

Church:

Take advantage of the church listings to find out when and where to go.

Pages 6 & 7

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THE NORTON TELEGRAM

Hunting

Inside today's edition of *The Telegram* is the annual fall Hunting Guide put together by Nor'West Newspapers.

The guide lets people know where they can go for walk-in hunting, where they can buy a license and state rules hunters need to know before going out.

Friday

October 28, 2005

Norton, Kansas
Home of Lila Fisher

Briefly

Gun show to be held this weekend

The Norton Gun Show will be held Saturday and Sunday at the Norton National Guard Armory.

Saturday the show will run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The show will feature firearms, hunting and collectibles. It is sponsored by S&S Gun Works.

Concessions will be provided by the Norton County Horse Council.

For registration or to reserve a table, call Shane Wyatt at 877-5288 or (785) 202-0466.

School to let out early for parade

Norton schools will be dismissed at 1 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 11, to allow students and staff the opportunity to watch and participate in the Veterans' Day parade.

Buses will run their normal routes at 1 p.m. dismissal time.

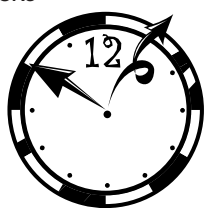
If the parade is canceled because of bad weather, school will not be dismissed early.

It's time to set the clocks back

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.



Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Partly cloudy with lows in the upper 40s. South winds 10 to 20 mph. **Saturday** — Partly cloudy with highs in the lower 70s. South winds around 10 mph. **Saturday Night** —

Mostly cloudy with a chance of showers and isolated thunderstorms in the evening.

Howell report:

Tuesday	High 65, Low 36
Wednesday	High 68, Low 37
Thursday	High 66, Low 42
Week ago	High 64, Low 42
Month ago	High 90, Low 57
Year ago	High 67, Low 61
October precipitation	1.85 inches
Year-to-date precipitation ...	21.40 inches

(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

Prayer

Heavenly Father, open our eyes to your presence: at church, at home, in daily life. Help us to be fully yours as we follow in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. Amen



Halloween is a 'comin'

All around Norton, people are preparing for Halloween by spooking up their homes. Whether its a circle of ghosts, a scary singing skeleton or a smiling Casper, children will have something fun and exciting to greet them when trick or treating Monday night.

— Telegram photos by Veronica Monier

County deciding if landfill audit is worthwhile

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

The Norton County commissioners are undecided on whether they should have an audit of the newly opened landfill and will probably leave the decision up to Solid Waste Supervisor Curt Archibald.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment has received a federal grant from the Department of Agriculture to provide free audits of small arid landfills by a nationally recognized expert, Neal Bolton.

The state sent out letters to all the landfills in Northwest Kansas noting the participation is voluntary and there will be no penalties if problems are found. The audit, the letters said, is for training purposes and to help counties save money rather than for regulatory or enforcement purposes.

While Commissioner John Miller says he can see the advantage to having the audit his fellow commissioners, Dean Kruse and Leroy Lang are not so trusting of the state.

"In our case as a new landfill I see we have absolutely nothing to lose," Mr. Miller said. "I think it is in our favor to cooperate on this project."

Mr. Lang said he disagreed. He said that while the government says it won't slap any landfills for regulatory violations, who knows what the beauracrats might do in a year or two or if all the area landfills have the same problem or problems.

"I don't trust them," he said. "They're going to do as they please. They're justifying their jobs. That's why it took us 3 1/2 years to get this (the new landfill) through."

Mr. Miller said he understood Mr. Lang's concerns and felt some of them also but since the Norton County landfill has just passed every test the state could throw at it, he didn't see that there was much to worry about.

"This guy is one of the leading authorities on landfills and how to run them efficiently," he said. "Our people are not used to running a landfill."

Mr. Archibald said that he had talked to a woman at the state who asked if Norton County would be taking part in the project. She told him that about one-half

(Continued on Page 5)

Norton hospital gets clean bill of health on '04 audit

By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton County Hospital got a clean bill of health on its 2004 audit.

Accountant John Harris, of Baird, Kurtz and Dobson Accounting in Wichita, said the hospital had a clean opinion with a positive bottom line.

The positive bottom line, he said, was helped tremendously by the disproportionate share payments.

The hospital gets disproportionate share payments because it meets criteria set by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. Some of the criteria are having low-risk obstetrics services and some uninsured in the population.

Mr. Harris said there were positive trends in the report, but that the management letter, which summarizes the audit, needs some work.

