

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: nwkansas.com 10 PAGES

Friday

February 4, 2011

Briefly

City of Edmond changes meeting

This week's Tuesday City of Edmond meeting was moved to next Tuesday, Feb. 8.

Veterans to get help at meeting

Weather conditions prompted change in monthly visit.

Jody Tubbs of the Kansas Commission on Veteran's Affairs will be in Norton from 10:45 until 11:45 a.m. at the City Office to assist Veterans and their dependents with VA claims work on Tuesday, Feb. 8. If you are unable to contact Ms. Tubbs at that time, you may contact her in Colby and Monday, Wednesday or Friday at 785-462-3572.

Disc Gold tourney no matter weather

The Norton Disc Golf Club in conjunction with the Kansas Disc Golf Association will hold a food drive tournament with proceeds going to God's Pantry on Saturday, Feb. 5, no matter what the weather is doing. Cost is \$20 and there will be two rounds of singles for a payout and other prizes! Players meeting is at 9:45 a.m. in Elmwood Park. Registration, lunch and the awards ceremony will be in the basement of the Norton City Building, 301 E. Washington. For more information contact Don Mordecai at 785-877-5475.

Mr. NCHS takes place this weekend

Come to the East Campus on Sunday, Feb. 6, at 2 p.m. and enjoy the Fourth Annual, Mr. NCHS.

Watch and enjoy the fun as eight Norton Community High School senior boys compete for the title of Mr. NCHS. They will entertain with the following competitions; Beach Wear, Formal Wear, Question and Answer, and Talent.

Donations will be accepted for the Nan Smith Scholarship fund.

Markets

Friday, February 4, 2011

Wheat	\$8.14
Milo	\$5.66
Soybeans	\$13.44
Corn	\$5.97

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Tonight - Mostly cloudy, with a low around 25. Northwest wind around 10 mph. **Saturday** - Partly sunny, with a high near 49. Breezy, with a northwest wind between 10 and 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. **Saturday night** - Mostly cloudy, with a low around 25. Northwest wind between 10 and 15 mph.

Kingham Report

Tuesday, February 1Low-8 , High 7
.....One inch snow
Wednesday, February 2 Low-9, High-13
Thursday, February 3.... Low-5 , High33
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm
9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Dear Lord, help us to feel your power within us in our times of struggle and pain. In Jesus' name. Amen



Hospital has grim financial report

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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This is the first time in quite awhile, the Norton County Hospital has had to tell the county commissioners that the facility was in the red instead of the black.

Hospital Administrator Rich Miller and Chief Financial Officer Ryan Stove and the hospital board gave their quarterly report to the commissioners on Monday.

Stove reported on the number of admissions, patient days, in hospital care, births, surgeries, out-patient procedures and doctors' clinic visits and the services used, such as X-ray and CT scans.

Miller provided a report on services and expenditures at the hospital. This is the first report in a long time, he

said, that he has had to report negative numbers for the hospital's net operating income.

Many factors caused the decline in revenue, he said, including write offs, non-collectable debts and changes in reimbursement by insurance and government.

The funding that the hospital has received in the past, known as dish funds, has been reduced, he said.

The new doctors' clinic construction is on schedule and should be done by late April, he said. The contractors and sub-contractors have done a good job of keeping the construction on schedule and within budget, Miller told the commissioners.

When the facility is opened, he said, the name will be the Norton Medical Facility.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Heard from Register of Deeds Wanda Vincent that she was afraid that her budget this year will not be enough. The commissioners asked her to watch her budget and keep them informed if it looked like she was going to have problems, especially in the last part of the year.

- Accepted the resignation of road and bridge worker Stacy Ares after meeting with him in closed session for 15 minutes.

- Received the monthly sales tax report from Treasurer Cynthia Linner. The amount, just over \$23,000, is close to what the county deposited in January of last year.

Old pipe bursts in front of bank



The bucket on the back hoe puts a lid on the water break that occurred on Wednesday in front of First Security Bank. Dan Bainter, Public Works Supervisor, said "The pipe that broke was an old galvanized pipe that had outlived its usefulness. Most of the pipes that are breaking now are pipes that were put in when the city was built, they were not made to last this long." -Telegram photo by Harriett Gill

Landowners want assurances, not money

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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Norton County is willing to pay landowners for parking heavy equipment on their property but some citizens are saying they don't want the money, just an agreement with the commissioners.

Road and Bridge Administrative Assistant Sandy Smith gave the commissioners a rundown on agreements, which had been sent out to landowners where the county has in the past or would like in the future to park heavy road equipment while working in the area.

The commissioners had asked her to get an agreement out to landowners so everyone would know the whys and wherefores. The county offered a modest rent for the use of the properties.

