

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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8 PAGES

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Norton, Kansas
Home of Ann Pollock

Briefly

Booster Club to meet Wednesday

The first Blue Jay Booster meeting of the new year will be held at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the high school cafeteria. All fans of Norton Community High School sports are invited to attend and hear reports from head boys basketball coach Doug Reusink, head girls basketball coach Kevin Jilka and head wrestling coach Bill Johnson.

You do not have to be a member of the club to attend.

January meeting schedules told

Norton City Council will meet Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. in the city building, and again on Wednesday, Jan. 21 at 5:30 p.m. No agendas were available as of today.

Norton County Commissioners will not meet on Monday, Jan. 19 due to the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. The commissioners will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 20 instead, at the usual time — 9 a.m. — on the second floor of the courthouse. No agenda is available at this time.

Norton School Board will meet on Monday, Jan. 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the Alice Tweed Center at 105 E. Waverly. Northern Valley School Board will also meet on Jan. 12 at 7:30 p.m. in the Northern Valley High School conference room. No agendas are available at this time.

The meetings are open to the public.

Weather

Forecast:

Tonight - Mostly cloudy with a low around 19.
Wednesday - Partly sunny with a high near 52. North wind around 10 mph.
Thursday - Mostly sunny with a high near 61. West wind between 10 and 15 mph. Thursday Night - Partly cloudy with a low around 25.



Kingham report:

Tues., Dec. 30 Low 24, High 47
Wed., Dec. 31 Low 13, High 35
Thurs., Jan. 1 Low 20, High 44
Fri., Jan. 2 Low 25, High 59
Sat., Jan. 3 Low 24, High 39
Sun., Jan. 4 Low 8, High 30
Mon., Jan. 5 Low 12, High 38
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Dear Jesus Christ, if we are looking at someone through glasses smeared with prejudice, if we look down on someone for any reason, help us to see and respond to them as you do - with love and care. Amen.



Desiree Vilar and Eric Farr, Traer, are the parents of the first baby born in Norton County in 2009. Justice Boyde Farr arrived Jan. 2 at 2:05 p.m.

Gifts from many Norton businesses herald the arrival.

—Courtesy photo

First Baby arrives second day of 2009

Justice Boyde Farr was the first baby born in Norton County in 2009. He arrived on Friday, Jan. 2 at 2:05 p.m. He weighed 7 pounds, 8 ounces and was 19 1/2 inches long.

His parents are Desiree Vilar and Eric Farr, of Traer.

Maternal grandparents are Leslie Nolette, Oberlin and Eddie Vilar, Westbury, N.Y. Paternal grandparents are Wanda Farr, Jennings and Jerry Farr, Herndon. Great-grandparents are Sandra Nolette,

Little Neck, N.Y. and Gwendolyn Farr, Oberlin.

For being the First Baby of the New Year, Justice and his parents will receive a free flower arrangement with a mylar balloon from Norton Flowers, Gifts and Greenhouse; a free fire and smoke alarm from Kowpoke Supply; a free lunch for two at Destination Kitchen; a free tanning package from Razor's Edge; a large package of disposable diapers from Norton Shop and Save; a free oil change from

Kansasland Tire; a \$25 gift certificate from Russ' Jewelry and Repair; a one-month free membership to Fit To Go; a \$20 gift certificate to Hidden Dragon; a free keepsake baby album from Moffet Drug Store; a free six-month subscription to *The Norton Telegram* and "special gifts" from United Northwest Federal Credit Union, Sander Furniture and Gifts, First State Bank and e11even.
Welcome, Justice!

Commission hears road sign suggestion

By BRANDY LEROUX
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Tom Brannan, Norton County Road and Bridge Supervisor, met with the Norton County Commissioners on Monday, and asked if they would consider using local businesses to make road signs for the county.

Mr. Brannan said they could get a local company to make the blank signs, and purchase the letters and numbers for the signs from another local company. He said Ness County purchased a sign-making machine, and they use theirs for all their county road identification signs, and have even made money from it by making road signs for surrounding counties.

Mr. Brannan said he would like to go to Ness County to look at their machine and the signs it makes to get a better idea of how it works, and to see if it could be done in our county for less money instead of buying the signs from vendors. He said it would be work his crews can do on rainy days when weather prevents them from working on roads and bridges. The commissioners said it would be okay for him to look into it.

