

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



Church:

Take advantage of the church listings to find out when and where to go.

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Friday

January 4, 2008

Norton, Kansas
Home of Anise Gill

Briefly

Surplus food to be distributed

The Norton County Senior Citizens, Inc. will distribute government surplus food next week. Food on the distribution list includes: corn flakes, beef stew, peanut butter, macaroni and dry milk.

Distribution in Lenora will be from 2 to 2:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 9; in Norton and Alma, both from 2 to 4 p.m., Friday, Jan. 11 at the senior centers; and in Clayton from 2 to 3:30 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 12 at the Library.

Soup benefit planned tonight

A soup supper benefit for the Nick Nichols family will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. tonight at The Rock Christian Youth Center in downtown Norton. The Nichols family recently experienced a house fire and their friends in the community and at Valley Hope want to offer them some help. If you would like to bring food or volunteer in any way call Laurie Cliff at 877-2453. Monetary donations may be made to the family at United Northwest Federal Credit Union.

Quilters to meet Monday

Members of the Heritage Quilt club will meet at 6:30 p.m., Monday, Jan. 7 at the Prairie Land Electric Meeting Room. The program on "Borders" will be presented by Cheryl Roberts, Jackie Rutherford and Beverly Kindler.

Hostesses will be Lois Myers, Pam Cuthbertson, Jerris McMullen and Judi Carlyle.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight — Partly cloudy with a low around 23. **Saturday** — Mostly sunny with a high near 51. **Saturday Night** — Partly cloudy with a low around 24. **Sunday** — Mostly cloudy with a high near 49. North wind around 10 mph. **Sunday Night** — Mostly cloudy with a low around 26. **Monday** — A 20 percent chance of showers in the afternoon.

Kingham report:

Dec. 21	.....	Low 24, High 37
Dec. 22	.....	Low 13, High 24
Dec. 23	.....	Low 12, High 37
Dec. 24	.....	Low 18, High 44
Dec. 25	.....	Low 19, High 38
Dec. 26	.....	Low 13, High 30, 2 in. snow
Dec. 27	.....	Low 7, High 25
Dec. 28	.....	Low 12, High 27, 2" Snow
Dec. 29	.....	Low 4, High 27
Dec. 30	.....	Low 12, High 38
Dec. 31	.....	Low 16, High 36
Jan. 1	.....	Low 7, High 27
Jan. 2	.....	Low 2, High 26
Jan. 3	.....	Low 14, High 40

(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Gracious God, remind us that we are created to love, praise, and serve you by loving and serving those around us. **Amen**



Crystal and Tim Hayes, along with their three-year-old daughter Avery, were happy to welcome the newest addition to their family, Myleigh Nevaeh, who was born just one day into 2008 and making her family the winners of the First Baby of the Year Contest. — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

First baby arrives one day into new year

CAROLYN PLOTTS
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Only one day into 2008, the first baby of the year was born at Norton County Hospital.

Little Myleigh Nevaeh (heaven spelled backward) Hayes, was born at 9:03 a.m., Wednesday, Jan. 2.

Her parents are Tim and Crystal Hayes, Oberlin. Mr. and Mrs. Hayes have an-

other daughter, Avery Monique, 3.

Mrs. Hayes said they knew they were having another girl. She said the cesarean section delivery was planned with their doctor Jeff McKinley, MD. She said everything went as planned except they couldn't go into surgery until a leak was cleaned up in the operating room.

Mrs. Hayes' mother, Patty Chambers, was waiting outside the operating room

with the Hayes' daughter, Avery. Mrs. Chambers said, "When Avery heard her baby sister cry for the first time, she had a great big smile."

Very protective of her baby sister, Avery said, "You have to be careful. Her head is soft."

Mr. Hayes works in construction and is a welder. Mrs. Hayes works at the Good Samaritan Home in Oberlin and plans to

return to work in about eight weeks. Jennifer Schissler is her day care provider.

Grandparents of the new baby are Dave and Patty Chambers, Culbertson, Neb.; Tracy and Monica Lincoln, Oberlin and Mark Kircher, McCook.