Hospital Administrator Rich Miller said he will work on the management letter.

In other business, the board:

- Talked to representatives of Humana Insurance Co. about a Medicare advantage plan. The plan would move Medicare into the private sector of insurance. The representatives said they were looking for contracts with hospitals and so far, the company hasn't contracted with anyone yet. They said they haven't received any cost-share information yet, but would be working on

it.

- Heard that in September, the hospital had: 48 admissions for a yearly total of 174; 4 births, 20 total; 24 surgeries, 72 total; 1,244 Doctor's Clinic visits, 3,806 total; and 405 patient days, 1,235 total. The physical therapy department had 806 procedures in September.

- Held a 30-minute closed session to discuss non-elected personnel.

- Heard that the hospital is thinking about selling its Ford tractor with a loader. Mr. Miller said the maintenance department doesn't really use it and it needs maintenance work done to it. He said they thought about selling it as is for \$2,500.

- Learned that the hospital has hired one full-time and one part-time nursing aide.

- Went over patient surveys for the hospital and clinic. The hospital is still having problems with room temperatures, but is working with engineers to see if anything can be done.

- Heard that the parking lot project was started last week. Mr. Miller said if the weather doesn't hold and it isn't finished this fall, it can be finished next spring.

- Learned that the Kansas Hospital's Association convention is Nov. 7-9.

Wellness fair will be Wednesday

The Norton County Wellness Fair will be held 4-8 p.m. Wednesday at the Norton National Guard Armory.

About 30 exhibitors will provide flu shots, osteoporosis screening and nutritional and physical fitness information.

The Wellness Fair is sponsored by the Norton County K-State Research and Extension, Norton County Health Department, Norton County Hospital, the Norton Manor, High Plains Mental Health, Norton Public Transportation, Norton Ministerial Alliance and Big Brothers/Big Sisters of Norton County, with help from other health related organizations in Norton County and the business class of Northern Valley High School taught by Erin Manning.

Admittance is free, and if needed, you may contact the Norton Public Transportation Office at 877-5352 for a ride.

The Norton Senior Center will also provide a lunch stand with soup, hot sandwiches and pie.

As an added attraction, the Norton Lions Club is sponsoring their Sight (screening) Van which will be just outside the armory. Tests available from the van include vision, hearing and blood pressure.

Exhibitors will include: Norton County Emergency Medical Service, Norton County Hospital, Hospice Services Inc., Norton County Health Department, PRN Home Health, B&B Sales, Northwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging, Develop-

(Continued on Page 5)

Commission gets report from hospital

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

The Norton County Hospital ended its fiscal year in the black again thanks to help from the federal government.

For the last three years the hospital has received disproportionate share payments from the government. These payments are, in part, because of the hospital's obstetrics program.

Hospital Administrator Rich Miller and Chief Financial Officer Brian Carlton gave the Norton County commissioners a rundown on the hospital's annual audit on Monday.

The hospital's financial year ended in June and Mr. Miller said officials usually try to get the audit, which is done by a Wichita firm, in October.

Mr. Miller went through the important parts of the audit with the commissioners showing them where the hospital had received \$680,000 in disproportional share payments from the government.

Mr. Miller said that without that payment the hospital would have lost a little money.

The hospital now has a certified registered nurse anesthetist, he said, which makes salaries higher but purchased services and professional fees lower.

"We think it was a very good trade off for us," Mr. Miller said.

The hospital has also had a lot more babies recently, he said, but added that is probably cyclical and he doesn't expect the increase birth rate to continue indefinitely.

Another increase in business is coming from cancer patients, he said. A doctor is coming down from Kearney on a regular basis to see patients and the hospital is providing more care for cancer patients.

"We are doing a lot of chemotherapy," he said.

The chemotherapy and regular inflation is pushing the expenses for drugs and medical supplies up, he said. In 2004 the hospital spent \$440,812 for drugs and in 2005, it spent \$588,007.

Depreciation is also higher this year, up to \$626,383 from \$498,337, due to the renovations made last year.

