

Church:

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Pages 6 & 7

Vol. 98, No. 95
75 cents

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

Sports:

Blue Jay football gridders honored at banquet. Cheyenne Conference names All-League football and volleyball players.

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Friday

December 2, 2005

Norton, Kansas
Home of Phyllis Harting

Briefly

Christmas party postponed

The annual St. Francis of Assisi Ladies Society Senior Citizens' Christmas Party has been postponed to next Wednesday. It will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. at the St. Francis Parish Center. There will be bingo, cookies and refreshments. Also, prizes and Christmas ornaments will be given out.

Quilters will meet Monday

The Heritage Quilt Club will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday at the Long Island Community Building. Members whose last names start with "A" - "H" are to bring finger foods. All members are reminded to bring the pillowcase and pillow made for the Christmas project, as well as a wrapped gift for Robber Bingo.

Brass quintet to perform Saturday

The Kansas Brass Quintet will perform at 7:30 p.m. Saturday in the East Campus Auditorium. Sponsored by the Norton County Arts Council, the quintet will perform traditional holiday songs plus several new arrangements. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$4 for students, \$4 reciprocity and no charge for Arts Council members.

Bread to be sold on Tuesday only

The Norton American Youth Soccer Organization will be selling Butter Braids bread from 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday in the basement of the city office. Of the 120 loaves ordered, there will be cream cheese, cherry, cinnamon, apple and caramel. Each loaf will cost \$9 with all proceeds going toward the upcoming soccer season. The bread will be sold first come, first serve. No advanced orders will be taken.

Weather

Forecast:

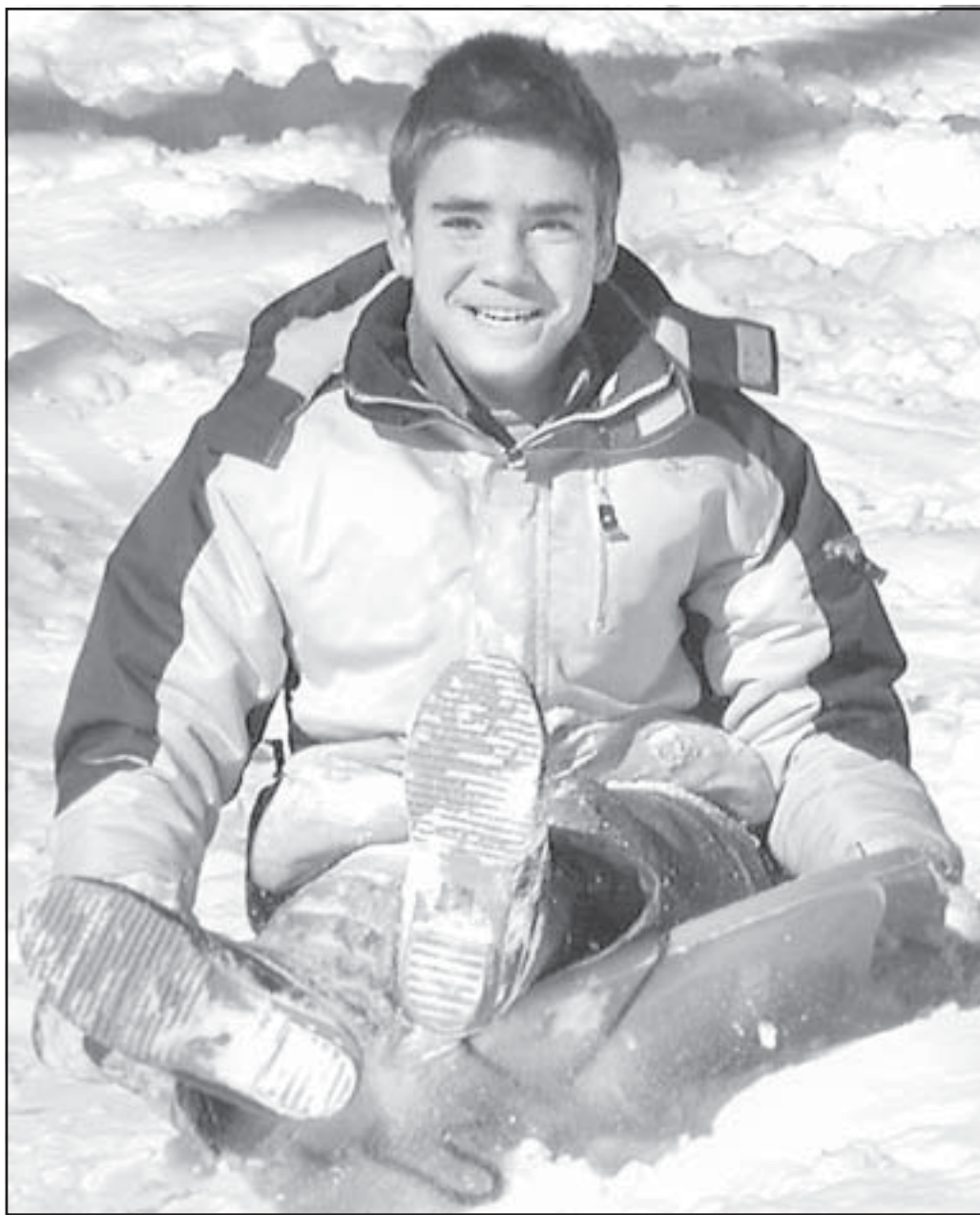
Tonight — Mostly cloudy with lows around 18. **Saturday** — Mostly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of snow. Highs in the upper 20s. **Saturday Night** — Mostly cloudy with lows around 14. **Sunday** — Mostly cloudy with highs around 30.

