday	High 41, Low 30
Saturday	High 54, Low 29
Sunday	High 49, Low 24
Monday	High 43, Low 25
Week ago	High 60, Low 28
Month ago	High 43, Low 28
Year ago	High 51, Low 26
Dec. 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 heavenly Father, accept our gratitude for all you have given us. Forgive us for taking so much for granted. We love you and we thank you in Jesus' name. Amen



Quite a few dogs at the Norton Pound need a good home. If the 12 dogs housed there are not adopted or rescued, some will have to be "put to sleep". Budda, a two-year-old Boston terrier, (above) was surrendered by his family while a 2-3-year old golden retriever (below) was found at-large.

— Telegram photos by Veronica Monier

Dogs, cats need home for holidays

Overcrowded kennel holds 13 animals

By VERONICA MONIER

With ten kennels, the 12 dogs at the Norton animal shelter are getting a little crowded and all could use a good home.

Animal Control Officer Sherry Hickman said the pound is doing pretty good, but it still isn't as busy with people coming out as she would like.

"I'd really like to see more local people adopting," she said. "Most of our clientele is from out of town."

She said a good deal of the phone calls and visitations she gets are in response to the pound's Internet site.

Mrs. Hickman said in the past three months, the pound has had nine or 10 dogs and two or three cats most of the time.

On Monday, there were 12 dogs and one cat looking for a home.

Of the dogs, she has a 2-year-old, male Boston terrier named Budda that was surrendered by its owners, a 2 or



3-year-old golden retriever that she found at-large, a 1-year-old black and white mix named Tippy that was surrendered, a 10-year-old miniature rat terrier named Baby that was surren-

dered, a 2 or 3-year-old springer spaniel that was found at Elmwood Park shortly after hunting season opened, a 4-month-old lab mix that was found

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Parking problem revisited

By VERONICA MONIER

The Public Safety Committee of the Norton City Council wants to reword an ordinance that banned parking, except for buses, on a block of Wilberforce Street near East Campus.

The ordinance, passed at the Dec. 1 council meeting, said that no parking, except for passenger buses, would be allowed on the south side of Wilberforce Street just north of East Campus.

Councilman George Jones said he thought all school vehicles should be exempt and councilman Jerry Hawks said school vehicles are usually tagged, so police could tell which ones they are.

Norton Schools Superintendent Greg Mann agreed that the sign should say school vehicles.

In Kansas, he said, school vehicles have to be tagged and clearly marked. He said a problem might arise with out-of-state school vehicles. But, that wouldn't happen very often.

Councilman Jerry Jones asked City Attorney Karen Griffiths to change the language to include all school vehicles, including those leased.

Mr. Mann asked about making that block of Wilberforce a one-way street.

Mr. J. Jones said he wasn't in favor of that.

Mr. Mann said the district hated to lose

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Many shops will be closed for holidays

New Years will bring another extended holiday weekend with lots of businesses, which will close early on Friday, New Year's Eve.

Security Abstract and Commercial Federal will have regular business hours from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on New Year's Eve.

Most other banks and financial institutions including First Security Bank and Trust, First State Bank, Almena State Bank and the United Northwest Federal Credit Union will close at noon, while the Bank will close at 2 p.m.

Jack Rabbit Service Station will close at 6 p.m., New Year's Eve while the other stations in town, Love's, Time Saver and Diamond Shamrock, continue to operate 24 hours a day seven days a week.

The Country Corner grocery store in Lenora will close at 4 p.m. Friday, followed by the Almena Market at 5:30 p.m.

Jamboree Foods and Norton Shop and Save will both be open until 9 p.m. New Year's Eve. All grocery stores will be closed New Year's Day.

Most area restaurants will be open New Year's Eve.

Town and Country Kitchen will feature the Rojas family Mexican food night, Friday and will be open New Year's Day from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The Barbecue Barn will be open regular hours, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

Pizza Hut/Taco Bell and Adventures in Eating will have regular hours, 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. both days.

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County wants to cut back on chemical storage

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

The Norton County commissioners want to make sure there is little or no backlog of chemicals in the noxious weed department storehouse.

"We don't need \$100,000 worth of chemicals just sitting there," Commission Chairman Leroy Lang said, adding that he'd just picked that figure out of the air.

The commissioners said that they wanted the department to have what is needed each year but little or no carryover.

Noxious Weed Supervisor Reggie Beckman, who has had the job for two years, said that he is only replacing what is needed.

However, Commissioner Lang said that some of the chemicals in the warehouse are more than three years old.

"It looks to me that we should only buy what we need each year and then we'll have some fill-ins," Mr. Lang said.

