

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

10 PAGES

Tuesday
January 5, 2010

Briefly

Meals on Wheels needs volunteers

Community volunteers are needed to deliver Meal on Wheels from Jan. 4 through Jan. 17. If you are interested, please call Alice Hawks at Norton Community Hospital at 877-3351.

Living well seminar scheduled Jan. 13

The Twin Creeks Extension Office is sponsoring a living well seminar at 10 a.m. Jan. 13 in the Norton County 4-H Building. The seminar will be presented by Jessica Milliman, Sheridan County Extension director, and will explore the benefits of strength training. Tips about starting a community group, risk factors to consider and training opportunities will also be addressed.

Boosters to hold meeting this week

The first Norton 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.

MARKETS
Cash Prices-Norton
January 5, 2010

- CORN \$3.61
- SOYBEANS \$9.69
- WHEAT \$4.38
- MILO \$3.35

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

weather forecast

Tonight - A chance of snow and freezing drizzle. Wednesday - Snow likely and patchy blowing snow. Wednesday Night - A chance of snow showers before 6 p.m. then patchy blowing snow

Kingham report:

Tues., Dec. 29	Low 13, High 30
Wed., Dec. 30	Low 23, High 34
Trace of Snow	
Thurs., Dec. 31	Low 15, High 34
Fri., January 1	Low 7, High 19
Trace of Snow	
Sat., January 2	Low 4, High 19
Snow Flurries	
Sun., January 3	Low 11, High 29
1/2" Snow	
Mon., January 4	Low 17, High 29

Prayer

O Lord, there is much in the world to be disturbed about. Help us to turn our anger into constructive actions that establish justice, right wrongs, and heal wounds. Amen



City renews contract

By ERICA BRADLEY
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City Administrator Rob Lawson's contract was renewed during last Tuesday's city council meeting with the new one year contract going into effect Jan. 1. Lawson said the format changed slightly, although much of the contract remained the same.

The city administrator's salary will not increase, but his duties have been more clearly outlined.

Two evaluations will be completed in 2010, in May and in October, when the council members will rate the administrator on job functions, financial management, planning development and city relations.

The administrator will also be evaluated on several other items including focusing on the public, valuing people, acting in the best interest of the city, as well as other areas.

A new part to the contract is 2010 goals for the city administrator. The 2010 goals include: obtain council approval for any budgetary items over \$5,000 and all items not included in the annual budget, support the exploration of a partnership between Norton Correctional Facility and the city, monitoring city personnel and programs to assure budgets are within fund balances, developing detailed financial reporting to the council and committees, prepare a five year plan with the council, compile budgetary items of capital improvements budgeted for each fiscal year, provide an assessment of any service or program which could be improved or eliminated in 2010, administrator will give department heads direction that changes or purchases must be made within the long range plan and not outside of the set budget, unless emergencies exist, attend at least one training during the year that would advance knowledge as an administrator and other goals.

"I want to thank the mayor, council and everyone for the work they did on the contract. Thank you," he said.

In an interview after the meeting, Lawson said he is looking forward to staying in Norton.

A motion was made to accept the employment agreement between the city and Lawson. Vote taken, motion passed.

In other council business:

(Council - Continued on Page 5)



Christopher and Courtney Holder welcomed their son Ethan on Jan. 2 at the Norton County Hospital. Ethan was the first Norton County baby born in 2010.

-Telegram photo by Harriett Gill

First baby of 2010 arrives

By HARRIETT GILL
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Ethan George Holder made sure he was the New Year's baby. He arrived 10 days early at the Norton County Hospital.

Ethan was born on Jan. 2 at 7:59 a.m., weighing in at 5 pounds and 8 ounces, and 18 inches long.

His proud parents are Christopher and Courtney Holder of Norton. Christopher is employed at Scotty Evans Construction and Courtney is a Para Educator at

Norton Community High School.

Many gifts are awaiting Ethan and his parents from the business community of Norton: a \$25 gift certificate from Attitudes Restaurant and Lounge; a \$100 savings bond from Almena State Bank; a special gift from Sander Furniture and Gifts; a one month free membership at Fit To Go; a personalized gift from Here's Your Sign; a Spin and Explore Sea Gym from Moffet Drug Store; a flower arrangement with a Mylar balloon from Norton Flowers Gifts and

Greenhouse; a fire and smoke alarm from Kowpoke Supply; a baby gift from First State Bank; a special gift from Stitch Up A Storm; a special gift from United Northwest Federal Credit Union; a free lunch from Destination Kitchen; a free tanning package for Mom from The Razor's Edge; a free gift card from Downtown Car Wash; a free oil change from Kansasland Tire.

The new parents also received a six month subscription to The Norton Telegram.



Mission team members from Norton, Oberlin and Norcatar worked to level the building site before the concrete foundation could be poured for the house they were building for a Mexican family.

-Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Local residents participate in recent Mission trip

By CAROLYN PLOTTS
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Juarez. Just like the beach without the water.

That's the slogan on a T-shirt worn by one member of our team of volunteers from Decatur and Norton counties which completed a mission trip to the Mexican city in late October.

The team built a house for a Mexican family in the Juarez, a city of 2 million across the Rio Grande from El Paso, Texas.

Making the trip were Deanna Castle, Oberlin; Jim and Carolyn Plotts, Norcatar; Ed and Melba Witt and Charla Sprigg, Norton; and the Witts' daughter,

(Mission - Continued on Page 5)

Ag Valley welcomes new manager in Norton

By ERICA BRADLEY
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After a year of record, and slowed, harvests, Norton County farmers have a new resource at the Ag Valley Co-op Norton Elevator in Manager Rick Mullen.

Mullen, a native of Northwest Kansas, started the beginning of December. He said he and his wife, Patricia, will live in Almena. They recently purchased a home there.

He has a long history of work in the agriculture sector including working as an agriculture instructor and sales representative, as well as doing farming and ranching.

He has bachelor's and master's degrees from Kansas State University.

"I grew up in agriculture," he said. Mullen will work with producers in the areas of farming, forages, feedyard, cow/calf, grain milling, feed milling, animal health, livestock equipment and operations management.

He said this year's corn harvest has been unusually long.

"We're still cutting corn. There's still quite a bit to be cut," he said.



Rick Mullen

Mullen will oversee the Ag Valley locations in Norton, Reager and Clayton.

"We have good employees that know the business," he said.

He said he has met several local producers and looks forward to meeting more. "I like meeting people. It's been a blast," he said.

Mullen said he looks forward to change and said the biggest change was the shift from a local to global market.

An upcoming change is Ag Valley (Coop - Continued on Page 5)