



THE NORTON TELEGRAM



Tuesday January 8, 2008

Norton, Kansas
Home of Jim Underwood

Briefly

Church concert will be Jan. 13

The Norton Church of God Choir, under the direction of Mary Luehrs, will be performing the Christmas musical "Let There Be Light" at 10:45 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 13, at the Church of God. The musical had been postponed because of the weather. Soloists are: Wanda Vincent, Tabitha Vincent, Beverly Burns, Dwight Williams, Terry Hillman, Scott Kentfield, Jennifer Boutwell and Donna Severns. The public is invited to attend.

Representative to help veterans

A Veterans Service Representative for the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs will be at the Norton City Office from 1 to 2:30 p.m., Monday, Jan. 14 to assist veterans and their families with veteran's benefits. Veterans or family members who desire assistance completing the VA annual Eligibility Verification Report should call 785-625-8532 for an appointment. Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are accepted.

Benefit to help with expenses

On Nov. 24, Norcat farmer, Ron Montgomery, lost his right hand in a power take-off accident. Mr. Montgomery is recuperating at home. Friends from the Norcat community are hosting a benefit hog roast for Ron. It will be held from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 12 at the Norcat City Building. All proceeds will go to help him and his family with medical expenses. For more information, call Chris Dempewolf at 785-693-4315.

Weather

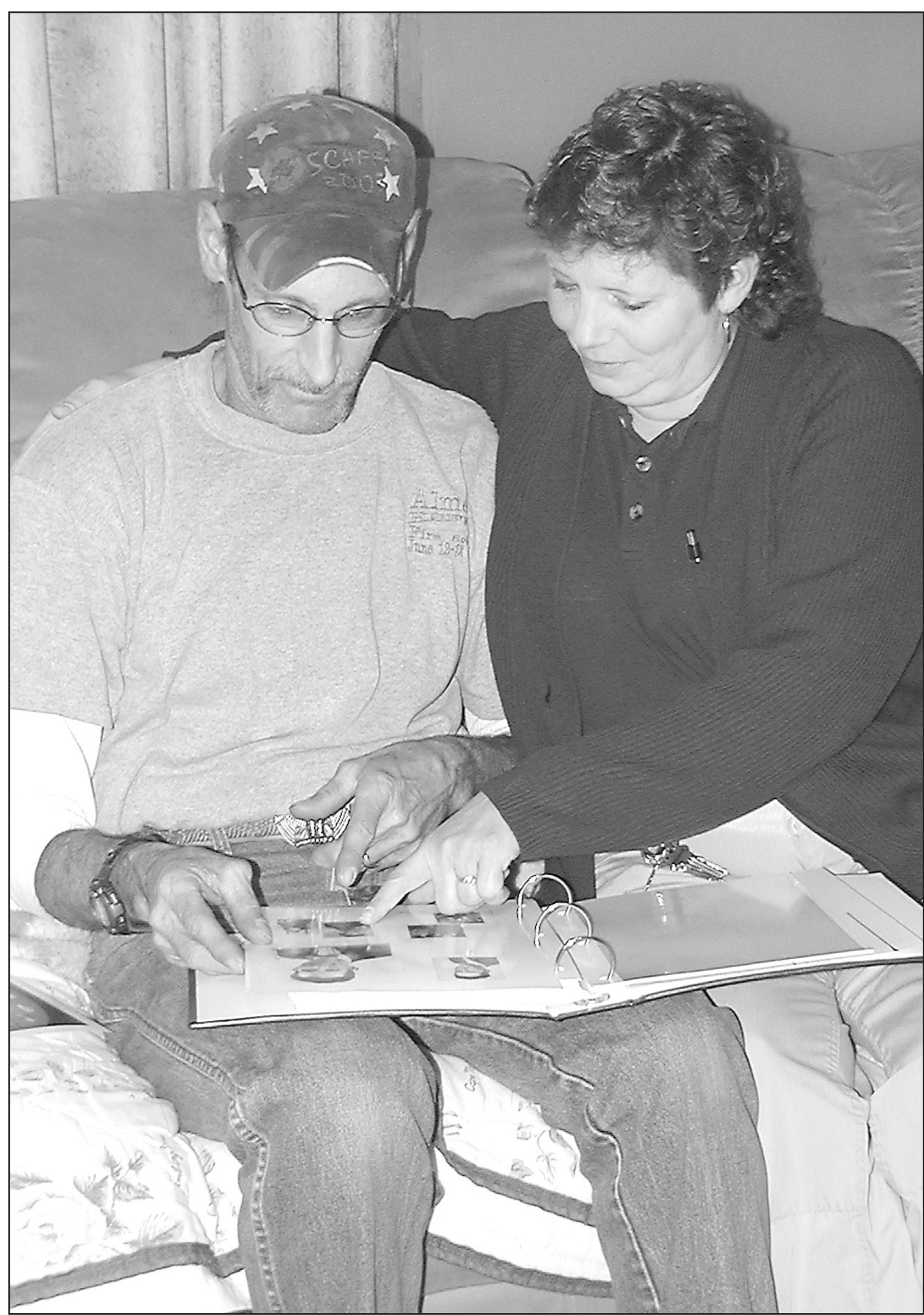
FORECAST . . .
Tonight—Partly cloudy with a low around 22. South wind between 5 and 10 mph. **Wednesday**—Partly sunny with a high near 46. **Wednesday Night**—Scattered flurries. Mostly cloudy with a low around 24. **Thursday**—Partly sunny with a high near 40. Breezy with a northwest wind between 15 and 25 mph. **Thursday Night**—Partly cloudy with a low around 20. **Thursday Night**—Partly cloudy with a low around 20.

