

# \$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



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## Friday

### December 28, 2012

### Briefly

#### Basketball tourney is this weekend

The 2012 Joe Green Invitational Boys Basketball Tournament will be held December 28, 29 and 31 at Hill City High School.

#### Telegram schedule for the next week

The Norton Telegram will be open on December 31 but will be closed on January 1, for New Year's day. Tuesday's edition of the Telegram will be delivered on Wednesday.

#### City Office to be closed New Year's

The Norton City Office will be closed Tuesday, January 1, for the New Year's Day holiday.

#### Take the Safe Ride home on the City

Ring in the New Year by arriving home safely. The Norton City Council has approved the enactment of the safe ride home program for New Year's Eve on Monday, Dec. 31. This will be a one-way safe ride home from the local establishments.

#### Veterans get help with their claims

Jody Tubbs of the Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs will be in Norton from 10:45 until 11:45 on Wednesday, Jan. 2 at the Norton Public Library to assist Veterans and their dependents with VA claims. If unable to contact her then you may contact her in Colby any Monday, Wednesday or Friday at 785-462-3572.

### Markets

Friday, December 28, 2012

Wheat	\$7.73
Milo	\$6.59
Soybeans	\$13.66
Corn	\$6.90

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

### Weather

Saturday: Partly cloudy, early fog, high of 36, windchill as low as 8, wind 10-15. Saturday night: Partly cloudy with a low of 16, windchill as low as 3, wind 5-15. Sunday: Partly cloudy, high of 37, windchill as low as 7, wind 5-15. Sunday night: Mostly cloudy with fog, low of 14, wind 5-10. Monday: Mostly cloudy, high of 25, windchill as low as 5, wind 5-15.

### Kingham Report

Tuesday, Dec. 25 .....Low 8, High 18 with one inch of snow  
Wednesday, Dec. 26..... Low -1, High 20  
Thursday, Dec. 27 .....Low 10, High 26  
(Readings taken at the Kingham farm 9 miles northwest of Norton)

### Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for the ultimate sacrifice you made for us on that first Good Friday. Amen

## Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow...



Several young teens took time out last Thursday to play in the snow at the Elmwood Park. Lots of sledding, snowboarding and snowball fights were taking place. Tevin Petrie, Caitlyn Cox, Miah Melvin, Jace Ruder, Trenton Wright, Jacob Green and Chris Davis throw snow in the air to celebrate a snow day and a day out of school. - Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

## Council approves tax increase

By Mike Stephens

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The Norton City Council met in regular session on Wednesday, Dec. 19 and approved the third reading and adopted Ordinance #1634, authorizing the imposition of a three-quarter percent (0.75%) citywide general purpose retailers' sales tax and related matters.

The Council also approved the re-appointments of Al Ebke, Myron Veh, Jim Ray, Vicki Fisher and Ron Fisher to serve on the Tourism Committee. These terms expire on Nov. 30, 2014.

The re-appointment of Jerry Jones and Mary Keith to the Housing Authority Board was approved, with the terms expiring on Nov. 30, 2016. Jerry Jones abstained from the vote.

The Council voted to approve the re-appointment of Mick Miller and the appointment of Patrick Pomeroy to the Planning Commission, with the terms expiring Nov. 15, 2015.

The appointments of David Graham and Margaret Thomas to the Library Board were approved. This will be their first term which expires Nov. 30, 2016.

The re-appointment of Gail Boller to the Airport Board was also approved, with the term expiring Nov. 30, 2014.

Mayor David Corns said there was discussion of interest in county-wide law enforcement during the recent election for County Commissioner. Corns

asked each member for their opinion on the matter. Several Council members stated they did not have enough information on the subject, but unless it's economical and beneficial to both, they were not in favor of it. The other members said they were not in favor of it. The Council carried a motion to notify the Norton County Commissioners that the City of Norton is not interested or supportive of county-wide law enforcement at this time.

The Council accepted the 2012 budget amendments to the Tourism Fund and the Debt Service for G.O. Bonds Fund, as published in the budget amendment hearing notice on Dec. 7, 2012. The amendments will increase the budget authority in the Tourism Fund from \$28,000 to \$49,500, and the Debt Service for G.O. Bonds Fund from \$0 to \$145,390.

City Administrator Rob Lawson reported the new Christmas decorations were up and there are some old decorations still for sale.

Roberta Ryan said the Chamber of Commerce had a very good year, and Director Tara Vance and the Board were pleased with the results of the Christmas promotion this year.

