

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



Tuesday
January 10, 2012

Briefly

Night of Adventure planned for Friday

All sixth through eighth grade boys are invited to The Rock Friday at 4 p.m. for Pure Rock's A Night of Adventure with Doug McCary. Go to www.purerock.com to register.

Pajama party set Friday at The Rock

The sixth through eighth grade girls are invited to The Rock Saturday for a Pure Rock pajama party starting at 4 p.m. Go to www.purerock.com to register.

Culture Shock 2012 set for Sunday night

The Pure Rock Culture Shock 2012 event will take place on Sunday starting at 4 p.m. at the NCHS East Campus. All high school students are invited. Go to www.purerock.com to register.

Mapes and Miller to hold open house

Mapes and Miller will be holding their Open House to welcome Brian S. Thompson, CPA, as a new partner in the firm. The open house will be held at 418 E. Holme from 2 to 4 p.m. on Friday.

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.

Credit union sets annual meeting

The United Northwest Federal Credit Union will hold its annual meeting on Monday at 11:30 a.m. at the St. Francis Parish Hall. The cost to attend is \$1 per person. Anyone interested in attending is asked to register by Friday to 877-5191.

Markets

Tuesday, January 10, 2011

Wheat	\$6.30
Milo	\$5.98
Soybeans	\$11.34
Corn	\$6.29

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Tonight - Mostly clear in the evening then becoming partly cloudy. Wednesday - Partly sunny in the morning then becoming mostly cloudy. Much colder. Scattered flurries in the afternoon.

Kingham Report

Friday, January 6Low 33, High 51
Saturday, January 7Low 21, High 42
Sunday, January 8Low 28, High 40
Trace of Snow
Monday, January 9Low 22, High 50
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Dear Lord, help us to live in obedience to you this day and to value each moment of our lives as a gift from you. Amen

First calf of 2012 arrives a little early



Bryan Shearer of rural Norton and Dr. Aaron White of the Norton Animal Health Center welcomed the first calf of 2012 on Jan. 3 at the clinic. The first calf arrived several weeks ahead of the usual calving time in February.

By Carleen Bell
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Several weeks ahead of the usual delivery date, the first calf of 2012 was born Jan. 3 at the Norton Animal Health Center. The owners of the calf are Bryan and Lee Ann Shearer, who operate a cow-calf operation nine miles east of Norton.

Dr. Aaron White of the Norton Animal Health Center reported that the bull calf was born at about 1 p.m. on Jan. 3 at the clinic, weighing just over 110 pounds. The calf is a cross-bred variety, born to an Angus cow.

Dr. White reported that having a calf born so early in the year is uncommon, with the first calves usually beginning to arrive in February.

Bryan Shearer reported that he owns a cow-calf operation with about 140 head of cattle and called the early delivery an "accident" because his cows usually deliver later in the year.

With the first calf of the new year, the Shearers are the lucky recipients of a "prize bucket" calving kit, which includes a chain, handle, sleeves, gloves, needles, syringes, a calving book, iodine spray, bags of medication, a coupon book, coffee mug and a bottle of Mountain Dew to help the farmers "stay awake during the calving season."

Dr. White reminded local farmers that calving time soon will be in full swing and asks that everyone be prepared in advance by gathering the supplies they need and making plans for the season.

-Courtesy photo

December temps only slightly warmer than normal

By Carleen Bell
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Despite what many are calling a mild winter so far, weather statistics from December indicate an only slightly warmer month than in years past.

Dave Floyd, Meteorologist with the National Weather Service office in Goodland, reported last week that the average temperature for December is 30.3 degrees and December 2011 posted an average of 31.5 degrees.

"December was a little above normal and two degrees above last December," Floyd said. "That kind of departure isn't a real noticeable warmth."

While temperature is a big factor in winter weather, the other major factor is precipitation. In December, the Norton area saw just over a half inch of precipitation, which is a decrease from the usual .69 of an inch.

That precipitation amount can be deceiving, Floyd said, because total inches of snowfall doesn't translate into inches of total precipitation. When an inch of snow falls, for example, the snow is melted down and translates into a liquid precipitation amount, which is much less than an actual inch of snow.

Regardless of temperatures and precipitation, though, the numbers for De-

ember aren't much different than Decembers in the past.

"There isn't anything extreme about these numbers," Floyd said. "It was very cold at the beginning of the month, but that balanced out later to bring us up around average."

With what seems like a warm, dry December comes speculation that the coming summer may be miserably hot,

a prediction that Floyd said may not be grounded in reality.