Howell report:

Thursday High 35, Low 10
1/2 inch of snow
Month ago High 68, Low 40
Year ago High 29, Low 16
December precipitation10 inches
Year-to-date precipitation ... 22.10 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 sharing our worries and cares and for standing beside us to comfort and guide.
Amen



"Kids" of all ages enjoyed their snow day from school sledding on Tuesday afternoon at Elmwood Park. The six inches of snow covering the large slope made for an ideal spot. Erin Terrell and her passenger Brooklyn Winkel (below) enjoyed their spills together. The foursome of the Steve Somers family (above) enjoyed holding hands as they made their way to the bottom of the hill. From left are David Somers, Travis Kerns, Steve Somers and Laura Somers. Pictured doing a solo act is Travis Kerns (left).

— Photos by Vicki Henderson



School board divided on refund

By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton School District is getting an insurance refund but the school board cannot decide what to do with the extra money.

Superintendent Greg Mann said the district has received a \$102,000 refund from Blue Cross Blue Shield. That figure, he said, is down from last year's \$151,000.

He said about \$35,000 of it will go back to the group members, but the other \$67,000 is the district's.

Mr. Mann said the money is sitting in the general fund, but it can't stay there. The longer it's in the general fund, he said, the more likely the auditors will require the district to pay back a portion of state money equal to the refund.

He said the board can either put it in a special fund, like capital outlay, and spend it; turn it back over to the group; give it to the district's employees; return it to the in-

urance company to lower next year's rates; or have a rate holiday, where the district pays the entire amount of the group's insurance. Or, he said, the board can do a little of each.

However, he said, the insurance company recommended that the board not give it back to lower next year's rates. The problem with the rate holiday, he said, is that not everybody can take advantage of it. Money set aside to pay for insurance is money not spent elsewhere and he thinks the refund could be spent more globally.

Board member Jeff Nielsen said he agreed that the money should benefit all the employees. But, he said, it was their choice as to whether to join the insurance group or not and it was the good health of the group members that got the refund.

Board member Elaine Lofgreen said some people might get insurance through their spouse that better suits their family. "We went through this last year," she

said. "We have to look at this as elected officials. We make the promise to cover the employees and we do that. But, we've kept our promise and this money should be used for the good of the entire district."

She made a motion to retain the board's portion of the refund and put it in a special fund as deemed appropriate by Mr. Mann.

Mr. Mann said he recommended the money go into capital outlay, where more can be done with it.

Board member Chris Harting said he thought the money should be used to help the district.

Board member Mark Keilig said that the money is part of a fringe benefit. The refund, he said, is due to good health and is earned by the group members.

