

# THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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10 PAGES

## Tuesday

### December 9, 2008

Norton, Kansas  
Home of Timm Meyer

### Briefly

#### Norton choir well received at Hays

Members of the Norton Community High School Choir represented the Norton community excellently before the basketball crowd at Gross Memorial Coliseum on Friday night with their performance of our national anthem. The singers received many positive comments. The choir was given a check for \$227.50 by the university as its share of ticket sales for the game against the University of Nebraska-Omaha. Director Tamra Cochran thanks the community for supporting this great opportunity for the Norton Vocal Department.

#### Elementary school concert Monday

Eisenhower Elementary will present its annual Winter Concert at the East Campus Wilmeth Kirk Memorial Gym on Monday, Dec. 15. The concert will begin at 6:30 p.m. with the fifth and sixth grade bands playing a variety of seasonal carols.

Grades 1 through 6 will perform the vocal portion of the program, including a variety of seasonal songs and the story of Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite.

The public is cordially invited and encouraged to attend! There is no admission charge.

*Blame Congress too, for this fiscal nightmare*

*See editorial*

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### Weather

#### Forecast:

Tonight - Mostly clear with a low around 13. North wind between 5 and 10 mph.  
Wednesday - Mostly sunny with a high near 48.

Wednesday Night - Partly cloudy with a low around 24. Thursday - Partly sunny with a high near 51. West wind between 5 and 10 mph. Thursday Night - Partly cloudy with a low around 20. Friday - Mostly sunny with a high near 49.

#### Kingham report:

Fri., Dec. 5 ..... Low 11, High 40  
Sat., Dec. 6 ..... Low 34, High 49  
Sun., Dec. 7 ..... Low 25, High 48  
Mon., Dec. 11 ..... Low 11, High 48  
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

### Prayer

Help us to seek your face, dear God, every day of our lives. Anoint us with your grace as we encounter each day's challenges. **Amen**

## The Living Nativity



The First United Methodist Church held a Living Nativity on Sunday from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on the church's grounds. Pictured left to right are Wisemen (Maia Carlson and Matt Carlton), Joseph (Darel Boston), Mary (Glenda Carlson), the Angel (Lynn Nelson), and the third Wiseman (Tan-

ner Morel). There were approximately 140 vehicles that drove through to see the Living Nativity. This is annually one of the community's most awaited events.

— Telegram photo by Vicki Henderson

## Tip: Pets might not be best gift choice

By BRANDY LEROUX  
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"Ready just in time for Christmas!" is a phrase commonly seen in the classified ads in newspapers and in flyers around town. Puppies, kittens, and many other pets are being advertised as great Christmas gifts.

The allure of giving a pet for Christmas (or any other holiday or birthday) is understandable. Cute pictures of puppies or kittens will usually draw a child's eye and elicit begging and promises to take good care of the pet. Imagining the delighted look on your girlfriend's/boyfriend's/wife's/husband's face as they open a gift and see an adorable puppy or kitten can

be a powerful motivator. However, after that initial excitement wears off, it may not go well.

"It's generally not a good idea to give kids a pet as a gift," said Shannon Douglas, office manager at the Norton Animal Health Clinic. "Unless the parents are willing to take on most — or all — of the responsibility for the rest of the animal's life.

According to the Humane Society of the United States, cats can live up to 15 to 20 years. Dogs' average life span is 10 to 13 years, though it can be significantly longer or shorter depending on breed. Generally, the smaller the dog, the longer the life span. Mixed breed dogs tend to

have longer average life spans than pure breeds.

There are a lot of things to consider before getting a pet — any time of the year.

Pets need vaccinations, just like children. For example, a puppy needs four shots to vaccinate against distemper, parvovirus, and a rabies vaccination, all within the first six months of the puppy's life, said Mrs. Douglas.