Kingham report:

Friday Low 14, High 46
Saturday Low 31, High 50
Sunday Low 30, High 47
Monday Low 23, High 41
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Lord, even before we pray you know all our needs. Thank you for your wonderful grace and for providing today what we need to sustain life. **Amen**



Mike and Tina Barrett were shocked when they learned that Mike, who was adopted when he was six months old, had 13 brothers and sisters. Here, they're shown looking at pictures of Mike's birth father. Mike said seeing those pictures make it real. — Telegram photo by Veronica Monier

Almena man gets New Year surprise

By VERONICA MONIER
vmonier@nwkansas.com

For most people, the new year brings life-improving resolutions that usually aren't followed up on. But for one Almena man, the new year brought joy and surprise when he found out he had an unknown family ready and willing to welcome him with open arms.

Mike Barrett was adopted when he was six-months old from an orphanage in Edmonton, the capital city of Alberta, Canada. His adopted parents, Harold and Dolores Barrett, who also adopted a daughter, Suzie, from the same orphanage about five years later, raised him and his sister in Littleton, Colo., and didn't tell Mike he was adopted until he was around 13 or 14 years old.

"It was always sort of hush hush," he said. "We didn't really talk about it much. The only thing they told me was that I was adopted in Canada and that's where my birth parents lived."

After Mike and his wife, Tina, were married 16 years ago, they looked on the Internet to see if they could find anything about Mike's birth family. It turned out to be a fruitless search, but one Tina felt was important.

"Finding out about his birth family was something that I thought would complete him," Tina said. "It was important. But we never could find anything about a Michael R. Barrett."

The reason for that was because Mike was not born Michael, but was born John Tuck. His adoptive parents had his name changed on his birth certificate. The Barretts didn't find this crucial information out until New Year's Day, when they

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Soccer will soon be in full swing

The Norton American Youth Soccer Organization is once again accepting children to play soccer.

Early registration is scheduled to be from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday Jan. 11 and 2 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 12 in the Prairie Land Electric basement.

The cost for early registration is \$30 per child.

A final registration will be held from 2 to 6 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 26, also in Prairie Land Electric's basement. Registration will cost \$35 per child on this day.

Registrations received after Jan. 26 will be put on a waiting list.

The first game of the 2008 soccer season will be March 29.

Volunteers are needed to fill several board positions.

Coaches and referees are also needed.

For more information, contact, Toby Kuhn, regional commissioner, (785) 877-2275; Julie Baughman, registrar, (785) 877-2678; or Deena Wentz, secretary, (785) 877-5235.

'Safe ride' program goes well

By VERONICA MONIER
vmonier@nwkansas.com

The Norton City Council's version of "Safe Ride" on New Year's Eve went over well.

At last week's council meeting, City Administrator Rob Lawson said the local taxi company submitted a bill for \$235. The taxi service charges \$5 a ride per person.

Assistant Police Chief Jeremy Hartwell said about 50 people used the taxi service. Some of them took the taxi when they went out as well as home, so that they didn't have to leave their cars anywhere overnight.

City Attorney Karen Griffiths said she had called all of the establishments in town to let them know about the city paying for taxi rides on that night. They all thought it was a great idea, she said, and told her they would promote it, so that people got home safely.

Councilman Jerry Jones said he thought it was an excellent idea and that they will have to look at other times to do it.

Officer Hartwell said he had a lot of positive comments on it.

Mr. Lawson asked if there were any DUI (driving under the influence) arrests that night.

Officer Hartwell said they only had one, and he didn't live in the county.

In other business, the council:

- Discussed the new seat belt law. Officer Hartwell said before the change in January, the police could pull people over if they saw that a child under 14 wasn't buckled in. They couldn't and still can't pull an adult over for not wearing a seat belt, but can ticket them if they are pulled over for another reason and aren't wearing a seat belt. With the new law, the age has been changed to 17 and under. If kids 17 and under are driving without seat belts, the police can pull them over and

ticket them.

- Heard that in November, sales tax receipts collected for the city were \$20,136.56 and for the county were \$15,480.28 for a total of \$35,616.84, making the year-to-date total \$425,301.45, compared to the previous year's total at that time of \$396,926.95.

- Learned from Mr. Lawson that the new rescue unit for the fire department had arrived and that it was very nice. He said Hays Fire Equipment is interesting in buying the old unit, but the city plans to ask the county first to see if it wants it for the ambulance department. He said the new bucket truck had also arrived and that it, too, was very nice.

- Were presented with two change orders for the water plant. The first was to replace doors at a cost of \$4,419 and the second was for sandblasting and painting the filter beds at a cost of \$43,429, plus a

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Community reaches out to fire victims

By CAROLYN PLOTTS
cplots@nwkansas.com

The Norton community extended a helping hand to the Nick and Jolene Nichols family who lost their home in Atchison on Dec. 13.

Mrs. Nichols, her children and family pets had moved to Norton in July when she transferred employment to the Norton Valley Hope facility. Mr. Nichols

had remained with his job at Lansing Correctional Facility until he could find work in Norton.

Friday night friends and co-workers at Valley Hope sponsored a soup supper benefit at The Rock to help the new Norton residents. Organizer, Laurie Cliff, said she was very pleased with the response from the community. Mrs. Cliff said, "I am so thankful for all the help we

had from the community."

She said if anyone wants to add to the fund they can make a donation to "The Nichols Family Benefit Fund" at the United Northwest Federal Credit Union, 912 N. Archer, Norton, Kan. 67654.

Food or other supplies may be donated by contacting Mrs. Cliff at 785-877-2453.