On Monday, Smith said she had gotten some of the agreements back and some of the property owners didn't really care if they were paid or not so long as they knew what was going on and had an agreement with the county.

Smith said that she would follow up with those landowners who have not returned agreements.

Smith also talked to the commissioners about the lighting in the county shop. The lighting is not good in the primary work area where equipment require take place, she said, resulting in poor visibility.

The commissioners said that replacement and repair of lighting should be made where needed.

Although bids have been received for both a belly-dump and a flat-bed trailer, the commissioners said they would like to delay a decision because Commissioner John Miller was not in attendance and they wanted the full board available before awarding the bid.

Department wants friends on Facebook

By CYNTHIA HAYNES
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The Norton County Health Department wants friends, or at least, get on Facebook, the social media site.

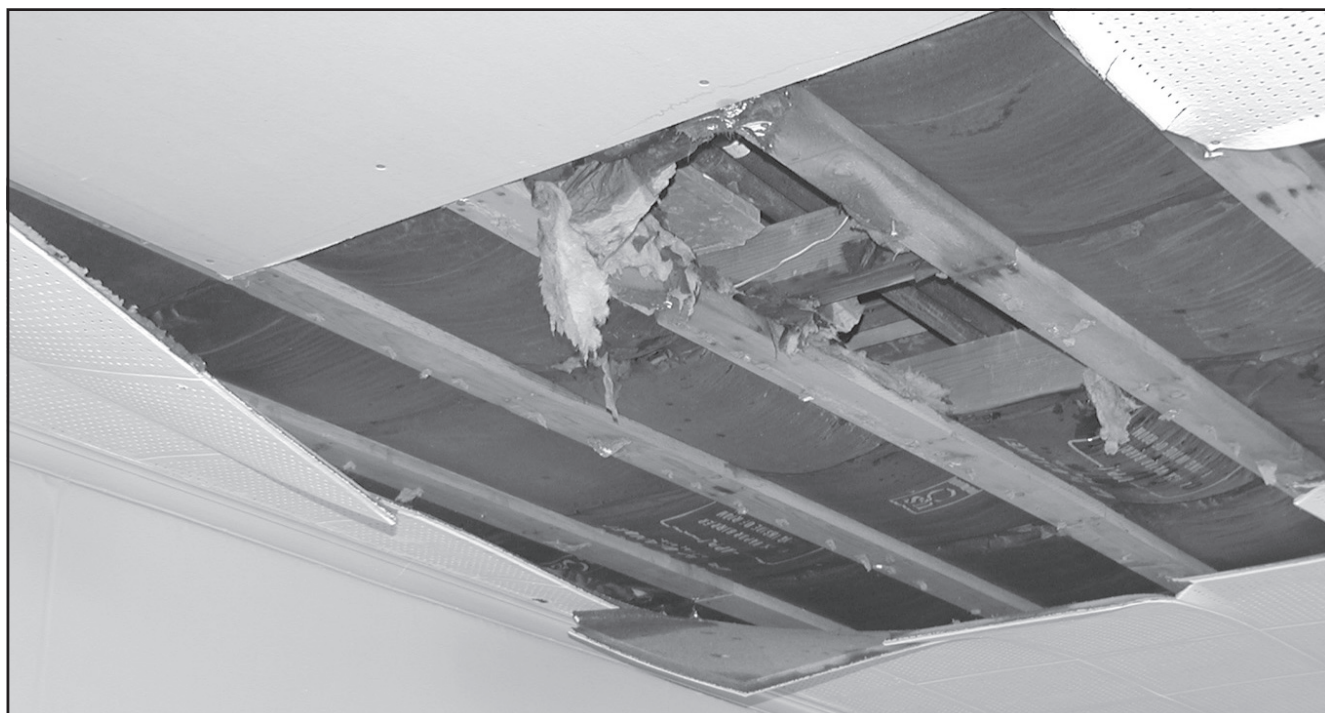
The Kansas Department of Health and Environment uses Facebook to put out its newsletter and provide updates for local departments.

Also, a recent project on immunization, "Dare to be a Champion," will be using the social media site to gather local information.

At least one health department worker is now using the site to get information at home, the county commissioners were told on Monday, and it would be good to have the department on the site.

However, the commissioners said that they felt they need more information before giving their permission for the health department to join Facebook.

Ceiling lines break, flood business



The cold weather not only affected the city water lines but the lines in many homes and businesses. Marritta Van Pelt, owner and operator of Grooming by Maritta, came to work Thursday morning and got a rude awakening for the second time in two years. The water lines that run above the ceiling in her business had frozen and burst leaving her standing in several inches of water with her ceiling falling down. A reminder to everyone in times of cold, open cabinet doors and leave a trickle running in your sinks. If you plan on being gone for a while, have someone check to see if all is well to avoid a disaster such as this.

-Telegram photo by Dana Paxton