"In this business, there aren't a lot of bonuses," he said. "This is money when it's put into the budget that we don't expect to get back. We should give it as a

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Hospital is looking for managers

By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton County Hospital is in the market for a couple of staff managers.

Chief Executive Officer Rich Miller told the hospital board at the Nov. 16 meeting that the hospital is seeking for a director of nursing and also a chief financial officer.

The hospital is beginning to look for a director of nursing, he said. Chief Financial Officer Brian Carlton is moving to Colorado.

Mr. Miller said he has met with the nursing staff to see what they would like in a director. Right now, the hospital has a temporary director, Marcia Zillinger, who has decided not to be considered for the permanent position.

"She's been great," Mr. Miller said of Ms. Zillinger.

The hospital has had several applications for the position, but is advertising to see who is interested and available, he said.

As for Mr. Carlton's job, Mr. Miller said he has made several contacts, but nothing has been determined yet.

"Hopefully, Brian will be with us for a little while, but we would still like to get that position filled," he said.

In the past, he said, the administration staff has been stable with long-term employees, but now, they are having to find replacements for two.

In other business, the hospital:
(Continued on Page 5)

County health has flu vaccinations

By VERONICA MONIER

It took longer than expected, but flu shots are now available at the Norton County Health Department.

Gina Frack, county health administrator, said they just received part of their flu vaccine order this week and started giving it out on Wednesday.

There are still shots available. They aren't prioritizing this year, she said, like they had to do last year, because there should be more of the vaccine coming to the county.

The reason for the delay, she said, is Chiron, the manufacturer who makes the county's vaccine, was slow to send it out since all of the vaccine has to be approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). She said the shots were available to just

about anybody.

"Anyone who is six months of age or older can get a flu shot," she said. "We're really trying to encourage the younger kids to get one, especially those who are in day care."

"The only people who we won't give a shot to, are those younger than six months are those allergic to eggs. We reproduce the vaccine using eggs. Because it's part of the manufacturing process, eggs are part of the vaccine."

She said the vaccine takes about two weeks to work after the injection, and can last up to a year. She said that the only side effect of the shot is a possible soreness at the site of the injection.

"It is a myth that the flu shot will give

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Snow blankets Norton

Dave Fischer, (above) scoops snow from in front of ComputerPro at the corner of Main and Kansas. The boughs of this tree (right) droop to the ground, weighted down by recent heavy snows.

— Telegram photos by Vicki Henderson and Susie Marble



School board stuck on what to do with insurance refund

(Continued from Page 1)

But, said Board member Jennifer Terrell, not everybody would get the bonus.

Mr. Nielsen said he didn't see any problem with giving it back to the staff. It was originally put forth for salary and benefits, he said, and it should stay that way. He thought the board should give half to all the staff and use the other half for a rate holiday.

Mrs. Lofgreen's motion, that the district keep the money, failed 3-4.

Mr. Renner suggested dividing the money into thirds with one third staying with the district, one third going to every employee and one third going to a rate holiday. "Everybody wins," he said.

Mr. Nielsen made a motion to use half the money as a rate holiday for December and to give the other half to the employees.

Mr. Mann said a rate holiday would be less than half of the money.

Mr. Keilig said with half and half it would be off moneywise. He recommended the motion be amended to paying for a rate holiday with the rest of the money going as bonuses to all of the employees.

Mr. Mann said that brought up the question of whether the bonuses were to go to the 2004-'05 employees or the 2005-'06 employees. He recommended that the board take care of its current employees.

Mrs. Lofgreen said she talked to someone who deals with these kinds of things and he said the money was the board's.

"No one disputes that this is the board's money," said Mr. Nielsen. "It's my opinion that we already decided what to do with it when we put it aside for salary and benefits."

Mrs. Lofgreen said these things get very difficult. It's a lot neater, she said, putting it into capital outlay. That way it helps all of the district out by getting it something it needs.

"I'm in agreement with Elaine," said Mrs. Terrell. "I know the employees are very important to the district. But I think we need to

benefit as many people as we can with this money."

Mr. Keilig's amendment and Mr. Nielsen's original motion — splitting the money between a rate holiday and all employees — both failed 3-4.

Mrs. Lofgreen again made a motion to move the money into capital outlay. It also failed 3-4.

