

# THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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10 PAGES

Tuesday

December 30, 2008

Norton, Kansas  
Home of Carol Wyatt

## Giant screens to show bowl games

By TOM DREILING  
tom.d@nwkansas.com

If you want to see a football bowl game on a big screen, well, how about a screen the size you see in a movie theatre?

Well, it's gonna happen right here in Norton!

Jeremy Wetter, Norton Theatre manager, said beginning this Thursday — New Year's Day — the Norton Theatre will present various sporting events on the 'largest screen in Norton.'

On Thursday, the theatre will present the Konica Minolta Gator Bowl featuring Nebraska and Clemson beginning at 1 p.m. And best of all, admission is FREE!

He said the game will be shown on both theatre screens and will be presented in surround sound, creating the experience that you are actually at the game.

The manager also said attendees will be able to purchase and enjoy the vast array of concessions the theatre provides. "Plus," he said, "we will serve nachos and hamburgers on game days, too."

The Nebraska Cornhuskers' game is the first in a series of upcoming sporting events the theatre will be presenting in the near future. Next week, said Mr. Wetter, the action continues with the FedEx BCS Bowl national championship game featuring Florida and Oklahoma. Game time will be 8 p.m. with the doors opening at 7 p.m.

To wrap up the month, the Norton Theatre will also feature Super Bowl XLII. Additional details for that game and any future theatre events can be found on the theatre's website at [www.nortontheatre.com/coming.htm](http://www.nortontheatre.com/coming.htm).

Popcorn. Pop. Nachos. Hamburgers. And football on the biggest screens in town. Bring it on!

## Telegram back on normal schedule

"We're back on schedule." That's the word from The Telegram's publisher Tom Dreiling. "Today you have the Tuesday Telegram and Friday you'll get the Friday Telegram," he said. "It's not like last week when you received one paper. We will be closed only one day this week — Thursday, New Year's Day."

## Weather

No moisture forecast for the next three days. **Wednesday**, mostly sunny, highs in the mid-40s, south winds, 10 mph, increasing to 10-15 later in the day. **Wednesday night**, lows in the 20s, winds 10-15 out of the south. **Thursday**, mostly sunny, high in the 40s, winds northwest 10-15. **Thursday night**, partly cloudy, lows around 13.

## Kingham report:

Dec. 29 - Low 30, high 51  
Dec. 28 - Low 19, high 50  
Dec. 27 - Low 19, high 35  
Dec. 26 - Low 36, high 60  
Dec. 25 - Low 17, high 41  
Dec. 24 - Low 0, high 26; 2 inches snow  
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

## Prayer

O God, thank you for your love and acceptance. Help us to model this in all our relationships. **Amen**



Almena held its annual Community Christmas Party on Dec. 14 at the community building. About 100 people attended and brought enough food donations for God's Pantry in Norton to fill a suburban. — Courtesy photo

## Almena party fun and exciting event

By BRANDY LEROUX  
bleroux@nwkansas.com

The Almena Chamber of Commerce hosted its annual Christmas Celebration at the community building on Dec. 14.

The Chamber of Commerce conducted drawings for adults and children's gifts. To be eligible for the drawing, guests were required to bring an item for God's Pantry, a gently used coat for the Cedar Ridge 4-H Club's coat drive, or other clothing items for the Norton Lion's Club Christmas Baskets. Each extra item a guest brought in to donate was another chance to win in the drawings.

"Giving was up this year," said Janette Callaway, who helped organize the event. "The 4-H kids brought in new toys for a toy drive to go in the Lion's Club Christmas Baskets."

The party started at 3 p.m. Guests were welcomed with hot dogs, s'mores, cookies, hot chocolate and coffee. Glenn Stewart, Steve Mees and Curtis Lowry made the hot dogs for the party.

"We've had several comments on how nice it was for the community members," said Mrs. Callaway.

Kirk Kasson, pastor of the Almena Congregational Church, led the crowd in singing Christmas carols. Even Santa

Claus joined in the fun, singing, "I'll have a Blue Christmas."

As for the drawings, when a child's name was picked, he or she was able to go pick out an unwrapped gift, and the adult's drawing was held in the same way. Mindy Baird received a set of luggage, Ann Cox got a crockpot, Sydney Brands a Coleman stove, Tyler Montgomery a George Foreman grill, Brant Cox a John Deere tractor, Dorothy Chandler a bicycle, and Justin Hogan won the big prize, a 42-inch television.

"We had a whole suburban full of food items that were donated by Almena residents," said Mrs. Callaway.

