

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

10 PAGES

Tuesday

December 13, 2011

Briefly

Tax, tag renewal deadlines approach

Dec. 20 is the deadline for the first half taxes of 2011 to be paid without penalty. To ensure proper credit, payers should bring or send the stubs from their tax statements to the Norton County Courthouse. Payers can also pay online at www.kansas.gov/propertytax. You will need your taxpayer ID and statement number. The tag renewal deadline for person or businesses with last names ending in U, X, Y, or Z will be Dec. 30 by 11:30 a.m. The treasurer's office will be closed for Christmas on Monday, Dec. 26 and Tuesday, Dec. 27. Drivers license renewals can be completed Tuesday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Learning Center graduation planned

The USD 211 Learning Center will hold a graduation ceremony on Wednesday, Dec. 14. The ceremony is planned for 7 p.m. at the East Campus auditorium and two students will be recognized at the ceremony. Following the graduation, a reception will be held at the learning Center at 126 S. State Street. The public is welcome to attend the graduation and reception.

Booster Club plans meeting Wednesday

The second winter sports meeting of the Norton Blue Jay Booster Club will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday in the high school cafeteria.

Norton wrestling coach Bill Johnson, girls basketball coach Kevin Jilka and boys basketball coach Doug Reusink will be the speakers.

You do not have to be a member of the booster club to attend the meetings.

Markets

Tuesday, December 13, 2011

Wheat	\$5.92
Milo	\$5.47
Soybeans	\$10.36
Corn	\$5.84

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Tonight - Cloudy with light rain likely and areas of drizzle. Areas of fog. Wednesday - Cloudy with areas of fog in the morning. A chance of light rain showers in the morning then a slight chance of light rain showers in the afternoon. Wednesday Night - Partly cloudy in the evening then clearing. Colder. Thursday - Sunny with highs in the upper 30s.

Kingham Report

Friday, Dec. 9	Low 21, High 33
Saturday, Dec. 10	Low 14, High 38
Sunday, Dec. 11	Low 18, High 37
Monday, Dec. 12	Low 16, High 31

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

Prayer

O God, in times when we're ready and times when we're not, help us to trust in and lean on your grace. Amen

Nativity scenes are brought to life



The 11th annual Norton community Living Nativity was on display Sunday evening at the United Methodist Church. Leslie and Tucker Pfannenstiel, Norton, played their part well in the nativity. The nativities included horses, sheep goats and camels. The community

braved the cold and came out in strong numbers to see all the nativity scenes on display at the church.

—Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

City reminds citizens of snow ordinances

With winter in full swing across the region, Norton city officials have recently issued a reminder of the ordinances and regulations relating to snowfall in the city.

According to information from the city of Norton, citizens and businesses are required to remove snow and ice from public sidewalks and pedestrian areas within 24 hours of a snowfall or accumulation. If snow and ice are not cleared within that time frame, the homeowner or business owner may receive a citation from the city.

In addition, citizens must remove all vehicles from emergency snow routes

throughout the community. When the city of Norton publicly announces through the news media that emergency snow conditions exist, it is a violation to have any vehicle or trailer parked on designated emergency snow routes.

Finally, it is against city rules for any citizen to pile or dump snow on any cleared street from a private driveway or sidewalk, creating an impediment or hazard to normal traffic on the street or sidewalk.

Anyone in violation of the snow ordinances will be subject to citations and fines from the city of Norton.

City sets public hearing for budget amendment

To create a line item for grant funding, the Norton City Council agreed Monday evening to hold a public hearing for a budget amendment to include the item.

The public hearing has been set for Wednesday, Dec. 21 at 5:45 p.m. at the city offices. The hearing will be held during the council's regular meeting.

Norton City Administrator Rob Lawson reported that the city received some

grant funding to help renovate Norton's water treatment plant and the allocation wasn't included in the current budget. In order to document the use and flow of the money, the city's budget must be amended to include the grant funding.

The public hearing will be a time for citizens to ask questions or raise possible concerns about the budget amendment and all citizens are encouraged to attend the hearing.

Wildlife and Parks licenses now on sale for next year

All 2012 Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks licenses and permits go on sale Dec. 15 and are valid for the remainder of 2011 and all of 2012. This includes hunting licenses, fishing and park permits. The Prairie Dog State Park office hours are Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.. Due to the Holidays and staff vacations, the office will be closed from

Dec. 23 to Jan. 2. On Jan. 3, park staff will be accepting 2012 camping reservations and long-term site permits. New for 2012, there will no longer be a discounted second vehicle permit and the annual camping permit has been reduced in price. Please feel free to contact the office at 877-2953 with any questions.

County explores options for road improvements

By Carleen Bell
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Preparing for an upcoming expansion at the Ag Valley grain facility just east of town, Norton County leaders are moving forward this winter with plans for road improvements to the facility.

The county has been working with Schwab-Eaton, an engineering firm based in Beloit, to determine the best course of action to improve the roadways to the Ag Valley grain terminal so grain trucks can easily enter and exit the facility. Stuart Porter of Schwab-Eaton presented the Norton County commissioners with some information last Monday about the differences in asphalt and cement for the roads.

According to Porter's information, the scope of the project includes reconstruction of just under 1.7 miles of roadway, divided into six phases. Portions

of roadway include sections of Road E2, Road L and Road E1. The project would also include the construction of a new connector road from Road L to Road E2 at the Ag Valley site.

Depending on whether the roads are reconstructed with asphalt or concrete, the estimated cost for the road projects ranges from \$1.78 million to \$2.9 million. Those estimates are based on all six portions of roadway, but all six may not be included in the project. The county and Ag Valley are working with the Department of Transportation and other entities to fund the project with grant money or low-interest loans. Before the funding sources can be secured, however, a cost estimate for the project must be determined.

The road improvements are part of

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School considers options for strategic planning for facilities

By Carleen Bell
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In light of potential future needs of the district, the Norton school board is considering a partnership with the Docking Institute of Fort Hays State University to create a strategic plan for facilities in the district.

Dr. Gary Brinker, Director of the Docking Institute, met with the Board of Education Monday evening to share information about the mission of the institute and how the Norton district might benefit from strategic planning services.

Brinker explained that he and a team of planners work together to assist non-profit and government entities in developing long-range strategic plans and goals. To do so, the team conducts research, gathers data, conducts planning sessions and creates a report of a long range plan.

Norton Superintendent Greg Mann reported that the school district is interested in creating a strategic plan

to address the current and future needs of facilities and infrastructure for the district. Moreover, school leaders would like to gather input from the community about the needs of the district. The public input, Mann said, will help guide facility and infrastructure projects in the future, especially if a potential project requires new or additional taxpayer dollars.

Part of the Docking Institute's services includes using telephone or internet surveys to gather input from school district patrons. Brinker reported that for the institute to conduct a phone survey, the district may have to pay as much as \$2,500, but utilizing all of the Docking Institute's services in developing a strategic plan for facilities could cost as much as \$8,000.

While the school board made no decisions on the matter Monday evening, Brinker was asked to prepare and submit a written proposal and price quote for the board to consider at its January meeting.

Merry Christmas from ...

Destination Kitchen

115 W. Main, Norton, KS

25% OFF ANYTHING HOLIDAY THIS WEEK ONLY

DECEMBER 12 THRU 17

