

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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Tuesday

Council looks at unsafe properties

December 7, 2010

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Briefly

Donate online to Salvation Army

If you would like to donate to the Norton County Salvation Army kettle drive it can now be done online. Just go to... <http://give.salvationarmyusa.org/goto/nortoncounty> Help those in need this holiday season.

Santa in session at the courthouse

Come visit Santa at his house on the Norton County Courthouse lawn on Thursday evenings, Dec. 9, 11 and 23, at 6 p.m. Sleigh rides also will be available.

Donations wanted for local food bank

The Pamida Foundation is taking donations to go to area food banks to help stock their shelves during the holiday season. Monetary donations can be made during Round-Up Events at Pamida stores. Customers can ask cashiers to "round up" their purchase totals to the next dollar. The excess money will go to the local food bank.

Learning Center to have graduation

The USD 211 Learning Center graduation ceremonies for students completing graduation requirements during the Fall of 2010 will be held Wednesday, December 15 at 7:00 p.m. at the East Campus Auditorium. A reception will follow the ceremony at the USD 211 Learning Center at 126 S. State Street. The public is invited to attend.

Markets

Tuesday, December 7, 2010

Wheat	\$6.74
Milo	\$4.66
Soybeans	\$12.00
Corn	\$5.01

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Tonight - Partly cloudy with a low around 18. **Wednesday** - Sunny with a high near 47. **Wednesday Night** - Partly cloudy with a low around 25. **Thursday** - Mostly sunny with a high near 55. **Thursday Night** - Partly cloudy with a low around 25. **Friday** - Mostly sunny with a high near 53.

Kingham Report

Friday, December 3Low 29, High 58
Saturday, December 4...Low 21, High 35
Sunday, December 5.....Low 21, High 31
Trace of Snow
Monday, December 6....Low 10, High 40
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Dear God, you use all that we do for your purposes. Teach us to rely on you in all the circumstances of our lives. Amen



The Norton City Council held public hearings on unsafe and dangerous property on Wednesday, Dec. 1.

The hearing on property located at 401 E. Main was scheduled for 6 p.m. This was rescheduled for Dec. 15 at 5:45 p.m. The property in question had been sold at a public auction and the new owner was unable to make the hearing. There were no other individuals present to discuss the property.

The 5:45 p.m. hearing for property located at 207 E. Woodfield was called to order. The notice of the hearing had been published in *The Norton Telegram* the required times and notice was served to all interested parties. Interested parties that appeared at the hearing were Mark Saintz, Elizabeth Saintz and Wanda Daniels.

Jeff Wolf, city code inspector, presented evidence that the property is unsafe or dangerous. He reviewed his inspection findings and listed the items which were

determined to be substandard. Wolf stated the condition of the property is dilapidated and he determined it to be unsafe and dangerous. A trailer house that had been on the property at the initial inspection had been removed.

Mark Saintz stated that if he cannot use the property as storage, he would sign it back over to the previous owner. He only purchased the property because he thought he could use the house for storage.

The public hearing closed at 6:13 p.m.

Karen Griffiths told the council that the decision can be taken up now as to whether the council agreed the property is unfit or unsafe for human habitation because of dilapidation. If the council agrees, a resolution would be needed with deadlines for repair or demolition. The council adopted Resolution No. 14-2010 finding that the structure located at 207 E. Woodfield is unsafe or dangerous and directed the structure to be removed and the premises be made safe and secure. The property owners have 30 days from the date of publication and

will have 60 days to have the removal completed.

Karen Griffiths told the council that the City received a \$3,000 Check from Tommy Finklea plus the service fee and court costs. Griffiths said this would be considered settlement in full regarding the matter.

Rob Lawson said that the bid opening for the new fire truck is set for Dec. 22 at 3 p.m. at the City Office. Lawson advised that the grant for the Recreation Center is moving slowly. He said that the City might be further ahead to use City funds instead of waiting on grant money.

Eric Farber will be offered the position of Water Plant Operator Trainee at the starting wage of 4-B.

The 2010 budget amendment hearing was scheduled for Dec. 15 at 5:35 p.m. The Airport Bond and Interest Fund and the Tourism Fund will be amended during this hearing.

The Council approved the safe ride home program for New Year's Eve.



Cherokee, the horse owned by Robby Mapes, looks upon the nativity scene. Many volunteers took time out of their lives to participate in the annual Living Nativity that was set outside and around the Norton

Methodist Church this past Sunday. The part of Joseph was played by Shane Shoemaker, Mary was Amie Menagh and the angel was Sydney Menagh. — Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

Living Nativity marks 10th year

This is the tenth year for the Living Nativity at the First Methodist Church, said Chuck Look, a member of the organizing committee.

Other committee members are Janet Look, Ruth and Richard Burd, Kelly Jones, Larry Joe Enfield, Randa Vollertsen and Dale Carlson.

The holiday event began in 2001, and has been staged every year except one when it was snowed out.

Attendance was down last year possibly because it snowed and was cold on the usual date of the first Sunday in December and put it off a week. However, it was still cold.

Look said the idea came from his hometown Stockton where the Living Nativity is a community event. Various Stockton churches participate by creating scenes on their lawns, and people can drive around town and see them.

After moving to Norton, Look said he mentioned the idea at Church and approached the Norton Ministerial Alliance about doing the same thing here. There was little interest from other churches, so the First Methodist Church took on the project.

However, community members are welcome to participate. There's no shortage of volunteers signing up for the half-hour shifts for the Living Nativity roles, Look said.

"Saturday is a work day, and Sunday we put up the lights. Sunday at 6 p.m., the cars start coming."

There are six scenes altogether near the Church and out on the lawn.

The display has been changed over time. The scene showing Mary and Joseph camping on their way to Bethlehem has been phased out and a carpenter shop scene and a scene of the cross, both from Jesus' life, are the most recent additions.

"We have learned over time about layout," Look said.

Volunteers also work on the costumes "They do a good job making bathrobes and blankets look fancy," he said.

The circle drive for vehicles is lined with luminaries, so organizers ask that drivers shut off their vehicle lights.

"We get good cooperation from the Norton police to flag cars when traffic is heavy," Look said.

The city also allows them to tap into street-light poles for electricity.

The two camels were a big attraction, they belong to Rick and Diane Jarvis of Phillipsburg. There were a variety of other live animals at the display including several sheep; two mothers with a set of twins each,

(NATIVITY - Continued on Page 5)



As everyone knows, Jesus was a carpenter. Corey Menagh plays the part of Joseph in this scene at the Living Nativity while his son Colby Menagh plays a young Jesus. The scene shows the carpenter hard at work. This was one of several scenes that surrounded the Methodist Church. — Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

Merry Christmas

Destination Kitchen

25% OFF ANYTHING HOLIDAY THIS WEEK ONLY

115 W. Main, Norton, KS

DECEMBER 7 THRU 11