Great-grandparents are Eugene and Beverly Witt, Danbury, Neb.; Charles and Donna Lincoln, Oberlin; and Don and (Continued on Page 5)

Hospital focuses on lower level

By VERONICA MONIER
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The Norton County Hospital will be focusing on renovating its lower level for now.

At its last meeting, the Norton County Hospital Board discussed what options were available in regards to renovating the surgery and Colby Community College areas.

Hospital Administrator Rich Miller said option one was estimated to cost \$2.861 million for renovating the existing areas.

The second option, he said, would be to build a new surgery area above the out-patient clinic, where the lab and X-ray are, and was estimated to cost \$3.2 million.

Murray Company, he said, told them that if they do the surgery/college area

renovation project with the lower level project, or if they do the projects consecutively, the hospital could save 6.3 percent or about \$242,000.

The board has already approved the renovation of the lower level and decided that was what it would concentrate on for the moment.

In other business, the board:

- Heard in November, there were 310 patient days; 64 admissions; 4 births; 26 surgeries; 3,697 out-patient procedures; 1,205 Doctor's Clinic visits; and 761 in-patient procedures; making the year to date totals 1,827 patient days; 328 admissions; 18 births; 109 surgeries; 18,745 out-patient procedures; 5,988 Doctor's Clinic visits; and 3,297 in-patient procedures.
- Discussed changing the guidelines for charity care so that more people will

qualify. A proposal will be brought back to the board at a later date.

- Approved the purchase of a computed radiology and picture archiving and communication system for a cost of \$68,100, which is covered by a grant from Hays Medical Center. They also approved the purchase of an additional \$30,000 in equipment for the radiology department from the Robb account with a 3-year payback.
- Bought a patient telemetry monitoring system for the cardiac rehabilitation department at a cost of \$32,624.25, which will be paid for using money in the Robb account.
- Is waiting on a third proposal for workmen's compensation insurance. Quotes are also being gathered on traditional and self-funded insurance plans.

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Development supports Sunflower Electric

By VERONICA MONIER
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The Norton County Economic Development Board is supporting Sunflower Electric in its appeal to install two new power plants.

Barry Madden from Prairie Land Electric was at the board's last meeting to talk about the denial of the permit for two new plants at the Holcomb site for Sunflower Electric. The secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment denied the air permit because of the emission of carbon dioxide.

Mr. Madden said that the two new plants met or exceeded all of the Kansas Health and Environment department's

guidelines, which are established to protect public safety and the environment. Currently, there are no federal regulations on carbon dioxide emission.

He said Sunflower Electric has appealed the decision and may have their appeal heard by March.

With the new plants, there would be 161 new jobs created.

The board approved signing a resolution to support Sunflower Electric in their work to get the two new plants permitted in the state.

• Received the 2008 strategic plan from Director Diane Becker. The plan lists the three goals of economic development, which are job creation, downtown

development and housing. The board was asked to study the plans for a month and bring back suggestions at the Jan. 8 meeting.

- Approved Hannah Mazour as an intern for the spring semester. She is a student at Fort Hays State University and will work on a website for economic development, focusing on business assistance and including available incentives, educational seminars and courses, business start up help, and existing business consulting programs. She will also serve as the liaison between Norton County and the newly proposed Fort Hays Entrepreneurship Educational Program. The

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School district looking at four-day week

By TOM DREILING
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Will the Northern Valley School District students go to a four-day week in the 2008-09 term? That was one of the proposals presented at the three-hour, thirty-five minute December board meeting at the Alma school. Much of the meeting was spent in executive session.

Superintendent George Griffith presented a proposed calendar for a four-day school week, which would add 45 minutes to the end of the school day.

Mr. Griffith will survey the community for input and it was suggested he also have a superintendent from a school using the four-day week discuss the pros and cons with the board.

The board held three executive sessions with no action resulting from two of them. When the board returned to open meeting following the third session, they approved motions to accept Kevin Largent's resignation as Long Island custodian; transfer Brad Scott to the Long Island custodial position for a 90-day trial period (with performance evaluation after that period); and hire Cynthia Schemper as Alma Elementary custodian at \$9.50 per hour.

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