"Winter isn't necessarily an indication of spring or summer," the meteorologist asserted. "Winter temperatures are influenced by water temperatures of the Pacific Ocean, but that doesn't hold true for summer. We really have no idea what's coming for this spring and summer."

Lions Club delivers 70 baskets to needy families

By Carleen Bell
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With the help of multiple volunteers and donations, the Norton Lions Club delivered Christmas baskets to 70 needy families for the Christmas season.

Tom Baumann of the Norton Lions Club reported that about 20 Lions participated in the project, along with help from the Boy Scouts and the Legion Riders.

The volunteers collected donations to put together baskets for needy families throughout Norton County. The baskets consisted of enough food for a traditional Christmas dinner and toys for each of the children living in the homes.

The baskets were assembled at the

Valley Hope garage and delivered on Saturday, Dec. 17. The project, Baumann said, extends beyond the city of Norton and baskets were delivered to families throughout the county.

The annual project started in 1956, led by Dale Brunson and since then, the club has delivered thousands of baskets to needy families throughout the county. Baumann attributed the program's success to contributions from many people volunteers throughout the community.

"We get a lot of support from grocery stores, schools, clubs and individuals who make donations," he said. "Without that support, we wouldn't be able to have this program and make Christmas a little easier for many families."

Some closures are planned for Martin Luther King Day

By Carleen Bell
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In honor of the annual Martin Luther King Day holiday, several public entities will be closed Monday in observance of the day.

The Norton schools will be closed on Monday, but the staff will be in session for professional development. School resume at the normal time on Tuesday.

The Northern Valley schools will also be closed on Monday and will resume regular times on Tuesday.

In observance of the holiday, the

Norton post office will be closed on Monday. There will be no office and no mail delivery on that day.

Several of the banks in Norton will be closed for the holiday, including Almena State Bank, First Security Bank, The Bank and the United Northwest Federal Credit Union. First State Bank will be open on Monday.

Also open on Monday will be the Norton city offices and the Norton County offices. The Norton Public Library will also be open for regular hours on Monday.

City approves 2012 salaries

By Carleen Bell
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At the first meeting of the new year, the Norton City Council approved Wednesday evening the monthly salary allocations for some city employees. The approval came in the form of a resolution setting the salaries for 11 employees.

The salaries are as follows: Municipal

Court Judge-\$703; Court Clerk-\$416; Animal Control-\$451; City Prosecutor-\$575; City Attorney-\$928; City Treasurer-\$97 quarterly; Fire Chief-\$562; Assistant Fire Chief-\$437; Fire Lieutenant-\$57; Safety Officer/Treasurer-\$112; Captain-\$112.

The salaries became effective with the passage of the resolution on Wednesday.

New postal prices planned

The United States Postal Service announced this week that, effective Jan. 22, mailing and shipping prices will be increasing.

According to information from the postal service, the cost of a Forever Stamp will increase by one cent. The stamps are good for mailings anywhere in the United States. Forever Stamps can be purchased before Jan. 22, however, at today's prices and can be used after Jan. 22.

The new single-piece, first-class

mail pricing will be as follows: Letters-45 cents; postcards-32 cents; letters to Canada or Mexico-85 cents; letters to other international destinations-\$1.05.

Prices will also change from other mailing services, including standard mail, periodicals, package services and extra service. The price of shopping services will also increase by an average of 4.6 percent with Priority Mail prices increasing an average of 3.1 percent and express mail prices will increase by an average of 3.4 percent.

Youth hunting event planned

Prairie Dog State Park is accepting applications for the Annual Youth Pheasant Hunt, which will be held this Saturday at 8 a.m. The hunt is limited to 12 youth hunters ages 10 to 15. All participants must wear blaze orange during the special hunt and each youth must be accompanied by an adult. If more than 12 youth apply for the hunt, local staff will conduct a drawing to determine who will be eligible to hunt in this year's event.

In cooperation with the Norton Longspur Pheasants Forever, the annual youth hunt is held as part of the Kansas Hunter Recruitment and Re-

tention Program called "Pass It On."

This program addresses the need to recruit new hunters and retain existing hunters in order to ensure future hunting in Kansas. The Prairie Dog State Park Youth Hunt is designed to encourage young hunters and should offer a quality experience with a better than average chance of success.

To apply, contact the Prairie Dog State Park Office at (785) 877-2953 no later than Thursday with your name, birth date and phone number. Park staff will notify the participants by phone on Friday with the results of the drawing.

