

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM

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10 PAGES



Friday

February 5, 2010

Briefly



Six more weeks of winter predicted

Punxsutawney Phil predicted another six weeks of winter when he saw his shadow on Tuesday. The Punxsutawney Groundhog Club said the groundhog has seen his shadow 90 percent of the time.

Representative to meet with veterans

A Veterans Service Representative for the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs will be at the Norton City Office on Feb. 8 from 1—2:30 p.m. to assist veterans and their families with veterans' benefits. Veterans and family members needing assistance with the VA annual Eligibility Verification Report should call for an appointment. The Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs is a state agency that provides free assistance to veterans and their families with veterans' benefits. Please call 785-625-8532 for more information.

MARKETS
Cash Prices-Norton
February 5, 2010

CORN	\$3.11
SOYBEANS	\$8.36
WHEAT	\$3.85
MILO	\$2.76

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

weather forecast

Tonight - Patchy freezing fog after 2 a.m. Saturday - Patchy freezing fog before 9 a.m. Mostly cloudy with a high near 34. Saturday Night - A slight chance of snow before 9 p.m. then areas of freezing drizzle. Areas of freezing fog after 9 p.m. Sunday - a chance of snow and freezing drizzle.

Kingham report:

Tuesday, February 2..... Low 16, High 51
Wednesday, February 3 Low 23, High 41
Thursday, February 4..... Low 31, High 37

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

Prayer

Lord, give us the grace to trust your promises and not what we see or don't see.



Demolition comes to an end

Whitney Construction worked to complete the demolition of R & M Motel and the home at 309 E. Holme Street. Dollar General purchased the property and will begin construction on a new store. It is not known when Dollar General will begin construction on the new store.

—Telegram photos by Erica Bradley and Dana Paxton



City ends year under budget

By ERICA BRADLEY
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Concern over the city budget prompted the council to make a 5 percent cut shortly before the end of 2009 in an effort to stay within budget, and at Wednesday's city council meeting the council discussed the 2009 budget.

City Administrator Rob Lawson said the city came in under budget and had a cash carryover of \$630,115 for the general fund.

"I would like to commend the department heads, city administrator and city employees for staying under budget. The city did a good job with its budget," said Toby Kuhn, council member and chair of the finance committee.

In an interview after the meeting, Lawson said the departments usually come in 10–12 percent under budget.

"We have always come in under budget," he said.

Lawson said finances will still be a

concern in 2010, although capital improvement projects such as curb repair will continue.

He said \$8,000 was lost last year in the special highway allotment fund, which is used for road repairs.

"We depend on that money to do a lot of our street repair," he said.

Kuhn said capital improvement projects should continue.

"We need to continue capital improvement projects in 2010," he said.

Lawson also reported on the work at the waste water and water treatment plants. He said the waste water plant work is complete. He said he received a letter from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment about the payment for the water plant being due this month. The payment is \$227,967.90.

He said he is working to have the payment adjusted until the funds come in from the United States Department (Council - Continued on Page 5)

State payments still delayed for schools

By ERICA BRADLEY
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The state has delayed payments for schools for the fourth straight month, and although it is not hurting schools who have reserve funds to rely upon, some schools in the state are having trouble meeting payroll and other expenses.

Norton Community Schools Superintendent Greg Mann said \$300,000 to \$350,000 is received from the state each month.

He said \$171,000 was received this month with the rest of the payment expected to come at a later date.

Norton Community Schools has been

using reserve funds to offset the state payment and has been replacing the reserve funds when the state payment comes in.

Mann said reserve funds are not in danger of being depleted.

"How long our reserve funds last depends on the state aid we receive. As long as the state continues to fund us at 100 percent, even if late, we are okay," he said.

Northern Valley Schools Superintendent George Griffith said they are also using reserve funds and are not in danger of not meeting expenses at this point.

"What we're getting is meeting our needs," he said.



City employee Brian Hickman cut limbs off a tree on West Street last week. The city removes trees on city right-of-ways that are diseased or hazardous.

—Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

Annual season of hope arrives with daffodils

What is the color, shape and smell of hope? The Daffodil! A new season of hope has arrived in Norton County, thanks to the American Cancer Society Daffodil Days. This beautiful flower has been selected as the flower of hope, because it is the first flower of spring. This longstanding program celebrates the Society's mission to eliminate cancer as a

life-threatening disease by offering daffodils to donors in appreciation of their contributions, as well as representing hope for a new season.

Jane Kersenbrock, a ten year survivor, says, "Without continued research and financial help to those who can not afford treatment, fewer people would be having (Daffodil - Continued on Page 5)

Tree removal is a city service

By ERICA BRADLEY
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City crews were busy with tree cleanup last week, a service they provide if a tree is a nuisance or blocking an intersection.

City Administrator Rob Lawson said crews typically cut 50 trees down a year.

The trees have to be on a city right-of-way or within a city easement, typically 12–15 feet from an intersection.

Lawson said the city will take care of tree removal if the tree is a nuisance—if it is dropping limbs, blocking trash trucks, school buses or other vehicles or if it is blinding a corner.

"If it's dead, diseased or a nuisance, we get rid of them," he said.

He said the public works department has a long list of trees to remove. They typically take care of 50 every winter, but Lawson said one year 160 trees were taken down.