

# Around town...



Barbara Brooks, the Accounts Payable Administrator at Valley Hope, held the dungeon door closed while Tom Baumann, Chief Financial Officer at Valley Hope, attached the lock. The dungeon is just one of the eight "scare stations" in the Valley Hope Haunted House, being held at the armory Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights.

— Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux



Chris Frack, Assistant Supervisor at the Norton Water Treatment Plant, gave his father, Jim Frack, a tour Friday afternoon during the open house.

— Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux

# Flu shot clinic/drill successful

Gina Frack, Norton County Health Department Administrator, said 155 people attended the flu shot clinic/drill at the Norton Junior High School, and the longest anyone had to wait from when they entered the building to the time they left was 16 minutes.

State evaluators from the Center for Public Health Preparedness were at the clinic/drill to make recommendations on ways for the clinic to improve the process.

"They recommended reserving more parking spots for handicapped individuals and requiring that each person and/or family

take the vaccine information sheet with them," said Mrs. Frack.

"The biggest positives the evaluators commented on were how well the junior high building worked for the clinic/drill, enabling a great flow for people to easily move about and through the process, and how we were blessed with the large, well-trained volunteer pool that did a great job at each of their positions," she said.

Security was provided by officers volunteering from the Norton Police Department and the Norton County Sheriff's Office. They made sure everyone moved

in the correct direction and that no one caused a "scene."

"I want to give a huge thanks to everyone who volunteered their time once again to run this drill/clinic. Huge thanks also to those people who came to get their flu shot at this event. We already know of things we can do to make it better the 'next time' and yes, there will be a next time — next year, in fact," said Mrs. Frack.

Anyone interested in learning more about this specific duty/responsibility of the local health department, or if you want to become a volunteer, please either stop by their office at 801 N. Norton or call 877-5745.

# Extension council holds elections

*Special to The Telegram*

The Executive Board of the Norton County Extension Council, Dave Donovan, chairman, said the annual Extension Council Elections will be held the week of Nov. 3-7 at the Norton County Extension Office from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, and 1-5 p.m. The Extension Office is located on the ground floor of the courthouse.

Elections will also be available the evening of Nov. 2 during the 4-H Achievement Night at the Norton County 4-H Building, 5-7 p.m.

Any resident of Norton County, 18 years of age or older, is eligible to vote.

The Norton County Extension Council is an elected body of 24 representatives who plan and

evaluate the Extension educational program for residents of Norton County. The Extension Council is made up of four program development committees for Agriculture, Family and Consumer Sciences, 4-H and Youth, and Economic Development. At the election 12 representatives, three from each program development committee, will be elected.

# Facts about 'spooky' animals

*Special to The Telegram*

Halloween is a holiday with lots of creepy wildlife associated with it, but are they really so creepy? From toads to bats to owls, the National Wildlife Federation shares the facts about these animals, which may dispel a few myths.

### Bats

Blood sucking vampire bats are real, but they mostly feed on chickens and cows and only live in Latin America. Most North American bats are insect eaters, feeding on everything from moths to mosquitoes to beetles. They use echolocation to find their prey, which is kind of like radar, rather than eyesight. They tend to have beady little eyes and weird-shaped faces which makes them look scary. But those faces help capture sound waves bouncing off of prey and other objects and funnel those waves to their ears.

Many bat species are entering into hibernation in caves or hollow trees, but some fly south for the winter just like birds.

### Spiders

Spiders, with their eight legs and multiple eyes, are creatures right out of nightmares—and their sticky webs and venomous fangs don't help their public image either. But even though they might look scary, spiders are actually extremely beneficial predators of all sorts of insect pests. And only three species in the U.S. have venom considered strong enough to hurt people: the black widow, the brown recluse and the

hobo, and spider bites from these are very rare.

In the fall, female spiders are guarding egg sacks which hold the next generation of spiders.

### Toads

Toads are not just a key ingredient in witches' brew, they are important environmental indicators. All amphibians are susceptible to environmental toxins because of their sensitive skin. They are usually the first species to die out in polluted areas. If you have healthy toad populations in your area, it's a good sign that your neighborhood is fairly unpolluted. And no, you cannot catch warts from touching a toad.

