

Mail election ballots

Residents and land owners in the middle third of Norton County can vote by mail in the upcoming Farm Service Agency County Office Committee elections.

The ballots must be dropped off at the Norton County office or postmarked by Tuesday, Dec. 6.

The committee meets once a month to oversee the Farm Service Agency. There are three members — one for each third of the county.

Up for election is the position held by Phillip Loughry, who is not eligible for re-election.

Candidates are Melinda Harting, Ivan Kingham and David Donovan. The new term will begin Jan. 1.

Those voting are reminded that —

- They must sign the certification on the ballot envelope before returning it to the office,
 - A power of attorney may not be used to vote,
 - Ballots must be returned to the office or postmarked by Dec. 6.
 - Only vote for one candidate.
- Call the agency office at 877-5156 with questions.



Norton residents took advantage of the city's annual fall clean-up, which began Monday. City trucks picked up

everything from furniture to tree limbs.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Residents toss junk in city clean-up

Monday marked the beginning of Norton's annual fall city-wide clean-up.

By late afternoon, Monday, city crews had picked up unwanted items left at the curb on the south side of town. The rest of the town will be covered Tuesday and

Wednesday.

City crews are willing to pick up trash left curb-side. However, they remind residents they cannot pick up tires, construction debris, yard waste or hazardous waste.

The only items picked up in alleys are metals and tree limbs.

Tree limbs must be cut into lengths no longer than eight feet and fireplace ash must be in plastic bags.

If individuals choose to take items to the landfill themselves, they will have to pay the fees.

If freon has not been removed

from appliances like refrigerators and air conditioners, there will be a \$10 fee charged per appliance.

For handicapped accommodations, call the city office at 877-5000.

Diesel fuel costs hurt county road, bridge budget

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

The cost of diesel fuel had Norton County Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom Brannan worrying about his budget on Monday.

Mr. Brannan came to give his weekly report to the Norton County commissioners and told them that he had had to buy a load of fuel last week.

He said he paid \$2.91 a gallon and three days later the price went down to \$2.37 a gallon.

"We took a \$3,500 chunk for fueling up Tuesday instead of

Thursday," Mr. Brannan said. "We're getting it by the semiloading. We could get it 1,000 gallons at a time but they would be filling us up every day."

"We go through about 1,000 gallons per day and have to get a load about every six weeks."

Mr. Brannan said the county should get the cost of the state tax back but must purchase the clear fuel, which is taxed.

"Why should we be running clear diesel when we could be running dyed diesel," Commissioner

John Miller wanted to know. Mr. Brannan said he didn't know, that's just the way it worked.

Mr. Miller noted that the county crew's work is all construction and maintenance of roads and he said he didn't see why the county should pay the tax and then get it rebated later.

Mr. Brannan said he would check with the state to see if anything could be done.

The fuel was purchased at Ag Valley, Mr. Brannan said, and the commissioners wanted to know if

the county was a stockholder in Ag Valley since it was a stockholder in Norton County Co-op, which was purchased by Ag Valley earlier this year.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Signed agreements to purchase gravel from several sand pits in the county. The prices will remain the same, Mr. Brannan said.

- Heard that Road E2 from Edmond south to the county line will be closed while a bridge is being replaced.

- Talked to Mr. Brannan about reflectivity of signs.

Mr. Brannan said he checked and found five signs in one quarter-mile stretch of road.

He said he will try to find out what the state is looking at for sign reflectivity during the Kansas Association of Counties meeting later this month.

"If we have to replace signs it needs to be spread out over a couple of years," Mr. Brannan said. "If it's a mandate, it will be cost prohibitive."

Change alarms' batteries

Provide family with fire safety

If you haven't already changed your smoke alarm batteries, do so now.

The Norton fire departments, along with those across the county, advise everyone to change their batteries when they change their clocks for Daylight Saving Time.

An average of three children per day die in home fires across the country and 80 percent of those occur in homes without working smoke alarms.

Non-working smoke alarms are worse than worthless.

The most common cause of non-working smoke alarms is batteries that are missing or too old.

Changing smoke alarm batteries at least once a year can save lives.

The fire marshal's office recommends replacing smoke alarms every ten years.

"The peak time for home fire fatalities is between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. when most families are sleeping," says state Fire Marshal Jack Alexander. "Smoke alarm maintenance is a simple, effective way to reduce home fire deaths."

"Children and senior citizens are most at risk, and a working smoke alarm can give them the extra seconds they need to get out safely."

In addition, the fire marshal recommends residents test smoke alarms by pushing the test button and practicing escape routes with the entire family.

Families should also prepare an emergency safety kit that includes working flashlights and fresh batteries.

CONGRATULATIONS

to the Northern Valley and Norton Boys and Girls Cross Country Teams on Your "Tremendous" 2005 Seasons!!



For the First Time in History, the Northern Valley Boys and Girls Team qualified for the Class 1A State Cross Country Meet in the Same Season

— 2005 SEASON RECORDS — NORTHERN VALLEY

	<u>GIRLS</u>	<u>BOYS</u>
Norton Invitational	Amanda Hopkins,	Bryce Marble-Ninth
	First-Junior Varsity	
Mankato Invitational	Amanda Hopkins,	Bryce Marble-Eighth
	First-Junior Varsity	
Hill City Invitational	Amanda Hopkins,	Bryce Marble-36th
	First-Junior Varsity	
Hays Invitational	Amanda Hopkins,	Bryce Marble-28th
	19th-Junior Varsity	
Phillipsburg Invitational	Amanda Hopkins-32nd	Bryce Marble-Ninth
Riley County Invitational	Amanda Hopkins	Bryce Marble-37th
	First-Junior Varsity	
Wheatland Invitational	Amanda Hopkins-14th	Bryce Marble-Fourth
Regional-Grainfield	Second (Team)	Third (Team)
State 1A Meet-Wamego	Tenth (Team)	Twelfth (Team)



For the First Time Ever, a Norton Cross Country Team qualified for the Class 3A State Cross Country Meet. The Blue Jay Boys placed Sixth.

— 2005 SEASON RECORDS — NORTON

	<u>GIRLS</u>	<u>BOYS</u>
Norton Invitational	Second	First
Wamego Invitational	Seventh	Sixth
WaKeeney Invitational	Third	Second
Hill City Invitational	Laura Lee Baird,	First
	Third	
Oberlin Invitational	Fourth	First
Phillipsburg (MCL)	Third	First
Lakeside Invitational	Laura Lee Baird,	Third
	Third	
Regional-Ellsworth	Ninth	Second
State 3A Meet-Wamego	Laura Lee Baird, Competed	Sixth

This Congratulations brought to you by:

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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