

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

8 PAGES

Friday

November 25, 2011

Briefly

Norton wrestlers to hold exhibition

The public will have their first look at the 2011-12 Norton Community High School wrestling team during the annual Blue and Yellow Classic this Tuesday, Nov. 29 in the Junior High Gym, beginning at 6 p.m.

Coach Bill Johnson's wrestlers will have some challenge matches and some exhibition matches for the enjoyment of the fans.

The first tournament of the season will be the Hoxie Invitational on Saturday, Dec. 3.

Cookie walk set for Wednesday, Nov. 30

United Methodist Women will be holding their Cookie and Candy Walk on Wednesday Nov. 30 from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Norton Community Center.

Santa and Mrs. Claus are visiting Norton

Santa is coming to town! Visit Santa and Mrs. Clause today from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Courthouse Square. Also, enjoy a sleigh ride and hot chocolate and cookies served by Chamber Ambassadors in the Courthouse Lobby. Santa and Mrs. Claus will also be in town to visit on the following Thursdays: Dec. 1, 8, 15 and 22. Sleigh rides will also be available on those evenings.

Christmas lights delayed for county

Because of contractor delay, Norton county officials have reported that the Norton County courthouse won't be lit with Christmas lights for this evening's Santa visit. Barring further complications, however, the courthouse should be lit up sometime next week.

Markets

Friday, November 25, 2011

Wheat.....	\$5.88
Milo.....	\$5.41
Soybeans.....	\$10.25
Corn.....	\$5.78

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 44. Very windy, with a north wind 35 to 40 mph decreasing to between 25 and 30 mph. Winds could gust as high as 55 mph. **Sunday:** Sunny, with a high near 56. West wind between 5 and 10 mph. **Monday:** Sunny, with a high near 61.

Kingham Report

Tuesday, November 21 ..Low 21, High 57
Wednesday, November 22 ..Low 32, High 63
Thursday, November 23Low 29, High 64

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

Prayer

Dear God, thank you for giving us your light to guide us. Help us to trust you more and more to see the way ahead. Amen.

Mentor program kicks off in Norton

The Norton School District's PALS program kicked off this week with the high school's Future Farmers of America students and Eisenhower Elementary students.

According to information from the district, high school agriculture students "buddy" with third graders in the district to allow the older students to serve as mentors for the younger students. Mentoring activities are planned to encourage building trust and developing positive self-esteem through healthy one-on-one relationships.

The program kicked off with a supper and informational meeting

Monday evening at the Norton High School. Through the year, the high school students will visit their buddies at Eisenhower every two or three weeks to work on homework or other projects.

The PALS program is sponsored by the national Future Farmers of America organization and is a staple in many school districts across the nation.

Helping coordinate the PALS program are Norton Future Farmers of America President Robert Blecha, along with instructor Garrett Beydler and the Eisenhower Elementary teachers and staff.

(Right) The PALS program got underway Monday evening with an introductory program at the Norton Community High School. Eisenhower third grader Mason Urban (on floor) works on decorating a program t-shirt at the school while Kennedy Yeager and Javin Colip look on.

—Telegram photo by Dana Paxton



Christmas on Us promotion starts this week, prizes will be awarded

With the holiday season upon us, everyone could use an extra \$1,200 to spend locally, and the Norton Telegram is ready to help with that.

The Norton Telegram/Norton Business Christmas On Us promotion kicked off this week.

Over the course of the six-week promotion, a total of \$1,200 will be given away. The prizes will be one \$500 winner, one \$100 winner, seven \$50 winners, and 10 \$25 instant winners, which come from the numbers found in the advertisements in each Tuesday edition of the Norton Telegram.

During the first week of the promotion, Nov. 14-21, 5,071 tickets were counted, which translates into \$50,710 spent at local businesses. The first five \$25 instant winning ticket numbers went into the Nov. 22 ads and were drawn from Mortensen Computer Services, Destination Kitchen, NexTech, The Bank and Moffet Drug. Ticket holders must bring the tickets with them to the Norton Telegram no later than noon on Monday, Nov. 28. Winners must also agree to go directly to the business where the ticket was obtained for a photo at the business.

Participants should check their ticket numbers against those in sponsor ads on the Christmas On Us page each Tuesday. The instant winner ticket winners will have six days to claim their prizes, which are redeemable at the Telegram office at 215 S. Kansas Avenue.

All prizes are in the form of scrip money, spendable only at Christmas On Us participants.

Participating businesses have posters in their windows and shoppers will receive one ticket for each \$10 they spend at the participating business and tickets can also be obtained at the Norton Telegram office with no purchase necessary. The customer gets one ticket and the other is placed in a box at the business. There is no need to fill out the back of the ticket. Tickets are collected each Monday from participating businesses. From these tickets, the new instant winner tickets are drawn.