Toads are voracious pest predators in the warm months, but go into underground hibernation by late fall and won't emerge until spring.

### Wolves

The howl of the wolf can cause either heart-rending terror or spiritual inspiration. People have either vilified or glorified wolves throughout history, but the real life wild canines are neither hounds from hell nor spiritual guides. In reality, gray wolves are top predators that play a key role in balancing the ecosystem. They control deer and other prey populations as well as other predators lower down on the food chain, like coyotes and raccoons.

They go out of their way to avoid humans. At this time of year, they are in the process of growing their thick winter coats to guard against winter's bitter temperatures.

### Snakes

The slithering, legless body. The forked tongue. The lidless eyes. Everything about a snake is decidedly non-human. But even though they strike fear in many people, most snake species are completely harmless. In fact, snakes are enormously beneficial, helping to control insect and rodent pests. The only time a snake will try to bite is if it's cornered or startled. The natural reaction of all snakes to people is to get away or hide.

By late October, most snakes are moving to their underground hibernation grounds, where they will doze away the cold months waiting for the warmer days of spring.

### Owls

The nocturnal habits, glowing eyes and utterly silent flight make these predatory birds the epitome of eeriness. It turns out that all of those things are simply adaptations for survival. Owls are nocturnal to avoid competition for prey with day-flying hawks. Their giant eyes and the fringed feathers that make no noise when the bird is flying allow them to hunt in the darkness.

Most owls are year-round residents and don't migrate. Listen for the hoot-hoot-hoot of the great horned owl or the whinnying shriek of the screech owl when you're trick or treating this year!

Now that you know the truth about these valuable wildlife, you might consider attracting them to your yard (except the wolves).

# Debate to be aired next Monday

Smoky Hills Public Television said today it will present a taped, delayed broadcast of the second debate between the candidates for Kansas' U.S. Senate seat -- incumbent Senator Pat Roberts (Republican) and challenger Jim Slattery (Democrat) -- Monday, Nov. 3, at 8 p.m.

The announcement was made by Mary Pat Waymaster, the station's director of broadcasting.

The live debate was actually held Oct. 14 in Wichita in conjunction with the annual convention of the Kansas Association of

Broadcasters, and was moderated by Eugene Williams, general manager of KTWU, the public television station in Topeka, according to Waymaster.

"Smoky Hills Public Television is delighted to be able to present this second Roberts-Slattery debate for our viewers throughout central and western Kansas as a part of our 2008 election coverage," Waymaster noted.

Smoky Hills presented a taped, delayed broadcast of the first debate between Roberts and

Slattery back in September. That debate was conducted before a live audience at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson.

## READERS

— Steak and Seafood Night, Thursday, 6-9 p.m., American Legion. Members and guests.

**NOTICE:**  
Now Opening for  
**BREAKFAST**

**Cowboy Cafe**  
(at the Norton Sale Barn)  
Pheasant Hunters Special 10/29-11/1  
Thursday, Friday, Saturday  
CALL IN ORDERS: 785-874-4788  
Full Breakfast Menu  
Featuring Breakfast Burritos • Huevos Rancheros!!  
COME SEE US EARLY!!  
Serving Breakfast: 5:30-10:00 a.m.

Insanity? Or, is it ordinary FEAR...

This Halloween... Could it be the nightmare that never ends?

Valley Hope Foundation Presents.

**MONSTER MASH BASH and HAUNTED HOUSE**  
An alcohol and drug-free entertainment event to raise funds for the Norton Valley Hope patient care fund.

October 30, 31, November 1, 2008, 7-11:00pm  
Norton, Ks, National Guard Armory

**Monster Mash Bash**  
Executive Producer - Megan O'Connor  
Directed by Kerri Ray  
Starring monsters, ghouls, ghosts, and goblins  
Contests, games, family fun & snackbar

**Haunted House**  
Executive Producer - John Leipold  
Directed by Amy Daniels  
Starring Curt Krebsbach as THE BUTCHER!  
\$7 admission all ages

Event Sponsors

**St. Joseph's CYO**  
Will Be Having A...  
**Soup Kitchen**  
At the  
St. Joseph's Parish Gym  
New Almelo, Kansas  
7 Miles West of Lenora on Hwy. 9

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1**  
SERVING 11:30 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.