Mr. Miller said that while utilities for 2005 look high, up to \$192,761 from

(Continued on Page 5)



Traffic was slowed to a crawl Tuesday afternoon (below) when a "superload", which was really a very large boiler, came through town. The boiler, which took one semi-truck pulling and another pushing, (above) arrived late enough that the driver's deemed it safer to stay the night in town. — Telegram photos by Veronica Monier

Boiler makes way through Norton

An oversized load came through Norton on U.S. 36 Tuesday afternoon and ended up staying the night. The superload took up more than its share of the road. It was a 492,000 pound, 219-foot long, 20-foot wide, 19 1/2-foot high boiler that was being moved through Norton County on its way to Alberta, Canada. It started in Lincoln, stopped in Hastings and made its way down through Nebraska to U.S. 383, turning on U.S. 36 and then coming into Norton. The load traveled at about 30 mph and then slowed down to about 5 mph when going over bridges.



Landfill may get audit

(Continued from Page 1) the landfills in Northwest Kansas will be participating, he said. County Councilor Doug Sebelius said that as the county's sanitation officer Mr. Archibald should make the call as to whether to have the audit or not. The commissioners agreed but Mr. Lang said he would not vote to purchase a packer for the

landfill. The commissioners have already purchased packing equipment to crush the trash but they decided not to buy the expensive packer some landfills use. Mr. Archibald said he would think about the project and maybe talk to some other landfill operators and get back to the commissioners on what he thinks would be best.

Wellness fair set for Wednesday

(Continued from Page 1) mental Services of Northwest Kansas, Western Kansas Talking Books, Norton Cares, Norton Public Transportation; Norton Ministerial Alliance, LINK, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, K-State Research and Extension Family Nutrition Program, K-State Research and Extension — Norton County, Men's and Women's Fitness for Life, Bodyworks Massage Therapy,

Masters Touch Fitness and Massage, Crow Chiropractic, Osteoporosis Services Inc., Colby Community College Dental Hygiene; Prairie Wind Eyecare, Smoky Hill Foundation — Regional Prevention Center, High Plains Mental Health Center, Valley Hope Association, Norton County Sheriff, Norton Manor, West Region Social and Rehabilitative Services, Waddell and Reed — Kathy

Zimmerman, Norton County Farm Bureau and the Kansas National Guard. If you have questions call Gina Frack at the Norton County Health Department at 877-5745, K-State Research and Extension at 877-5755 or e-mail Multi-County Extension Specialist Tranda Watts at twwatts@oznet.ksu.edu.

The paper you read for the news you need!
THE NORTON TELEGRAM
 215 S. Kansas Ave.
 Norton, Kan. 67654

SCHOOL CALENDAR

NORTON Senior High:
 Monday — Jay Singers, a.p.
 Tuesday — FCCLA Window Project, 7 a.m.; Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.; Cheer, a.p.; Kay holly sales toast; Bi-district football
 Wednesday — Jay Singers, a.p.; SAC, a.p.
 Thursday — Kay Regional Conference at Phillipsburg, 8 a.m.; FFA, a.p.; FCCLA, a.p.; FCCLA dessert party, a.p.
 Friday — Jazz, a.p.
 Saturday — Kansas Music Educators Association Jazz at Hays; Regional football
 Next Monday — Jay Singers, a.p.; Scholars' Bowl at Hill City, 4 p.m.; Mid Continent League Vocal Clinic at Phillipsburg, 2 and 7 p.m.
Junior High:
 Tuesday — Kay Board, a.p.
 Wednesday — Team meeting, 7:30 a.m.
 Thursday — Basketball at Stockton, 4:30 p.m.
 Saturday — Kansas Music Educators Association Jazz at Hays
 Next Monday — Student Council, a.p.
Eisenhower:
 Monday — Kindergarten to Andbe Home, noon; Early childhood-sixth grades fall parties, 2:30 p.m.
 Thursday — Early childhood-second grade level meeting, 3:40 p.m.
All Schools:
 November 7-13 Buffet Week — Gyms and weight room closed
High School Menus:
 Monday — Breakfast: French toast sticks, fruit or juice or cereal, toast, milk; Lunch: Chicken fry patty, potatoes/country style gravy, coleslaw, mixed fruit, or chef salad, milk
 Tuesday — Breakfast: Breakfast casserole, fruit or juice or cereal, toast, milk; Lunch: Corn dog, peas, carnival salad, or chef salad, milk
 Wednesday — Breakfast: Monkey bread, fruit or juice or cereal,