The grand prize drawing will be held at the Norton Community Center on Thursday, Dec. 22 at 7 p.m.. The \$500, \$100 and seven \$50 prizes will

(Promotion - Continued on Page 5)

County moves forward this week with clinic renovation for college

By Carleen Bell
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Taking the next step in completing the project, the Norton County Commissioners signed off Monday morning on a certificate of participation to issue bonds for renovation of the former Doctors Clinic to become a satellite campus for Colby Community College.

Mark Detter of Central States Capital Markets, the company helping facilitate the bonding process, reported to the commissioners that authorizing the certificate of participation will provide \$190,000 to help fund the approximately \$420,000 project. With the commissioners' approval, Detter said, the funding for the project will be available Dec. 1 and the renovation project can begin soon after that date.

The \$190,000 bond funding is in addition to a \$250,000 grant from the Dane G. Hansen Foundation to fund the project. Norton City/County Economic Development Director Scott Sproul explained that much of the bond funding will be recovered over time through tax revenue and a lease agreement with Colby Community College. The college will lease the building, to be named the Colby Community College Norton Campus. The facility will be used primarily to house the school's nursing program.

"This is another step forward for Norton County to offer educational services that are needed to expand the health work force by western Kansas by adding additional nursing students to the Norton campus," Sproul said. "It's been a dream of economic development to have have a brick and mortar post-secondary education facility and now those dreams are being realized through Colby Community College and Norton County."

Sproul also explained that county officials are working to draft a final agreement with Deines Construction, based in WaKeeney, before construction begins, but with the final steps within reach, construction is slated to begin sometime in December. Though no specific timeline has been decided, the facility is likely to open and begin housing nursing students sometime in the spring semester.

Norton County Commissioner Carolyn Applegate expressed her appreciation for the project, particularly in drawing healthcare professionals to Norton County.

"The nursing school expansion is an opportunity to increase the number of students in Norton," Applegate reflected. "The 36-year collaboration with Colby Community College has been of great benefit to our community in helping to supply quality medical professionals and the county is happy to support this growth."

County continues state insurance coverage

By Carleen Bell
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Despite reluctance over taking county business out of the area and some minor difference of opinion with a local business owner, the Norton County Commissioners agreed Monday morning to continue carrying the county's insurance coverage with the Kansas County Association Multiline Pool for property, casualty and liability insurance. The commissioners also agreed to continue with Kansas Workers Risk Cooperative for Counties for Norton County's Worker's Compensation Insurance.

The decision comes after the county recently solicited bids for insurance coverage. Two bids were received in the process, one from Boxler Insurance

and one through the state of Kansas insurance offering. Boxler Insurance representatives Jon Boxler and Dave Davis visited with the commissioners to help explain their bid, which totals \$178,198 in annual premiums. The representatives explained that the quote includes property, casualty and liability insurance and workers' compensation insurance, both to be written by the EMC insurance company.

For the county to continue with its current insurance coverage, the quote came in through the state for a total of \$83,162 for an annual premium, which also includes both areas of coverage. Because of the \$95,000 difference, the commissioners discussed the prudence of continuing with Kansas County Association Multiline Pool and Kansas

Workers Risk Cooperative for insurance coverage, a move that prompted Boxler to question the decision.

"We have written (insurance) for the city of Norton for a number of years," he said. "Carrying insurance locally means you get an economic boost at the county level. (The state insurer) spends no money here, so you are sending that money out of the area."

In the end, though, the commissioners agreed to take the lower quote and continue with the current coverage.

"As much as I want to agree with that, what do you say to the taxpayers?" asked Commissioner Carolyn Applegate. "What do we tell them when we are spending more money that we have to?"

Commissioners agree to vacate road portion

By Carleen Bell
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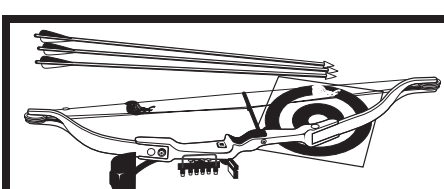
Following the lead of the decision of the neighboring Decatur County, the Norton County Commissioners took action Monday morning to vacate a portion of roadway on the far western side of Norton County.

The commissioners held a public hearing Monday morning to discuss vacating Road W15 between section 18 and section 13 and between section 10 and section 24. Raising no public comment on the matter before or during

the hearing, the commissioners voted to approve resolution number 2011-20, which vacates two sections of roadway.

The section in question is also shared with Decatur County and the Norton County Commissioners reported that Decatur County had already held a public hearing on the matter and already agreed to vacate the road sections.

With the decision, the roadway will no longer undergo any county maintenance and the road will be turned over to landowners whose property adjoins the now-vacated roadway.



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