

# \$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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10 PAGES



## Friday

December 4, 2009

### Briefly

#### Live Nativity to be held at local church

First United Methodist Church will be the site of the Living Nativity from 6-8 p.m. on Sunday. Cookies, coffee and hot chocolate will be served in the Fellowship Hall. The church is located at 805 W. Wilberforce.

#### Christmas On Us starts wrapping up

Three weeks into our Christmas On Us promotion, over 7000 tickets have been collected from the participating merchants. "That is a lot of money kept here in Norton that may have been spent elsewhere," said General Manager/Advertising Director Dana Paxton. She continues to say, "We are very proud of this promotion and all that it does for our community."

The last promotional ads with the instant \$50 ticket numbers will be out Dec. 8. Be sure to check your numbers; you might just have a winner. With these last numbers, like before, you have six days to redeem them at the Telegram.

All remaining tickets will be placed in the drawing for the big prizes that will be held Dec. 17, at 7 p.m. at the Norton Senior Center.

**MARKETS**  
Cash Prices-Norton  
December 4, 2009

- CORN \$3.33
- SOYBEANS \$9.67
- WHEAT \$4.56
- MILO \$3.15

314 W. North Street  
Norton, Kansas  
785-877-5188  
Ag Valley

## weather forecast

Tonight - Mostly clear with a low around 10. Saturday - Sunny with a high near 46. Saturday Night - Partly cloudy with a low around 18. Sunday - A 50 percent chance of snow. Cloudy with a high near 27. Sunday Night - A 30 percent chance of snow before midnight. Monday - A 20 percent chance of snow. Monday Night - A 40 percent chance of snow. Tuesday - A 40 percent chance of snow.

#### Kingham report:

Friday ..... Low 34, High 49, .65 Precip.  
Saturday ..... Low 24, High 64  
Sunday ..... Low 37, High 75  
Monday ..... Low 45, High 79  
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

### Prayer

Dear God, we have a habit of getting lost. As you wait for us to come home, teach us to wait for you to show us the way. Amen.

## Options for hiring an inmate work crew discussed

By ERICA BRADLEY  
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As discussion continues at the state level regarding the closing of one Department of Corrections facility, the Promoting Norton County Initiative is looking for ways to have a better partnership between the Norton facility and the City of Norton.

At Monday's finance committee meeting, a proposal to hire an inmate work crew for the city was discussed.

"We're trying to promote a better partnership between the city and facility," said Diane Stiles, Norton City/County Economic Development director.

The committee discussed funding for an inmate crew. There are two options: the city would hire a Department of Corrections employee to supervise the crew or the city would provide a city employee, or employees, for supervision. If the city wanted to provide supervision, specialized training would be available.

For a year's contract, it would cost \$45,000 to hire a Department of Corrections employee for inmate supervision.

According to Kansas Department of Corrections policy, inmate crews can be requested for long-range work or short-

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## Finishing up the stucco



Work on the Moffet building began again this week with Paul-Wertenberger Construction starting the stucco work so Norton Glass Company could begin sizing windows. Interior work can begin as soon as the outside work is completed.

-Telegram photo by Erica Bradley

## City council discusses water, sewer funds

By HARRIETT GILL  
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The Norton City Council met Wednesday for its regular meeting when City Administrator Rob Lawson reported to the council that Dave Barber, United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development, had stated everything is moving forward with the water plant financing through United States Department of Agriculture.

The money has been obligated and reserved and they are waiting for closing instructions.

Funds will be secured with bonds which United States Department of Agriculture purchases and the city will pay United States Department of Agriculture back. A motion was made by Roberta Ryan and seconded by Toby Kuhn to hire Gilmore and Bell as the bond counsel and move forward with the bond issue.

Rob Lawson reported that he and the city clerk will be meeting with John Mapes of Mapes and Miller next

week, to determine if the budget will need to be amended in the sewer fund because of a state revolving loan fund payment that was received in 2007 and not paid back out until 2009 due to the fact that the pumps were not performing sufficiently.

"Our sewer fund should be in good shape," Lawson reported.

He stated that the water fund will not have sufficient funds to make the state revolving loan fund payment of \$227,967, but hopefully the United States Department of Agriculture funding will be in place before that time.

Lawson stated Chris Miller reported the four wells in the well field are producing above what was expected. A motion was made by Donna Foley and seconded by Jeff Otter to accept the proposal from Downey Drilling to cap well 24, contingent upon the Division of Water Resources allowing the city to keep the water rights or transferring them. Savings to the city would be \$21,784.

Vote taken, motion passed.

In other council business:

• Toby Kuhn stated the finance committee heard from several individuals and there was quite a bit of reluctance from the department heads regarding utilizing a corrections crew from the Norton Correctional Facility. He said they talked about having people from other areas who utilize an inmate crew to come and talk to the City. Kuhn said if the city isn't willing to explore this any further, we shouldn't waste these people's time. A motion was made to continue to explore the possibility of having an inmate crew work with the City of Norton. Vote taken. Motion passed.

• Council President Donna Foley reported the city sales tax receipts collected in October totaled \$20,390.63.

• A motion was made to accept Dean Esslinger's resignation from the Economic Development Board and

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This is an early-day photo of the Valley Hope Treatment Center at 709 West Holme on U.S. 36 Highway in Norton. A former motel, the property has been updated with a number of additions and still houses the treatment center.

- Courtesy photo Valley Hope

## Valley Hope a home grown success story

By DICK BOYD  
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The homegrown success story of the Norton Valley Hope Association, the largest non-profit alcoholism and drug addiction treatment center in the United States, is now available for all to read in a hard cover book entitled "Prairie Miracles".

The book is written by Jan Pogue and covers the events that led to the establishment of a facility in Norton, its tremendous growth and success in treating alcoholism and drug addiction where many others had failed. The book includes many testimonials from people whose lives have been completely changed for the better, thanks to Valley Hope.

The nationally recognized treatment program at Valley Hope can be accessed at seventeen treatment centers in seven

states with a total of 600 employees.

Valley Hope was founded 42 years ago in Norton by two far-sighted individuals who wanted to make a difference in people's lives. It has grown into a highly respected organization of treatment centers with an average of 1,000 patients being treated daily.

This fascinating new book tells the story of the dreams and realities faced by those who envisioned a program that could address a population who had been ignored for years: alcoholics. From Prohibition to the Serenity Prayer, the book draws attention to the fact that treatment was once ridiculed and is now recognized and respected.

Pogue also traces the hopes of individuals whose lives had often sunk so low as to be thought unsalvageable and

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