

# THE NORTON TELEGRAM



*A merry  
and blessed  
Christmas to all*

Friday  
December 23, 2005

Norton, Kansas  
Home of David Fischer

## Briefly Chamber to hold holiday dinner

The Norton Area Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual Christmas Dinner on Sunday at the United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall at noon.

The dinner is for anyone who cannot be with loved ones on Christmas Day. A full holiday menu of turkey with dressing, potatoes and gravy, vegetables, rolls and butter will be provided. Those attending are asked to bring a salad or dessert to complete the feast. There is no charge for the dinner, but donations will be accepted.

Volunteers are needed to help with the meal preparation, serving and clean up. Anyone interested should contact Karla Reed at the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce Office, at 877-2501.

## Paper to run one day late

Because Christmas falls on Sunday this year, The Norton Telegram staff will take Monday off as an official holiday.

Your Telegram Extra will be delivered Tuesday and the Tuesday edition of The Norton Telegram will be delivered a day late. Friday's paper will be printed as usual.

## Post office to close Monday

The U.S. Post Office in Norton will be open 9- 11 a.m. on Christmas Eve to help anyone with mail to send or pick up.

The office will be closed Monday, Dec. 26.

## Weather

### Forecast:

**Tonight** — Lows in the mid 30s. Northwest winds 20 to 30 mph.  
**Saturday** — Highs in the lower 50s. Northwest winds 20 to 30 mph with gusts to 45 mph. **Saturday night** — Lows in the lower 20s. **Christmas Day** — Highs in the lower 60s. **Sunday night** — Lows in the mid 20s. **Monday** — Highs in the upper 50s.

## Howell report:

Tuesday ..... High 39, Low 25  
Wednesday ..... High 53, Low 35  
Thursday ..... High 53, Low 39  
Week ago ..... High 32, Low 20  
Month ago ..... unavailable  
Year ago ..... High 17, Low 2  
December precipitation ..... .60 inches  
Year-to-date precipitation . 21.75 inches  
(Readings taken at the Paul and Pat Howell farm 10 Miles North and 1/3 Mile East of Norton)

## Prayer

Dear God, whenever we are frightened and weak, remind us that you are with us wherever we go. Amen



McKenna Carlton (above) added an M&M to her house after her mom spread on a little icing to make it stick. Diamond White (below left) clapped in delight when her foster sister, Ashley Colip put on a little more decoration while teacher Joyce Lofgreen watched. Kendra Cadwalader and her dad (below right) put gingerbread men around her house. — Telegram photos by Veronica Monier

## Gingerbread used to build holiday fun

By VERONICA MONIER

The first graders at Eisenhower Elementary get to do something fun, sweet and special every year for Christmas. They get to make gingerbread houses.

For the last four years, first graders have gathered in the cafeteria with a special helper to build a sugary confection around a milk carton.

First Grade Teacher Mary Graber said that 33 students and their guests were busy building houses out of food and having fun again this year.

The students could pick anyone they wanted to help them build their houses. The process is simple but fun.

Take a milk carton, smear it with icing that's used as a kind of glue, attach the graham crackers to the icing and then decorate.

This year, the first graders could choose from several colors of icing to decorate the outside of the houses.

They could also add gumdrops, M&Ms, candy canes, red hots, gingerbread men, and cereal as roof tiles.

First Grade Teacher Joyce Lofgreen said the project went really well.

"I had one student tell me 'This is the funnest thing I've ever done!'," she said. "They really enjoy doing it."



## Trash covering will be white, but should still do the job

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

The new paper product, which will be used to cover trash at the landfill, is white instead of green.

Solid Waste Supervisor Curt Archibald brought a sample of the product, which looked like ground up newspapers, to Monday's county commission meeting.

The county was planning to get a similar product from Tyler, Texas, but transportation costs were so high the commissioners wanted to find a closer source.

Commissioner Dean Kruse found one in Wellsville, near Wichita, and last week Mr. Archibald took a trailer down

there and brought back four pallets, about 8,000 pounds, of product, when mixed with water it can be shot over the trash to keep it from blowing or burning.

"It's a long ways down there," he told the commissioners. "Getting to Wellsville isn't easy."

Mr. Archibald said that, while Clay Center is using the green stuff from Tyler, Allen County has been using the white and they didn't have any complaints.

The green is just a dye and is supposed to keep the birds away, Mr. Archibald said.

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## Economic group hopes to come up with web site

By VERONICA MONIER

The Norton County Economic Development Board is looking into getting a web site.

Economic Development Director Marlene Henderson said there are several sites, but none cover the entire county.

Shawn Mortensen with Mortensen Computer Service has reserved economic development in several names, so no one else can take them, she said. NortonCounty.com has already been taken by a private user and contains very little information, she said.

Ms. Henderson said Mr. Mortensen doesn't seem interested in linking all the web sites about the county. He would rather build a new one, she said.

A new site will cost between \$900 to \$1,300.

