

\$1 THE NORTON TELEGRAM



WEBSITE: nwkansas.com

10 PAGES

Tuesday

December 17, 2013

Briefly

Booster Club set to meet Wednesday

The second meeting of the Norton Blue Jay Booster Club in the winter sports season will be held Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. in the high school cafeteria.

Speaking about the results of their team's season opening competition will be Norton girls head basketball coach George Rossi, Norton boys head basketball coach Doug Reusink and Norton head wrestling coach Bill Johnson.

Vocal concert to be held Thursday

The Norton Junior and Senior High Schools will hold their annual Christmas vocal concert on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at the East Campus Auditorium.

Christmas vacation for USD 211 kids

USD 211 will dismiss school on Friday at 1 p.m. for Christmas vacation. Classes will resume at regular time on Monday, January 6, 2014.

Property taxes are due by Friday

Friday, Dec. 20th is the deadline for the first half of Property Taxes to be paid without penalty. You may pay them at the Norton County Treasurer's office or you may also pay them online at <https://www.kansas.gov.propertytax>.

Get your tags by next Tuesday

Tuesday, December 31 is the last day to purchase tags for those whose names end in "U", "X", "Y" or "Z". Bring current proof of insurance for all vehicles with you. The Treasurer's office will be closed on Dec. 24 and 25th for Christmas and then it will also be closed at 11:30 on Dec. 31 for end of the year balancing.

Markets

Monday, December 16, 2013

Wheat	\$6.43
Milo	\$3.88
Soybeans	\$12.75
Corn	\$4.08

Markets Courtesy of Norton Ag Valley Co-Op

Weather

Wednesday - A few clouds from time to time with a high near 60. Wednesday Night - Cloudy with a low of 27. Thursday - Partly cloudy skies with a high near 45. Thursday Night - Mostly cloudy skies. Friday - Mostly cloudy with a high of 32. Friday Night - Low in the 20's.

Prayer

Dear Jesus, even when times of sadness or loss occur, we draw assurance that you care for us. Keep us all in your loving arms. Amen.

Patiently waiting...



The First United Methodist Church held their Living Nativity this Sunday. Pictured from the left are Abby DuBois, Ricky King, Coral Stewart and Nataley Schumaker as the shepherds awaiting the birth of Jesus under the watchful eye of one of God's angels.

— Telegram photo by Mike Stephens

A look at school bond issue

BY MIKE STEPHENS
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After five years of study, review and consideration, the U.S.D. 211 Board of Education has decided the time is now to put a \$14.9 million bond election before the voters of U.S.D. 211.

At last Monday's meeting, the Board of Education heard from the District's architects, Rick Brown from Schaefer Johnson Cox Frey Architecture, and U.S.D. 211 bondsman, Steve Shogren, and decided to move ahead with a bond election to be held on April 1, 2014 for \$14.9 million.

A summary of the recommended projects is below:

- Eisenhower Elementary School Projects**
- Controlled access entry
- Multi-purpose/gymnasium + FEMA rated shelter
- Larger administrative/student support area
- Additional parking (northwest + bus loading/unloading area south of building)
- Additional classrooms (ECD, 3-4 year old at-risk, Kindergarten and Art)
- Additional space (Special Education, Title, Speech therapy, At-Risk)

- Roof replacement
- Electric outlets in existing classrooms

- Additional access points (upgraded exterior doors and electronic locks on selected exterior doors).

Junior High-Senior High Projects

- Controlled access entry
- New music area + FEMA rated shelter

- Enlarge Stull Gym lobby to be used as cafeteria and construct kitchen for new cafeteria

- Two additional locker rooms at Stull Gym.

- Consolidated JH and SH Student Support and Administration Center
- Convert current cafeteria to classroom space

- Additional classroom space for: JH Science, JH-SH gifted, JH and SH Special Education and P.E.

- Convert current Tech Lab into a weight room.

- Roof replacement
- Electric outlets in existing classrooms

- Additional access points (upgraded exterior doors and electronic locks on selected exterior doors)

Other Projects

- Wheelchair accessible seating at the East Campus Gym

- Repurpose current weight room to U.S.D. 211 offices

- Fresh air ventilation for Stull Gym

The projected total amount for the recommended projects is \$14,921,000. The final architect's concepts are available at the U.S.D. 211 website. Go to www.usd211.org and on the right hand side, toward the top, click on the "Building Project" button. Also, the estimated cost of payback is available at the U.S.D. 211 website at the "Building Project" location.

In other board news: Superintendent Greg Mann reported that the budget situation is holding close to last year's percentages, which means U.S.D. 211 has spent about \$126,000 less than last year at this time.

Bill Johnson reported on the senior American Government class and shared the curriculum taught in the class with the board. Johnson will be covering the Judicial Branch in the first semester this year to allow all students to be involved in a mock trial since some students only take one semester.

—gave the U.S.D. 211 administrative

(School - Continued on Page 5)

Almena couple wins Christmas lighting contest

By DANA PAXTON
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The Norton County Arts Council held their second Annual Christmas Lighting Contest this year and three winners were chosen. There were seven homes entered in the contest and 86 ballots were cast.

"The numbers of entries were down from last year but several more votes were brought in this year. We hope to see both numbers increase next year," Arts Council Vice President Dana Paxton said.

Our first place winners this year are Blaine and Susie Marble at 7940 Road E9 in Almena; they will receive \$100 in Chamber Bucks.

The second place winner was Bill Hadley and he won \$50 in Chamber Bucks and the third place went to JD and Julia Daffer who will get \$25 in Chamber Bucks. All prizes can be picked up at the Norton Area Chamber of Commerce.

The Arts Council was pleased with the turn out again this year and they hope everyone enjoyed the beautiful displays throughout Norton County.

Susie Marble was excited to hear that she had won. It was their first year decorating for the contest and they blew the competition away by getting 31 of the 86 ballots turned in.

Bill Hadley, when hearing that he had won second place in the contest had this to say, "I like it! God told me if I won to give it to charity, a family. My heart is in Christmas and I want to give it to charity, and if I win next year I will do the same."

The third place winners were not available for comment but since JD and Julia Daffer were the first place winners last year we are sure they will be pleased to have placed again this year.

The next event hosted by the Norton County Arts Council will be Phil Crawford, a cowboy poet who will perform at the East Campus Auditorium on Saturday, February 22 at 7 p.m.

Kansas comes up short in honors



It looks like *Time's* "Person of the Year" won't be from Kansas.

Kathleen Sebelius, former Kansas governor and secretary of health and human services, was one of the 10 finalists for the award, but came up short, losing to Pope Francis.

Mrs. Sebelius was cited for her efforts to implement national health care under the Affordable Care Act, also called Obamacare.

Although falling shy of this award, she is no stranger to success, as she was named by *Forbes* magazine as one of the 100 most powerful women in the world. Before her cabinet appointment in April 2009, Mrs. Sebelius had served as governor of Kansas since 2003, and

was named one of America's Top Five Governors by *Time*. From 1995 to 2003, she was Kansas insurance commissioner and a member of the state House of Representatives from 1987 to 1995.

Her brother-in-law Doug Sebelius is the county attorney for Norton County.

The other eight nominees included the president of Syria, Bashar Assad; Amazon.com founder Jeff Bezos; Texas Sen. Ted Cruz; President Obama; the president of Iran, Hassan Rouhani; National Security Agency leader Edward Snowden; gay rights activist Edith Windsor and singer Miley Cyrus, the magazine said.



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