Mr. Renner made a motion to divide the money into three parts — the first part to pay for a one-month rate holiday and then the remaining money split between a bonus for all 2005-'06 employees and the district. That motion also failed 3-4.

A motion by Mr. Renner to table the issue until the next meeting failed 5-2 and another motion by Mrs. Lofgreen to put the money into capital outlay failed 3-4.

A second try by Mr. Renner to table the motion was finally successful on a 4-3 vote.

Change of command set for Saturday

A change of command ceremony will be held for the Kansas Army National Guard's 170th Maintenance Co. at 10 a.m. Saturday at the armory, 1200 North State, in Norton.

During the ceremony, Captain

Teresa A. Bingham will accept command from Captain Lisa A. Mullinax.

The change of command ceremony is a long standing tradition in the Army.

Dog stolen from pound last weekend

When the doggy roll call was taken Sunday morning at the Norton Animal Shelter, the count came up one short.

Animal Control Officer Sherry Hickman said sometime between 6 p.m. Saturday night and 10 a.m. Sunday morning, someone broke into the animal shelter and stole a female Airedale coon hound cross named Gypsy.

"It's really sad because Gypsy was going to be taken by Denver Rescue," she said.

Mrs. Hickman said the person who stole Gypsy broke the latch on the outside gate of Gypsy's kennel.

If you or someone you know has any information on the whereabouts of Gypsy, call the



Gypsy, a female Airedale, was stolen from the Norton Animal Shelter sometime last weekend.

— Telegram photo by Veronica Monier

animal shelter at 874-4294, the Norton Police Department at 877-5010, or *The Norton Telegram* at 877-3361.

Hospital buys drug dispensing system

(Continued from Page 1)

- Bought a new Pyxus medication dispensing system for \$71,999. Mr. Miller said it will record the drugs removed for patients by name. The hospital has a dispensing system through Pyxus, but it is outdated and support is being discontinued.

The new system will work with the hospital's billing system, and when a patient's medication is dispensed, it will post changes directly on the patient's account.

- Heard from Mr. Carlton that in October the hospital had 276 pa-

tient days for a yearly total of 1,505; 50 admissions for a total of 240; one baby for a total of 21; 28 surgeries for a total of 100; and 1,249 Doctor's Clinic visits for a total of 5,055. The hospital's fiscal year began July 1.

- Went over quality improvement reports. Mr. Miller said the hospital's departments are coming along nicely with their quality improvement efforts.

- Reviewed patient surveys.

- Heard from Mr. Miller that this year's section of the parking lot replacement project had been fin-

ished. He said more was done than the bid specified, including adding a curb and evening out the exit driveway.

He said the next phase of the project was planned on the west side of the parking area, but he would like for the second phase to be completing the exit before the west side is completed.

- Learned that Board members Kathy Holste and Von Fahrenbruch's terms expire Jan. 1.

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

SCHOOL CALENDAR

NORTON Senior High:

Kay Leadership Week

Monday — Jay Singers, a.p.; Scholars' Bowl at Colby, 4 p.m.; Kay board, 7 p.m.

Tuesday — Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.; Cheer, a.p.; Kay hanging of the greens, 4 p.m.

Wednesday — Jay Singers, 7:30 a.m.; Knowledge Masters Open, library, 12:30 p.m.; SAC, a.p.; Basketball/Cheer team photos, 3:30 p.m.

Thursday — Kays, a.p.; Girls basketball against. Ottawa at Goodland, 3 p.m.; Boys basketball against Ottawa at Goodland, 5 p.m.

Friday — Girls basketball at Goodland, 3 p.m.; Boys basketball at Goodland, 5 p.m.; Junior varsity wrestling at Southern Valley, 3:30 p.m.

Saturday — ACT, 7:30 a.m.; Basketball at Goodland; Varsity wrestling at Clay Center, 9:30 a.m.

Next Monday — Jay Singers, a.p.; Financial aid meeting, music room, 7 p.m.

Junior High:

Monday — Student Council, a.p.

Tuesday — Kay board, a.p.; Basketball team Photos, 3 p.m.; Band Concert, Junior High Gym, 7:30 p.m.

Wednesday — Team meeting, 7:30 a.m.; Knowledge Masters Open, Library, 8:30 a.m.