Mr. Beckman warned them that chemical prices are going up, which could cost

the county money if he has to buy extra chemicals because he runs out.

The best time to buy chemicals is in the fall or early winter, he said, when they are cheapest.

"But, take me, I don't buy stuff three years ahead and just let it sit around," Mr. Lang said.

"Why don't we get it down to what you need in one year and just order what we need every year.

"That way when I, or someone else,

comes in to buy it it'll be fresh," he said.

"We've got money sitting here for three years. There's a lot of money there."

"That's a potential hazard, too," Commissioner Dean Kruse said.

"I didn't buy anything (this year) that we weren't going to need," Mr. Beckman said.

"I think, Reggie, the whole thing is, get the inventory down," Mr. Lang said.

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County to cut chemicals Commissioners want inventory to be limited

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the spring. We can't have a warehouse full of chemicals sitting over there."
"The taxpayer isn't in the chemical business," Mr. Kruse added. "You'll just have to run a little leaner ship."
"We're getting rid of it slowly," Mr. Beckman replied.
"It got there slowly because the commissioners let it happen," Mr. Kruse said. "We're just trying to fix it."
"I've been working on it for two years," Mr. Beckman said.
"We've got to manage inventory," Mr. Lang said.
"I don't buy chemicals and stack it in the shed."
"The only thing is that I could be out of chemicals after next year and I'll be out of money," Mr. Beckman said, noting that while there is money in his budget for capital improvement it can't be used to buy chemicals unless the budget is amended and republished.
"We'll republish it," Mr. Lang said.
Mr. Beckman said that his department has sprayed 52,000 acres which included 26,000 for musk thistle and over 24,000 acres for bindweed.
He said that his collections are good. The county is his biggest customer, he added, with about \$16,000 coming from the road and bridge department money to spray bridges and right-of-ways.
Other than the county, Mr. Beckman said, he has several pages of people who have purchased chemicals.
"I don't think I have any guys I sold over \$2,000 to and that's labor and chemicals," he said.
Mr. Miller suggested that the commissioners would like a list of those purchasing more than \$500.



Vandals destroyed a chair and some flowerpots at the Norton Senior Citizens Center over the weekend making a mess of the parking area. Several road signs were also knocked down. — Telegram staff photo by Carol Erlenbusch

Vandals destroy property, road signs

Vandals are responsible for some damage done around Norton and the county this weekend.
In town, the Senior Citizens Center found that a couple of flower pots and a bench had been broken. Assistant Chief of Police Toby Kuhn said no damage was done to the building and no one tried to get in.
He said the police department was estimating that the damage was less than \$500. He said no ar-

rests had been made, but the investigation was ongoing.
Officer Kuhn said there were no other reports of vandalism in town. In the county, four signs were knocked over. Three of the signs — a stop sign on West Washington and W-1, and curve and T signs on Road N and W-1 — were county signs, said Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom Brannan.
He said once his department found out about the sign Monday

morning, crews were sent out to fix them first thing.
"As soon as we know a problem," he said, "we'll make every effort to fix it."
He said tire tracks straddled the county signs, so they had to have done some damage to the vehicle that hit them.
Sheriff Troy Thomson said the Norton County Sheriff's Department got the reports of the damaged road signs on Sunday, so the

damage probably happened late Saturday night or early Sunday morning.
He said a fourth sign — a state stop sign six miles south of Norton on U.S. 283 — was also intentionally knocked over. He said it was evident that a car drove up against it and pushed it over.
Sheriff Thomson said at least \$500 damage was done to the signs. His department is investigating the problem.

Dogs, cat need to find a place to call home

(Continued from Page 1)
with its mother by hunters, a 1 to 2-year-old cockapoo named Max that was found seven miles south of town, and a 4 to 5-month-old male terrier that was found last Wednesday and has a red collar.
She said Baby is well behaved and is so small that she's "as cute as a bug's ear". The male springer spaniel smiles and Max, the cockapoo, is house trained, loves kids and needs to be neutered.
Mrs. Hickman said cats are harder to adopt out than dogs and so she tries not to take as many unless it's necessary.
She said because it is sometimes hard to get the news out when a dog is found, she'll usually wait five days for its owner to pick it up before putting it up for adoption.
Mrs. Hickman does not like to see animals destroyed so she works with rescue operations to find homes.
She said it depends on the animal on how fast she tries to get it rescued when no one wants to adopt it. The rescue organizations

