

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM

WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

10 PAGES



Friday

January 15, 2010

Briefly

Some offices to be closed Monday

January 18, Martin Luther King Day will be observed by all Federal and State offices. There will be no mail service. The banks and the credit union will be closed. USD 211 schools will be closed for In-service day.

Norton City and Norton County offices will remain open.

Salvation Army taking donations

The Salvation Army is asking for monetary donations to help those in Haiti. The Salvation Army operates schools, clinics, a hospital, feeding programs, children's homes and church-related activities in Haiti. Spokesman Bob Brady said the Salvation Army was committing \$50,000 to the relief effort and was preparing for a greater financial commitment along with providing food, water and other emergency supplies.

The organization is accepting donations for the relief effort at www.salvationarmyusa.org or by calling 800-SAL-ARMY (800-725-2769). If someone would like to mail a check in please have them send it to The Salvation Army, % Haiti Disaster Relief, P.O. Box 412577, Kansas City, Mo 64141.

MARKETS
Cash Prices-Norton
January 15, 2010

CORN	\$3.24
SOYBEANS	\$8.99
WHEAT	\$4.18
MILO	\$2.98

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

weather forecast

Tonight - Mostly clear with a low around 21. Southwest wind around 5 mph. Saturday - Sunny with a high near 55. Saturday Night - Mostly clear with a low around 23. Sunday - Mostly sunny with a high near 52. Sunday Night - Partly cloudy with a low around 24. Monday - Sunny with a high near 51. Monday Night - Partly cloudy with a low around 28. Tuesday - A slight chance of rain and snow.

Kingham report:

Tuesday, Jan. 12 Low 23, High 46
Wednesday, Jan. 13 Low 22, High 55
Thursday, Jan. 14 Low 22, High 47
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

God, help us to bless your name in good times and in bad. When we feel overwhelmed, be our strength. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Failing to stop



The Kansas Highway Patrol reported a semi overturned yesterday at the Highway 283/K-9 junction, between Hill City and Norton, when the driver failed to stop at the stop sign. The driver, Orlando Johnson, and passenger, Daniel Gibson, were both taken to Norton County Hospital

for injuries. They were later released. The trailer had been loaded with food products.

-Telegram photo by Erica Bradley



Naomi Streck, Norton, participated on a mission trip last year to Centre for Children International Lifeline Orphanage in Croix-des-Bouquets, Haiti where she was able to do maintenance work to the orphanage as well as interact with the children. She did a second mission trip this year and was in Haiti when the earthquake hit on Tuesday. The mission team did not suffer any injuries.

-Photo courtesy Joan Streck

Student participates in her second trip to Haiti

By ERICA BRADLEY
ebradley@nwkansas.com

Thousands of people were presumed dead following the 7.0-magnitude earthquake that hit Haiti on Tuesday, and as officials sift through the damage one Norton family is relieved to know their daughter was not injured.

When the earthquake hit, 21 team members were at Centre for Children International Lifeline Haiti Orphanage in Croix-des-Bouquets, including Naomi Streck, a native of Norton and a senior at Wichita State University. This was her second mission trip to Haiti.

John Reimer, board member, said all of the team members and children were un-injured but their safety remained a concern due to looters looking for a food and water supply.

He said the orphanage is a four acre compound surrounded by a security wall.

"Obviously when you have a nine foot wall with razor wire, it is there for a reason," he said.

The orphanage's structure was not damaged, although Reimer reported two holes in the security wall. By yesterday afternoon, security had been hired to protect the property.

"We feel okay about their safety, but they will be out of food and water by the end of the week," he said.

Reimer said the orphanage is seven miles from the airport, and the team members were expected to begin walking there yesterday.

He wasn't sure when they would be flown back to the United States but was (Haiti - Continued on Page 5)

National census almost underway

By ERICA BRADLEY
ebradley@nwkansas.com

Starting in February, the United States Census will begin mailing questionnaires for the 2010 census to every resident in the United States. The census calculates how many people reside in each county and will determine where an estimated \$400 billion in tax money will be distributed over the next ten years.

The data is also used to determine appropriations for the US House of Representatives as well as to determine locations for schools, housing, child-care and senior centers, shopping centers, businesses and roads.

Tuesday evening, Lech Wisniewski, partnership specialist, presented census information to a group of Norton residents. He said an estimated \$400 billion in tax dollars can be returned to counties, but if residents do not fill out the forms the money is lost.

He wasn't sure how much money was lost during the 2000 census, but 68 percent of Norton County residents participated. He said increased participation will result in more accurate data as well as more funding.

He said \$1,254 is assigned for each person.

"You're looking at a large pot of money," he said.

"Everything is based on numbers. The higher the count, the better for Norton County," said Robert Wyatt, Norton County clerk.

Wisniewski said there are several groups of people who do not do the census, including senior citizens, young people, certain ethnic groups and the poor. Reasons can vary from people not wanting the government to have their personal information to young people thinking they will only live in the county temporarily.

"There are a lot of reasons they don't fill out the forms," he said.

Wisniewski asked the group to do everything they could to reach out to people in the county.

"It's the people who are not here that we need to reach," he said.

"It is important for everyone to fill it out and send it back," Wyatt said.

Wyatt said census forms will be available at the Norton Public Library and (Census - Continued on Page 5)

County clears up confusion

Many Norton County taxpayers recently received a postcard from the State of Kansas, Department of Revenue regarding the Intangibles Tax. The yellow postcard has caused a lot of confusion, especially to taxpayers who are not required to file.

The intangibles tax is not a new tax. It is a local tax on gross earnings on saving accounts, stocks, bonds, accounts receivable and mortgages. It is not to be confused with the state income tax which is used to support state government. Many taxpayers do not have such earnings and are not required to pay an intangibles tax.

The intent of the postcard was to notify taxpayers of two changes:

- The Intangibles Tax Form 200 will no longer be provided in your Kansas Income tax booklet from the State of Kansas.

- Those who are required to file an Intangibles Tax Form 200 must now file the form with the county clerk's office by the April 15 deadline.

As in the past, your Kansas Income Tax return is still filed in Topeka either by mail or electronically. This has not changed.

State officials have reported with this year's budget cuts, the State is unable to hire the additional staff needed to process the Intangibles forms. With this change, the taxpayer is required to send the completed Intangibles tax form directly to their county clerk's office.

If you need a blank Intangibles Tax Form 200, you may obtain it online at ksrevenue.org/formsint.htm or from the county clerk's office.

Your income tax preparer is aware of the changes and should handle them for (Taxes - Continued on Page 5)

