

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM

WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

10 PAGES



Friday

December 18, 2009

Briefly

Eisenhower holds annual concert

Eisenhower Elementary School will present its annual winter concert at 6:30 p.m. at East Campus on Monday. The fifth and sixth grade bands will perform a variety of seasonal carols. Students in first through sixth grades will perform for the vocal portion, starting at 7 p.m.

Church of God will present musical

The Church of God choir will be presenting the Christmas Cantata, "Hope Has Hands." The musical will be held on Sunday at 10:45 a.m. at the church. Narrators are Phil Loughry and Jane Burton. A duet will be performed by Larry and Terry Hillman. The choir is directed by Mary Luehrs. The public is invited to attend.

Telegram holiday schedule released

There will be no paper published on Friday, December 25 or Friday, January 1. To make sure get your December 28 or January 4 ads in we must have them no later than Thursday December 24 and December 31.

MARKETS
Cash Prices-Norton
December 18, 2009

CORN
\$3.32

SOYBEANS
\$9.42

WHEAT
\$4.09

MILO
\$3.12

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

weather forecast

Tonight - Mostly cloudy with a low around 22. Saturday - Mostly sunny with a high near 42. Saturday Night - Partly cloudy with a low around 16. Sunday - Mostly sunny with a high near 40. Sunday Night - Partly cloudy with a low around 15. Monday - Mostly sunny with a high near 35. Monday Night - Mostly cloudy with a low around 14.

Kingham report:

Tuesday, December 15...Low -1, High 20
Wed., December 16..... Low 9, High 39
Thurs., December 17.... Low 22, High 42
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm
9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Help us, O God, to celebrate your gift of love by sharing it with others. Amen



Representative Mike O'Neal, Representative Arlen Siegfried and Natoma Corp. President Gail Boller discussed Natoma's products during yesterday's tour of the facility. The representatives also heard presentations from community leaders and toured Norton Correctional Facility as part of the Promoting Norton County Initiative. Representative John Farber also attended the event.

—Telegram photo by Erica Bradley

Norton hosts legislative visit

By ERICA BRADLEY
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The Promoting Norton County Initiative is well underway with Norton Correctional Facility hosting three Kansas legislatures yesterday morning. Several community leaders were in attendance to present information about Norton.

Representative Mike O'Neal, speaker of the House; Representative Arlen Siegfried, speaker pro tem and Representative John Faber were in attendance.

Community presenters included Norton County Hospital Administrator Rich Miller, Norton County Schools Superintendent Greg Mann, Norton County Health Department Administrator Gina Frack and

Norton City Council President Donna Foley.

Norton County Hospital

Rich Miller, hospital administrator, gave an overview of the service provided to Norton County residents. He said the hospital is a full service hospital for a community of this size.

He estimated the annual budget to be \$12 million with \$5 million dollars being spent on new technology. He said bad debt and charity care came to \$5 million.

"We try to keep on top of those things. We don't want to fall behind," he said.

He also discussed the new doctors clinic, located adjacent to the hospital. He said the new clinic would allow the Colby Community College nursing program

to move to the old doctor's clinic.

"It's a good situation for our community," he said. Miller spoke about funding for the projects.

"We're very proud of doing this without putting this on the backs of the taxpayers," he said.

Norton Community Schools

Mann spoke about the schools, saying there has been some declining enrollment, but it is not as bad as other rural areas. He also spoke about success in athletics as well as academics, mentioning Eisenhower Elementary School winning the Governor's Achievement Award.

"We have a long and rich tradition of academic success. We're a well kept secret out here," he said.

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Janet Mathes, Evadean Huff and Norman Olliff received their scrip money at the Norton Senior Center after this year's Christmas On Us drawing. Mathes and Huff each received \$100, and Olliff had the winning \$500 ticket. Not pictured: Trent Richmond, who won \$300.

—Telegram photo by Erica Bradley

Big winners announced in drawing

Christmas On Us wrapped up last night with 14 people receiving winning tickets from participating businesses in Norton.

"Once again the Christmas On Us promotion has been a great success," said Norton Telegram General Manager/Advertising Director Dana Paxton.

The promotion started Nov. 10 when the first ads introducing the participating businesses were run. Every Tuesday after that new ads ran with \$50 instant ticket numbers in them. The promotion provides for ten \$50 instant winners two \$100 winners, a \$300 winner and lastly a \$500 winner.

"This year we got them all," she said.

Yesterday at 7 p.m. at the Norton Senior Center the big drawing took place. The

(**Winners** - Continued on Page 5)

School board discusses joining lawsuit

By ERICA BRADLEY
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Norton Commission Schools voted to join Schools for Fair Funding during the November board of education meeting, and in Monday's meeting the board discussed whether they would vote to approve litigation against the state over the cuts to school funding.

Superintendent Greg Mann told the board Schools for Fair Funding would meet Friday when member districts would vote on whether to re-open the Montoy case or pursue litigation against the state.

Member schools paid \$2 per full time enrollment for

their membership. Mann said this gives them a vote at this meeting. He said if they vote to pursue either option, an additional \$3 per full time enrollment would be required. The board could have voted not to pursue any action.

Discussion took place regarding which option to pursue.

Mann said if Montoy was re-opened the supreme court would have to look at what should have been done. A settlement was reached before the court ruled.

The second option was to pursue litigation, a more costly option in the long run.

Board members discussed their options, saying they want the state to fund what they said they would.

They asked the superintendent if the threat of a lawsuit has caught the Legislature's attention.

He responded by saying the law mandates funding at \$4,433 for full time enrollment. With recent cuts, schools are getting \$4,012.

"I would say this has caught their attention. If there's ever been a slam dunk case, it's this one," Mann said.

"I'm not against litigation, but I'd rather see it go another way," said Jeff Nielson, school board president.

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