are great, she said, but the problem is there isn't a rescue available for mutts. The rescues are usually breed specific.
Mrs. Hickman said she also tries to send as many out to the Second Chance Homeless Pet Society, which is a training program at Norton Correctional Facility, as she can. She said they usually take about six dogs a year.
She said she also has help from foster families, who agree to take a dog or cat until it can be adopted. Right now there are no foster families available, however.
Because the pound doesn't have a big budget, Mrs. Hickman said it could use some odds and ends. Things like rubber mats or elevated rubber or wood platforms to get the dogs off of the ground.
"Some of the dogs don't have anything to get them off of the cold concrete," she said. "The new pound has heaters, but it's still pretty cold on the ground, especially with the winter temperatures."
She said she can't use store-

bought beds because the dogs chew them up.
Mrs. Hickman said the pound can always use canned dog and cat food. Sometimes, she said, the animals are so malnourished when they get to the pound that they can't be put up for adoption until they are in better shape.
This year, all of the dogs at the pound got a special Christmas Eve treat in the form of dog bones and chew toys. The bones and toy were part of a doggy basket brought to the pound by Russ and Kathy Erbert.
Another food item needed is puppy chow.
Mrs. Hickman said she usually doesn't buy the puppy food because it is so expensive and so the puppies have to eat adult food.

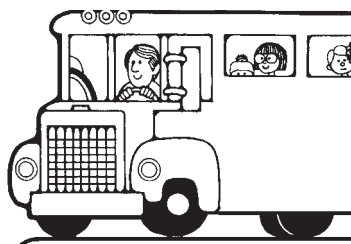
And, she said, there is always a need for rags and towels.
Mrs. Hickman asked that pet owners make sure they get their animals rabies shots and have their dogs registered with the city.
"If they are registered, then when they get lost we can just check the tag and give the owner a call," she said.
No matter, the sometimes overcrowded conditions, she said the new 79-foot-by-50-foot concrete shelter is 100 times better than the a 15-foot-by-8-foot tin shed that used to be the city pound.
For those interested in giving a dog or cat a good home, Mrs. Hickman can be reached at 874-4294 or leave a message at *The Norton Telegram* at 877-3361.

City to re-examine no parking ordinance

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all of the parking on that street when there is only a problem part of the time.
Mr. J. Jones said the city would like to try this way and if there are any problems, it could be brought up again and something different might be tried.
Mr. Hawks agreed.
"We should try it this way for this school year and then talk to the neighbors," he said. "If there are problems, then we'll see about making it a one-way street."

The proposed change will go before the city council at Wednesday's meeting.
In other business, the committee:
• Heard from Mr. Hawks that the yellow paint was gone from the curb near the McDonalds on U.S. 36 and people are starting to park by the highway again. He said the area needed to be repainted.
• Discussed the city's stop signs. Mr. Hawks asked if the signs were up to code or if they had faded again.

Police Chief Lynn Menagh said the signs are in better condition than they used to be since updates had been made.
Mr. G. Jones said he thought City Administrator Rob Lawson had ordered some new signs.



Eating places stay open

(Continued from Page 1)
Dairy Queen will be open New Year's Eve if they are busy, but will be closed Saturday.
China Garden and The Beacon Cafe in Norton, The Cardinal Bar and Grill in Norcatatur and The Station in Almena will serve meals Friday night and be closed Saturday.
The County Line in Norcatatur and Karen's Cafe in Lenora will close at 2 p.m. Friday and will be closed on Saturday.
K & S Center, Norton, will close at 1:30 p.m. Friday and will be closed Saturday.
Pure Prairie Health Foods Store will close at 3 p.m. Friday and reopen Monday.
Quizno's will be open until 10 p.m. Friday evening and reopen at 11 a.m. Saturday, New Year's Day.
O'Brien's Bar will open at 3 p.m. New Year's Eve. They are holding a public wedding party for Jason and Amanda Majors until 2 a.m. On New Year's Day the bar will reopen at 1 p.m.
The two pharmacies in town will both close early Friday — Pamida Pharmacy at 3 p.m. and Moffet Drug Store at 4 p.m. Both will be closed New Year's Day.
Both Pamida and Dollar General, Norton, will close at 6 p.m. Friday night and reopen the next day at 9 a.m.
All public offices will be closed all day Friday including the Norton County Courthouse, Norton City Offices, Norton Public Library and Norton Health Department.
Doctor's Clinic will be closed New Year's Eve.
Norton Theatre will be operating regular hours. Show times will be at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday nights and 5 p.m., Sunday. Showing will be "Finding Neverland" and "Ocean's 12".

NOTICE OF 56TH

Annual Meeting

Monday, January 17, 2005
12:00 NOON

to be held at the St. Francis Parish Hall

Please R.S.V.P. by Wednesday, January 12

\$1.00 PER MEMBER

United Northwest Federal Credit Union

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