Jerry Moritz stated the City used to get semi-annual reports from the Economic Development Director, but hasn't received a report since March

2011. Moritz talked to Director Scott Sproul about wanting a report and Sproul is expected to attend the second meeting in January.

Donna Foley reported that at the Travel and Tourism meeting, it was considering a request to make the frisbee golf baskets regulation size for the frisbee golf course in Elmwood Park.

The Council approved the following 2013 Cereal Malt Beverage license applications:

Not for consumption on the premises:

Jamboree Foods-117 N. Second, Love's Country Store-303 W. Holme, Alta Convenience-812 N. State Street, Main Street IGA-313 W. Main.

For consumption on the premises:

Pizza Hut-609 W. Holme, Town & Country Kitchen-419 E. Holme, Hidden Dragon-118 S. State Street, Rainbow Lanes, Inc.-705 W. Holme.

Ron Briery said he would like the council to consider updating the city's maps when the new addition is approved to show the vacated alleys and streets that have been closed, and have them available for sale to the public at a reasonable cost. Jerry Jones added that the City should consider annexation to straighten out the city limit borders.

The Council approved a motion to have the year end meeting on Dec. 31,

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## Kansas State Representative ready for year

By Kevin Bottrell

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Rep. Ward Cassidy of St. Francis is already hard at work preparing to take over as chairman of the House Education Budget Committee and vice-chair of the House Education Committee.

"I'm excited," said Rep. Cassidy, a former teacher, counselor and principal for the St. Francis schools. "I've already been consulting with the governor and the House leadership. I've got the first two weeks ready to go."

Rep. Cassidy is only starting his second term as a state representative, but with redistricting, many experienced House members were defeated, paving the way for incumbents with less seniority to get top committee assignments. Rep. Cassidy said former education chair Rep. Clay Aurand of Belleville probably would have stayed on had he been re-elected.

In reapportionment this year, done by a panel of federal judges in Kansas City after the Legislature deadlocked on drawing new maps, Rep. Cassidy picked up Sherman County and the Colby area in his district, losing Norton and Phillips counties. He kept Decatur, Rawlins and Cheyenne. The same redistricting threw many incumbents together in the same districts, where and elsewhere.

Rep. Cassidy said he got calls from all three candidates for speaker of the House, including eventual winner Ray Merrick, about the chairmanship. He said people were impressed with his performance during his first term.

"I don't go for that conservative-moderate divide," he said. "I just say that I'm from northwest Kansas. I'll work with everyone."

He said the Education Budget Committee reviews the budgets for Kansas school districts, community and technical colleges and the Regents universities. Rep. Cassidy, who spent 20 years as principal of St. Francis High School, said he plans to spend the first two weeks of the session teaching committee members about school finance. He said he hopes to bring in superintendents and college presidents to talk to the committee.

"The governor has requested we look at a two-year plan," he said. "This would be much better than what we have now, with districts always waiting to hear what the Legislature decides. With a two-year plan, they'll know ahead of time what budget they can work with."

Being chairman of the committee automatically gave Rep. Cassidy a seat on the House Appropriations Committee, one of the most powerful, he said. Appropriations controls the state's budget and meets with every other committee. Rep. Cassidy was on appropriations last session and said he has a good feel for it now.

(Cassidy - Continued on Page 5)

## Norton Hospital is now a trauma center

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment is pleased to congratulate Norton County Hospital in Norton on its achievement of receiving Level IV Trauma Center Designation.

Level IV trauma centers are rural hospitals whose primary role is to stabilize seriously injured patients and, if necessary transfer them to a higher level trauma center. Hospitals that have achieved Level IV trauma center designation have demonstrated a commitment to providing optimal care for those who have been seriously

injured. Designated trauma centers must meet the essential criteria that ensure trauma care capability and institutional performance as outlined by the American College of Surgeons and endorsed by the Kansas Advisory Committee on Trauma.

There are four separate categories of designation by the KDHE's Kansas Trauma Program. Each category has specific criteria that must be met by a facility seeking that level of designation. A trauma care system includes a network of hospitals providing a spectrum of care for injured



patients. Trauma center designations are based on the hospital's care capability, from the highest, Level I, to hospitals designated Level IV.

Injuries are a leading cause of death and disability in Kansas. A goal of

the KDHE Trauma program is to help assure those that are injured in Kansas have access to an organized system of trauma care that offers them the best chance of recovery.

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