She said she went to the last Chamber of Commerce meeting to see if they would work with the economic development board on getting a common web site.

What they discussed, she said, was staying with discoverNorton.com and then expanding it to include the county's other cities.

The Chamber will be paying \$90/month, beginning in January, for Nex-Tech to maintain that site. For the past two years, Nex-Tech maintained it for free.

"It's a good site," she said, "but it's missing a lot of information."

Vice-President Curtis Eveleigh said he

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# Web site on tap for group

(Continued from Page 1) thought they should see what could be done with expanding the discoverNorton.com site, rather than having 12 web sites out there. Then, he said, they could link all the sites as well.

But, he said, if they did that, they would need to talk to the Chamber about paying their part of the maintenance fee.

Board member Dean Kruse, a Norton County commissioner, asked about changing the name to discoverNortonCounty.com, instead of just discoverNorton.com.

Mr. Eveleigh said they could probably change it, but might not want to since they already have the domain name.

Ms. Henderson said she talked to the Chamber board about adding county and they were not in favor of it.

It was brought up that the county has a web site nortoncounty-ks.com that could possibly be added to.

However, when asked about that site later, County Clerk Robert Wyatt said that it had been dropped about a year ago when it was decided that the expense of upkeep was more than the value of the site.

In other business, Ms. Henderson:

- Said she met with the Concerned Citizens Resources Group. She said the group was made up of people, who want to make the county a better place to live. The group has been around for a year or two, she said.

- Said several ads had been run in *The Norton Telegram*. The first, she said, was about a Rural Housing Loan Grant Program. The program has two sets of criteria. Depending on which set a person meets, she said, they can either apply for the loan or grant.

- The other ad was for the Housing Preservation Grant, in which the county would get the money and then determine who received it from there. The county hasn't applied for that grant yet and won't until it's decided where the grant might be used if the county is able to get it.

- Told the board she has started working on a business survey to help determine what challenges businesses in the county face and what they need to improve. The surveys have been split between the businesses in Norton, Alma and Lenora. The Clayton and Edmond city offices will also have a copy, in case anyone there wants one.

- Said she is still talking to the farm/home company, which requested 3 1/2 acres of land to be considered as a location for a store. She said she has spoken to several landowners along the highway. Six are willing to either sell or donate land. A representative of the company will be looking at possible sites in March. She asked if they would come in January and they said they would try. Once they have looked at the sites, she said, she will talk more with the landowners.

- Told the board she went to an Alma City Council meeting.

The city wants to apply for a grant to set up a revolving loan fund. The first project would be to help save The Alma Market, which is for sale. Ms. Henderson said a couple of people are interested in buying the grocery, but would need help to do so. She said she will be helping to fill out the paperwork.

- Said she had agreed to talk about applications for the Warm Home Project, which is directed by the county clerk.

She said the project helps low income and elderly people stay warm in by handing out kits that include plastic to cover windows and other heat conserving tips and methods. Each county is given several packets.

- Said she talked with Andbe Home Director Coni Park about getting money to build eight new apartments. The apartments they have now are full and they have a waiting list with around 60 people.

- Went into a 10-minute closed session with the board to discuss non-elected personnel.

## Feeding the multitudes



Lois Wentz frosted a cinnamon roll as other volunteers serve guests at Saturday night's soup supper to benefit Norcatur's preschool program.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

## Telegram picks its top carriers for 2005

By VERONICA MONIER

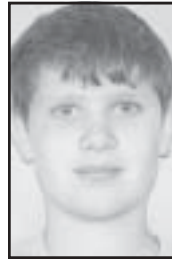
Aaron Pulec, Tory Rhodes and Brett Pulec were chosen as The Norton Telegram's Outstanding Carriers of the Year for 2005.

To help choose which three carriers would win the honor, subscribers had the opportunity to vote for their favorites. Subscribers were encouraged to add comments telling us why they thought their carrier should win.

Overall conduct and reliability was also considered.

Aaron Pulec, the son of Kathy Rynnion and Chuck Gleason, took first and won \$30. He delivers the 200 blocks of W. Warsaw, W. Wilberforce, W. Woodfield 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. Woodfield; and 300-800 N. Grant.

Aaron has been a paper carrier



Aaron Pulec



Tory Rhodes



Brett Pulec

since November of 2004.

His customers said he is friendly, polite and a good carrier; they appreciate him using plastic bags so their papers didn't get wet; he always puts the paper where it needs to be, he's the best carrier they've had in a while and his service is consistently good.

In second place is Tory Rhodes, the son of Ciri MacWilliams. He received \$20.

He delivers 100-500 blocks of E. Wilton and E. Woodfield; 400-500 blocks of E. Wilberforce; 500-600 blocks of N. Norton, N. Wa-

bash, N. Archer and Home; and the 600-900 blocks of Sun.

He has been a carrier since August of 2004.

Tory's customers said he is dependable and always puts

the paper where it needs to be.