According to Wikipedia, distemper is a virus that can cause fever, runny nose, discharge from the eyes, vomiting, diarrhea, excessive salivation, labored breathing, weight loss lesions, seizures, sensitivity to light, touch, blindness,

paralysis, and involuntary urination and defecation. Distemper is treatable, though it can take up to several months for all of the symptoms to diminish. Parvovirus is about 80 percent fatal in puppies, though dogs of any age can contract it and transmit it. Symptoms are lethargy, vomiting, severe diarrhea, gastrointestinal tract damage and dehydration. Symptoms of rabies normally take between two and twelve weeks to show, though it can take up to two years from the time of infection. Symptoms can be paralysis, anxiety, insomnia, confusion, agitation, abnormal behavior, paranoia, terror, hallucinations, and production of large amounts of saliva (Continued on Page 5)



Beverly Miller, left, rural Norton County, claimed a \$50 instant win ticket last week. Her granddaughter, Hallie Brooks, held the ticket so it wouldn't get lost. Heidi Linner, right, works at Ag Valley Co-op, where the ticket originated.

— Telegram photo by Christie Anderson

## Another instant winner revealed

By BRANDY LEROUX  
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Beverly Miller, rural Norton County, is another *Christmas on Us* instant winner. She came to The Telegram office to claim her \$50 in scrip money. Her winning ticket number 843855 came as the result of a purchase at Ag Valley Co-op, and she found it in one of a few selected *Christmas on Us* advertisements in The Telegram.

The total number of tickets given out per *Christmas on Us* rules stands at 8,549 as of today.

Mrs. Miller said she will try to be at the drawing on Thursday, Dec. 18. The time of the drawing is 7 p.m. at the Washington Street Park.

"I'm sure the money will be going to a good cause," said Mrs. Miller.

### Incident aired at meeting

## Turning your property into a trash dump against the law

By Telegram Staff

Allowing people to dump trash on your property could get you into trouble. In fact, it's illegal.

That was the message brought before the Dec. 1 meeting of the Norton County Commissioners.

Curt Archibald, who is the county's Solid Waste Supervisor, told the governing body that a (unidentified) property owner in rural Norton County had been allowing people to dump their trash on his property. Mr. Archibald inspected the site and took pictures for the records.

He said the owner of the property has been informed that the dumping is illegal and no individuals may be allowed to dump their trash on his site.

Mr. Archibald also told the commissioners that cell #3 at the county landfill is completed and being used. He said construction of cells #4 and #5 are in the construction phase with the clay liner being estimated to be finished within two weeks.

Norton County Road and Bridge Supervisor Tom Brannan and office manager Maggie Burger gave their weekly reports. Mr. Brannan talked with the commission about buying fuel and supplies as a cooperative and possibly being able to get better pricing from buying in bulk.

Mr. Brannan and Mrs. Burger talked about implementing a comp-time program. Mrs. Burger supplied the commission with records for the past six years.

Several ideas were discussed and the commission concluded that the policy book would be reviewed by R. Doug Sebelius, county counselor.

David Donovan, Norton County Extension, visited with the commission on merging extension offices with Decatur County to form a district extension. Mr. Donovan said Decatur County passed the resolution 2-1, and if it goes through, the budgets of both county extensions will merge in July of 2009. After discussion, Resolution 2008-09, to approve the proposed extension district with Decatur County, was approved unanimously. The resolution is being published in The Telegram to give the public time to comment.

The commission reviewed a payment schedule for the Greater Western Kansas Regional Juvenile Detention Facility. The per diem will be \$170 for the first 20 juveniles placed at the facility per calendar year, and then will be reduced in \$5 increments for each juvenile placed after. The payment schedule was approved by the commission.

Diane Becker, Norton County/City Economic Development director, presented an Interlocal Agreement for administering grant programs. The Small Communities Improvement Program funding will assist Economic Development in obtaining grant funds. County Counselor Sebelius reviewed the agreement (Continued on Page 5)