

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM

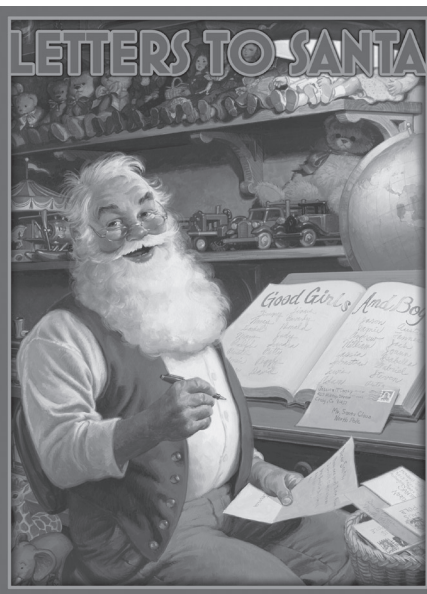


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10 PAGES

Friday

December 21, 2012



Letters to Santa in today's issue

Briefly

Christmas day dinner to be served

The First United Methodist Church in Norton will have a Christmas Day community dinner at noon. A free will donation is requested for the dinner, and is hosted by the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce.

Tags are due by December 28th

December 28 is the deadline for the renewal of all persons or businesses whose last name begins with "U", "X", "Y" or "Z" as the Courthouse will be closed on Dec. 31 and Jan. 1.

City offices to be closed for New Year

The Norton City Office will be closed Tuesday, January 1, for New Year's Day. Tuesday's refuse route will be picked up Friday, December 28.

Markets

Friday, December 21, 2012

Wheat	\$7.85
Milo	\$6.65
Soybeans	\$13.63
Corn	\$6.96

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-op

Weather

Saturday - Partly cloudy with a high of 41. Sunday - Partly cloudy with a high of 37. Sunday Night - Partly cloudy with fog overnight. Monday - Partly cloudy in the morning then overcast with fog early.

Kingham Report

Tuesday, Dec. 18	Low 32, High 50
Wednesday, Dec. 19	Low 26, High 39
Thursday, Dec. 20	Low 12, High 27

6" snow

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

Prayer

God of mercy and grace, thank you for surprising us with your goodness. Thank you for the best gift of all, salvation given through your son Jesus Christ. Amen

We wish you a Merry Christmas!



The Norton Eisenhower Elementary school held its Christmas concert on Monday night. Don Mordecai directed the fifth and sixth grade band students in a holiday medley containing songs like Jingle Bells and Frosty the Snowman. Once the band finished, Jennifer Ruder's kindergarten through sixth grade music students

filled the bleachers with excitement and the air with more great holiday songs. Some were famous old classics and others, which may not have been as familiar, kept the Christmas feeling going. - Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

Economic Director offered another term

Norton Economic Development Executive Director Scott Sproul should be helping the county to grow for at least several more years.

The Economic Development board offered to extend his two-year contract for another five years with a raise after a closed session during its monthly meeting on Tuesday.

Mr. Sproul has long been an advocate for growth and development in Norton County and he was appointed to his position as economic director a little over a year ago. Since then, several major and many minor projects have been started or completed to upgrade facilities for both businesses and residential

property.

During the meeting last Tuesday, the board also decided to change the top limit the economic development board could help with residential property from \$50,000 to \$150,000. The change, said economic development administrative coordinator Verla Grysch is to stay up with neighboring communities, which have raised their top limits.

The board also voted to go with Ellis, Thomas, Russell and Phillips counties in an area-wide job web site that should reach across the nation. The cost of this is determined by population and Ellis is expected to carry the biggest load. Norton County will probably pay about

\$4,000 for the service.

The board also learned that county Health Director Gina Frack and NCCED have submitted a planning grant to the Kansas Health Foundation. The grant will allow the county to determine its health risks and plan to alleviate those as much as possible.

The grant if received will pave the way for Norton County to get other money for health related projects such as getting a walking track or nutrition projections.

The group had money left for marketing in its e-communities tax credit account, which was not needed because the program was quite successful, Mr.

Sproul told the board. That money, the board decided will be used to send some merchants to a workshop.

Last month, Mr. Sproul told the board that he hoped four people from four businesses could attend the camp in Longmont, Colo. It is two and one-half days long, he said, and designed to help businesses find out who their customers really are and how to market their products.

The cost is \$1,295 each and is paid for by Norton County e-community grant administrative money. Those attending will still have to pay their

(Director - Continued on Page 5)



A car, driven by John Mann of Almena, crashed into Moffet's Drug Store at 1:06 p.m. on Tuesday. There were no injuries inside Moffet's. Mann was taken by ambulance to Norton County Hospital and was treated and released for an abrasion on his nose. Mann's daughter, Mary Mann, was a passenger in the car but was not injured. The accident broke the glass door and damaged the brick on the north entrance of the building. According to Norton Police Chief Pat Morel, Mann's foot went to sleep as he was slowing down and he hit the accelerator instead of the brake. Morel said Mann was not given a citation for the accident and insurance should cover the damages to the building. -Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

Emergency Management asks for lights and sirens

By Cynthia Haynes

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The emergency management vehicle won't have a siren for now at least, the Norton County commissioners decided during their meeting on Monday.

Emergency Preparedness Director Justina Smith presented the commissioners with a bid for \$4,500 to equip her county vehicle with lights, siren and radios.

The lights and siren, she said would be inside and the vehicle would not look like a police car. However, the commissioners were against any siren in the vehicle saying that they had gone through this discussion with some of the volunteer firemen, who wanted to put lights and sirens in the vehicles that they take to fires.

Ms. Smith said that state statutes require all emergency vehicles to have a siren but the commissioners asked her to bring in the statute but decided to delete the siren, which brought the price down to \$3,900.

"Five hundred dollars for a siren isn't practical with our budget as it is," Commissioner Carolyn Applegate said.

"Why does an emergency preparedness director need a siren and lights?" asked Commissioner John Miller. "Get-

ting there quickly and getting there safely are two different things.

"I'm not sure all this radio stuff is an out and out necessity," he added.

He also said that he thought emergency vehicle drivers should take a safe driving course.

Ms. Smith said that there are four state statutes that pertain to the issue and that she would be glad to bring them to the next meeting, which will be on Friday, Dec. 28, and go over them with the commissioners and the sheriff, if he could make it.

Ms. Smith said that she does need a couple of portable radios because she has none to hand out to anyone who might need one.

"We pretty much supply every department as we can," she said. The last portable radio she had was handed over to the landfill crew to use for safety in dumping when someone is in the pit.

Mr. Miller, who will be going off the commission in January said that he thought the county should develop a policy for how its people respond to emergencies.

"You should get one drafted," he suggested to commissioners-elect Dr. R.A. Peterson and Charles Posson and com-

(Lights - Continued on Page 5)



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