

THE NORTON TELEGRAM



Friday

December 7, 2012

Briefly

Telegram to hold Cookie Contest

The Norton Telegram will hold its annual cookie contest Monday. All entries due by noon. Come place your votes and enjoy some great holiday treats.

Early dismissal next Wednesday

USD 211 Schools will dismiss at 1 p.m. Wednesday Dec. 12.

Santa will return to Norton Thursday

Santa will be at his house at the Norton County Courthouse on Thursday, Dec. 13 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Vote in the lighting contest by Friday

Don't forget to pick up your ballots and vote for the best holiday lit and decorated house in Norton. Ballots can be picked up at the Chamber or the Telegram. All ballots due no later than noon on Friday, Dec. 14.

Annual coloring contest underway

The Telegram is once again holding a coloring contest. Pictures can be picked up at the Telegram or the Almena Market. All entries due back to the Telegram no later than noon Dec. 20. Prizes will be awarded.

Markets

Friday, December 7, 2012

Wheat.....	\$8.36
Milo.....	\$7.10
Soybeans.....	\$14.16
Corn.....	\$7.38

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Friday Night - Partly cloudy with fog overnight. Saturday - Partly cloudy with a high of 54. Saturday Night - Mostly cloudy with a chance of rain, then a chance of snow after midnight. Sunday - Partly cloudy with a chance of snow. Sunday Night - Partly cloudy.

Kingham Report

Tuesday, Dec. 4Low 24, High 56
Wednesday, Dec. 5.....Low 34, High 60
Thursday, Dec. 6.....Low 30, High 49
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

Prayer

Dear God, strengthen our faith daily by the knowledge that in our weakness your power is perfected. Amen.

Beginning to look alot like Christmas



Norton seems to be more lit up than usual this Christmas season. Like this home at 509 N. State Street. Holiday lights, Santas, snowmen, and Christmas music ring out all around town.

It is unknown if the Christmas Lighting Contest being held by the Norton County Arts Council has anything to do with this or if people are just more into the spirit this year. No matter what the town looks great.

There are eleven homes entered in the Arts Council Lighting Contest. They are located around town and can be viewed every night. For those wanting to participate in choosing the winner they can pick up a ballot along with a map of the

participating homes at either the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce office or at the Norton Telegram office. Ballots can also be cut out of the Norton Telegram. Take an evening drive around town and view each of the entries and then return your completed ballots for your first pick back to the Chamber or Telegram offices no later than noon on Friday, Dec. 14.

There will be three winners of this contest with first getting \$100 in Chamber Bucks, second receiving \$50 in Chamber Bucks and third getting \$25 in Chamber Bucks.

New radio system to aid local departments

By Cynthia Haynes

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Sheriff Troy Thomson is planning to help the Norton County fire departments talk to each other.

The sheriff talked to the Norton County Commissioners about a proposed radio system that would allow the county's various fire departments to talk to each other and to fire departments in surrounding counties through the county dispatch system.

The system, called an 800 system, will cost about \$2,700 to retrofit the dispatch console, the sheriff told the commissioners during their meeting on Monday.

While the sheriff had been against the idea of the system originally, he said, he talked to others.

"I think it would be a good idea to go ahead and do that for them," the sheriff told the commissioners. He added that the Norton County Economic Devel-

opment office is trying to help the fire departments get radios that will use the new system, because they are quite expensive and that was one of the reasons the sheriff was originally against the project.

The sheriff also went over some information on the jail with the commissioners as commissioner-elect Charles Posson had a letter from a woman who complained about the treatment her nephew received while serving a driving under the influence sentence at the jail five to six months ago.

The sheriff said that each week a minister from Beaver Creek, Neb., comes in to do a church service and that he will be doing a baptism at the jail.

"We allow any preacher of any faith at any time access to the jail," the sheriff said. "They don't even have to come at visiting time. We give them the same access as lawyers."

The sheriff said that they had a na-

tive American sweat lodge ceremony at the jail as a part of the county's effort to ensure religious freedom for all prisoners.

The visiting schedule is Tuesdays and Fridays from 2 to 4 p.m., he said. When the jail is full, visitors are limited to 15 minutes at a time but can come back for an additional 15 minutes if possible. When there are fewer inmates, visitors are allowed to stay the full two hours, he said.

"You're pretty lenient," Commissioner Carolyn Applegate noted.

Reading material is allowed, the sheriff said, and family members can bring in library books, which are checked for contraband before being given to the prisoners. The jail also has a 150 to 200-book library of its own, he said. There is no pornography, he noted.

Prisoners also have access to windows, which are frosted however so that there is no outside contact but

plenty of light, the sheriff said.

The state requires a 3,200-calorie per day diet, the sheriff said.

"Everyone gains weight" he added.

These are the same conditions that were at the jail six months ago, the sheriff told the commissioner-elect.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Held a five-minute closed session to discuss non-elected personnel.
- Heard that the swearing in ceremony for the new commissioners will be Monday, Jan. 14.
- Learned that a brick had been thrown through a window of the county 4-H building but that Norton Glass was fixing the problem.
- Noted that the county owns 13 pieces of property.
- Spent some time cleaning out and discussing their mail since there weren't many visitors.

Telegram to hold annual cookie contest Monday

The Norton Telegram will be holding its sixth annual Cookie contest this coming Monday. All proceeds from this contest go to God's Pantry.

In 2010 at the fourth annual contest \$160 was brought in and then in 2011 \$832 was collected. We are hoping to once again donate the pantry a healthy sum of money to help those less fortunate.

Last year the contest was opened up to not only cookies but breads, cakes and candies as well. "I think opening it up to a larger variety of holiday treats helped with the contest in that we were able to offer a larger donation to God's Pantry last year," said Telegram General Manager Dana Paxton.

The contest is very simple. Each entry must contain one dozen homemade cookies or pieces of the holiday treat and the cost is \$5 per entry. It costs 25 cents per vote. Then all proceeds go to God's Pantry at the end of the day.

It is asked that entries be brought in before noon on Monday, Dec. 10 but the judging is open to the public from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. Normally the contest is held in the middle of the week but due to participant numbers down the day was moved to Monday in hopes of allowing people more time to bake their goods.

Prizes are donated to the first three winners of two age groups, 12 and under and 13 and up. Winners are determined by the amount of money each plateful gets. This year's sponsors include The Norton Theatre, Stitch Up a Storm, Destination Kitchen, Endzone Sports and Office Supply Inc., Garden Gate Florals Etc. and the Norton Telegram.

So, stop in anytime on Monday, place your vote and enjoy some great holiday goodies along with a cup of coffee while, keeping in mind that in the long run you are helping out a great cause.

Sounds of Christmas...



Norton Junior High School's band held a concert on Tuesday evening at the Junior High Gym. Under the direction of Don Mordecai, Band Director, they played seven songs, including "I'll Be Home For Christmas" and "Let It Snow, Let It Snow, Let It Snow," in front of family and friends. (Pictured from left to right) Michael Ball, Maverick Engel, Wilson Ellis, Layton Miller. Seth Otter, Koby McEwen and Ryan Johnson. -Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

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