

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

10 PAGES

Friday

January 29, 2010

Briefly

High School band to present concert

The Norton Community High School band will present their winter concert at 2:30 p.m. on Jan. 31 in the Stull Gymnasium. The students will play a variety of music including marches, a winter soundscape, classical, hymn tune setting, a Broadway medley and a salute to Hollywood's fascination with the western. Some students will be recognized for their participation in the Kansas Music Educators Association District Honor Band, the University of Nebraska-Kearney Honor Bands and the Kansas Music Educators Association State Band. The concert will also be broadcast on KQNK radio for those unable to attend.

Salvation Army still seeks 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. The organization is accepting donations for the relief effort at www.salvationarmyusa.org or by calling 800-SAL-ARMY (800-725-2769).

MARKETS
Cash Prices-Norton
January 29, 2010

CORN	\$3.14
SOYBEANS	\$8.53
WHEAT	\$3.91
MILO	\$2.83

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

weather forecast

Tonight - Mostly cloudy with a low around 11. Saturday - Mostly sunny with a high near 38. Saturday Night - Partly cloudy with a low around 15. Sunday - Mostly sunny with a high near 32. Sunday Night - A chance of freezing drizzle. Mostly cloudy with a low around 17. Monday - Partly sunny with a high near 40. Monday Night - Partly cloudy with a low around 18.

Kingham report:

Tuesday, January 26..... Low 13, High 45
Wednesday, January 27 Low 19, High 35
Thursday, January 28.... Low 16, High 27
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Dear God, help us live in your will so that we are examples and guides for those around us. May they become faithful believers as we support and love them. Amen



Demolition begins



Whitney Construction started demolishing R&M Motel, located at 309 W. Holme. The site is expected to be the new location of Dollar General when they move to the highway. Bob Millan owned the hotel until he

sold it at the end of 2009.

— Telegram photo by Erica Bradley



Inmate Jarold Dorsch received a completion certificate from Colby Community College President Lynn Kreider during Tuesday's graduation ceremony at Norton Correctional Facility. Nine inmates graduated from a business program through Colby Community College, which was funded by a KAN-GO grant.

—Telegram photo by Erica Bradley

Grant funds courses for Norton inmates

By ERICA BRADLEY
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In a small ceremony at Norton Correctional Facility on Tuesday, family, friends and teachers gathered to see nine inmates graduate from a business program run by Colby Community College.

The prison partnered with the college and Kansas Workforce to allow 20 inmates to enroll in the program. It was paid for by a \$30,000 KAN-GO grant, which covered tuition and books for the inmates.

A second group is currently in the program and is expected to graduate in May.

Colby Community College Director of Adult Education Nance Munderloh said they are looking at two options for the rest of the grant.

A third group may participate, or they will have twice as many inmates enroll for six credits and have them continue during the next fiscal year.

If they pursue the second option, the inmates would be responsible for part of their tuition.

Education has not been an option for many people who are incarcerated, and the chance to attend school, either through a GED program or by taking college courses, gives the inmates a chance at a future.

"The grant offers an opportunity for those with the least ability to succeed. The prison is in our service area and seemed to be a prime place for this grant," Munderloh said.

Of the nine who graduated, several expressed an interest in continuing their education.

Munderloh has researched prison statistics, which show 97 percent of all inmates are released from prison. Many end up returning.

"We can either educate them prior to release so they won't return, or we can

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Award \$101 million to Rural Telephone

On Tuesday, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that Rural Telephone and its wholly-owned subsidiary, Nex-Tech, was one of 14 recipients selected for Recovery Act Broadband Infrastructure funding as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The Lenora-based telecommunications cooperative and its Hays-based subsidiary will receive a grant of \$49,588,807 and loan funds of \$51,612,842 that will enable the development of broadband services in unserved and underserved areas of central and western Kansas. In all, the United States Department of Agriculture announced broadband projects totaling \$309,923,352 in 11 states.

President Obama signed The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 into law on Feb. 17, 2009. Altogether, Congress awarded the United States Department of Agriculture \$2.5 billion in Recovery Act funding to help bring broadband services to rural unserved and underserved communities.

"Kansas jobs have been hit hard by the economic downturn in manufacturing, construction, professional and business services and a lack of broadband availability," stated Rural Telephone CEO/General Manager Larry E. Sevier.

"These funds will immediately put people to work in central and western Kansas, building a state-of-the-art network that will bring broadband to residents and businesses with no access or limited access to these vital communication services," he added.

"Rural Telephone/Nex-Tech will look

at hiring up to 17 employees with this project, but the engineering firms and contractors that are coming in to western Kansas will also be looking to 'staff up' as well. We estimate that we'll create approximately 400 jobs with this broadband loan and grant."

According to Sevier, the massive construction project will impact 21 towns and 26 rural areas spanning over 4,600 square miles in Decatur, Ellis, Gove, Graham, Norton, Osborne, Phillips, Rooks, Sheridan, Smith and Trego Counties in Kansas.

"When completed, this expanded network will provide high speed services to nearly 23,000 households and businesses within the Rural Telephone and Nex-Tech footprint, including 335 community anchor institutions such as schools, libraries, hospitals, clinics, county health agencies, law enforcement agencies, senior and disability centers," Sevier said.

To most effectively utilize the broadband stimulus funds, and to provide the maximum benefit to the greatest number of households and businesses, Sevier indicated the project would utilize two complementing technologies.

"We plan to build a Fiber-To-The-Premise (FTTP) network in combination with WiMAX technology to provide sustainable, viable, high-speed telecommunications services at affordable rates," Sevier said.

Much of the preliminary engineering work has been completed, and the actual

(Nex-Tech - Continued on Page 5)

Council elections begin

City council elections are underway in Norton with two candidates running for Ward I, one candidate running in Ward II and three candidates running in Ward III.

Jeff Otter currently holds the Ward I seat. Veronica Monier is running against him. Former councilman Ron Briery and Justina Smith are running in Ward III. Toby Kuhn currently holds the seat. In Ward II, Donna Foley is running unopposed.

Norton City Clerk Darla Ellis said a primary election will be held March 2 since more than two persons filed for the position in Ward III.

Voter registration books will close at 5 p.m. on Feb. 15 for the primary election.

The general election will be held on April 6.

Registration books will close at 5 p.m. on March 22.