"The Pantry is extremely busy this time of year," said Connie Johnson, treasurer of God's Pantry. "All the food they brought in will be put to good use. There was a wonderful variety of food. The entire county has been very generous. Thank you to all the people in Almena and Glenn Brands for spearheading the drive."

"Thank you to the Chamber members and everyone who helped make the event a success," said Mrs. Callaway.

Others who donated for the event were Glenn Brands, All Creatures Veterinary Clinic, Almena American Legion, Al-

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Sydney Brands, Almena, sat with Santa in his sleigh and told him what she wanted for Christmas during the Almena Community Christmas Party on Dec. 14. There was food, drinks and drawings along with all the giving for various area charities. — Courtesy photo

## Nebraskan wins Pick-Em contest crown

By DICK BOYD

nortontelegram@nwkansas.com

Christal Rose, Arapahoe, is the champion of the 39th annual Pigskin Pick-Em Contest in The Norton Telegram.

As always, the grand prize champion had a lot of competition. Christal correctly chose 109 winners of high school and college games during the 12 weeks of the contest.

She received a handsome trophy engraved with her name along with \$50 in scrip money as her prize. Three winners each week received a total of \$30 in scrip money.

Christal edged Craig Foley, Norton, for the 2008 title. Craig, also a former Pick-Em champion, correctly picked 108 winners. Craig placed third last year when David Riemann, Norton, was the champion and Randy Springer, Hoisington, was runner-up.

Christal won the weekly contest twice, picked as low as seven winners just one week and averaged just over nine wins per week. When asked her secret to guessing the winners each week, she smiled and politely declined to give any clues as to (Continued on Page 5)

## Director here busy with projects

Diane Becker, Norton City/County Economic Development director, told her board at a recent meeting that she received an inquiry about the potential of recruiting a wind turbine manufacturing business to Norton.

She said she talked with Barb Hake of the Kansas Department of Commerce Business Recruitment office about the requirements of this industry.

She was told that wind turbine manufacturers typically require 200,000 square foot buildings with 40 foot ceilings. The estimated cost of building a facility is \$12 to \$15 million dollars.

The primary obstacles for Norton County are that companies prefer, if not require, a four lane highway and rail spur access. Also, Kansas is having difficulty competing with the incentives offered by other states such as Iowa. Commercial wind turbine manufacturing does not appear to be a fit for Norton County.

Ms. Becker has also gathered information needed to present an accurate picture of whether dairy recruitment is a match for Norton County and combined all the information into a PowerPoint presentation.

She also helped one local business owner put together a business plan to apply for financing a business expansion. This project will retain one job.

She said the community owned clothing store project is progressing. The business plan will be completed in December. The plan will be presented to the Norton County Community Foundation for consideration. If approved, economic development will then hold investor meetings.

Ms. Becker helped set up and attended financing meetings for a business acquisition that would relocate the main office to Norton. If successful, this project would bring five jobs to Norton and employ approximately 50 people across the state.

Ms. Becker also spoke with someone interested in opening a service business in Norton. This project is in the initial stages and the individual is deciding whether Norton is a good fit for the business.

In other meeting notes:

• Ms. Becker said she sent the required letter requesting the transfer of the City of Norton's portion of the remaining balance budgeted for 2008. The unused balance for the year is approximately \$23,762.41, of which 40 percent — \$9,504.96 — would be the city's portion. A resolution passed by Norton County allows the transfer of remaining funds after the audit is performed. The audits are completed by the end of the following year according to the current timetable.

• Leadership Norton County's fourth

session was held on Nov. 12. The focus of the day was education. For this session, class members spoke with representatives from the Northern Valley High School, Special Education Cooperative, Eisenhower Elementary, Colby Community Outreach, Drug and Alcohol Program, Northwest Kansas Library System, Norton School District Learning Center, Norton School Board, Parents as Teachers, Norton Community High School Technology Department, Norton Head Start and Colby Community College Nursing Program.

• Whitney Miller arranged to host a meeting to introduce the newly formed OPT match program to foreign students on Dec. 17. Ms. Becker said Ms. Miller developed flyers and informational brochures for the program. At the meeting, KANSAS WORKS and Western Kansas Regional Economic Development Alliance will present job opportunities in western Kansas and match them with the students' expertise.

• Ms. Becker gave a report about a letter sent requesting bids for the Business Appreciation Dinner to caterers in Norton County. She ask that they propose meal options for \$15 or less, including an entrée, vegetable, potato, dessert and drinks. To save money in the bid, she decided (Continued on Page 5)