Mr. Brannan gave his weekly report. Road and Bridge crews are working to repair various roads in the county, and also to replace broken stop signs near Alma. Mr. Brannan said he is keeping the heavy equipment housed to prevent the diesel fuel from gelling, but that the next night temperatures drop below freez-

ing, it won't be enough to keep the fuel from gelling.

County Clerk Robert Wyatt said the new courthouse mainframe the county purchased has just been discovered to have compatibility issues with the treasurer's vehicle identification program and the appraiser's office's registration software. He suggested returning the mainframe and keeping their current one since it is compatible with all the software being used by the county courthouse, though if there is a technical issue, the county will have to pay for the support to fix it.

Mr. Wyatt said he felt it was a better deal to keep the old one rather than purchase a new one. The only other new mainframe that is compatible with all the courthouse office's software costs more than double what they paid for the one that is not compatible.

Mr. Wyatt said County Counselor R. Doug Sebelius was in a jury trial all day Monday and would not be joining the meeting.

Mr. Wyatt told the commission he received a phone call from Gilmore and Bell reminding him that the deadline to apply for their bond services is March 15. Mr. Wyatt asked the commissioners if they were going to consider a bond to help pay for the new Emergency Medical Services building. Mr. Wyatt said a grant has been awarded, as well as Hansen funds to help pay for part of the cost of building, but because of the unexpectedly high costs to

build a new building, the county is looking for ways to still lower the costs.

Commissioner John Miller said the county has used Gilmore and Bell for every bond issue for the past several years, and it wouldn't hurt to have another company give their proposal as well to compare against each other and choose the better of the two. Mr. Wyatt said he would notify both Gilmore and Bell and DeWay Financial that the county would like proposals.

Mr. Wyatt said he has been asked by the clerk's association to be a presenter at the new clerks' training, but that he is undecided and has not committed to it yet.

Commissioner-elect Carolyn Applegate asked how many new commissioners were being sworn in in Kansas this year. Commissioner Miller said there are 90.

Commissioner Leroy Lang said this is his last commission meeting before Commissioner-elect Applegate is sworn in next Monday. Mr. Wyatt reminded Commissioner Lang that he needed to be in at 8:45 on Monday morning for the swearing-in of the new commissioner.

Mrs. Applegate said her commissioner's training classes start in February. She asked the commissioners what meetings are coming up that she will need to attend. Commissioner Miller said the Economic Development Board will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 13, and that he will be unable to attend that board meeting, the

(Continued on Page 5)

Hansen grant big help for agency

Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas, is the recipient of a \$70,000 grant from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation. The grant award will be used to make necessary repairs and remodeling of various locations for the improvement of health, safety and accessibility.

Some of the issues that Developmental

Services is hoping to address through this grant award include repairing of exterior walls due to water seepage, replacement of concrete ramps, installation of egress windows and remodeling of bathrooms to make them wheelchair accessible.

"We are deeply appreciative to the Hansen Foundation for their vital sup-

port of the services we provide to people with disabilities," said Jerry Michaud, President of Developmental Services of Northwest Kansas.

"These repairs will allow us to continue to provide the highest in quality services to the people we serve," President Michaud said.

Time to think election again

City councils, school boards next for voters

By TOM DREILING
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No, we are not finished going to the polls. Just two months ago — Nov. 4 — we were voting for a new president. In just a couple of months — April 7 — we will be voting for city council and school board members.

And if primary elections are necessary, we'll sort out the list on March 3.

The deadline to file for these offices is noon, Tuesday, Jan. 27.

In a letter in today's Telegram, Norton School District board member Elaine Lofgreen said she will not seek another term. She is currently in her third term on the board.

As of today, no other incumbents for city or school board positions have indicated their intentions. Likewise, there have been no new faces coming forth.

Communities involved in city council elections are Norton, Alma, Lenora, Clayton and Edmond.

School districts involved include 211 (Norton), 212 (Alma) and 213 (Lenora).

Additionally, a portion of school districts in both Decatur County and Phillips County, that are located inside Norton County, will also be on the ballot.

Now that the official word is out, expect some races to materialize, and sometimes the suspense carries all the way up to the noon filling deadline.

Additional information and reminders will appear in coming issues of The Telegram.