Brett Pulec is also the son of Kathy Rynnion and Chuck Gleason and was awarded third place and \$10.

He 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. He also 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 has been a carrier since September of 2004.

Brett's customers said he is a nice boy, friendly and helpful. He is dependable; and they appreciate how he puts the papers in bags when it is raining or snowing.

All three carriers are dependable, always on time and rarely receive complaints. The paper is happy to have them and the other nine carriers and hopes that all continue to remain carriers.

While Aaron, Tory and Brett each received cash, the remaining nine carriers — Josiah Laughlin, David Somers, Steven Somers, Travis Kerns, Caryl Cullen, Heaven Peters, Michael Zink, Maxine Counter and Laura Somers — each received a free movie rental.

The carriers and The Telegram thank subscribers for their votes and comments.

## Storms keep road crew working on drifts, ice

By CYNTHIA HAYNES

Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom Brannan told the Norton County commissioners that his crews continued to work on ice and snow last week.

There were a few roads that drifted shut again and had to be reopened, he said, and one place on E9 near Alma that had serious ice.

"It was three tracks of vicious ice," Mr. Brannan said. "I'm sure it's still a sheet of ice underneath it but we did what we could with that anyway."

He said the road crew found a clean place and tried to rip the ice out from there.

It wasn't all gone but it was leveled out and then sanded.

Commissioner Dean Kruse agreed the spot was treacherous. "If you met someone, you took the ditch," Dean Krus said.

Commissioner John Miller suggested that the crew might need to remove some of the old plum thickets, which were causing serious drifting on the roads.

He said some of the bushes had bag worms so bad in the last few years that they are dead anyway.

Mr. Brannan said his crew is already planning to remove the ones that have caused the most problems.

Mr. Miller said he didn't want to get them all removed because it gives pheasant and wildlife habitat but the drifting problem has been bad and old bushes need to go.

Mr. Brannan said that wouldn't be a problem as there are lots of plum thickets around the county.

He told the commissioners the left seal went out of the D6 dozer. The same thing happened four years ago, he said, and now both sides are getting new seals but the repair won't be under warranty.

He said the crew has also had to replace two wheels on graders and had a gas tank split.

This week the road crews will burn tree and brush piles, he said. There's not as many as in the past, but while it's cold and snowy, it's

a good time to burn.

"We'll get some of the piles burned off while we can," he said.

The guard rail has been removed from OS158, the bridge 1/2 mile south of Edmond, in preparation for fixing it.

There is about 250 feet of guard rail, he said, and it will be used on several other bridges next year.

The commissioners wanted to know why the road and bridge spent more than was budgeted and Mr. Brannan told them that the cost of steel, which is used to build bridges, was 34 percent more than anticipated.

"The steel costs ate our lunch, plain and simple last year," Mr. Brannan said. "We raised the budget up in 2006 to reflect those steel costs."

The county gets reimbursed by the state for the bridges, he said, so it will not actually be out the extra cost for steel.

Commissioner Miller asked if the county would be asking for more from the state for reimbursement on bridge rebuilding.

Mr. Brannan said they were billing the state for the maximum allowed.

Mr. Brannan said the other item that has hurt his budget is fuel costs.

The vehicles are using blended fuel, he said.

He added that he has been somewhat worried about freezing up but so far hasn't had any problems.

The straight fuel is more expensive but it might be necessary later in the year if it gets colder, he said.

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# Sample will work at dump

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He said that the company is sending material safety data sheets, which are required by both the federal and state governments for any chemical.

Mr. Kruse said Mr. Archibald could take a sample and have it analyzed by a chemical engineer to see what is in it and if the county could just make its own.

It has to have something like Elmer's Glue to make it sticky, Mr. Archibald said.

When it arrives in sacks it's dry, he said. Then water is added and when it comes out of the hose of the spreader, it's sticky.

Right now the trash is being covered with six inches of dirt each day, Mr. Archibald said.

When the switch to the paper product is made, that will be sprayed over the trash daily for three weeks, then a layer of dirt must be put on top.

"The only time we couldn't use this product is in rain" Mr. Archibald said.

"When its raining and muddy you're going to dump in the building anyway," Mr. Miller noted. "That's one of the advantages we have over other landfills, we have a building."

In other business, the commissioners:

- Were asked to sign off on a \$3,671 charge for cleanup but asked if that was for the joint county/city cleanup in the spring or the city-only cleanup in the fall.

- Heard that the machine needed to spread the paper product over the trash is being manufactured and should be delivered shortly.

- Agreed to accept a bid from GeoCore of Salina to sample the wells at the landfill. GeoCore bid \$5,279.50 while Milco of McCook bid \$5,279.

However, Mr. Archibald said that he has worked with GeoCore in the past and feels they do a good job.

"I don't have any complaints with GeoCore's service," he said. "But we have never used the place in McCook."

- Learned that the new track loader used to compact trash at the landfill has had no problems getting started during the recent cold weather.