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Vol. 99, No. 92
75 cents

THE NORTON TELEGRAM

Sports:

Read about what's been going on in junior high basketball.

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Friday

November 24, 2006

Norton, Kansas
Home of Greg Overlease

Briefly

'T', 'V', 'W' tags up for renewal

Thursday, Nov. 30 is the last day for renewing vehicle tags for those whose last name or business name begins with "T", "V" and "W".

You must bring in or include proof of insurance for each vehicle, including the vehicle identification number, policy number and expiration date.

Norton County treasurer office hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

The treasurer's office is a limited service driver's license station for renewals on regular licenses. Hours for license renewals are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Commercial licenses must be renewed at a full service office, such as those in Phillipsburg, Colby or Hays.

If you have questions, call 877-5795.

Property taxes can be paid online

Norton County now offers citizens the option of paying property taxes via the Internet, said Cynthia J. Linner, county treasurer.

The new online service, she said, is now available through partnership with Norton County, the Kansas County Treasurers Association and Kansas.gov, the state's official website.

Any property owner in the county has the option of submitting property taxes online at www.kansas.gov/propertytax. This gives taxpayers the ability to pay their taxes from the convenience of their home, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, the treasurer said.

Norton County taxpayers have the ability to use a regular checking account to pay their taxes online, or a credit card. Last year more than 4,000 payments were processed through the online tax portal, totaling more than \$4.6 million in Kansas.

The system is maintained on a secure server and uses the latest encryption technology to ensure privacy, security and data integrity, according to Mrs. Linner.

Anyone needing additional information may call her office at 877-5795.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Partly cloudy with lows in the upper 20s. **Saturday** — Partly cloudy with highs in the mid 50s. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph. **Saturday Night** — Partly cloudy with lows in the mid 30s.

Kingham report:

Tuesday Low 33, High 67
Wednesday Low 35, High 71
Thursday Low 30, High 67
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Lord, help us to welcome those who are not wanted, those who are displaced, those who don't quite fit in. May we reach out to offer friendship and spiritual nourishment and draw people into your house. **Amen**

A 'shoe' in



Horses a big part of Norton man's life

By CAROLYN PLOTTS

Terry Laughlin started working for Dr. Roy Hartley when he was 15 years old.

At first, it was cleaning stalls at Dr. Hartley's stable. After he graduated from Norton Community High School in 1977, with the doctor's encouragement, he went to Oklahoma Farrier's College in Sperry, Okla.

He graduated from farrier's training in November, 1977 after learning all the tricks of the trade. He even made most of the horse shoes himself from bar stock. He had learned to use a coal forge and turned the iron horseshoe on the anvil, by hand, just like the old timers did it.

He spent about 14 years of his life as a farrier. When working at his career full-time, he would travel as much as 1,000 miles a week, shoeing horses in Kansas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Colorado, Missouri and Iowa. Every week he shod horses that earned top awards in national competitions. He specialized in Arabians and worked with some of the most popular and expensive blood lines in the country. Once he shod a horse named, "Ptersk" a Russian horse insured for 1.5 million dollars. Another horse he shod was "Morning Dance" that sold for \$750,000. But, his favorite horse to shoe was Catalyst, a half Arabian/half Saddle Bred gelding that was the U.S. and Canadian National Champion Park Horse.

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Master farrier Terry Laughlin trimmed the hooves of a mare owned by Dr. Roy Hartley. Derek Laughlin held the horse while his father worked.

— Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Negotiations continue for property

By VERONICA MONIER

The city and a Norton couple are still negotiating about the fire damaged property in downtown Norton.

City Administrator Rob Lawson said an architect came and looked at the property to determine if demolition and clean-up of the damaged property would hurt the wall at Pure Prairie, which is next to it. "The building is sound," he said.

The architect said clean-up could proceed and made several recommendations about the precautions that should be taken, he said.

Mr. Lawson said he met with Lee and Sioban Hanes, the owners of the fire damaged property, and plans on meeting with the city attorney to go over the contract, which would allow the city to take over the property if it cleans it up.

The Hanes, he said, have a couple of changes they would like to see in the contract.

Also, Mr. Lawson said, he spoke with Roger Moffet, who owns the shop and garage south of the damaged property. Mr. Moffet, he said, is willing to allow the city to tear down and clean up the property, but would like to retain ownership of it.

Councilman Ron Briery said he wasn't in favor of doing that as the city would have to pay the landfill fees for the debris.

Mr. Lawson said the problem is other people have paid to have their property cleaned up.

"If we do this, we're opening up a can of worms," said Mr. Briery. "I think we should keep it the same as everybody else."

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County committee ballots due Dec. 4

The Norton County Farm Service Agency Office has issued the following information regarding County Committee elections:

"The County Committee (COC) elections will be held by mail ballot for

Local Administrative Area (LAA) 3. Only producers who live in or own land in LAA 3 will be voting. The ballots are due in the Norton County Farm Service Agency Office or must be postmarked by Dec. 4, 2006. The position to be filled is

currently held by Marion Otter. Mr. Otter is not eligible for re-election. The term will begin Jan. 1, 2007 and will be for a three year period.

"Candidates for the election are Den-

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Santa's comin' to town

Santa is coming to town a bit early this year. In fact, he'll be here Friday (tonight) from 6 to 7:30 p.m. on the east lawn of the Norton County Courthouse.

Children can come see Santa in his Gingerbread House and tell him what they want for Christmas. The good little boys and girls of Norton can warm up on hot chocolate and cookies while they wait to see the "big guy". After they meet with Santa, they can take a sleigh ride around the block.

If they miss him Friday, they can catch him again in the same spot every Thursday until Christmas. He'll be here Nov. 30 and Dec. 7, 14, and 21.

Jarrett Wenthe did his part in helping put up Santa's gingerbread house Wednesday afternoon in preparation for Santa's first visit to Norton this Friday.

— Telegram photo by Veronica Monier