

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



Tuesday

January 3, 2012

Briefly

Boosters Club set to meet Wednesday

The first Norton Blue Jay Booster meeting of the new year will be held at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday in the high school cafeteria.

All fans of Norton Community High School sports are invited to attend and hear reports from head boys basketball coach Doug Reusink, head girls basketball coach Kevin Jilka and head wrestling coach Bill Johnson.

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

Horse Council sets annual meeting

The Norton County Horse Council will hold its annual meeting at the 4-H building on Monday, Jan. 16 at 7 p.m. The meeting is open to the public.

Meals on Wheels seeking volunteers

The Norton County Meals on Wheels group is looking for volunteers to help deliver meals through Jan. 13. Anyone interested in volunteering can contact Alice Hawks in the hospital's dietary department at 877-3351.

Rural fire district to meet Monday

The Solomon Rural Fire District will hold its annual meeting on Monday at 8 p.m. at the Lenora City Office.

Soccer registration set for this week

Early registration for the AYSO Soccer season will be held Friday from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. and then again Saturday from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The sign up location will be at the Norton Public Library Community Room.

Markets

Tuesday, January 3, 2012

Wheat.....	\$6.51
Milo.....	\$6.02
Soybeans.....	\$11.28
Corn.....	\$6.35

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Wednesday Night - Mostly clear with lows in the upper 20s. Thursday - Sunny with highs in the mid 60s. Thursday Night - Mostly clear with lows in the lower 30s. Friday - Mostly sunny.

Kingham Report

Friday, Dec. 30Low 33, High 53
 Saturday, Dec. 31.....Low 29, High 59
 .06 Rain
 Sunday, Jan. 1Low 22, High 41
 Monday, Jan. 2.....Low 15, High 39
 (Readings taken at the Kingham farm
 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Dear Father, thank you for enabling us to see the positive in all our circumstances. We know that you can use even the unpleasant events in our lives for our good if we are open to the Holy Spirit's voice. We are grateful to you for your eternal love. Amen

Family welcomes first baby of 2012



Travis and Mandy Hogan are the proud parents of the first baby born at the Norton County Hospital in 2012. Karlene Rachele was born Jan. 1 and joins her older brother, Mason, and her older sister, Delila.

By Carleen Bell

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As one of the most recent arrivals at the Norton County Hospital, the baby of a Norton family was the first baby born at the hospital in 2012.

The daughter of Travis and Mandy Hogan, Karlene Rachele Hogan was born Sunday, Jan. 1 at 9:37 a.m. Karlene weighed seven pounds, 12 ounces and was 21 inches long.

She joins an older brother, Mason, 6 and an older

sister, Delila, a year and a half.

Mandy and Travis said they chose the name "Karlene" because it is unique and reflects the name of Mandy's grandmother, Arlene.

The Hogans grew up in the area and bring a new granddaughter to Sid and Jeanice Gosselin of Norton and Dave and Nancy Hogan of Long Island. Mandy works for Nex-Tech and Travis works for NCK Contractors in Long Island.

As the parents of the first baby born at the Norton

—Telegram photo by Carleen Bell

County Hospital in 2012, the Hogans are entitled to certain "benefits." Several local businesses have donated gifts to the family. Those businesses include Destination Kitchen, Here's Your Sign, Downtown Car Wash, Town and Country Kitchen, Kansasland Tire, First State Bank, Kowpoke Supply, Sander Furniture and Gifts, Moffet Drug Store, Stitch Up a Storm, United Northwest Federal Credit Union, Fit To Go, E11even, Daylight Donuts and the Norton Telegram.

County approves budget amendment

By Carleen Bell

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Hearing no public comment on the matter, the Norton County Commissioners approved Friday morning a year-end budget amendment that re-allocates some funding for county departments in the 2011 county budget.

Norton County Clerk Robert Wyatt reported that some county departments ended up spending more than they planned when the 2011 budget was

set, so the county budget needed to be amended to reflect that spending. The amendment, however, does not reflect spending more money than the departments had available.

"The departments had the cash on hand, but they didn't have the budget authority to spend it," Wyatt said. "The amendment only re-allocates the money that was already available."

With the public hearing on the matter, the budget amendment became official Friday morning.

Almost summer?



Taking advantage of unseasonably warm weather Thursday, some Norton children took the opportunity to set up a Kool-Aid stand on State Street. The children were selling glasses of Kool-Aid for 50 cents per glass and intend to donate the proceeds to God's Pantry and the Lions Club. Pictured (left to right) are Tiara Matson, 9, Katie Gleason, 11, Jaden Smith, 10 and Devon Bowen, 7.

—Telegram photo by Carleen Bell

Road repairs soon to become reality

By Carleen Bell

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Pending review and approval from the Norton County Commissioners, the design phase will soon be underway to renovate some roads near the Ag Valley Grain terminal just east of Norton.

Norton City/County Economic Development Director Scott Sproul reported to the commissioners Friday morning that Schwab-Eaton, an engineering firm based in Beloit, has drawn up an engineering agreement to design roadway improvements to several sections of roadway leading out to Ag Valley in conjunction with a railroad spur to be constructed at the facility.

Sproul explained that the total cost of the design services is expected to cost approximately \$212,000, but that amount could fluctuate. The cost includes design and engineering, a geotechnical investigation and contract administration, along with other services that the firm may offer throughout the project.

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 \$1.6 million to \$2.1 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 an expansion project at Ag Valley that will bring a rail spur to the facility from the existing railroad that will allow the company to transport much more grain by train. Location Manager Rick Mullen reported that the rail spur is still in the preliminary stages of planning, but Ag Valley is working with railroad officials and the Kansas Department of Transportation to make the project a reality. The new rail construction will allow the facility to move train loads of grain, up to 110 rail cars at a time.

The increased grain processing capacity will mean that vehicle traffic in and out of the facility will increase, leading Norton County to explore options for updating roadways to the facility. Norton City/County Economic Development Director Scott Sproul reports that Norton County has committed \$300,000 to the development of the rail spur, but that money will be recovered over time with property tax revenue from the facility.

Though the agreement is not official, the Norton County Commissioners are expected to take action to approve the engineering agreement on Monday.

Coupon seminar planned

The Twin Creeks extension district will hold a "Coupon 101" seminar on Tuesday, Jan. 10. The program will be held at the Norton County 4-H building at 6 p.m. Family and Consumer Science Agent Karen Shepard will lead the seminar and anyone interested in attending must register by Monday, Jan. 9. To register call 785-877-5755. At least five people must register for the seminar to be held.

