

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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10 PAGES



Friday

January 22, 2010

Briefly

County 4-Hers to hold Food Show

Norton County 4-H members will present the Favorite Food Show tomorrow at the 4-H Building in Norton. This program has been a tradition to allow 4-H members an opportunity to try out a favorite dish of theirs and set a place setting with their own touch. Members will begin entering their projects at 12:45 p.m., the consultation judging will be done from 1-2:30 p.m. and the exhibits will be open to the public from 2:30-3 p.m. The public is invited to watch the 4-Hers, their leaders, and parents with the show.

Annual Cub Scout Derby scheduled

The annual Cub Scout Pinewood Derby will be held tomorrow at 4 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 805 W. Wilberforce. The event is open to the public.

Rotary club to hold soup supper Feb. 2

Norton Rotary Club will have a soup supper on Tuesday, Feb. 2 at the Norton Community High School cafeteria, between 5 - 7 p.m.



Public Works Crew member Tom Davis loaded one of the refuse trucks with refuse. The city has two refuse trucks and is considering purchasing a newer one due to the age of the two in use. The issue was discussed

during Wednesday's city council meeting.

—Telegram photo by Erica Bradley

Council discusses city equipment

By ERICA BRADLEY
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Two pieces of city equipment were up for discussion at Wednesday's city council meeting including the unit 10 fire truck and the refuse trucks.

Council member Jeff Otter reported on the last safety committee meeting, saying Fire Chief Mitch Jones reported the unit 10 truck had been moved to reserve because it stalled several times and has electrical problems. Unit 16 was moved from reserve to active.

The council discussed the issue due to the importance of having working

equipment.

"I think it's extremely important that the piece of emergency equipment be looked at," said Toby Kuhn, councilman.

Otter made a motion to have the fire chief take unit 10 to Cummins Diesel in Colby to be analyzed. Vote taken, motion passed.

Another motion was made to have the fire chief have Nex-Tech or another electrician look at and repair the electrical lights on unit 10. Vote taken, motion passed.

Kim Snyder, council member, pre-
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The Welcome to Norton sign on east Highway 36 was damaged during a recent storm. The sign does not belong to the city and sits on private property.

—Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

School to disorganize, join Norton Schools

By ERICA BRADLEY
ebradley@nwkansas.com

Many schools are looking at ways they can offset state budget cuts while continuing to operate, however one Norton County school will disorganize at the end of the year.

The agreement to disorganize West Soloman Valley and attach to Norton Community Schools will mean the 17 students at Lenora Elementary School will become part of Norton Community Schools. The two districts will combine the two budgets, a move that will increase Norton's school budget by an estimated \$400,000 as well as protect it from further state cuts.

Norton Schools Superintendent Greg Mann said the state board of education approved the agreement to

disorganize and attach during their Jan. 12 meeting.

Both boards had approved the agreement during their December board meetings.

Mann said school district budgets which are combined due to disorganization, consolidation or another issue are protected from cuts for a specified time period, three years in this case.

Further state cuts this year are a possibility but would require a two-thirds majority vote due to the governor threatening to veto any more education cuts.

Mann said there is discussion about further cuts for 2010/11 to make up the difference in the budget deficit.

"The cut being 'rumored' for 2010/11 is an additional \$289 per student which is the amount of reduction

needed to pay for 52 percent of the projected \$400 million budget deficit in 2010/11," he said.

"K-12 Education in Kansas is 52 percent of the State General Fund Budget. If realized, our Base Aid Per Pupil would go from \$4,012 to \$3,723 per pupil. It was \$3,600 per pupil in 1992," he said.

Due to the agreement with Lenora, the combined budget will not be affected.

"We will know the USD 211 budget for the next three years will be no less than is the 211 and 213 budget at the end of the 2009/10 school year," Mann said.

Many issues have yet to be resolved, Mann said, such as property, debts and liabilities, board member elections, staff, contracts for services and scholarships. Two

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County not eligible for emergency funds

By ERICA BRADLEY
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Norton County did not qualify for funds through the Federal Emergency Management Agency even though snow storms at the end of December brought record amounts of snow.

Gov. Parkinson signed a disaster declaration for the holiday storm at the end of December.

Norton County Sheriff Troy Thomson worked to get the necessary documentation but said Norton County did not qualify for emergency federal money because the only cost incurred was city snow removal.

"We wouldn't have come close," he said.

Norton City Administrator Rob Lawson said there was not much damage, but there was a lot of snow removal.

Eligibility requirements for the money included record or near record snowfall over three days.

Damage included emergency debris removal, emergency protective measures (pre-treating roads, snow removal, sheltering, operations, life and health safety checks, etc), damages to public infrastructure (roads, bridges, critical infrastructure, essential facilities, etc), damage to publicly-owned buildings, damages to eli-

gible utilities and private non-profits, overtime and volunteer hours and equipment usage time for repairs.

Counties included in the declaration included Allen, Anderson, Atchison, Bourbon, Brown, Chautauqua, Cherokee, Cheyenne, Clay, Coffey, Crawford, Decatur, Dickinson, Doniphan, Douglas, Elk, Franklin, Geary, Gove, Greenwood, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Labette, Leavenworth, Linn, Logan, Lyon, Marshall, Miami, Montgomery, Morris, Nemaha, Neosho, Norton, Osage, Phillips, Pottawatomie, Rawlins, Riley, Shawnee, Sheridan, Sherman, Wabaunsee, Washington, Wilson, Woodson and Wyandotte.

MARKETS
Cash Prices-Norton
January 22, 2010

CORN
\$3.21

SOYBEANS
\$8.76

WHEAT
\$3.98

MILO
\$2.91

Ag Valley
314 W. North Street
Norton, Kansas
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weather forecast

Tonight - A 50 percent chance of showers, mainly before 3 a.m. Mostly cloudy with a low around 35. Saturday - Partly sunny with a high near 48. Saturday Night - A slight chance of flurries after midnight. Mostly cloudy. Sunday - Patchy blowing snow and a slight chance of snow showers.

Kingham report:

Tuesday, January 19..... Low 25, High 32
Wed., January 20..... Low 22, High 42
1" Snow
Thursday, January 21.... Low 28, High 41
.07 Rain

(Readings taken at the Kingham farm
9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

O God, help us let go of our desire to control our lives and to define who you are and limit what you can do. Please hold on to us, especially in our uncertainty. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

