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75 cents

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



Friday

February 2, 2007

Norton, Kansas
Home of Jeff Nielsen

Briefly

Blue and gold is right of passage

The annual Boy Scout Blue and Gold Banquet will be held at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 11 at the First United Methodist Church, Norton. This event marks the completion of a scout's Webelo requirements and his passage into being a Boy Scout.

Scoutmaster Pat Douglas will conduct the ceremony to accept the new scouts.

The ceremony will include the presentation of the flag, presenting awards and the boys crossing over the bridge into Boy Scouts.

A potluck banquet will follow the ceremony.

Director shares vision of county

Wade Carter, director of Norton County Economic Development, will be the guest speaker for the United Resources breakfast scheduled for 7 a.m. Tuesday at the Town and Country Kitchen.

Mr. Carter will be sharing his vision for Norton County and talking about ethanol. There will be a round-table discussion and a question and answer period.

Everyone is invited to attend.

Daffodils help defeat cancer

Think Spring! And, spring makes you think of daffodils. The American Cancer Society's Daffodil Days are underway. Volunteers are canvassing Norton taking orders until Feb. 23 for daffodils that will be delivered March 7.

A bouquet of 10 daffodils sells for \$10; 10 daffodils in a special glass vase for \$15; and a Boyd's Bear with 10 daffodils for \$25.

For more information call Ramona Pabian at 877-5352 or Charlotte Kindall at 877-5309.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Partly cloudy with lows around 4 below. Northwest winds 10 to 15 mph. Wind chill readings 15 below to 20 below zero. **Saturday** — Partly cloudy with isolated flurries in the afternoon. Highs around 18. West winds 10 to 15 mph. Lowest wind chill readings 10 below to 15 below zero in the morning. **Saturday Night** — Partly cloudy with lows around 1. Light winds.

Kingham report:

Tuesday Low 0, High 18
Wednesday Low 13, High 24
Thursday Low 1, High 25
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

God of compassion, grant peace and comfort to those who suffer the loss of a loved one. Surround them with your loving presence. **Amen**

Out of the rubble



County and city crews began cleaning up the debris left from last fall's downtown fire Wednesday. By Thursday, almost all of the rubble was gone, leaving the hole ready to be filled with sand and dirt. — Telegram photo by Veronica Monier

Fire debris clean-up project well on its way

By VERONICA MONIER

Now that it's been started, the clean-up project for the fire damaged property in downtown Norton is moving right along.

The fire, which completely destroyed two buildings downtown, happened last fall. Since then, the property owners, Lee and Siobhan Hanes, made a deal with the city, that the city could have the property if they cleaned it up. Last month, the city received the title and could get the ball rolling on clean-up.

City and county crews started hauling debris from the site Wednesday, said Norton City Administrator Rob Lawson. By Thursday night, the hole was pretty much empty and ready to be filled in.

Mr. Lawson said city and county crews will be hauling sand and dirt into town to fill the hole and that he expects it will probably be done before the end of next week.

While crews dug out the debris, the city closed one block of Washington in front

of the site and the alley just south of it. He said they didn't want people to drive over nails and any other harmful debris while the project was in progress. The street and alley were open Thursday night after crews finished and cleaned up the area, but people can expect them to be blocked off again while dirt and sand are being hauled in.

Mr. Lawson said the county has been a huge help in this clean-up project. They've brought in an excavator and a

loader and are giving the city a 50 percent break on the cost to dump the rubble at the landfill, he said.

"We really appreciate their help," he said. "We wouldn't be getting it done without the county."

As for clean-up itself, Mr. Lawson said they weren't allowing anyone to take anything from the site. It's too much of a liability issue, he said.

"We're not separating anything out," he said.

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Register of Deeds office gets a thanks

By VERONICA MONIER

Not just Norton County people think the Register of Deeds does a good job.

Commissioner John Miller said at Monday's commission meeting that they received a letter from John Mapes of Mapes and Miller Accounting about the Register of Deeds.

In the letter, Mr. Mapes said one of their clients who has lived in Arizona, Ohio and Canada had called the Register of Deeds office and requested that deeds be faxed to him. Mr. Mapes said he had them in his hands by the end of the same day.

Mr. Mapes said his comment was, "It is so refreshing to talk to people in government that do not have attitudes. The

personnel bent over backwards to find the information and to get it to me quickly."

In his letter, Mr. Mapes continued, saying, "so often we hear only the negative side of our governmental employees and it seemed only appropriate that a compliment regarding them be forwarded to you (the commission)."

The commission thanked Register of Deeds Wanda Vincent and her staff for the excellent job that they do.

In other business, the commission: • Received the 2006 annual report from Register of Deeds Wanda Vincent. For the year ending, the Register of Deeds was able to deposit \$40,052.65 into the county's general fund. Mrs. Vincent said

they still have \$14,732 left in the Register's tech fund.

• Approved a motion that the county proceed with construction of the cell revisions to be completed when proper documentation is received from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

• Adopted Resolution 2007-03, urging the federal and state governments to retain drivers' license renewals at the local level. • Learned from County Treasurer Cindy Linner that, in January, the county received \$24,243.76 in sales taxes, making the year-to-date total \$103,596.48.

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Edmond asks for help on city street

By VERONICA MONIER

The City of Edmond needs some help with one of its streets.

Edmond Mayor Howard Richard asked the Norton County Commission Monday if the city could have the county's help with re-establishing a street south of the town's church.

Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom Brannan said he didn't have any problem with his crew helping out, but from what he understood, they weren't allowed to go into a city and work if it's incorporated. If it was the spot he was thinking, he said it wouldn't take more than half a day.

Council Counselor Doug Sebelius said the road department wouldn't get in trouble for helping them as long as they had the city's permission. Basically, he said, county crews can't just go into a city and start working without their permission.

Mr. Richard said they needed the help because Edmond doesn't have a public works department. He said the street is being surveyed so the site can be determined.

Commissioner John Miller said they needed more information before making a decision. He said Mr. Richard should

come back and talk to them after the survey is done as there was time to make an informed decision since the project wouldn't be started until spring.

Commissioner Leroy Lang said the county usually doesn't do this sort of work in the cities because they didn't want to compete with private contractors. "That's their livelihood," he said before giving Mr. Richard the names of a couple of local contractors.

Mr. Miller said they weren't saying yes or no, but that Mr. Richard should get the preliminary information and then come (Continued on Page 5)

County health holding blood draw on Feb. 13

By VERONICA MONIER

Want to get a blood test before you go see your doctor or between visits? Now is the time.

The Norton County Health Department and the Norton County Hospital will be holding a blood draw from 7 a.m. to noon on Tuesday, Feb. 13 at the health department. No appointment is necessary. Payment will need to be by cash or check, as insurance billing is not available.

Three different profiles will be offered, all of which require fasting after midnight the night before.

Profile No. 1 is a health profile and a CBC for \$40. It will check:

• Electrolytes — (Sodium, potassium, chloride and total carbon dioxide). These are major indicators of kidney and hormonal functions. Electrolytes are essential for the body's acid-base balance and the operation of nerves and muscles, especially the heart.

• Kidney Functions — (BUN, creatinine). These indicators are used to monitor kidney function.

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