Thursday — Basketball at Ellis, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday — Basketball at Smith Center, 9 a.m.

Eisenhower: Tuesday — ARMeeting, 3:40 p.m.

Wednesday — Team meeting, 3:40 p.m.

Thursday — IEP Day; Grade 3 and 4 level meeting, 3:40 p.m.

All Schools:

Tuesday — Administrators meeting, Alice Tweed Office, 9:30 a.m.

Next Monday — Board of Education meeting, Alice Tweed Office, 7:30 p.m.

High School Menus:

Monday — Breakfast: Waffles/pancakes, bacon, apple juice, mixed fruit, or cereal, toast, milk; Lunch: Enchilada, fruit cocktail, milk, or chef salad

Tuesday — Breakfast: Granola snack bar, pineapple, apple juice, milk or cereal, toast, milk; Lunch: Chicken strips, potatoes/gravy, carrots, Jell-O with topping, milk, or chef salad

Wednesday — Breakfast: Breakfast burrito, potato puffs, orange juice, pears, or cereal, toast, milk; Lunch: Corn dog, green beans, coleslaw, peaches, milk or chef salad

Thursday — Breakfast: Fruit basket upset, apple juice, pineapple, or cereal, toast, milk; Lunch: Birthday Meal — Beef nachos, cake, milk or chef salad

Friday — Breakfast: Hard boiled egg, sausage links, pineapple, grape juice, toast or cereal, milk; Lunch: Ham and cheese roll-up, peas, pasta salad, rosy applesauce, milk or chef salad

Eisenhower Menus:

Monday — Breakfast: Monkey bread, grape juice, milk; Lunch: Spaghetti, salad, peaches, garlic bread, milk

Tuesday — Breakfast: Sausage

patty/biscuit, apple juice, milk; Lunch: Corn dog, tater tots, carrots, fruit cocktail, cookie, milk

Wednesday — Breakfast: Banana bread, peaches, milk; Lunch: Scalloped chicken, corn, pears, celery, milk

Thursday — Breakfast: Sausage gravy/biscuit, orange juice, milk; Lunch: Beef burrito, cheesy broccoli, rosy applesauce, blonde brownies, milk

Friday — Breakfast: French toast, pears, milk; Lunch: Beef and noodles, potatoes, green beans, mandarin oranges, cheese rolls, milk

NORTHERN VALLEY

Monday — High School Dance Team practice at Almena, 12 noon

Wednesday — Title I Professional Network meeting at Salina, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Friday — KAY Secret Pal Breakfast in the FACS room in Almena, 7:30 a.m.; High school basketball vs. Hill City, 4 p.m.

Sunday — Christmas community rehearsal, 2:30 p.m.

School Menus:

Monday — Breakfast: Cinnamon butterflake biscuit, scrambled eggs, grape juice, cereal, milk; Lunch: Monterey Jack sandwich, French fries, broccoli, fruit cup, milk

Tuesday — Breakfast: Sausage/cheese biscuit, peaches, cereal, milk; Lunch: Burrito, salad, carrots, chocolate pudding, milk

Wednesday — Breakfast: Cheery coffee cake, ham, orange juice, cereal, milk; Lunch: Turkey sandwich, potatoes, green beans, frosted banana, milk

Scrambled egg, toast, sausage link, hash browns, cereal, milk; Lunch: Cook's Choice

Friday — Breakfast: Breakfast bucket, pear slices, cereal, milk; Lunch: chicken patty/bun, dill spear, potatoes, spinach, frosted pear, milk

Flu shots available to public

(Continued from Page 1)

"Good hand washing is the best way, in addition to getting the shot, to prevent the flu," she said. "This is especially true after shopping where you handle money, touch doors, and come into contact with a lot of people. There are also the usual things as far as a healthy diet and plenty of rest."

Mrs. Frack said a good way to prevent getting the flu, aside from the shot, is good hand washing.



THE NORTON TELEGRAM

and the Norton Chamber of Commerce welcome "Nex-Tech Wireless" to the business community

Stop by Nex-Tech at 117 N. Norton and ask about Nex-Tech Wireless Local, Regional and Nationwide Rate Plans. Our office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Please call 877-4135 for more information.