

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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10 PAGES

Tuesday

December 11, 2012

Briefly

Early dismissal this Wednesday

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

Santa is still here on Thursday night

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

Rotary soup supper to be held Friday

Norton Rotary Scholarship Fund Soup Supper will be held on Friday, Dec. 14 from 4:30-7 p.m. at the Norton Community High School cafeteria. All you can eat. Adults-\$5 and children under 12-\$3. There will be chicken noodle soup, chili, home-made cake, coffee, tea and water.

Football banquet set for this Sunday

The annual Norton Community High School Football Awards Banquet, sponsored by the Blue Jay Booster Club, will be held this Sunday at 6 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.

A carry-in meal will precede presentations by head football coach Lucas Melvin.

All fans are invited and are asked to bring a main dish and side dish or dessert and their own table service. Drinks will be provided.

Markets

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Wheat	\$8.26
Milo	\$6.94
Soybeans	\$14.09
Corn	\$7.22

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-op

Weather

Tuesday Night - Clear in the evening then partly cloudy. Low of 21. Wednesday - Clear with a high of 54. Breezy. Wednesday Night - Clear in the evening, then partly cloudy. Low of 19. Thursday - Clear with a high of 54. Winds from the West at 5 to 10 mph. Thursday Night - Clear in the evening then partly cloudy. Low of 23. Friday - High of 55.

Kingham Report

Friday, Dec. 7	Low 25, High 52
Saturday, Dec. 8	Low 20, High 47
Sunday, Dec. 9	Low 18, High 27
Monday, Dec. 10	Low -2, High 41

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

Prayer

Loving God, help us to find joy in every situation. Let us experience your presence whenever we are gathered together. Amen.

Accident takes shop...



Last Thursday afternoon around 1:30 p.m. the Almena Fire Department called the Norton Rural Fire Department for assistance at a garage fire in Almena. A garage owned by Billy Alexander caught fire when he was welding on a bobcat and the fuel tank caught fire. The garage was a total loss along with the three cars, five motorcycles and the bobcat that all sat inside the metal building. - Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

Commissioners set meeting schedule

By Cynthia Haynes

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The Norton County Commissioners went over meeting assignments at their meeting on Monday and decided who will be going to which next year.

Commissioner Richard Thompson will keep the same assignments he has this year except for the MidStates Rail Authority, which is no longer relevant for the county.

Instead of that he will take on the Juvenile Justice Authority, which meets the second Thursday of the month once a quarter. The next meeting will be at

4 p.m. Thursday in Hays. Some meetings are in Hays and some in Oakley, the commissioners said.

He will also continue on the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development group, which meets in Hill City at 7 p.m. the last Wednesday of each month, and the Norton County Economic Development group, which meets at 5:45 p.m. the second Tuesday of each month at the economic development office in Norton.

Commissioner John Miller, who will turn his duties over to commissioner-elect Charles Posson in January, was

assigned to the airport board, hospital board and economic development board.

The county commissioner is a member of both the economic development and the airport board, Mr. Miller told Mr. Posson, but is only a visitor at the hospital board meeting.

The airport board meets at 5:30 p.m. the second Monday of each month at the airport office and the hospital board meets at 6:30 p.m. the third Wednesday of each month in the board room in the basement of the hospital.

Commissioner Carolyn Applegate,

who will turn over her duties to commissioner-elect Dr. R.A. Peterson in January, was assigned to the airport board, emergency management and the Northwest Local Environmental Protection group, which is a group of area commissioners, which deals with sanitary items such as septic systems, well plugging and water testing.

Both the pollution group and the county emergency management hold their meetings quarterly as called by the directors.

All meetings are open to the public, the commissioners said.

County to accept used batteries

By Cynthia Haynes

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The City of Norton will accept used flashlight-type batteries for the county.

Norton County Commissioner Carolyn Applegate told her fellow commissioners at their weekly meeting on Monday that she has checked with City Administrator Rob Lawson about allowing people to drop off used batteries at the city offices when they pay their utility bills.

She said that Mr. Lawson said he would find a spot to keep the batteries for the county household hazardous waste people.

The county has had orange ziplock-type bags, she said, but right now none are available. As soon as some become available, they will be given out, she said. However, people have been using clear bags and that is just fine.

Hearing aid batteries can be put in the bags, however Mrs. Applegate said, both the Norton Senior Center and Russ Jewelry takes those

in so that would probably be easier for most people.

In other business, the commissioners:

- Learned that the drivers for the county bus, usually known as the senior bus, do not need a CDL license as long as they are driving a small bus. The state has made an exemption for volunteer drivers of small buses. Those driving larger school-type buses need the special license, however.

- Decided to hold off paying their annual dues for the

Kansas Legislative Policy Group of \$1,177 either until January since it was paid in February last year. The group is made up of commissioners from 35 to 38 western counties.

- Held a 15-minute closed session to discuss non-elected personnel but no action was taken.

- Briefly discussed attending a meeting in Colby on Wednesday on the possibility of Ag Valley sending unit grain trains through Colby instead of Courtland.

Deer-vehicle collisions peak in November

Deer can be spotted near our roadways any time of the year. However, in the fall, motorists should be especially vigilant for deer crossing the highways.

Deer breeding season peaks in mid-November, and this marks the period when deer-vehicle collisions are highest. That's why the Kansas Department of Transportation, the Kansas Highway Patrol and the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism are working together to raise awareness and help drivers avoid collisions with deer.

According to Lloyd Fox, biologist

with the Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, the increase in deer-vehicle crashes is strongly influenced by the deer mating season, called "rut." During rut, deer focus on mating; they travel more than in other seasons and pay less attention to hazards such as vehicles. Also during the fall, many deer move to new locations as crops are harvested and leaves fall from trees and shrubs.

Not only are deer more active during the fall, shorter days mean dusk and dawn when deer are more likely to be on the move occur when commuter traffic is highest. Steve

Swartz, spokesperson for the Kansas Department of Transportation, said there were 9,199 deer-vehicle collisions reported to the department in 2011, killing two people and injuring 297 others. Deer-vehicle collisions occur in every Kansas county, but counties with high human populations and high traffic volumes usually record the most deer-vehicle crashes; Sedgwick County recorded the most with 354, followed by Johnson County with 339 and Butler County with 250. From November 9 to December 6 there were 29 in Norton County alone. Three of the local Norton

(Deer - Continued on Page 5)

Two local men face several hunting charges

By Mike Stephens

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Six hunters face several charges stemming from an alleged slaughter of 12 turkeys on November 9, on land owned by a Nebraska man in the northwest corner of Norton County according to Norton County Attorney Doug Sebelius.

Dwight D. Sprigg, Norton, Timothy D. Sprigg, Norton, Ervin Josenberger, Kansas City, Joseph Bailey, Kansas City, Jeffery L. Bailey, Kansas City, Jeffery L. Bailey II, Kansas City, are facing the following charges:

- Hunting game with the aid of a vehicle
- Failing to tag a turkey
- Hunting without a valid permit
- Wanton waste

Dwight Sprigg and Timothy Sprigg have made their initial court appearance where they entered a not guilty plea. The Spriggs' next court appearance is scheduled for Jan. 4, 2013 at 9:30 a.m.

Ervin Josenberger, Joseph Bailey, Jeffery Bailey and Jeffery Bailey II have yet to make their initial court appearance.

Operation Game Thief was con-

(Turkey - Continued on Page 5)



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