toast, milk; Lunch: Spaghetti/cheese, salad, French bread, orange/banana Jello or chef salad, milk
 Thursday — Breakfast: Granola snack bar, fruit or juice or cereal, toast, milk; Lunch: Pizza, combo salad, pineapple, cookies or chef salad, milk
 Friday — Breakfast: Hot cereal, fruit or juice or cereal, toast, milk; Lunch: Monte Cristo with ham, corn, pasta salad, pumpkin custard or chef salad, milk
Eisenhower Menus:
 Monday — Breakfast: Breakfast fruit pizza, milk; Lunch: Spaghetti, salad, peaches, garlic bread, milk
 Tuesday — Breakfast: Monkey bread, grape juice, milk; Lunch: Corn dog, tater tots, baby carrots, fruit cocktail, cookie, milk
 Wednesday — Breakfast: Sausage/biscuit, apple juice, milk; Lunch: Scalloped chicken, corn, sweetheart pears, celery stick, dinner roll, milk
 Thursday — Breakfast: French toast, pears, milk; Lunch: Beef burrito, cheesy broccoli, rosy

applesauce, blonde brownies, milk
 Friday — Breakfast: Sausage gravy/biscuit, grape juice, milk; Lunch: Beef/noodles, potatoes, green beans, mandarin oranges, cheese rolls, milk
NORTHERN VALLEY
 Sunday — Daylight saving time change
 Monday — High school dance team practice; Kindergarten-grade six Halloween parade and parties, 2 p.m.
 Tuesday — Framework for Understanding Poverty Workshop; High school football Bi-district
 Wednesday — Title I, Professional Network meeting at Salina, 10 a.m.; High school cheerleading practice, 3:30 p.m.
 Thursday — Regional Kay Conference, 8 a.m.; High school dance team practice, 3:30 p.m.; Basketball rules meeting at Hays, 7:30 p.m.
 Saturday — High school regional football; District Kansas Music Educators Association at Hays High School, 8:30 a.m.
School Menus:

Monday — Breakfast: Breakfast casserole, applesauce, cereal; Lunch: Ground beef stroganoff, whole wheat roll, green beans, vanilla pudding
JENNINGS
 Tuesday — Teacher In-Service, No School

ADULT COED VOLLEYBALL
 FEE: \$70.00 Per Team
 PLAY BEGINS
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20
 Teams Are Forming Now
 Get Your Entry Forms at the
Norton Recreation Center
 Entries Due November 10
 Questions? Contact Joan Bolt at 877-2122 or the Recreation Center at 877-3087

Cardinal Bar and Grill
 Main Street, Norcatu~ 785-693-4499
 Thursdays: Mexican Night
Fri., Oct. 28: Pizza Night/ \$1 Draws
Sat., Oct. 29: Smoked Pork Chops
 Halloween Party and Dance at Norcatu School House
ORDER OFF MENU ANYTIME
HOURS: Mon.-Thurs. 7 a.m.-10 p.m.; Fri.-Sat. 7 a.m.-Midnight

Bulletin Board

Business and Professional Directory

Your Guide to Services Available in Northwest Kansas

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THE NORTON TELEGRAM
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Hospital ends year in black

(Continued from Page 1) \$168,987 in 2004, they will be a lot higher in 2006. "It's a big jump," he said. "But, nothing to what it will probably be next year." In 2005 the patient accounts receivable were \$469,022 from Medicare, \$27,314 from Medicaid, \$313,419 from other third-party payers (mostly insurance companies) and \$1,096,443 from cash patients for a \$1,906,443 accounts receivable. However, the accountants have put \$1 million, more than one-half, of that in allowance for uncollectable accounts. People who cannot pay need to go in as charity cases, he said, so the hospital isn't stuck trying to make them pay a bill they can't. "I think we shouldn't be the one to step up and make life more miserable for people," he said. "We can't keep writing people off all the time and suing them. People have to stay warm, they have to keep the kids fed. We try to keep that in mind." Still, Mr. Miller said, the hospital needs to get paid so that it can keep running. There is no knowing how long the government will keep giving out the disproportional share payments and each year they get smaller. "I'm not saying we couldn't operate without the dish (disproportionate share) payments, but it helps," Mr. Miller said. "It would just be nice if everybody paid," Commissioner Leroy Lang said. "That million dollars is a lot of money." For the months since the end of June, Mr. Miller said the hospital has done well. Total patient days are up about 11 percent in July, August and September and there have been 23 deliveries compared to 12 this time last year. "We're getting good business," Mr. Miller said. "It's different but it's still a business." "We're lucky to have the health facility we have here," Commissioner John Miller commented. "We've also brought on board a nurse practitioner that's a nurse midwife," Mr. Miller said. "That's helped our business." "I think you and the board are always looking for progressive ways to stay in the black," Commissioner Miller said. "I believe we have a good facility and good people." Mr. Lang agreed.